



# Marianas Variety News & Views

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*No more 4th term, Governor assures*

## Teno to step down in 2001

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

FOR THOSE who aspire for the Commonwealth's highest elected office, this is good news.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has announced he will not seek reelection in the 2001 general elections.

Tenorio said he has decided to make this term his last in the government, brushing off speculations that he may be seeking an unprecedented fourth term in office.

"I am happy with the contributions my previous Administrations had made for the CNMI and our people. I have made a commitment, this is going to be my last term in office. I am not seeking reelection," the governor said.

Tenorio is currently serving his



Pedro P. Tenorio

third term as CNMI chief executive. He is the oldest CNMI governor and the only one who had won three general elections. He had served as governor from 1982

to 1990.

He secured an unprecedented third term, winning nearly 46 percent of the total votes cast during the 1997 polls. His November 1997 victory was questioned following claims that the CNMI Constitution limits governors and mayors to two four-year terms.

But a later court decision stated that the restriction on term limits which was contained in the 1985 amendments to the CNMI Constitution does not apply to the governor's first two terms.

A 1990 ruling by the Superior Court allowed then Rota Mayor Prudencio T. Manglona to seek a third term, contending that the constitutional amendment on the term limit did not apply to incur

Continued on page 23

## Tinian employees cry 'political harassment'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

TINIAN Republicans are considering filing a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission regarding the alleged "political harassment" in the Tinian mayor's Office, which has issued a notice of termination to 21 of its employees.

Highly reliable sources in the island's Republican leadership yesterday said the party's senatorial candidate, Rep. Jose A. Hocog, will also request the House of Representatives to conduct an oversight investigation of the Tinian mayor's office.

Sources said the 21 employees whose termination will take effect on June 1 are all Hocog supporters. They said Mayor Francisco M. Borja, a Democrat, supports reelectionist Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) who is pitted against Hocog in the November 1999 midterm elections.

But the mayor, in a separate



Francisco M. Borja

interview, denies that there is anything "political" in the termination of the employees, who, he added, total 19.

"I'm not even a candidate," he said. "And most of these employees belong to my family."

Borja said the termination was based on the employees' productivity and availability of funding.

In light of the government's austerity measures, he said his

Continued on page 23

## Alien smuggling problem hits 'crisis' level on Guam

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA--A hundred more illegal immigrants were apprehended by authorities over the weekend while entering the coast of Guam, prompting authorities to describe the situation as "critical."

A group of 70 was found off Ritidian point at 8 p.m. last Friday, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The vessel used by the illegal aliens was spotted by the Navy Special Operations helicopter on a routine mission.

The Navy officers spotted Chinese nationals walking along the shoreline.

Guam authorities were notified, resulting in the arrest of the 70 Chinese.

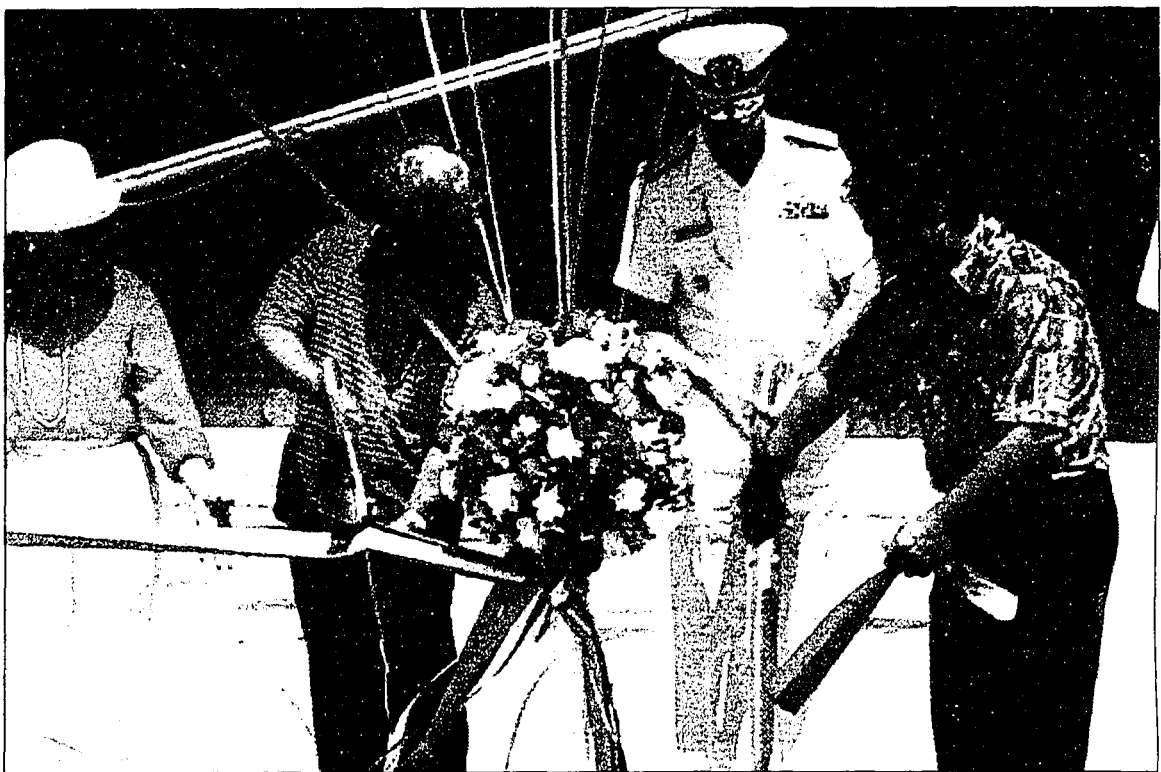
On Saturday morning, 30 more were captured while trekking their way out of the jungle.

The illegal aliens were taken to the Department of Corrections where the holding area is becoming a "tent city."

Their cases are processed at DOC through the federal court system and then sent to INS centers on the mainland from further asylum proceedings, Immigration officer Dave Johnston said in an earlier interview.

Prison officials described the situation as "critical."

Continued on page 26



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Rear Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert (COMNAVMAR) cut the ceremonial ribbon signalling the grand opening of the new \$43 million Saipan Seaport Friday. With them are First Lady Sophie Tenorio and CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas.

Photo by Aldwin R. Fajardo

## New law on equal worker benefits awaits implementing regs

By Zaldy Dandan and  
Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) on Friday said the government should "remind" local residents that the new law clarifying the 1995 Fair Compensation Act that mandates equal wage and benefit conditions for resident workers in the private sector is

not yet in effect.

The speaker was reacting to concerns raised by the private sector, particularly the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), that several of their local workers are already demanding for the compensation provided under Public Laws 11-74 and 9-71.

Benavente said the P.L. 11-74 cannot be implemented without



Diego T. Benavente

the necessary regulations to be drafted by the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

He said once drafted, the regulations will be referred to related agencies and private sector groups for their comments.

"The regulations have to go through the usual process first and only then can we implement the law," the speaker said.

Signed into law recently, P.L.

11-74 allows for the enforcement of P.L. 9-71, which mandates that all benefits currently given to alien workers—subsidized food, housing, transportation, health insurance—should also be provided to resident workers in the form of in-kind benefits or cash equivalent.

The new law allows resident workers to choose between in-

Continued on page 23



# India launches missile

By ARTHUR MAX  
NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India tested an upgraded version of its intermediate-range missile Sunday, defying appeals from the United States to put its nuclear program on hold to encourage peace moves with Pakistan.

Information Minister Pramod Mahajan told a hastily summoned news conference the Agni II ballistic missile was successfully launched from Wheeler Island off India's eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal, at 10 a.m. (0430gmt).

Government officials as saying Pakistan was given advanced warning of the launch, under the terms of an agreement signed in February when Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee traveled overland to the Pakistani city of Lahore.

In Islamabad, Foreign Minister

## Test expected to ignite new tensions with Pakistan, US

Sartaj Aziz confirmed Pakistan received the warning Saturday. He refrained from responding further, but said the government would issue a statement later.

Agni — which means "fire" in Sanskrit — was last tested five years ago. Along with the Prithvi — or "Earth," it is expected to be the mainstay of India's nuclear delivery system. Either missile also can carry conventional payloads.

Mahajan said the range of the new Agni was 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles). That would be one-third longer than the earlier version with a range of 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) which can strike targets deep inside the territory of India's neighbors Pakistan and China.

Mahajan called it a textbook launch.

Indian naval ships tracked the two-stage missile as it soared into the sky, leaving a trail of thick white smoke, Press Trust of India reported. International shipping and airlines were warned to stay out of the test zone.

The Agni underwent three earlier tests, beginning in 1992. But the Indian public had its first view of the 20-meter (60-foot) missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

Sunday's launch came 11 months after India conducted a series of underground nuclear explosions May 11, and sought recognition as a member of the exclusive club of nuclear-armed nations. That test prompted Pakistan to respond with

tests of its own, raising international fears of a nuclear arms race among the two belligerent nations.

The United States, taking the lead in imposing international sanctions against both countries, began a diplomatic campaign to defuse what it saw as a potential nuclear confrontation.

Washington has pressed India and Pakistan to sign an international test ban treaty, back away from developing their delivery systems, and resolve the territorial and other disputes that divide them.

The U.S. government scaled back its sanctions late last year, citing progress by India and Pakistan in easing their nuclear tensions. Congressional leaders said prior to Sunday's test they would seek legislation continuing a temporary lift-

ing of the sanctions.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the two nations were carved from a British colony in 1947. They skirmish almost daily across Kashmir, a Himalayan territory split between them that both claim in its entirety.

The test also comes at a time of political instability in India, with the government facing the possibility of losing its parliamentary majority after the legislature reconvenes on Thursday.

A key coalition partner has threatened to withdraw from the ruling alliance, which could precipitate the government's collapse.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who came to power 13 months ago, won a burst of public support for his government amid the immediate euphoria of the nuclear test.

## G8 officials discussing Kosovo peace options

DRESDEN, Germany (Reuters) — Senior government officials of the Group of Eight (G8) nations will discuss peace proposals for Kosovo during a meeting in the east German city of Dresden on Friday, German delegation sources said.

The meeting, which ends on Saturday, was originally called to prepare for June's G7 meeting in Cologne but Germany, currently chairing the Group, is anxious to provide a forum for the West and Russian to exchange views on how the conflict can be ended.

The G8 group of major industrial nations includes the six countries in the Kosovo Contact Group — Germany, France, Britain, Italy, United States and Russia — plus Canada and Japan.

The sources said the meeting would look at ways to ease the plight of hundreds of thousands of

Kosovo Albanian refugees and discuss support for neighboring countries trying to cope with the mass exodus from the south Serbian province.

A so-called "stability pact" proposed by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer that would seek to stabilize the region by offering the prospect of European Union membership to Balkan countries would also be assessed.

The sources did not say whether the high-ranking government officials, so-called political directors, would also sound out whether a full ministerial meeting of Western powers and Russia was possible.

Such a meeting had been tentatively planned for the end of this week or beginning of next before NATO dismissed out of hand Belgrade's offer of a ceasefire on Tuesday, causing friction between the alliance and Russia.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (center) smiles as Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman Felicidad Payumo (left) and former SBMA chairman and archrival Richard Gordon shakes hands Saturday. Gordon and Payumo figured in the dispute over the chairmanship of SBMA during the early days of Estrada's presidency.

## Weeping townspeople pray at East Timor massacre site

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
LIQUICA, Indonesia (AP) — The pews were empty at 6 a.m., the hour of Sunday Mass. Then, under the brazen stare of pro-Indonesian militiamen, hundreds of fearful and hesitant townspeople came to worship at the site of one of East Timor's worst attacks in years.

The faithful clutched handkerchieves as well as prayer books, weeping as they stood on the same ground where militiamen shot and hacked to death villagers on Tuesday.

The tracks of blood have been washed away and victims' bodies taken to an unknown location.

"Sometimes we say, 'It's very difficult to believe Jesus.' But Jesus still loves you," said Bishop Carlos Belo, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel peace prize for his efforts to solve the long-running conflict in the former Portuguese colony.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, and violence between supporters and opponents of independence has escalated this year since the government said it would con-

sider letting go of the territory. Belo has estimated that at least 25 villagers accused of being separatists died in the attack at the Catholic church compound in Liquica. Residents claim army trucks took the dead away soon after the violence ended.

Separatists accuse Indonesia's army and police of trying to cover up the extent of the killings.

The military says only five died and denies witness accounts that it took part in the bloodshed.

Nevertheless, official tolerance of the militiamen was evident on Sunday.

Police did not intervene when members of Red and White Iron, the militia group blamed for the massacre, used sticks, iron bars and stones to pound vehicles carrying journalists who covered the church service.

They smashed several car windows and one taxi driver, bleeding heavily from a head wound, was taken to a hospital in East Timor's capital of Dili, 29 kilometers (18 miles) east of Liquica.

## Rebels claim to have killed 128 fighters

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Sudanese rebels have overrun two camps of the pro-government militia, killing more than 120 militia fighters and wounding about 300, their spokesman said Saturday.

The battle took place Thursday when guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army stormed two camps of the Islamic Front in the eastern province of Blue Nile. SPLA spokesman Yasser Arman said in a statement faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt.

Arman said eight SPLA fighters were killed in the attack. The rebels killed 128 members of the Islamic Front, wounded another 300 members and captured huge amounts of military equipment, Arman said.

No independent verification was possible.

Arman said the militia had been laying siege to the SPLA-held town of Ulu in eastern Sudan.



An East Timorese parishioner cries during Bishop Carlos Belo's morning mass at the cathedral in Liquica, the site of a bloody massacre where pro-Indonesian militiamen attacked separatist residents.

# New Party organized

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

FORMER Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio on Friday marked his 20th year in CNMI politics by founding the Reform Party, adopting the white dove—"for peace"—as its symbol, and lashing at the ruling Republicans for "doing nothing" to improve the slumping economy.

"We're witnessing history in the making," Tenorio told the close to a hundred people who attended the meeting at Garapan Central Park.

"This is the first time that a third party has been organized in the CNMI," he said. "We will go all the way."

Tenorio blamed the Republican administration and Legislature—both of which blame his 1994-98 administration for "ruining" the government's finances—for "not knowing" how to "fix" the economy.

Tenorio said if Republican legislators "cannot fix the economy now that they are in office why should they run for reelection?"

Republicans, he said, are doing "a lousy job" running the government.

"If they can't fix the economy now then they can't fix it [in the near future]," Tenorio said.

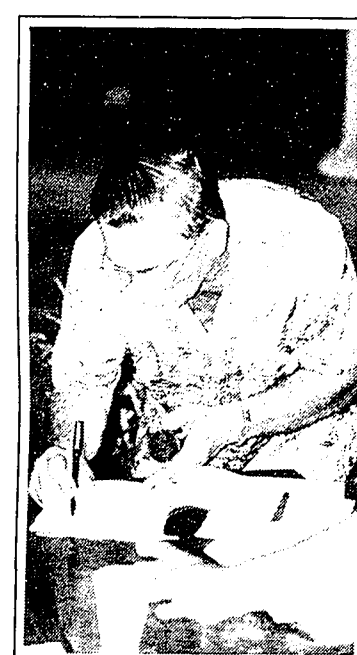
At the same time, the former governor noted that some of his more controversial policies that Republicans criticized—retaining a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and "assisting" the garment industry—are now being openly embraced by leading Republicans.

"I hope the public will now realize that what we were doing

## Froilan: GOP incumbents don't deserve to be reelected



Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio (left photo), former CUC director Ramon S. Guerrero (middle) and former congresswoman Felicidad Ogumoro sign documents as the new Reform Party's chairman and first and second vice-chairpersons, respectively.



## GOP leaders say they're pro-people

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE REPUBLICAN Party's highest ranking elected officials on Friday brushed aside former governor Froilan C. Tenorio's describing them as "anti-business," saying that the GOP has always been "pro-business" and "pro-local entrepreneurs."

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said he himself has "almost worked all my life in the private sector."

"What kind of business was [the former governor] referring to [anyway]?" he said.

The GOP, he added, is always in favor of entrepreneurs, par-

ticularly the small and local ones. "We're all pro-business," he said, adding that he wishes the former governor and the Reform Party "luck." (See related story)

Senate President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Rota) said it is Republicans who have fostered closer cooperation with the private sector while listening to the concerns of the people at the same time.

"I think that's one of the most important things we have done," he said. "We listen both to the business community and to the people."

Mangiona said Republicans may not always have the best answers,

"but we always listen to both the private sector and the local community."

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Pre, 2, Saipan) said the people who cast their votes in the last general elections apparently did not consider the GOP "anti-business."

Benavente noted that the voters chose to replace the then-Democratic administration and reelect Republican legislators.

"The lesson there is that we should always listen to what the people tell us to do, not us doing what we want to do," the speaker said.

## Officials upbeat on new seaport

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

A NEW seaport facility which was inaugurated Friday on Saipan brings new hope for the CNMI which is seriously looking at attracting luxury cruise ships to revitalize the islands' severely dampened tourism industry.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is optimistic that the \$43 million infrastructure will eventually help replenish the government's depleted coffers by stirring increased

business and economic activities in the CNMI.

"The return will be in billions...the completion of the renovation and expansion of the Saipan Harbor is the biggest government project to date," Tenorio said during Friday's opening ceremonies.

The CNMI chief executive is also upbeat on the new facility's inability to give CNMI a competitive edge throughout the Pacific Region for transshipment of

cargoes to neighboring countries.

"It will also mean faster loading and unloading of cargo, eliminate queuing of ships outside the harbor, and the savings realized will hopefully be passed on to consumers," he said.

Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) board chairman Roman S. Palacios noted the contributions from shippers, agents, retailers, wholesalers and importers as the major factors in the completion of the project.

"But the need for a port is where the story really begins. Back in the early 1980s, everybody in Saipan knew we needed a port but getting people interested in funding a new harbor—that took the work of some very special people," Palacios said.

The project virtually started in early 1980s when a study conducted by CPA noted that the existing harbor lacked some of the major qualities that would help attract bigger vessels to call port on Saipan.

A new design for the Saipan seaport was developed in 1987 by the Army Corps of Engineers which also rejected a CPA re-



CPA board chairman Roman S. Palacios and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio present a plaque of appreciation to Samsung Engineering and Construction Co. during the grand opening of the Saipan harbor Friday.

Photo by Aldwin R. Fajardo

## MVA sees more sea arrivals

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

WITH THE completion of the \$43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project, sea arrivals are expected to boost CNMI's tourism industry, the Marianas Visitors Authority said.

MVA Board chairman David Sablan said cruise vessels and tour operators will now be easier to encourage in using Saipan harbor whose completion has been snagged by controversies in almost two decades.

"We are going to send the word out to the people who are in the

tour business (that) they can now make better use of the facilities now that we are capable of handling couple of cruise vessels," Sablan said during the unveiling of the Saipan harbor on Friday morning.

Sablan said the construction of the harbor will help increase the number of tourist arrivals into the CNMI.

"Sea arrival is going to improve now with this. It's a big enhancement for us. We also see more military ships to dock," said Sablan, adding that it is very fortunate.

Continued on page 21

## Guam has new Labor chief

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Former Guam Senator James Underwood, who has been assigned to take over the Department of Labor (DOL), has bared his plans for the department.

In testimony before the committee on judiciary, public safety, consumer protection and human resources development chaired by Sen. John Salas, Underwood said he plans to move DOL forward

using technology and more cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Focusing on Guam's alien labor program, Underwood said he will also do his best to see that workers and contractors do not abuse the program.

Late last year, DOL came under fire after a report on Guam's labor abuses was published by the Guam Contractors Association (GCA) which pointed out num-

Continued on page 21



# FORUM

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

## RUSH

By Haidee V. Eugenio

### 'Milking cow'

EVERY time a legislation affecting the NMI Retirement Fund is introduced, it often comes as a nightmare to the paying members.

For the first four months of the year, not only once did the Fund come up with strong statements debunking several bills that tend to wipe out the resources available for retirees' pension if not within the immediate future, then in the long-run.

And while the Fund puts its message across, it doesn't lack the boldness to offer alternatives or suggestions on how to best address certain government concerns.

The Fund's reaction to Senate Bill 11-99 is a classic case. The bill empowers the Department of Finance to make deductions from retirees' pension checks for obligations owed to the government incurred during the retirees' employment with any government agency.

Instead of using retirees' pension to pay for obligations, the Fund said it would be better if the refunds on taxes by these people with outstanding obligations are withheld instead.

Suffice to say, this suggestion seems easy to implement and will prove effective.

Or, as a condition of employment in the government, employees may be required not to incur obligations more than their unused annual leave. While this alternative does not address concerns with those 'unpaying' employees that have already retired, it will expel or decrease similar occurrence in the future.

Maintaining that the Fund is not like a bank where a member can deposit and withdraw money, the Fund also warned against the passage of Senate Bill 11-80 which would wipe out some \$2 million payment for the pension disbursement of members within a one-month period.

The bill, which allows a Fund member to borrow 25 percent of his or her total contribution reserve to the Fund — including the interest — is violative of the current Investment Policy Statement.

Fund members who will avail of the bill's privilege risk their standing with respect to creditable service because their contributions would be used as collateral.

In such event, the employee's retirement from government service is delayed, thus prolonging the burden on the government by keeping said employee for a longer period.

Also receiving a thumbs down is Senate Bill 11-24, which provides one year of vested service credit in the Fund for every two years of service on the CNMI government boards and commissions without having to contribute into the Fund.

Citing the supposedly voluntary nature of being appointed to boards or commissions, the Fund stressed that the CNMI today has a pool of qualified and dedicated individuals who are willing to serve without compensation (\$30 for the first four hours of meeting attendance) or retirement credits.

"The proposed legislation adversely impacts the Fund as the additional service means an increase in benefits payments for a select group," said the Fund.

In the same vein, the Fund slammed Senate Bill 11-103 which allows persons employed for the first time at age 55 or older — and with only three years of contributing membership service — to qualify for retirement.

Simply put, this bill requires the Fund to pay additional pension sooner than the provisions of an existing law.

The Fund also cautioned lawmakers on the passage of a legislation which aims to convert retroactive salary increases to vesting credit service, saying it would expedite retirement eligibility to many government employees who have not even contributed to the Fund, thereby impacting on funds available for benefits.

Once these bills are enacted into law, don't be surprised if you are unable to receive your pension by the time you need it most.

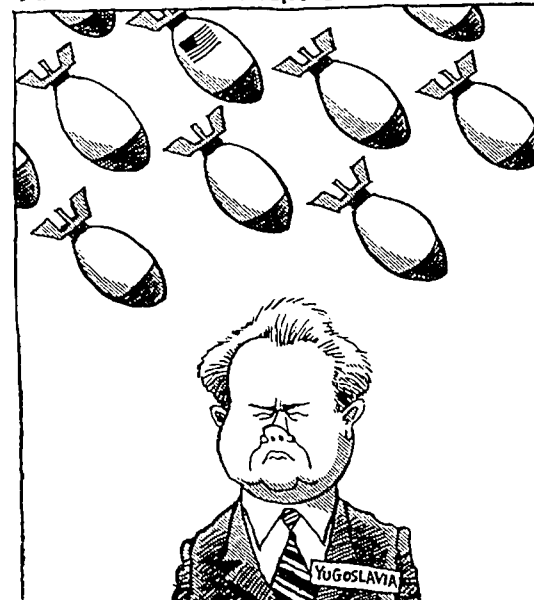
Worse, the NMI Retirement Fund may just be part of history.

The Fund's million investments in the stock market obviously makes it tempting to "borrow" or "use" its money to pay for the government's host of obligations to its employees. What other government-run agencies would post more than \$10 million earnings in a one-month period?

Although the Legislature has a reason for making the Fund one of the government's milking cows, it does not give justice to its contributing members and the administration and investment people who are behind the Fund's ever-growing resources.

The Asian economic crisis was not able to erode the financial stability of the Fund. Now, why does the government want to be the one to 'kill' its own pension system?

WHEN SMALL COUNTRIES  
ABUSE HUMAN RIGHTS...



ROGER ©1999 PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

WHEN BIG COUNTRIES  
ABUSE HUMAN RIGHTS...



## Info-Tech Corner

By David T. Hughes  
For the Variety

### Use the Net on questions on war

JUST A few short years ago our major sources of information about what was going on worldwide revolved exclusively around television news stories and newspapers. Then Ted Turner begat the Cable News Network and the world has not been the same since.

Nowadays we still use the news media's printed and broadcast products, but those of us who understand how to use the Internet also use this resource to hear "other" sides and voices in international situations.

Newspapers have a finite amount of space to which they can devote information about what's going on. To a certain extent television is the same way: They have "X" minutes that can be used each hour.

Many times it's the SAME information regurgitated hour after hour. CNN and other "All-News" channels are pretty much the same way.

Plus, due to the myriad of editors, producers and other gatekeepers inherent in big-time news, not all sides have a chance for their say.

This is where the Internet shines and can help present a well-balanced view of almost any situation. Let's face it — web sites of all genre are propaganda-pure and simple. It's in place to put the best spin possible to the site owner's agenda.

Never take what you read as "gospel" (unless it does come from the Pope (grin)) and use your noggin to put what you read into whatever perspective you pick.

If you are looking for the "official line" about the action in Kosovo just go to any news site — such as www.cnn.com, any major broadcast network site, any major newspaper site, news magazine sites... in short, any site that has anything to do with news will be crawling with news about what's going on.

Don't stop there, however. The "other side" also has the same say on the Internet.

Click on over to www.kosovo.com and read what the folks of the Web Site of the Serbian Democratic Movement have to say about what's going on over there.

Look into the history of the region at www.worldbook.com or www.cb.com... I also suggest unlimbering your favorite search engine(s) and do a search for keywords:

- Serbia
- Yugoslavia
- Balkans
- Kosovo
- Montenegro

Other sites worth spending time on include:

- www.serbia-info.com
- All kinds of maps are available at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map\\_collection/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/)

Kosovo.html (prepared by the CIA)

• The British Broadcasting Company has a site on the subject at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/special\\_report/1998/kosovo/newsid\\_109000/109883.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/special_report/1998/kosovo/newsid_109000/109883.stm)

• The Military Analysis Network has an excellent page at <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/ops/kosovo.htm>

• Our nation's official propaganda engine, the USIA, has its site cranking at <http://www.usia.gov/regional/eur/balkans/kosovo/>

My search using Copernic ([www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com)) turned up over 300 sites related to the Kosovo crisis.

Users of the Internet are fortunate because they can use the AI Gore's Information Highway to gather as much information as we wish, unfettered by editors. Please use it and teach your children that while it's important to read newspapers and watch television news, there's a LOT more data available at your fingertips.

### MICROSOFT UNLEASHES INTERNET EXPLORER V

Microsoft - quietly - announced the "de-beta-ing" of Internet Explorer V this past week. All of a sudden it was just "there" and word spread mostly through news groups. Perhaps that's why I didn't have too much trouble getting an initial download.

I encourage you to go out and upgrade your Internet Explorer 5 if you are using 4 - OR - Netscape. The code is a lot more compact and has a bunch of bells and whistles - mostly in menu areas.

The new menus will take a little getting used to because they're progressive.

The farther down you drag the box, the more shows up.

Improvements have been made in their NetMeeting and Audio Player software, making them behave a little better. Those improvements alone are worth the download time it takes (about an hour at 56K).

### MORE UPGRADES IN DIGITAL LAND

Readers who took my advice and downloaded the Digiband digital radio software should mosey back on over to <http://www.digiband.com/beta4.html> and snag their version 4 upgrade.

### DVD BARGAINS

If you own a DVD player it'll be worth your time to check out most of the major retail sites online. Many are offering as much as 30% off. I bought Antz, The Water Boy and Soldier for \$14.95. Shipping was less than state tax.

It pays to do comparison-shopping online for such items.

# Saipan suffers 'black eye'

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN today is not just home to prime tourist spots and garment firms manufacturing clothing with "Made in the USA" label, but also of massive occupational food poisoning incidents, as currently portrayed in the Internet.

The Human rights organization Global Exchange came up with an article in the Internet entitled "Largest work place food poisoning ever recorded by OSHA found in sweat-shop garment factories on U.S. soil" followed by a subtitle "More than 1,200 sickened" and "Human rights group challenges U.S. retailers to intervene."

Among others, the human rights group is calling on U.S. retailers to demand that their contractors in Saipan provide clean drinking water and safe food following multiple food poisoning incidents in the past weeks.

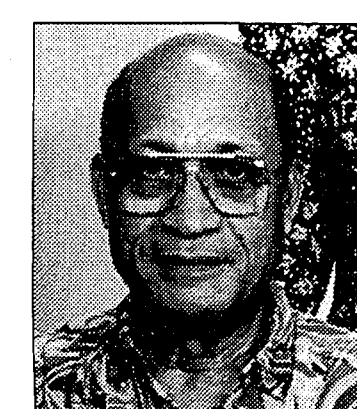
## Group puts food poisoning incident in bad light online



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

"U.S. retailers can't stand idly by while their contractors endanger the health and safety of workers on U.S. soil to make garments in their name," the report quoted Medea Benjamin, director of Global Exchange's Corporate Accountability Program.

The affected workers assemble



David M. Sablan

clothing for leading U.S. retailers including the Gap, Tommy Hilfiger, J. Crew, Target, Marvyn's, Filene's, Liz Claiborne, and Polo Ralph Lauren.

CNMI officials, as expected, are disappointed by such portrayal of Saipan, saying it is an orchestrated effort by those who filed in January

"They are sensationalizing it. It's not as terrible as they make it sound. If you read it, you know that it is (made) to again attack the garment industry and they are fabricating all other things that are not true. It is written by somebody who has no knowledge of what is happening incidents."

Continued on page 22

## Saipan sewer project nearing shutdown

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

DISAGREEMENT between the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) and the Utilities Corporation (CUC) is threatening to shelve the construction of the \$4.9 million Saipan Airport Sewerline Project.

CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said negotiations with the CUC board and management have apparently bogged down due to differences in the payment of additional claims made by the project's contractor.

"So far, CUC is not willing to

participate in the contractor's claim. They have to share the burden of the claim. But CUC appears to be not willing to participate in the claims. And if the contractor rejects proposal to cap their claims to \$750,000, I am afraid we have no other alternative but to shut down the project," Salas said.

CUC continues to play hard ball in pitching for the additional \$268,000 claims made by the project's contractor Pacific Drilling Ltd.

Utilities officials have maintained that the corporation should

not be made responsible for any damages caused by CPA's decision to temporarily stop the project last year due to lack of funds.

"CUC has not agreed to the restrictions on our latest meeting. They previously said that if FAA says CPA can only shoulder 30 percent, they would agree to undertake the claim with CPA using that allocation," Salas said.

But he maintained that external restrictions from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) allows CPA to shoulder only 30 percent of the total project cost, including

Continued on page 22

## Gov't starts privatization work on public sector insurance programs

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

PLANS of privatizing the government-run CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Plans have taken a step further as local government officials got a grip on the process of turning over to the private sector the operation of such agency.

Officials from the Department of Finance, Department of Public Health and the GHLIP attended last week a presentation made by Guam-based officials on the matter.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, one of those who attended the presentation, told reporters that the Guam representatives were the ones who were directly involved in the privatization of Guam government's health insurance.

"These people just presented to us how they did it (privatization). No strings attached because we just wanted information and feedback," said the health secretary.

Villagomez said no final decision has been made yet on whether the government will push through

with the privatization plan or not, although the agencies involved — together with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio — have already expressed their support to the move.

"We are looking at every option but it's not yet final," said Villagomez.

Villagomez said privatizing the health insurance is a more prudent move than drastically increasing the premium rate for any type of enrollment to be able to cope with the CNMI's internal financial turmoil.

Continued on page 22

## Taylor's removal from Hillblom case sought

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE GUARDIAN for one of Larry Hillblom's four DNA-confirmed children has sought the disqualification of former CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Marty W. K. Taylor from sitting in the Hillblom proceedings before the high tribunal.

Antonio M. Atalig, counsel for Milagros Feliciano, said since their petition for a writ of prohibition and mandamus filed in the Su-

preme Court concerns matter of which Special Master Rexford Kosack is involved, Taylor should recuse himself from presiding over the hearings.

It is clear from a reading of certain 1997 civil lawsuit that Taylor sitting as a panel to hear the case can reasonably be questioned since Kosack is his (former chief justice) legal counsel in that court action, said Atalig on behalf of Milagros, guardian and grandmother of Hillblom's daughter Mercedita.

Among the requests sought by Milagros in the writ was the disqualification of Kosack from the girl's guardianship proceedings.

Atalig pointed out that the law does not require that there be any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of the judge or that the judge have knowledge of any disqualifying facts.

"Secondly, it is clear that the outcome of the Supreme Court's decision on the petition for writ

Continued on page 22

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## Lawyer: Rota can't pass vetoed local legislation

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio's legal counsel, citing an opinion from the Attorney General's Office, has said that Rota's legislative delegation cannot pass a new version of recently vetoed local environmental protection bills.

A Rota legislator, who declined to be identified, noted Thursday that the governor's legal counsel did not even send a copy of her letter to the delegation.

The Variety learned at the same time that one of the Senate legal counsel is already reviewing the administration lawyers' opinion.

But Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona on Friday said he will

consider the administration lawyers' recommendations.

In her letter to the mayor, Juliana C. Sandvold said that under the CNMI's existing laws, the locals bills' proposals cannot be accomplished in a local law format.

Sandvold was referring to the local bills that would ban all forms of net fishing and high-tech fishing devices between and including Rota's Puña Point and the Coral Gardens, and establish the Pinatang Park Marine Wildlife Reserve on the island.

Sandvold said the CNMI Local Law Act of 1983 has removed the ability of local delegations to create marine conservation areas in the jurisdictions and regulate fishing mat-

Continued on page 22

According to RP Consul:

## Federalization issue said too complex for Filipinos

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE ISSUE about the Clinton administration's federalization bid on the CNMI is "too complicated" for Filipino nationals working in the Commonwealth to delve into, Philippine Consul Julia C. Heidemann said.

At the same time, Heidemann said the Consulate is staying out of the ongoing talks between CNMI and federal government representatives on the extension of the latter's labor and immigration laws in the Commonwealth, explaining that the issue is an "internal affair."

"Filipinos are interested on their job and not on politics. It is too complicated for them anyway,"



Julia C. Heidemann

said Heidemann in an interview last week.

She explained that since most Filipinos stay in the CNMI on a temporary basis, the issue on federalization is not in their immediate interest.

"We don't want to have anything to do with that. It is purely a domestic issue. We don't want to be in the middle of these talks about federalization," said Heidemann.

Heidemann said she can officially communicate on the matter only through the US State Department, "but what will I say?"

Heidemann said she has been consulted by officials regarding how Filipinos generally feel about the issue on federalization.

"I told them, (they) may wish to ask Filipinos, but before (they) do so, make sure that they explain to them what federalization is."

"For most of them (Filipinos) who are not aware of the issue, they think federalization means the 'green card.' So that if you ask a

Continued on page 22

## Employers told not to hide behind newly enacted law on deportation

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the institution of a new measure that would enable the government shoulder the deportation expenses of overstaying foreign workers, repatriation remains a responsibility of their employers, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Tenorio on Friday instructed private sector employers, especially those employing Chinese workers, to initiate and finance the repatriation of their workers whose permits have expired to block possibilities of them leaving Saipan and illegally entering another island.

His call came following recent reports that some Chinese nationals who used to work for Saipan are illegally migrating to Guam. This has been the case because employers have failed to send the workers back to China.

"One of the reason we implemented the amnesty bill is to give these workers the chance to look for another job when their employment contract expires. Unfortunately, if they don't find any here and could not afford a

ticket back to China, they look for it somewhere else," he added.

The CNMI chief executive also mentioned a new law which would give about 500 scampered foreign workers \$3,000 each and a one way ticket back to their respective home countries.

Tenorio said at least 14 Bangladeshi workers have taken advantage of the new measure while three Chinese nationals are ready to leave CNMI any day within the week.

But he stressed that employers should not abuse this new law since this does not strip them of their responsibility to send their workers back as soon as their CNMI work permits expires.

"I want to make sure that employers remain responsible for the repatriation of their employees, and also for the payment of their wages. If the employee has a legitimate case and has been awarded with back wages, the government will pursue that he gets whatever is due him," he added.

Tenorio has instructed DOLI officials to look at the possibility of extending to other workers a newly signed law which would give about

500 "scammed" foreign workers \$3,000 each and send them back to their home countries.

He said the government may soon be forced to weigh its options whether to allow foreign workers a grace period to look for another job or send them immediately back home when their contract expires due to the illegal migration of some Chinese workers to Guam.

At least 91 illegal Chinese migrants, on board a vessel, were apprehended by Guam authorities on two separate incidents at Apra Harbor, according to a report from the United States Coast Guard.

More than 300 suspected illegal Chinese immigrants have already been arrested in Guam since January this year. Some of the illegal immigrants claimed using Saipan and Rota as alleged jump off points.

Nine suspected illegal Chinese immigrants aboard an 18-foot boat who were apprehended early Wednesday morning in Guam claimed they came from China to work on Saipan. When their work

Continued on page 22

## Mayor pushes voluntary salary rollback

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Mayor Jose C. Sablan has pushed to implement a voluntary salary rollback among the municipality's employees due to alleged deficit in personnel costs.

"As mentioned in various staff meetings, I plan to implement the voluntary 10% salary rollback effective May 1, 1999 in order to continue to provide services to the people of Saipan," Sablan said.

Any employee who is not willing to rollback his or her salary will be on a seven-hour per day work schedule, said Sablan in a

memorandum issued Wednesday to all municipality staff.

Canice K. Taitano, president of the Municipality of Saipan Employees Association, was reported as saying that employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office are opposing such salary cut.

Some employees even suggested that the Public Auditor's Office should conduct a full-blown audit at the Mayor's Office.

Sablan said the Mayor's Office is faced with \$58,064 shortfall in personnel salaries for Fiscal Year 1999 including the wages for 12

unfunded full time employees (FTE's) up to Jan. 29, 1999.

"Due to the Asian economic crisis, the Commonwealth government is faced with the worst economic crisis of its own since its creation," Sablan stated.

He explained that the CNMI government has imposed a 13.4% cut for FY '99 budget and mandated the Finance secretary to withhold the Public Auditor's fee of 1% even if the Legislature removed it from the budget.

Sablan said the total budget cut on the Mayor's Office is 14.4% of the total budget or \$349,417.

# Poll suit reaches 9th Circuit

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE \$7.5 million lawsuit filed by three persons against the Board of Elections after they were allegedly denied of their rights to vote is now up in the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg filed Thursday a notice informing the CNMI Supreme Court that all defendants in the case are appealing the high tribunal's decision to the Ninth Circuit.

Taken for appeal is the Supreme Court's judgment reversing the

decision of the trial court clearing the BOE members from civil damages.

Goldberg filed the notice on behalf of defendants BOE and seven of its members.

The defendants, who all claimed to be residents of Rota, are also appealing the high tribunal's decision denying their petition for re-hearing.

Danny C. Charfauros, John Andrew Atalig, and Gina Toves Aldan filed the lawsuit after BOE allegedly denied their rights to vote during the Nov. 1995 mid-term elections on Rota.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas ruled, among other things, that BOE and its members are entitled to immunity and shielded from liability from civil damages in so far as their conduct did not violate statutory or constitutional rights.

Bellas said under the outdated and unrevised election rules and regulations that the BOE relied upon, the Board members could have believed that the creation of two classes of challenged voters was reasonable.

The Supreme Court, however, issued an opinion last December



Robert Goldberg

reversing the decision of the trial court.

"We do not believe that members of the BOE were entitled to qualified immunity," said the decision signed by Special Judges David A. Wiseman and Jane Mack.

The judges said BOE violated the plaintiffs' right to Equal Protection and equal access to the ballot.

The high tribunal's opinion will allow the lawsuit to continue in the trial court for further proceedings.

## Bellas OKs permit to construct disputed San Antonio project

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has affirmed the decision of the CNMI Development Appeal Board in ratifying the Coastal Resources Management Office's issuance of permit for the construction of a multimillion-dollar hotel resort project on Saipan.

Associate Judge Timothy Bellas, however, reversed the portion of DAB's decision conditioning such CRMO's permit issued to Lucky Resort Hotel, Inc. on the outcome of a pending lawsuit.

Bellas remanded the ruling to DAB to strike the conditioning language from its decision on appeal.

"The court finds that the DAB decision unreasonably conditioned Lucky's use of its permit

on the final resolution of the estate of Vicente S. Muna (pending case)," said Bellas in the order issued Thursday.

Court records showed that in July 1997, CNMI and Lucky entered into a lease agreement whereby the government leased public land for Lucky to build the hotel resort complex in San Antonio.

After conducting a public hearing on Lucky's permit application to construct the resort, CRMO granted the request.

The estate of Muna filed with CRMO its objections to such permit, claiming that the estate not the CNMI owns the subject land.

The Muna estate explained that on the land leased to Lucky was currently the subject of a quiet title action pending in the trial court.

DAB then affirmed CRMO's

decision as to the issuance, but in effect issued a preliminary injunction by ruling that the permit shall not be deemed effective until Lucky's right to use it on the land in question is authorized by the final resolution of the Muna case.

CRMO filed a request for reconsideration of the DAB decision which Lucky joined. However, DAB orally denied the petition.

This had prompted Lucky, through counsel David G. Banes, to file a petition for judicial review, asking the Superior Court to review DAB's jurisdiction to condition its affirmation of the CRM permit on the resolution of the Muna case.

Bellas in his ruling said the court finds as unreasonable

Continued on page 22

## PSS allowed to terminate contracts if no funding found

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Education has authorized the Public School System to issue termination notices to certain employees if in 90 days it fails to secure funding for payroll.

PSS has been allowed to write an addendum to employees' contracts, notifying them of the possibility of the contract's termination if no money arrives in 90 days.

PSS recently invoked the 90-day notice because contracts were expiring for some non-certified on May 24 and certified personnel on June 18.

PSS regulations allow PSS to notify employees 90 days before the contract expires, if it does not intend to renew the contract.

The regulation requiring notices was adopted to give employees advance notice so job searches could be planned. PSS legal counsel Tim Connor.

"The effect was quite opposite. Employees were upset,

Continued on page 8

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- A contractor must have education or experience in crisis intervention counseling, education or experience in criminal justice procedures and practices, familiarity with Guam support service, criminal investigations and agencies, forensic examinations and providers, as well as a current and valid Guam driver's license.
- The term of the contract shall be two (2) years, at a salary of \$24,003.00 per year, plus benefits. Contract is subject to yearly renewal based on performance and the availability of funds. The position is 100% federally funded.
- The duties include providing assistance to victims in determining the status of, and participation in, criminal justice proceedings; provide personal assistance to all victims of crime including their families; coordinate access to and participation with support services for counseling, act on the crime victim's behalf vis-a-vis other social service providers and criminal justice agencies; provide court-related services to assist crime victims in participating in criminal justice proceeding; attend educational, training and community functions as required.
- Applicants for the position offered in this announcement shall set forth in writing the applicant's qualifications and experience relative to offered position and shall at a minimum include a current resume.

Resumes should be sent to David S.N. Gumataotao, Program Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General, 2-200 E. Judicial Ctr., 120 W. O'Brien Dr., Hagatna, Guam 96910

This ad was supported by the Victims of Crime Act grant no. 98-VA-GX-0066, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice and administered by the Department of Law, Government of Guam.

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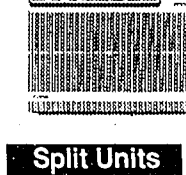
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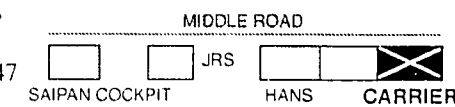
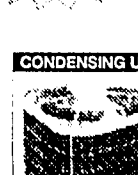
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## Police applicants take English proficiency test

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

CANDIDATES for the police service yesterday took the mandatory test on English proficiency which is part of the hiring requirement and series of tests prepared by the Department of Public Safety.

The placement test for applicants will go until tomorrow, according to Charlene Sablan, officer in charge for training and development.

Sablan said 175 persons had submitted applications when DPS announced early last month the vacancy for 45 additional positions for law enforcers and 10

prison guards for the Division of Corrections.

Sablan said the application for corrections officers started last April 5 and will end on April 20.

Of the 45 to be hired, 10 will be sent to Tinian and 10 to Rota. The rest will be assigned on Saipan.

Sablan said that the applicants must pass the English test to qualify for the next round, which is the agility test.

Sablan said the applicants must have a percentage higher than 93 in order to qualify for the agility test.

The final round is the interview.

## Torres raps Ingram over Wackenhut links

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

FORMER Rep. Stanley Torres has accused Police Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. of lying when the latter did not reveal his previous connection to the company being considered by the government to build the new jail.

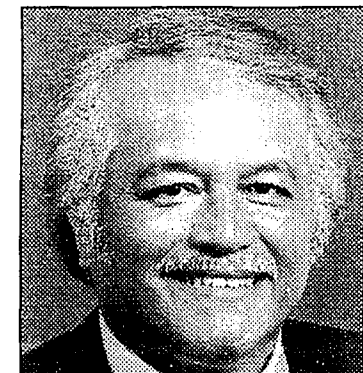
Torres wrote to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio asking him to look into the background of the Hawaii-based Wackenhut Corp., which is being endorsed by a resolution filed by Rep. Frank Cepeda.

The resolution filed at the House urges the governor to award the contract to Wackenhut.

Torres said Ingram did not disclose his association with the company prior to his confirmation as commissioner on March 13, 1998 when he filed his Statement of Financial Interest.

The commissioner was not available for comment.

Torres also said it was not true that Ingram served as a consultant only for one month



Stanley Torres

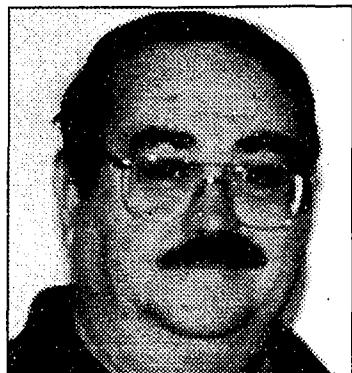
on March 1997, since he had seen him more than once with the company's officials.

In an earlier interview, Ingram said he was hired by Wackenhut as a consultant for one month when the company's officials were on a marketing visit to Saipan.

The company's officials were also former Hawaiian policemen, he said.

Torres identified Ingram's companions as Glenn K. Kawamura, the development representative, and District Manager Robert Chang.

Cepeda's resolution is "endorsing Wackenhut as contractor" for



Charles W. Ingram

the project.

Torres in his letter to the governor, said although the resolution was revised to change the word "urges" to "supports", still "we can see writings on the wall all over the Capitol Hill."

The amendment has also deleted the word, "the project should be awarded to Wackenhut."

"The powerful force from the outside interest has corrupt(ed) the minds of some of the cabinet members of the CNMI, with total disregard of the existence of the CNMI Government Code of Ethics," Torres said in his letter to Tenorio.

## GTA celebrates its 25th anniversary

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Guam Telephone Authority (GTA) celebrates its 25th anniversary this week closer to its goal of attracting more foreign investors to Guam by extolling the advantages of Guam's telecommunications and emphasizing the island's role as a major gateway to Asia.

By the end of 1999, GTA forecasts that more than \$260 million in telecommunications infrastructure improvements will be completed through local and off-island contractors.

According to GTA, Guam possesses the most advanced telecommunications infrastructure and systems in the region because the island sits at the nexus of the Pacific's underwater fiber optics cabling network, making Guam a telecommunications hub for numerous international providers.

Moreover, the implementation of Feature Group D paved the way for Guam to have a U.S. area code and be included in the domestic rate integration patterns of the United States.

"All these enable Guam to become a full service telecommunications hub in the Pacific. While the island's advanced local telecommunications system provides the basis for international

giants to operate here already, there is plenty of room for expansion in this industry," GTA stressed.

With the rapid movement of major American companies into the Pacific Rim areas (especially Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and China), GTA believes Guam is the prime location for major firms who rely heavily on advanced telecommunications.

Also, Guam has become an ideal location for interested companies wishing to do business from U.S. soil with most Asian countries because Guam's rich ethnic population provides a readily available employee pool to meet language requirements in most Pacific Rim countries.

GTA adds that Guam's strategic location, continuing modernization, ever growing infrastructure and its ability to meet the strategic needs of its people, make it a more suitable location for major international, national and regional companies desiring a presence in the Western Pacific Rim.

The opening ceremony for GTA Week will be held today 10 a.m. at the GTA Main Office in Upper Tumon.

"The experience I have had as a Board Member and then chair has allowed me to challenge my limits and to work with a group of people with similar interests in helping the community."

All nominations need to be returned to the chapter office no later than April 20, 1999.

## Nominations sought for Red Cross Board

THE NORTHERN Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is currently soliciting nominations for the Board of Directors for the chapter.

Nomination forms are available via fax by calling the chapter office at 234-3459.

The nomination forms can also be picked up at the Red Cross office on Airport Road, Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

The NMI chapter is looking for Board Member candidates with the following criteria:

- Candidates who represent ethnic and gender diverse populations in the CNMI;
- Candidates with an ability to influence others to support the Red Cross with their time and talents;
- Candidates with an ability and willingness to contribute to the Red Cross and ask others to contribute.

All nominations will be reviewed by the NMI Chapter Board Development/Nominating Committee for those which meet the specific needs of the Board of Directors.

"Being a Board member is an excellent opportunity to serve the community, to expand my own experiences and to feel good about myself," said Board of Directors Chair Jocelyn Guerrero.

"The experience I have had as a Board Member and then chair has allowed me to challenge my limits and to work with a group of people with similar interests in helping the community."

All nominations need to be returned to the chapter office no later than April 20, 1999.

## McPhetres: NMC produced good number of graduates

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

SAYING that the Northern Marianas College is not just a degree-granting institution, NMC President Agnes McPhetres reported that the college has produced a good number of successful graduates.

McPhetres, who is scheduled to retire in December, said NMC not only grants diploma but also seeks to address the economic development needs of the NMI by offering various economic programs.

McPhetres cited as example NMC's programs on liberal arts, nursing, and law enforcement which have produced good law-



Agnes McPhetres

yers and government leaders.

McPhetres said that since its establishment in 1981, the liberal arts, which is the largest academic program, has awarded a total of

861 students with associate degree; 473 of whom have successfully completed four-year courses at off-islands colleges and universities.

For nursing, the school has passed 32 full time nurses and 64 nursing assistants since 1989; 11 nurses are set to graduate next month. In 1989, only three students graduated.

During school year 1997-98, McPhetres said about 1,900 students have enrolled in credit courses, and about 4,000 people were administered with services, workshops, and courses under the community, continuing, and adult education as well as from the agriculture and life sciences.

## Palau state expedites CIPs

By MALOU L. SAYSON

For the Variety

NGARCHELONG (Palau Horizon) — The Ngarchelong State government is under tremendous pressure to implement its long pending capital improvement projects (CIP) before the funds appropriated by the Congress are reverted to the national coffers.

Three important projects worth \$30,000, however, were already completed, giving boost to the staggering fishery industry in the area.

Vice President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. in his visit to this state, lauded the initiative of Ngarchelong Gov. Tobias F. Aquon of implementing projects which could serve as support systems or growth booster to the state economy.

In his address to the Ngarchelong folk during the inauguration of the boat ramp project, Remengesau said the government shall always be in support of projects which will not only contribute to the state but also to the national economic growth.

The vice president stressed that state governments should implement CIPs which shall be complementary to and supportive of the national CIP projects such as the 53-mile compact road around

Babeldaob.

The three projects so far completed include a concrete road connected to the dispensary costing \$15,000 and the boat ramp and another concrete road connected to the dock, both worth \$15,000 or a total of \$30,000.

These projects, according to Aquon, will definitely boost the local fishery industry considering the increased docking capacity of the area, enough space to accommodate cold storage for fish and easy access for people to transport their harvests or goods to the vending place.

Aquon also noted of another on-going CIP project, the construction of the Headstart School Building at a cost of \$70,000. "[It's] 60 percent towards completion," Aquon said as he projected that the project will be completed in the middle of this month.

The state government has yet to implement five other CIP projects which have been pending since the previous administration.

These include the construction of the capitol building with a project cost of \$180,000 and a flush toilet for elementary school worth \$80,000 or a total of \$260,000.

The building of playground and youth facilities, according to Aquon, will fetch another

\$70,000.

The state government is also stepping up efforts to start the construction of three major docks:

Continued on page 22

## Jones: FTZs will pick up in time

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

OPERATING a free trade zone in the Commonwealth "will start off slow, then pick up momentum with time," Bob Jones, head of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Free Trade Zone Committee, has said.

Jones' remarks came after a local banking community leader said money to be derived from the FTZs will be "very minimal" due to the enormous tax breaks to be given to prospective investors.

In his report to the Chamber, Jones announced the committee "(has) done all (it) can until... political leaders give... the power and the legal authority to implement the zones, legally."

"There are those that do not believe that the CNMI can offer the necessary incentives to attract investors to our shores," Jones said, in his report.

"We agree that we have a tough

competition from other free trade zones in the area but I join the committee members in our belief that we can be competitive," he added.

Jones said he "believes" the Commonwealth will be successful with the FTZs "if everyone will give it a chance and not push in the opposite direction."

"The CNMI economy is now operating on a two-legged stool," said Jones, referring to the tourism and garment industries.

"The free trade zone can work. It can start off slow, then pick up momentum with time," he added.

Bank of Saipan Chief Executive Officer Tomas B. Aidan has said revenues to be generated by the government from the FTZs will be "very minimal" because the investors "want everything handed down on a silver platter."

According to Aidan, tax incentives being offered for the investors will likely eat up a size-

Continued on page 22

**Ritzzy's CAFE**  
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LUNCH MENU  
Sandwich of the week: Angus Roast Beef™ Thinly sliced roast beef served on a hoggie roll, with your choice of either French Fries, or Beer Battered Onion Rings, \$7.00

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WEDNESDAY: GOZ TOP SIRLOIN STEAK (US ANGUS BEEF)  
THURSDAY: INDIAN BEEF CURRY WITH RICE AND CONDIMENTS  
FRIDAY: MEXICAN FISH IN FOIL

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Try it with one of our sugardock U.S. Imported "Certified Angus Beef"™ Steaks. Ask your service person for our special price. This item will only be served on Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays While supplies last!!!

Remember: Living Well Is The Best Revenge!  
PS: Every Monday Is Taco Day!! Beef Tacos \$1.00 each!!!

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors, hereby give Notice that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation will hold public hearings concerning its proposed new electric rate schedule, as published in the January 18, 1999, Commonwealth Register, Volume 21, Number 01. The schedule is as follows:

1. Monday, April 19, 1999, 7:00 PM  
Tinian: Tinian Gymnasium
2. Wednesday, April 21, 1999, 7:00 PM  
Rota: Rota Health Center Cafeteria
3. Friday, April 23, 1999, 7:00 PM  
Saipan: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Written comments should be submitted to the CUC Administration office, on the 3rd floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, April 23, 1999.

/s/JUAN S. DELA CRUZ Board Chairman Date: April 8, 1999

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# AROUND the Islands

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

## Teen symposium a success



Hundreds of Saipan students attended last Saturday's Teen Symposium hosted by Teen Voice in Action. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

PRIVATE and public school students gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel last Saturday for the Teen Symposium organized by the Teen Voices in Action.

The organization has the goal of educating and empowering Saipan's young people and making them of the challenges facing the youth.

The symposium, which appointed teens to educate fellow

teens, provided a venue for teenagers to share experiences and creative way of dealing with them.

Among of the challenges facing today's youth are the ethnic diversity in the community, economic hardships, drug abuse, premarital sex and teen parenting.

The Department of Public Health also discussed teen suicide, sexual violence, HIV, pregnancy and hallucinogenic drugs.

The symposium's theme, "Unity in Diversity: Be part of the

solution."

The symposium called teens and young adults to unite in celebrating the diversity of the Commonwealth by analyzing present teen challenges and responding to the challenges through actions.

Event sponsors include the First Lady's Vision Foundation, Department of Public Health, Student Leadership Council of Pacific Resources for Education and Learning and some private donors.

## The Blocks back at Gilligans

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

AFTER a very successful debut performance on Saipan last year, Hyatt Gilligans decided to bring the band called The Blocks back on the island to swing all dance and music enthusiasts once more.

Gilligans formally welcomed the band after replacing the Beat Culture band.

Members of the band include Shareluck "Shucks" Avenido (male vocals), Levi G. Aniversario, Jr (bass guitar), Jose Reambonanza (keyboard), Angelo Ross M. Dela Cerna (lead guitar), Jimmy Palmos (drummer) and its new female vocalist Sheila Tan.

Barely a week in Gilligan's, the band brought back its followers in their dancing shoes again and gained some new fans, too.

The band started in Cagayan De Oro, a province in the southern part of the Philippines in



The Blocks: Back after hiatus

early 90's.

They also won prestigious rock band competitions in Manila such as the Battle of the Bands in 1994 and San Miguel Beer Rock Fest in 1995.

The Blocks also played in well-known hotels and bar joints in Manila.

Members of the band has al-

ready traveled in different Asian countries such as in Malaysia, Burma, Taiwan and China to play music.

The band, who is known for playing rock music, has also a wide range of repertoire.

They can play top 40's music, blues and sentimental ballads.

Continued on page 22



Kageyama, Yasuhiko & Kageyama, Yuko



Hano, Hiroki & Hano, Kasumi



Matsumoto, Susumu & Matsumoto, Mika



Yorita, Masaki & Yorita, Junko



Nobumitsu, Hiroko & Nobumitsu, Kisugi



Suzuki, Akira & Suzuki, Aki

# AROUND the Islands

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

## Convoy condemns child abuse

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

ABOUT a hundred supporters participated in Saturday's motorcade rally commencing the celebration of Children Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month.

The motorcade, participated in by 40 vehicles, started at 9 a.m.

Spearheaded by the Division of Youth Services, the rally was graced by the presence of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan, Sec. Thomas Tebuteb from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and DYS chief Eloise Furey.

Blue ribbons and balloons were distributed during the event.

The Department of Public

Safety provided security assistance.

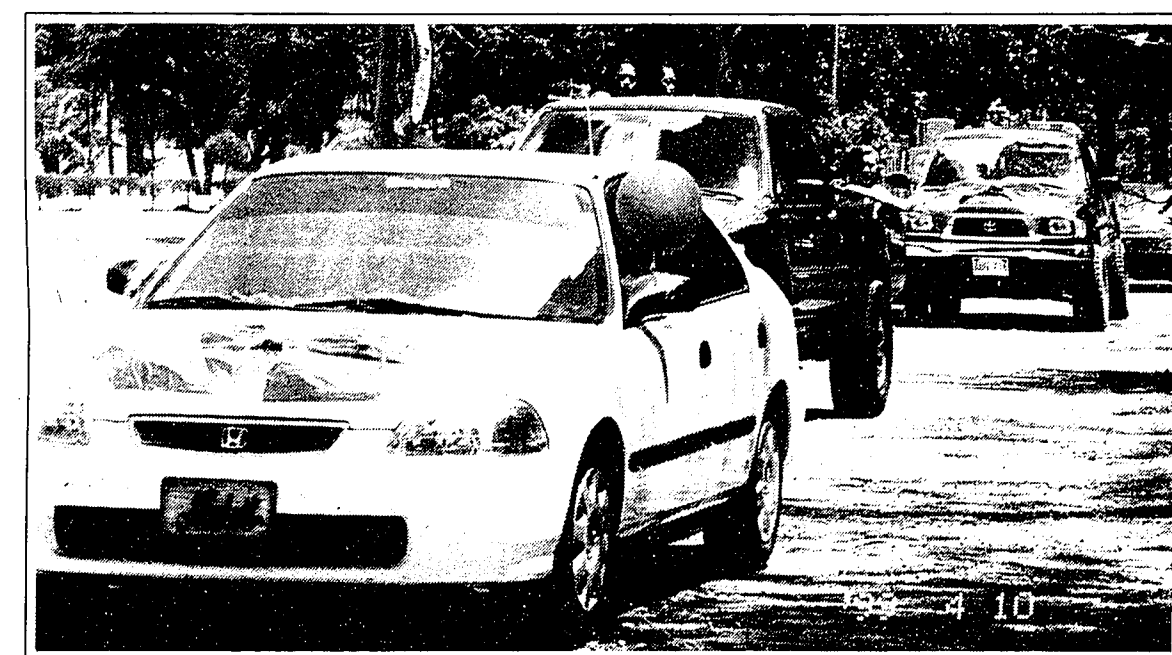
The motorcade ran from Susupe reaching Tanapag and San Roque.

Furey said the event is also being celebrated in Tinian and Rota.

One of the highlights of this year's celebration is the fundraising activity called Penny Drive in each school.

Proceeds from the Penny Drive, Furey said, will be used for the expenses that government cannot shoulder such as providing care for foster children.

Other activities include poster-making contest, distribution of blue ribbons, buttons, and all flyers to schools, government and private offices.



Motorists join the Blue Ribbon Motorcade spearheaded by DYS for the kick-off event of Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month last Saturday morning. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## Humanities Council sponsors seminar for teachers

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Council for the Humanities will be sponsoring another NMI History Institute seminar for teachers on April 17 at the Pacific Gardenia conference room.

The seminar will be conducted in four Saturday sessions covering the history of the Northern Marianas and its people.

According to coordinator Sam McPhetres, the History Teacher's Institute is aimed primarily at social studies teachers at all levels

both in public and private schools.

McPhetres said graduate college credit can be earned by attending the full series and it may count toward certification requirements for the Public School System.

Each session will focus on a particular period in history.

The first session will tackle the geological development of the Western Pacific basin and how it influenced island settlements. Scheduled to speak are Dr. Richard Randall, geologist of the University of Guam, Dr. Lawrence

Cunningham, UOG's anthropologist, who will discuss migratory movements and the eventual settlement in the Marianas.

The April 25 session will interpret the Marianas History from the points of view of geneticist, linguist and archaeologist.

Renowned genetics specialist Dr. Koji Lum of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo who did an extensive research on origins of Pacific Islanders through DNA research and wrote extensively on the topic will handle a public forum.

Dr. Rosalind Hunter-Anderson, an experienced archaeologist in the Marianas and Micronesia will be part of the presentation while Northern Marianas College So-

cial Studies specialist James Vincent will discuss the linguistic aspects of the historical research in Micronesia.

Continued on page 22

### Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Aturidat Espetad Mimuriat Guahan

850 Gov. Carlos Camacho Road  
Oka, Tamuning, Guam 96911  
Tel. 647-2444 or 647-2330  
Fax: (671) 649-0145

## PUBLIC NOTICE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

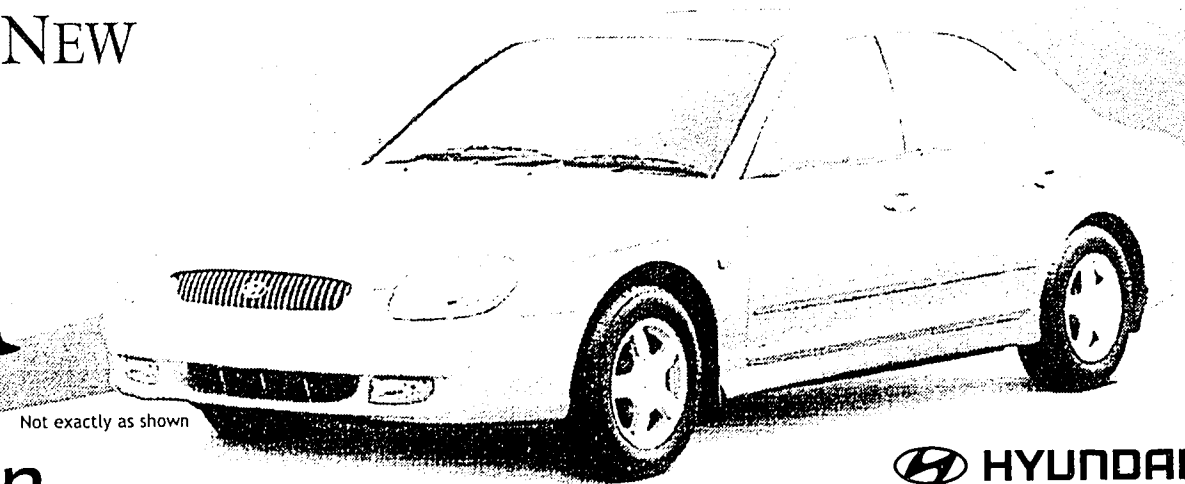
On Friday, April 16, 1999, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority will host a community strategic planning session. The Public is invited to attend and participate in the development of the Guam Memorial Hospital's Strategic Plan for FY2000-2003. This planning session will be held in the GMH Cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. All interested residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information please contact the GMHA Planning Department at 647-2221.

/s/ Tyrone J. Taitano  
Hospital Administrator

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Northern Mariana Islands  
RETIREMENT FUND

### INVITATION TO BID NMIRF 99-005

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Board of Trustees is soliciting bids for the Construction of the Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund Building, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed Bids, in one (1) original and one (1) duplicate, will be accepted in the Office of the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan until 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bid bond of fifteen (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Specifications and Plans of the project are available on or after April 19, 1999 at the office of the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Three Hundred Fifty (\$350.00) dollars is required for each set. Checks should be made payable to NMI Retirement Fund.

Pre-Bid conference for this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 30, 1999, at the NMI Retirement Fund conference room, Saipan MP 96950.

The bidder is required to submit with the proposal a copy of the business permits in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The apparent low bidder will be required to submit information sufficient for the NMI Retirement Fund to make a responsibility determination as required by Section 3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. Awards will be made only to responsible contractors.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund with the exception of bid bonds, certified check or cashier's check which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications sections entitled instruction to Bidders subsection 5, Bid Guarantee.

The NMI Retirement Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

/S/ FRED F. CAMACHO  
Acting Administrator  
NMI Retirement Fund

/S/ VICENTE C. CAMACHO  
Chairman  
NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees



# Bill vs pyramid scheme hit

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — As he supports the legalization of gambling in this country, this outspoken political leader strongly opposes the passage of a proposed bill which seeks to prohibit so-called "pyramid scheme" following complaints of several private individuals about the sale of certificates in a scheme called "Pentagono."

Senator Joshua Koshiba told *Palau Horizon* that he will disagree with whoever introduces the bill and whoever agrees to pass it against the "Pentagono" scheme. Koshiba has two paramount reasons for opposing the proposed bill. First, he said, it is unconstitutional to limit the right of a person to decide on what to do with his own money; and second, opposing it would mean blocking free enterprise in this country.

He challenged Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs Chair Santos Olikong, who introduced Senate Bill No. 5-304, last Feb. 16, to debate on the floor.

The proposed bill seeks to amend 17 PNC by adding a new section 3008 which calls for imposition of penalties to include a maximum of five-year imprisonment or a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both, to

any person who contrives, prepares, sets up, proposes or operates the "pyramid scheme."

Olikong has strongly fought against any scheme for the disposal or distribution of property whereby a participant pays a valuable consideration for the chance to receive

Continued on page 22

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

### AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 664-2000

This Notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 24, 1999 the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the purpose of the following project:

Project : Tinian Community Center  
Purpose : Construction of a Multipurpose Community Facility  
Location : Tinian, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP.  
Federal Funds : Federal Community Development Block Grant will finance 100% percent of \$350,000.00 of the total cost of the project.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the project will have no significant impact on human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied weekdays 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Mariana Housing Corporation (NMHC), P.O. Box 514 Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received within Fifteen days or by April 16, 1999, will be considered by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to submission of a request of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands in its and the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and allow the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objection to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Area Office, Seven Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4918. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Pedro P. Tenorio  
Governor

#### A first hand account

## Governor saves man's life at K-B

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — For a stranger, sensing a commotion at the temporary K-B Bridge, to stop, ask what was happening and act on impulse to save a man's life, it's something that could not just be ignored.

Little heroes do exist, performing small miracles that unexpectedly create big changes in our lives. I, together with other friends, was a witness to that miracle in the early evening of Easter Sunday.

The "little" hero happened to be the 25-year old newly-appointed Ngatpang Gov. Mason Whipps.

Whipps was on his way home to Koror after a day's hard work at the Surangel & Sons' marina project site over the K-B Bridge area in Airai. It was twilight's final hours, and people lining up both sides of the temporary bridge to fish started to increase in number.

I just took off my sandals, placed the white canvass on the steel ramp at the right side of the bridge [towards Koror], and started making the initial sketch of a night scenery, when Jake, who was at my left side fishing, saw a white car inched closely to a man standing at the upper portion of the bridge, also fishing.

At my right side was Eileen, our business reporter, sitting beside Romy, our camera man. Eileen, Romy and Jake, our printer, for the first time went out fishing at the K-B Bridge to cap the Easter Sunday celebration. In fact, they just transferred from the left to the right side of the bridge [going to Koror] since their lines often got entangled under due to the strong current.

Jake witnessed the whole incident. But, he failed to get the plate number of the car. He saw the man sitting beside the driver stretched out his arm and pushed the unsuspecting guy. The guy lost his balance and fell off the bridge.

When I turned to look at what's happening, I saw the guy frantically trying to keep afloat while shouting, "help me! help me!" Acting on impulse I got up and waved at a vehicle coming up the ramp. It was a pick-up driven by a Chinese guy who willingly took me to the nearest store where I can make an emergency call.

The next car following the pick

up happened to be driven by Gov. Whipps who stopped and queried what was the commotion all about. Eileen told him that somebody was pushed off the bridge and that he doesn't know how to swim.

Whipps turned his car around and drove back to the marina project site where a few boats were docked.

On my side, we failed to track down the suspected vehicle. Eileen followed me at the police station, but I stopped at the Topside Mobil gas station where I placed a 911 call. In a matter of few minutes, I saw the police car rushing towards Airai.

When I got back to the scene, I was relieved to find that the guy, identified later as Alejandro Carai, 59, had been saved and is alive and well. The police were there too and got a few statements from me.

Carai, according to his wife, Mely, 59, thought it was the end for him. He had resigned to accepting death that he offered his life to God. Carai happens to be a faith healer.

My friends and I were shaking in disbelief that this "inhuman thing" could just happen. All four of us went home nervous about the whole incident and were not able to get a good sleep that night.

The following day, Eileen and I went back to the marina project site. There we saw Gov. Whipps busy giving instructions to his workers.

"I did what I could. I was at the right place, at the right time," he told us. For Whipps, it was just a streak of luck that the victim was saved from drowning.

He said were it not for his uncle's boat with a key in it, he could have lost those precious minutes to save Carai's life.

"If I got there a little bit later, [he] could not have made it," Whipps said. He noted that the victim was already too weak to reach out for the boat and that he had to be pulled up by Eric Oiterong, one of governor's employees, to get on board.

For the family of the victim, it was a miracle, a timely Easter gift for them.

For us witnesses, it was not just a matter of luck.

It's the human heart working at its best, doing the little miracles that make life on earth more humane.



## Elsewhere in the Pacific

# Samoans prepare for Flag Day celebrations

**APIA (Pacnews)** — Samoa is preparing to send a large delegation, including entertainers, to participate in neighbouring American Samoa's Flag Day celebrations.

The Samoan Government announced this week that entertainers from the villages of Moataa and Lepa in Upolu Island, and Sataua and Sagone in Savaii, had been chosen to represent Samoa at the celebrations.

The delegation will depart for American Samoa on board the inter-island ferry Lady Naomi at

the weekend.

Performances at the American Samoa Flag Day celebrations often result in a financial windfall for villages from the neighboring independent state, where the value of the US dollar is rarely below double the value of Samoa's Tala.

Last year's representatives from Samoa were Vailie, Fagalii and Iva Villagers, which each received a gift of \$US6,000 from the American Samoa Government for their participation.

The group from Iva received a bonus \$US500 for performing at

one of the Flag Day banquets.

The American Samoan villages who hosted the visitors also presented thousands of dollars worth of gifts and cash for their guests.

However, the authorities in the territory have to cope with some Samoan entertainers who overstay their permits.

Participants from Samoa gain entry through a special seven-day permit.

About 70 of the 300 entertainers who went to American Samoa last year reportedly overstayed in the territory.

## Survey: Kiribati people heavy smokers

**TARAWA (Pacnews)** — Kiribati men and women are among the heaviest smokers in the Asia Pacific region.

That came out of a joint Pacific Community, United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organisation survey which revealed that 70 percent of Kiribati women from 15

years and upwards are active smokers.

The survey also found that 80 percent of them from the same age group smoke.

Kiribati Health Secretary Doctor Takeieta Kienene says the Health Department will determine whether there is an increase or decrease in smoking habits after a

nation-wide survey currently underway is completed.

The survey is being conducted to find out Kiribati's diabetes problem.

Takeieta said smoking is prevalent among I-Kiribati because tobacco is widely accepted in the traditional exchange of gifts.

## Fiji has first woman judge

**SUVA (Pacnews)** — Fiji's Director of Public Prosecutions, Nazhat Shameem has become the country's first woman judge.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission confirmed her appointment this week.

Shameem was also the first woman to head Fiji's State Prosecution office, a post she held since 1994.

When informed of her appointment, Shameem said her ambition was to become a judge when she was studying law.

"It was something I thought I would very much want to do," she said.

The Fiji government is yet to announce a new Director of Public Prosecutions.

The position is a constitutional office - any appointment will be made by the Constitutional Officers Commission.

## PNG govt's effort to fend off Sandline has cost millions

**PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)** — An attempt by the Papua New Guinea Government to challenge the Sandline arbitration interim award in the Queensland High Court has cost the State an extra \$US10 million.

The Post Courier newspaper obtained a copy of the Attorney General's submission which said the PNG Government owed the Sandline mercenary project \$US41 million.

The newspaper, however could not independently confirm whether Cabinet had approved the release of the \$US10 million and whether the stipulated amount had been released by the Treasury and Planning Department.

However, a Cabinet submission to Prime Minister Bill Skate and the National Executive Council by the Attorney General Michael Gene in December last year showed that \$US2 million was to be released immediately by the Treasury Department.

This was for legal fees to contest the Award, now made in favour of Sandline. The PNG Government made the challenge because of its commitment to protect national assets within and abroad.

Post Courier said another \$US8 million was to be approved by Cabinet to be held as security for costs to avoid Sandline International from enforcing the interim award.

The Attorney General's submission emphasised the need for the state to make sufficient funding available to protect state assets and the interests of the people of PNG.

"It therefore requires a substantial commitment on behalf of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea in terms of adequate funding to continue to maintain and protect the assets and interests of the State at all stages of litigation," Gene said.

The report showed the Government engaged four Queens Counsel (QCs) to represent

Continued on page 18

## Bougainville rebels rap plans to boycott elections

**RABAUL (Pacnews)** — The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) has raised concern about plans by resistance forces to boycott this month's elections on the Papua New Guinea Island.

BRA spokesperson, Andrew Miriki said the rebels were not happy with the resistance force leaders' negative attitude towards the elections to elect the Bougainville Reconciliation Government (BRG).

"It is sad to see the resistance force leaders adopting a negative attitude while we are putting in every effort into what the people of Bougainville want," Miriki said.

Resistance Force Commander Hillary Masiria and his sectional commanders indicated this week they would not take part in the BRG election because the other factions, including the rebels, had failed to sort out a number of important issues which would ensure a fair elections.

The resistance force members cited the issue of disarmament and reconciliation among Bougainville leaders as

two important concerns that needed to be sorted out before election.

However, Miriki said the formation of the BRG was in line with the Lincoln Peace Agreement and elections would go ahead as planned despite opposition from resistance forces.

"The resistance forces must realise that the peace process was a result of prayers by the people of Bougainville after nine years of suffering. We all have an obligation to respect the views of the people," he said.

On disarmament, Miriki said it was senseless to talk about disarming the factions on Bougainville without a proper government on the Island.

He said the BRG would be the most appropriate authority to discuss the issue of disarming the people on the war-torn island.

According to Miriki, disarmament would be one of main items on the agenda following the formation of a new government.

The elections are scheduled for April 24.

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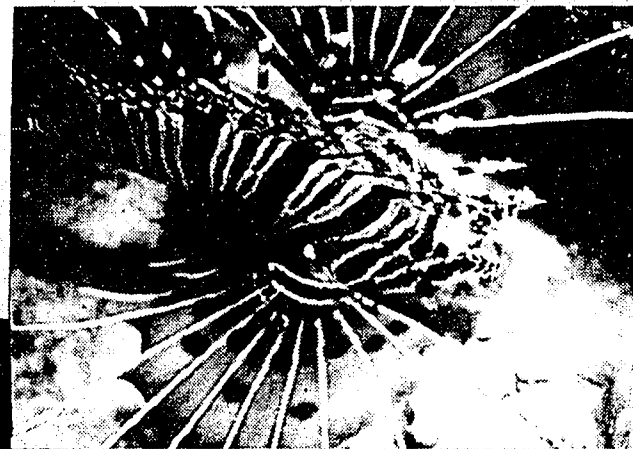
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## WORLD'S LARGEST DIVE

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When: April 17, 1999 - 7:00am check-in (Reservations required)

Registration deadline April 14, 1999

\$20 ENTRY FEE PER DIVER - Includes entry to the achievement banquet.

Dive sites:

Saipan: Chinsen shipwreck • Tinian: Barcinas Bay • Rota: Snake Eyes shipwreck

Orientation: Friday, April 16, 1999

6:00pm at American Memorial Park Ampitheatre

Banquet: Saturday, April 17, 1999 - location to be announced

- You MUST be a certified diver to participate.
- Please contact participating MVA member dive shops about \$20 entry fee.
- Completed applications must be turned in to the MVA office by 5:00pm on April 14, 1999.
- Only the amount of divers that can be accommodated at the selected sites will be picked. (Example - 400 divers can dive the site(s), 400 applications will be pre-selected by raffle on April 14, 1999. The drawing date will allow time to inform those that were picked.
- All divers must participate in the orientation on Friday, April 16, 1999 - 6:00pm at American Memorial Park amphitheatre. All divers must follow instructions given by officials at the orientation day. Divers who do not follow the instructions given will not be allowed to participate.

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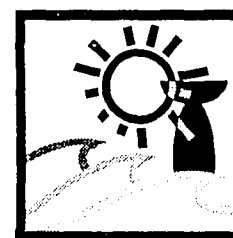
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## RP rebels set release of captives

MANILA (Reuters) — Philippine rebel leaders on Saturday gave a timetable for the release of captured police and Army officers, paving the way for resumption of stalled peace talks with the government.

The announcement came a day after the peaceful release of Major Roberto Bernal, held captive for 48 days by members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Sorsogon province.

"The release of Major Bernal enhances confidence and paves the way for further release of the prisoners of war by the New People's Army in Mindanao," Jose Maria Sison, consultant to the National Democratic Front (NDF) of the Philippines negotiating panel, said in a statement.

Bernal was the first of five Army and police officers to be set free after the rebels promised their release by April 19.

The government's negotiating panel said it would recommend the resumption of peace talks after the return of the captives.

"With the release of our five personnel, we shall ask the Cabinet Advisory Committee to endorse to the President the immediate lifting of the suspension of talks and the reactivation of safety and immunity guarantees," government panel chairman Howard Dee said in a statement issued after the NDF's announcement.

The abducted officers will be released following the verification of the withdrawal of government troops in the areas specified by the rebels, said Luis Jalandoni, chairman of the NDF negotiating panel.

Jalandoni said the NPA would release Army Sgt Alipio Lozada on April 11. General Obillo and Captain Montealto would be freed on April 16. Army Sgt Wivino Demol would be released on or before April 19.

The NDF, the rebels' political leadership, has held peace talks with the government since 1995.

President Joseph Estrada suspended the peace talks in February after the rebels seized Army General Victor Obillo and other officers in different parts of the country and threatened to launch an all-out assault on rebel positions.

"The NDF is ready to resume peace negotiations...," Jalandoni said. But he added this would be possible only if the government honoured bilateral agreements, including an agreement on human rights and safety and immunity guarantees for panel leaders.

Speaking in his weekly television programme, President Estrada said he was confident the rebels would keep their pledge to release the captive officers.

"I expect them to have a word of honour. I expect them to fulfil their promise," he said.

# Japanese elect governors

TOKYO (Reuters) — Tokyo voters went to the polls under rainy skies on Sunday to elect a new governor in what is expected to be a test of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's leadership.

The Tokyo contest is one of a spate of local elections to be held on Sunday, the first major electoral test since Obuchi took office last July.

At stake are governorships of 12 of Japan's 47 prefectures, including the metropolises of Tokyo - the most hotly contested battle - and Osaka in western Japan.

There are a record 19 candidates vying for the post of Tokyo governor, but pre-election polling indicated that nationalist author and former ruling Liberal Democratic Party politician Shintaro Ishihara was leading the pack.

The voting could go to a second stage if no one gets 25 percent of the vote, a costly affair for the heavily indebted Tokyo Metropolitan government.

A poll of potential voters by national broadcaster NHK said Japan's moribund economy was the main issue in the Tokyo race and over 70 percent of eligible voters said they intended to cast ballots in the gubernatorial election.

Analysts say an Ishihara victory would give Obuchi a domestic black eye and a diplomatic headache, given the prize-winning novelist's penchant for irritating China and his advocacy of reducing Japan's dependence on America for its defence.

But the fate of Obuchi's government is more likely to hinge on economic developments in the next few months ahead of an LDP leadership election set for September.

Other candidates for the Tokyo governorship include former United Nations undersecretary general Yasushi Akashi, backed by the LDP, ex-foreign minister Koji Kakizawa, running as an independent, Kunio Hatoyama, backed by the main opposition Democratic Party, and the communists' Man Mikami.

The heavy rains in the capital and across most of Japan resulted in poor initial voter turnout, with 8.88 percent of eligible Tokyo voters casting ballots by 11 a.m. (0200 GMT), down from the 14.15 percent reached at the same time in the previous election four years ago.

Competition for the governorship in the other prefectures is slack, with major conservative parties either failing to field a candidate or joining hands to back incumbents against independents or communist candidates.

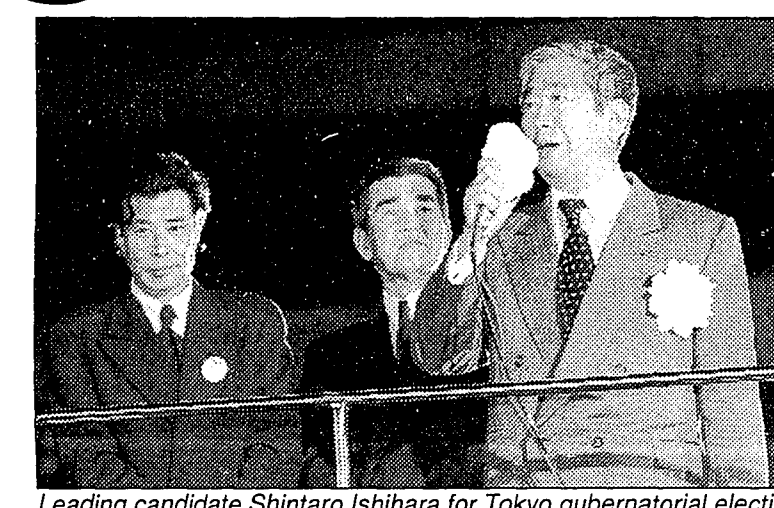
The LDP and the Democratic Party are backing the same incumbents in nine of the 12 governors' elections.

In Osaka, major parties abandoned efforts to run candidates against comedian-turned-governor Knock Yokoyama, an independent who appears likely to easily win a second term.

In prefectural assembly elections, a total of 4,013 candidates are running for 2,669 seats in 44 prefectures throughout Japan.



Japanese voters cast ballots at Tokyo's Daiba Elementary School polling station in an election for Tokyo governor Sunday. AP



Leading candidate Shintaro Ishihara for Tokyo gubernatorial election addresses a crowd with his film star backers Hiroshi Tachi (left) and Tetsuya Watari at rally at Tokyo's Ginza shopping district Saturday. AP

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**\$250 for all 5 different colors  
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After trade talks fail in D.C.

# China's Zhu visits Denver

By ROBIN McDOWELL  
DENVER (AP) — Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, disappointed by the failure of trade talks in Washington, said that pressure from China's opponents had merely delayed its entry into the World Trade Organization.

Zhu, speaking during a luncheon given by Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, said that after a meeting with a U.S. Congressional delegation "one member whispered, 'I am very sorry. Just

wait another two months. I guarantee you that we will ratify that.'"

"I hope we don't have to wait that long," Zhu said. He did not identify the member of Congress. Zhu was greeted at the airport by about 150 Chinese-Americans waving U.S. and Chinese flags.

In downtown Denver, about 100 people protesting China's treatment of Tibet banged drums and shouted "Free Tibet before



President Clinton listens to Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji speak during ceremonies on the South Lawn of the White House Thursday. The Premier is on a nine-day visit to the United States. AP

## Poll shows confidence in Hong Kong increases

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong's confidence in its government and economy has increased, an opinion poll published in the Sunday Morning Post showed.

The Asian Commercial Research survey showed 65 percent of the 600 people polled said they had confidence in the economy over the next 12 months and 32 percent said they lacked confidence.

This was a dramatic improvement from findings of previous polls between May last year and January which showed a majority of people expressing pessimism, the newspaper said.

Asked about their own financial circumstances, a similar 65 percent were optimistic while 29 percent were not.

Sixty-nine percent expressed confidence in the legal system and 71 percent said they were confident about the rule of law. Only 22 percent said they were not confident about the rule of law.

Eighty-seven percent welcomed the news that the popular Chief Secretary Anson Chan would stay in her post.

The satisfaction ratings for Chan, Financial Secretary Donald Tsang and Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa had all increased, the poll showed.



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan after the two signed an agreement Friday at the State Department in Washington that will significantly expand air traffic between the US and China. AP

free trade."

Television stations showed footage of police ushering handcuffed protesters onto a bus and reported dozens of arrests, but police would not confirm any arrests.

Among the protesters was former Chinese political prisoner Harry Wu, who told the crowd: "The Chinese come over

here with a smiling face, but they have bloody hands."

Zhu also met with Gov. Bill Owens.

The premier last week met with President Bill Clinton and spent four days in negotiations, hoping to win China entry into the World Trade Organization. He offered to lower tariff barriers for American financial ser-

vice firms, telecommunication companies and other U.S. industries hoping to gain entry to China's market.

The administration, faced with congressional anger over allegations of Chinese nuclear espionage and human rights violations, demanded more concessions. In the end, Clinton vetoed a final deal.

## US, China finalize deal to open agricultural markets

By JANELLE CARTER

WASHINGTON (AP) — After days of haggling over a deal that would lower Chinese trade barriers for American farmers, the United States and China finally signed an agreement that opens Chinese markets to American wheat, beef and citrus.

"This agreement addresses a long-standing concern of American farmers and I was proud to make their case directly," Vice President Al Gore said in a statement issued Saturday through a spokesman.

A tentative agreement had been announced on Thursday but hit a snag when it became clear broader issues concerning China's entry into the World Trade Organization would not be resolved during a visit to Washington by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji.

The freeze began to thaw during a Friday meeting between Gore and Zhu that had been scheduled to last about a half hour, but stretched into well over an hour, administration officials said.

"The vice president really pushed the issue and essentially reopened the discussion," a White House source, who asked not to be identified, said Saturday. "Early this morning they put pen to paper. It's a done deal."

Under the agreement, China agreed to lift its bans on shipments of wheat from the Pacific Northwest and citrus from Florida, Texas and California.

China had imposed long-standing bans on those products on the grounds of worries about plant diseases. U.S. producers complained the bans were not based on sound science but were hidden trade barriers. The Chinese also agreed to eliminate burdensome inspection requirements that had severely restricted the amount of U.S. beef that could be sold in China.

The deal brings a sigh of relief from the U.S. farm industry as well as many on

Capitol Hill, who viewed the opened markets as a boon for an agricultural economy that has been severely impacted in the

last year by lagging imports and low prices.

The citrus portion alone is expected to be worth \$1.2 billion in trade for one year.

When the initial agreement was announced during the week, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, said it marked "important progress in the fight to level the playing field in international trade so our producers have a fair chance to compete and market their products."

China initially agreed to the deal on the assumption it would get U.S. approval for an overall package that would have allowed China to enter the World Trade Organization.

China had already signed separate deals earlier in the week covering aviation and opening up its vast telecommunications and insurance markets to U.S. companies.

China agreed to double the frequency of flights between the United States and China under the aviation deal.

## N. Korea: US must pay for missile trade to stop

TOKYO (Reuters) — North Korea said on Friday it would continue exporting its missiles unless it received compensation from the United States.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said the stance was taken in response to U.S. refusals to compensate North Korea for fi-

nancial losses it would suffer by suspending its missile exports.

"The U.S. insists that it cannot make any compensation in cash. Missile exports will not be suspended if the U.S. refuses to pay cash to compensate for the DPRK's (North Korea's) losses," KCNA said.

The reclusive Stalinist state reiterated its stance that nothing concerning its missiles was negotiable except the question of exports, particularly in the face of U.S. plans to develop a Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system in Asia.

"Having deployed a large number of ballistic missiles and inter-continental ballistic missiles in many parts of the world, the United States, the warring party of the DPRK, has posed threats to the DPRK and other countries," it said.

"Under these circumstances, the DPRK will never suspend the development, production, test and deployment of missiles but go ahead with them," it added.

In March, the two nations met in Pyongyang to discuss the missile issue but failed to reach any agreement except to meet at a later date for more talks.

## Five nation group will hold defense exercise

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — Member nations of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) will conduct an air defence exercise over peninsular Malaysia later this month, a government statement said on Saturday.

The defence group includes Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The latest exercise is aimed at protecting the airspace of peninsular Malaysia and Singapore as well as improving operational cooperation between the forces, the circular said.

The exercise, to be conducted April 14-21, will be coordinated by Headquarters Integrated Air Defence System located at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth.

Air and naval forces from the FPDA countries will participate in the exercise.

The military exercises were suspended in August last year after Malaysia pulled out of a maritime and air exercise that

## Mahathir may be out of hospital by next week

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters)

— Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is expected to leave hospital early next week after treatment for bronchitis, a hospital spokeswoman said on Saturday.

"He is doing very well but he needs to rest for a few more days," said the spokeswoman for the National Heart Institute, where Mahathir was taken on April 2 with a lung infection.

"He is likely to be discharged early next week," she said.

A Mahathir aide said on Friday that the 73-year-old leader may be allowed to return home this weekend.

The spokeswoman said Mahathir was walking around and talking with other hospital patients.

After being hospitalised, Mahathir was not seen by the public until he said on state television on Thursday evening from the institute that he was feeling better and hoped to return to work soon.

**SAVE WATER**



South Korean President Kim Dae-jung (left) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak walk past South Korean traditional bands during the welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace in Seoul Friday. AP

## Office of the Job Training Partnership Act Office of the Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950



## PUBLIC NOTICE (04/07/99)

## SOLICITATION-SUMMER JOB SITES GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS (SAIPAN)

The JTPA Office is soliciting work sites specifically for youths participating under the Summer Vacation Employment Program. The purpose of the program is to accord "hands-on" experience in variety of jobs in an actual work setting. The Summer Program will serve 300 youths, commencing **June 21, 1999 to August 6, 1999**. Each trainee will be compensated an hourly wage of \$3.50, not to exceed forty (40) hours weekly basis, which will be funded by JTPA Office.

In line with the Governor's emphasis in urging the private sector to accord Employment & Training opportunity to our local workforce, therefore, private firms are included to participate on a short term basis. It is our intent to expose our youths to different occupations within the private sector, thereby, giving them the benefit to seriously consider jobs within private sector.

To ensure fairness and maintain equality on student placement, we will not accept any request which specifies the names of student(s), therefore, priority consideration will be accorded to those considered "economically disadvantaged". Accordingly, depending on the availability of local funds, the Program may accommodate those students who are considered "high income" to fulfill the 300 slots.

Should you be interested in sponsoring a trainee, please submit your written request to the JTPA Office (located directly across CUC) no later than **May 7, 1999**. Each request must include the following information:

1. Number of trainee
2. Position Description/Training Plan
3. Contact Person

For more information, please call Mr. Martin Pangelinan or Mrs. Laurent T. Chong at 664-1700/04. I am looking forward to working with you on such worthwhile endeavor.

/s/Felix R. Nogis  
Executive Director

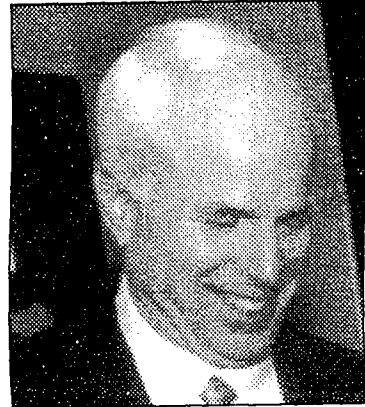


# Restive Congress tackles Kosovo

By Vicki Allen  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton has had the relative luxury of conducting the air war in Yugoslavia without Congress looking over his shoulder, but that ends next week as lawmakers return to Washington set to snipe from all directions.

Congress ends a two-week spring recess full of questions and opinions on the U.S. role in the NATO air strikes.

The White House plans briefings early in the week for lawmakers who are becoming restive about air strikes that many charge have done nothing to protect the flood of ethnic Albanian refugees from Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's effort to drive them out of Kosovo province.



John McCain

"If they don't see real daylight on the Kosovo front fairly soon, like by the end of next week, you are going to see increasing pressure, particularly from Congress, to intensify the effort, which may be ground troops," Dan Goure, of the Cen-

tre for Strategic and International Studies, said.

But the Republican-led Congress is fractured over what to do. Some argue the United States should not have got involved in the Kosovo issue at all, while others say it must make an all-out effort, including ground forces, to end the conflict.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a Republican presidential hopeful who has found a bully pulpit in the Yugoslavia crisis, wants Congress to decide soon whether to send ground troops, which he said must be kept as an option.

"I think the Senate and the House must enter into a full debate and discussion and votes on this issue," McCain said Friday on CNN.

"I have every indication that Mr. Milosevic is obtaining his goals and we are not obtaining ours," McCain said, adding that Milosevic had managed to drive most ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo despite the air strikes.

Other Republicans have expressed support for air strikes, but have said they should have taken place sooner and harder, and have said the White House should have kept ground forces as an option to try to get Milosevic to back down.

In the House, Republicans will push several measures to try to block use of ground troops and to pull out of the conflict.

Representative William Goodling, a Pennsylvania Republican sponsoring a bill to cut off funds for ground troops without congressional ap-



William Cohen

proval, said he thought the NATO plan was poorly conceived.

"Obviously they hadn't studied much history if they thought a little bit of bombing, or even a lot of bombing, was going to bring them to a peace table," Goodling said in telephone interview from his district.

While the House leadership has not been clear on a position, Goodling said, "I am pretty sure that most of the leadership probably believes I'm doing the right thing. I'm not sure they would say that publicly."

Another Republican, Representative Tom Campbell of California, called on Congress to invoke the War Powers Resolution, which would force the administration to withdraw forces if Congress rejected a declaration of war.

Democrats have backed the White House, but in fairly subdued fashion so far.

Some Democrats have edged ahead of the administration,

joining McCain and several other Republicans in a letter to Clinton urging planning for deployment of ground forces and saying that the American people should be prepared for a prolonged conflict with casualties.

The House and Senate leadership did not have floor action on Kosovo scheduled ahead of next week, but debates and resolutions were expected and Defence Secretary William Cohen was to appear before key House and Senate committees.

"Congress is going to hold the Clinton administration accountable for its still-ambiguous policy in the Balkans," Representative J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, a member of the House Republican leadership, said in a statement.

But unless Republicans come to some general agreement among themselves, analysts said they will not be able to pressure Clinton to change course.

"My guess is that Clinton is going to be able to deflect Congress, at least as a body," although individual critics such as McCain may give him trouble, said Michael O'Hanlon, a fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution.

"They will certainly take the opportunity to beat up on Clinton," O'Hanlon said. But he said Congress likely would back more air strikes instead of pushing politically tougher alternatives such as ground forces or partitioning Kosovo.



Sen. Chuck Hagel (center), accompanied by other members of Congress, talks with reporters at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Thursday after their return from Europe for consultations on NATO airstrikes and visits with U.S. troops. Also pictured are, from left: Sen. Carl Levin, Rep. John Spratt Jr., Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Hagel, Rep. Steven Buyer, Rep. Jim Turner, Sen. Jack Reed, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman. AP

## PNG . . . Continued from page 13

PNG on overseas courts for the legal challenge.

Attorney General Gene's re-

port did not show how much was paid to engage each of the QCs to render their professional advice to the PNG Government on the interim award and to represent PNG in foreign soil.

Last week the High Court in Queensland upheld the international tribunal's decision for PNG to pay the Sandline mercenary project the balance of the aborted contract.

For NATO campaign in Yugoslavia:

# US to add 82 more jets

By Charles Aldinger  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States said on Saturday it was sending 82 more warplanes to Europe to increase the intensity of NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia and that other allies would also soon add aircraft to the force.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said the United States was committing 24 more F-16 fighters armed with HARM anti-radar missiles, four tank-killing A-10 Thunderbolt attack aircraft, six radar-jamming EA-6B Prowlers, 39 KC-135 and two KC-10 refueling tanker aircraft and seven C-130 transports.

In London the British Defence Ministry said it will send the aircraft carrier Invincible to the Adriatic where jets from the U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt and the French carrier Foch are already pounding Serb targets.

Bacon said Defence Secretary William Cohen had approved a request from NATO commander Gen. Wesley Clark for the additional warplanes, which will join nearly 400 U.S. attack and support planes and 200 other allied jets now in the force.

"Basically, it will allow us to increase the intensity of the air campaign over Kosovo and Yugoslavia," he said.

The spokesman also said other NATO nations will be announcing increases in their air contributions to the force "in a matter of days" at Clark's request.

"The addition of these aircraft will of course allow us to do two things, expand the number of strikes over any 24-hour period and give us more deep-strike capacity as necessary," said Bacon.

NATO warplanes, many based in Italy, and warships firing cruise missiles have been attacking Serb strategic and military targets for nearly three weeks in a campaign to press President Slobodan Milosevic to reverse what the alliance says is ethnic cleansing of the Albanian majority in Kosovo.

In the last week, the Pentagon has ordered the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt and its attack jets to join the NATO campaign. It is also preparing to deploy a task force in Albania of 24 tank-busting Apache helicopters and more than 2,000 troops to support them.

Bacon spoke as President Bill Clinton's top national security advisers met at the White House to discuss Kosovo.

They included National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Cohen, CIA Director George Tenet, top Balkan negotiator Richard Holbrooke and Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Cohen also met at the Penta-



Wesley Clark

gon on Saturday with Canadian Defence Minister Art Eggleton.

The security team reviewed the military campaign, allied unity following a supporting statement by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the humanitarian refugee situation in the area, said White House National Security Council spokesman David Leavy.

Clinton, who took advantage of a bright spring day to play golf in suburban Virginia, also called Annan to thank him for remarks on Friday in which he called on Milosevic to stop all action by military and paramilitary forces and withdraw them from Kosovo.



Precision guided munition specialist US Airman Scot Solheim adjusts a guided bomb at NATO's Aviano, Italy air base. The Pentagon announced Saturday 82 U.S. planes would join the force conducting airstrikes over Yugoslavia. AP/Air Force photo

Clinton told Annan his statement had made clear "there is a united front and that President Milosevic must end his brutality and give the Kosovars the dignity and security that they deserve," said Leavy.

The president also updated Annan on the situation on the ground in the Serb province of Kosovo during the 15-minute conversation.

Also Saturday it seemed clear Clinton was sticking to his decision not to include ground troops in the NATO operation despite a letter from a bipartisan delegation of senators and members of the House of Representatives urging him to at least prepare for a possible ground war in Kosovo.

The lawmakers had travelled to NATO headquarters in Brussels this week with Cohen.

They sent Clinton a letter on Friday saying even if the air campaign weakened the Yugoslav military it was not clear it will be enough to force Belgrade to give in to NATO's demands of withdrawing Serb troops from Kosovo and allowing refugees to return.

Leavy said Clinton still believed "we can achieve our objectives through the phased air campaign."

"We're going to persist until we prevail," he said. "And we're confident that day by day as we

attack his military infrastructure we can achieve our objectives."

Clinton is to meet Republican and Democratic leaders from the House and Senate on Monday to give them an update on Kosovo, and will meet with a large group of senators and House members on Tuesday.

Recent public opinion polls have shown a majority of Americans support the use of allied ground troops in Kosovo. Scenes of Kosovo refugees in misery and reports of "ethnic cleansing" have combined to stiffen support for the bombing campaign and possible use of troops.

Congressional Republicans on Saturday questioned whether vital U.S. interests were at stake in Yugoslavia and said NATO air strikes have hastened a humanitarian disaster for ethnic Albanians.

In the weekly Republican radio address, Representative Heather Wilson of New Mexico said Clinton should give the nation a "complete picture" of the situation in the Balkans and U.S. goals and interests there.

"The president owes us an explanation of what, exactly, 'winning' would mean, and what the costs would be - in dollars, yes, but mostly in lives lost and dreams destroyed," Wilson said.

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Apply by April 16, 1999 by sending a resume and writing sample to:

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Executive Director  
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### NMI COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

#### BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, a private non-profit corporation, is seeking applicants to serve on the Council's Board of Directors. Council members are volunteers who work with the Council to inform the public about Council grants and programs; attend regularly scheduled meetings; serve on special committee assignments; develop administrative and programmatic policy, plans and procedures; evaluate grant applications; raise funds; and represent the Council in national or other meeting. If you would like to be a member of the Council, please send a letter briefly explaining why you would like to serve along with your resume to: Executive Director, NMI Council for the Humanities, AAA 3394, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. Or, if you would like to nominate someone other than yourself, please send a brief statement explaining why your nominee would be a good choice to serve on the board. Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, 23 April 1999. For further information, please call 235-4785.

### NMI Council for the Humanities

#### Request for Proposals on Diabetes and Culture

The NMI Council for the Humanities seeks proposals for projects to increase public awareness and understanding of diabetes and its relationship to the indigenous cultures of the CNMI. Priority is given to projects that are designed to engage the general public in discussion and dialogue with humanities scholars, health care providers, cultural experts and community leaders. Projects should consider the history of diabetes in the CNMI, its specific relationship to both past and present cultural practices, and the social and economic impact of diabetes on the family and the community. Formats might include:

- symposiums, conferences, public forums, panel discussions
- spot radio and television presentations
- dramatic performances
- oral history collection and publication
- exhibits
- demonstration projects
- reading and discussion groups
- publications for mass consumption
- video documentaries

Eligible applicants include non profit organizations; civic, church and community groups; public and private schools and colleges; government agencies; and non groups and individuals. Applicants should submit draft proposal by March 31, 1999 for projects that begin in May 1999; by June 30, 1999 for projects that begin August 1999; by September 30, 1999 for projects that begin in November 1999.

Grants may range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for regular grant applications. Planning grants (up to \$1,500) are available for preparation of a regular grant application. Mini grants (under \$2,000) are also available. Mini grants and planning grants may be submitted at any time but at least 30 days prior to the project start date.

For applications and inquiries call 235-4785 or write to: NMI Council for the Humanities, AAA 3394, Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950 or visit our office in King's Plaza, Saipan.

The NMI Council for the Humanities is a non profit, private organization funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Web page: <http://cnmi.humanities.org.mp>



# Fatal train crash in Egypt

By TAREK EL-TABLAUWY  
SHIRBIN, Egypt (AP) — Rescue workers pulled out a third body early Sunday from the wreck of two trains that collided the evening before in northern Egypt. Preliminary investigation shows the accident was caused by a signal operator who failed to stop one of the trains. Egypt's

Middle East News Agency reported. Two people were found dead right away, said Mohammed al-Asimi, the top Health Ministry official in the Dakhaliya province where the accident occurred. Rescue workers searching through a wrecked carriage later found the body of a teen-age boy

whom a witness identified as a sweet seller. The rescue operation continued into the early hours of Sunday morning, using car headlights to illuminate the scene. A doctor at a local hospital, Hamza al-Saudi, said 49 were injured, of which three were in critical condition.

The trains hit each other head-on between the towns of Shirbin and Bilqas in the Nile Delta, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The collision toppled one train into a field, setting a fire that gutted its first carriage. The other train's locomotive was wrecked by the impact and caught fire. One of its carriages overturned.

A woman passenger who refused to give her name said the

impact was "like a bomb" and that she heard people screaming "as if they were being fried like lambs."

The woman started yelling in the hospital ward: "How did two trains crash in the middle of the day? Can you explain that to me? How? How?"

One of the train drivers is believed to have been killed. The other, Mohammed Amin Sayed Ahmen, recounted the accident from a bed in Shirbin Hospital, where he lay swathed in bandages for heavy burns.

"I got permission from the control to continue on the line," Ahmen said. "The fault was in Bensandella Station," which should have stopped the train going to Shirbin.

"About 50 meters (yards) on, I saw the other train coming from the other direction. I tried to brake, but it was too close," he said.

The engine and the first passenger car slipped off the line and the engine caught fire, said Ahmen, who broke a window and jumped out.

Egyptian railways have suffered a series of major accidents in the past four years. The most serious was in December 1995 when two trains collided in fog south of Cairo, killing 75 people and injuring 76.

Last November, 47 people were killed when a train jumped its tracks near Kafrel-Dawar, a Delta town 30 kilometers (20 miles) southeast of the port of Alexandria.

## New . . .

Continued from page 3

Felicidad T. Ogumoro was named second vice chair; former Saipan mayor Jose S. Rios, secretary; former CNMI personnel officer Lupe Manglona, treasurer.

Like Tenorio, the three are former Democrats. Rios was the acting party chair. Manglona was his predecessor.

Several former party leaders of the Democrats also attended Friday's meeting, among them former Finance secretary Antonio R. Cabrera and former congressman Manny Borja.

Reform's articles of organization, which were signed and notarized after the announcement of the party leaders' names, will be submitted to the Attorney General's Office today.

Ray S. Guerrero, in his remarks, said the idea of founding a third

party originated in 1991 when Jesus P. Mafnas was running for a House seat.

"But we decided that it was not yet time for a new party so [Mafnas] ran as Independent and became the first such candidate to win a House seat," Guerrero said.

Mafnas, who lost to Tenorio in the 1987 election for Washington representative, would later rejoin the Republican Party and serve as House vice speaker.

Considered one of the most influential legislators in CNMI history, Mafnas, whose wife is incumbent Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's sister and former governor Tenorio's aunt, died in the 1995 plane crash that also claimed the life of multimillionaire Larry Hillblom and his pilot Bob Long.

Former governor Tenorio said with Guerrero on board the Reform Party "we will go all the way."

## Officials . . .

Continued from page 3

quest for funding in 1989. But the United States Congress allocated some \$10 million for the project in 1990.

CPA officials in 1992 decided to scale down the proposed dredging scope from minus 40 feet to minus 35 feet due to financial constraints but reinstated the original depth when the agency eventually secured additional funds.

CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas stressed the new facility offers vessels calling port on Saipan with speed and efficient vital services at no wasted time waiting at an anchorage.

Salas said the improved Saipan seaport features 2,600 linear feet of berthing space, a 22-acre container yard, a deeper channel and a wider turning basin, as well as safe and efficient water, fuel and sewer systems.

The project had been hounded by controversies following complaints on the allegedly unne-

cessary dredging work that has reportedly undergone several change orders. An executive report earlier urged the Department of Interior and the US Congress to audit the project due to the increase in scope and cost.

Aside from funding problems, SHIP was also hounded by soil contamination at Baker Bay caused by wastes left by the USS Impedance which provided power to Saipan after Typhoon Jean wreck havoc in the island in 1968.

Change orders were also stemmed down from this dilemma, paving the way for a new design which actually doubled the size of the seaport and created an additional five acres of land for container storage.

After the controversies, dredging and fill work which began in June 1993 was finally completed early this year. At least 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material were hauled and disposed of in Charlie Bay and in Marpi Monofill area.

## MVA . . .

Continued from page 3

nate that the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet's USS Blue Ridge has been one of the first vessels to dock at the completed harbor.

The Board chairman also pointed out that MVA will simultaneously promote air and sea ar-

rivals

"We should look at both sides and continue to promote air arrival just as much as we do promote sea arrival," he added.

The seaport facility has 2,600 linear feet of berthing space, a 22-acre container yard, a deeper channel and a wider turning basin. It also offers efficient water, sewer and fuel systems.

## Guam . . .

Continued from page 3

ous problems with the practice of hiring off-island labor at a time when Guam's unemployment rate is so high.

The GCA report also stated that Chinese labor is flooding the construction market, making for an uneven playing field.

Underwood promised to immediately address those concerns and set up new application and renewal processes for H-2 workers on island.

Underwood also announced that the One-Stop Job Center at Sunny Plaza in Tamuning will now be open half-days on Saturdays to help more people.

"I am confident you will find that my new assignment to DOL will be in the best interests of the Government of Guam," Salas told the committee.

Underwood was appointed to lead DOL by Governor Gutierrez. Former DOL director Juan M. Taijito now heads the Department of Agriculture.

Underwood is credited with improving the Guam Mass Transit Authority (GMTA) and re-establishing public confidence in that agency. He said he is confident that GMTA is in good hands and back on track for the future.

Underwood's confirmation by the 25th Guam Legislature is expected to come with ease when the body meets later this month.

# Niger eyes new leader

By TIM SULLIVAN  
NIAEMEY, Niger (AP) — Military leaders met with civilian politicians to select a new head of state after President Ibrahim Bare Mainassara was gunned by presidential bodyguards.

There were indications the announcement of his successor would be made after government officials attended Bare's burial

on Sunday in his home village of Doumaga, some 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of the capital near Niger's southern border with Nigeria.

State radio continued to insist that Bare died in an "unfortunate accident." But witnesses and diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Presidential Guard members repeat-

edly shot Bare as he crossed the tarmac at Niamey's airport Friday to board a helicopter. Some reports said he was nearly cut in half by gunfire.

While it remained unclear who was behind the killing, observers said the act appeared to have support among Niger's often-fractious military — who immediately took control of the country.

## Arafat advised to delay declaration of statehood

TOKYO (Reuters) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has advised Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to delay the declaration of an independent Palestinian state until at least July, a Japanese daily reported on Saturday.

"There are tremendous pressures on Arafat to somewhat delay the date of the declaration," Mubarak said in an interview with the Mainichi Shimbun prior to his trip to Japan. "I agree that it should be delayed for some time."

Mubarak said in the exclusive interview conducted in Cairo that if the Palestinians decided to postpone the declaration of an independent state, that the delay should not be longer than five to six months.

"It would be suitable to delay the declaration of independence for two to three months after the May 4 deadline (for expiration of interim self-autonomy from Israel)," Mubarak told the pa-

per.

Mubarak begins a three-day trip to Japan on Sunday.

On Thursday, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said that Arafat hinted during his visit to Tokyo that he would not declare an independent Palestinian state before Israel's general election on May 17.

Arafat told Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi that all countries he had recently visited voiced support for Palestinian self-rule and urged him not to declare statehood before the Israeli general election, the officials said.

A Japanese official quoted Arafat as telling Obuchi that, "For Palestine, it is a very painful decision and it is not an easy decision to make, but I hope we will be able to make a decision that will satisfy everyone."

The Palestinian leader has repeatedly said he retains the right to declare an independent Palestinian state on May 4.

## Mubarak ends Korea visit



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (center) is escorted by South Korean honor guard and bodyguards as he arrived at National Cemetery in Seoul, Saturday. Mubarak said he will use his old ties with North Korean leaders to help reduce tension on the divided Korean Peninsula. AP

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — With a promise to help improve icy relations between North and South Korea, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left Seoul Sunday, ending a three-day visit.

During his stay, Mubarak met with President Kim Dae-jung, Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil, National Assembly Speaker Park June-kyu and other officials to strengthen ties and boost trade and investment.

After a summit talk with President Kim on Friday, Mubarak said he will use his longtime ties with North Korean leaders to help reduce tension on the divided Korean Peninsula.

Late North Korean President Kim Il Sung sent pilots and fighter jets to help Egypt in its war with Israel in 1973.

Mubarak was chief of the Egyptian air force then, and he has kept close relations with Pyongyang

leaders ever since.

The Korean peninsula was divided into communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea in 1945. The two Koreas are still in a state of war because their 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Mubarak also asked Seoul officials to increase investment in Egypt, saying it could provide an important foothold for South Korean businesses to enter the Arab and African markets.

Egypt opened diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1995. Two-way trade rose to \$830 million last year, up from \$580 million in 1995. South Korean investment in Egypt was \$165 million last year.

Accompanied by five Cabinet members and 27 business leaders, Mubarak came to Seoul from China on Friday. He left for Japan on Sunday.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
Board of Regents  
Announcement of a Special Meeting  
Board of Regents Conference Room  
As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
Tuesday, April 13, 1999  
(10:00 a.m.)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, are hereby giving notice that a special meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Regents conference room, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

### AGENDUM

NMC Reorganization Plan  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC) THAT THE CUC MERIT HIRING SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZEN AND NATIONAL AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP OR PLACE OF ORIGIN

Job Vacancy No. 99-008

Opening Date: 04/02/99

Closing Date: 04/16/99

### ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN I (CASHIER)

DUTIES: Receives payments for utility services such as miscellaneous and credit card payments. Issue cash receipts and charge vouchers for payment and inputs all utility payments into computer system. Reconciles daily cash collection against receipts issued and maintains 99% accuracy. Prepares daily cash collection reports for bank deposits with 100% accuracy. Files receipts sequentially regularly after each closing day. Performs other related duties as assigned. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination equivalent to a high school diploma with three (3) years cashier related experience. APPLICANTS WILL BE TESTED.

STARTING SALARY: \$13,052.98 - \$15,860.10 per annum

Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

## YAS Signs System

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Bill . . .

Continued from page 12

compensation for getting one or more additional persons engaged in the scheme.

"I will vote against it," Koshiba said despite the vigorous campaign of the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Special Prosecutor

against such scheme.

The Ministry of Justice has warned against the dangers of the "pyramid scheme," saying that it will only lead to loss of money.

The OSP, on the other hand, has recommended to the Congress and the President to sign into law without delay the proposed bill outlawing the establishment of, or involvement in this "type of fraud."

## The Blocks . . .

Continued from page 10

Vocalists Avenida and Tan can stretch their vocal range into nth degree.

Bassist Aniverario has a quick hands in tapping the bass lines with an amazing bag of guitar techniques.

Aside from lending his vocals on the side, the bassist could provide a tight rhythm works and handles a wide range of musical repertoire.

Keyboardist Reambonanza's virtuosity in the keys gave a different deftness and fine arrangements on the band's music.

Dela Cerna's steady hands on lead guitar could go from a Led Zeppelin's classic, blues music to standards.

Drummer Palomos' magnificent pounding skills on the skins helped in giving a defining rhythm to the band's music.

"Expect more fun and every night is a party," the band said in an interview.

Sponsors of Gilligans will be doing a lot of promotional gimmicks that party people could watch out for.

Retro night and a pajama party gimmicks are still on the works.

There will also be an alternate band from Guam who will play with The Blocks once a month.

Under its new management with Ravi Raj, Hyatt's Food and Beverage Manager and discoteque's new assistant manager Nizam Omar, Gilligans will continue to provide good entertainment in the CNMI.

## Humanities . . .

Continued from page 11

On May 1st, archaeologist Dave Defant and Fr. Francis Hezel, S.J., a long time historical researcher and writer on Micronesian subjects along with a representative from the local Historical and Preservation Office will be discussing settle-

ment patterns and non-material culture of the early Chamorros.

The seminar will be devoted to teaching strategies and curriculum development utilizing the resources prepared for the institute and the information presented during the rest of the seminars will be discussed in the final session on May 8.

## Palau . . .

Continued from page 9

namely, Okotol, Ollei and Ngerbau, with a combined project cost of \$20,000. All three will have a holding capacity of 30 fishing boats, said Aquon.

Aquon said he has to make use of every available resource, including workforce, to complete all pending projects before fiscal year 1999 ends or else the funds allotted for these CIPs shall be returned to the national treasury.

Of the 13 employed local workers, six of them, according to the governor, are females doing man's job like shoveling sand and gravel,

mixing cement, pushing the wheelbarrow and leveling the area for the Headstart playground.

These same female workers also provide food for everybody working on the project, showing spirit of cooperation in the community, said Aquon.

With the 24-hour power system in place in the state, the governor is confident that state economy will significantly improve. The fishery industry, which is currently producing some 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of reef fish a week, will greatly benefit from the dock projects.

"I can promise the people of Ngarchelong that we can do [it]," assured Aquon.

They want a lot of things. They want everything free," said Aldan, in an earlier interview.

"What money will government get other than the individual income taxes (of people working inside the zone)? The multiplier effect will only be on the dollar an employee spends when coming out to buy food and drinks," Aldan added.

## Bellas . . .

Continued from page 7

DAB's decision to condition its affirmance on the final resolution of the Muna case.

"First, the court finds nothing within the language of the statute which empowers DAB to place conditions on permits—it must either affirm or deny the granting of the permit utilizing the bases," Bellas stressed.

Second, the judge said, the condition unduly burdens Lucky as it essentially enjoins the investor from moving forward with construction on its permit.

"Finally, there is no prejudice to respondent (Muna estate) by finding the condition unreasonable as it may petition the court for injunctive relief if and when Lucky moves forward with construction or act at another time if considers appropriate," Bellas said.

## Lawyer . . .

Continued from page 6

ters through local law.

She said Public Law 10-57 grants exclusive control over such matters to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) and its Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

Sandvold said Assistant Attorney General Elliot A. Sattler instead suggest the enactment by the Legislature of a CNMI law clarifying the control granted to DLNR.

She said the local bills' goals could also be accomplished through their introduction and passage as bills in the Legislature.

Or, she added, Rota could work with DLNR to enact rules and regu-

lations that will create the marine reserves.

Sandvold assured the mayor that the governor was disappointed to veto Senate Local Bills 11-12 and 11-13, and "strongly supports the environmental intentions of these bills."

The proposed local laws are considered crucial for "enhancing" Rota's eco-tourism efforts.

## Federalization . . .

Continued from page 6

Filipino if he wants federalization he'll say, "yes," said Heidemann.

The Clinton administration has expressed intent to extend federal

labor and immigration laws into the CNMI, citing a supposed abnormal situation created by the Commonwealth's dependence on foreign labor.

It is only in the CNMI where a visa is not required for foreigners,

coming in to work or as tourists, this being guaranteed under the Covenant of integration that CNMI and federal officials signed several years ago, as part of the Commonwealth's inception into the US political family.

## Employers . . .

Continued from page 6

permits expired, they allegedly borrowed a boat to find work elsewhere.

According to a report by the US Coast Guard, hundreds of Chinese

are still being smuggled into several islands in the Pacific, particularly Guam. In just a short period of time, about 600 individuals from China have illegally migrated to Guam.

The US Coast Guard said that for the past 10 months alone, Chinese nationals have illegally entered

Guam in at least eight drop-off points.

The Coast Guard reported that the Chinese were using small or large fishing vessels when they enter Guam after sneaking into Rota which is only about 47 nautical miles, or 87 kilometers, north of the US Territory.

## Saipan . . .

Continued from page 5

here," said Villagomez.

Meanwhile, the Marianas Visitors Authority expressed concerns that this portrayal of Saipan jeopardizes the CNMI's efforts of promoting its tourism industry as tourists may have tainted perception of the island.

"I just like to dispel that kind of bad rumor because we are not famous for food poisoning and that's not the way to infame our destination here. That is not what we are known for," said Sablan.

The MVA official added that CNMI's Department of Public Health and other concerned agencies have been efficient in their inspection of food establishments to deter possible food-related incidents.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI) said these kinds of portrayals are predictable following the lawsuits against Saipan's garment industries.

"We are not surprised at all. We knew this would happen even before the filing of the lawsuit," said Ron Sablan, HANMI president.

The Global Exchange report said more than 1,200 garment factory workers have been sickened in a recent series of mass food poisoning "at sweatshop compounds on the controversial U.S. territory of Saipan."

It also quoted the U.S. Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as saying these incidents constitute the largest workplace food poisoning the agency has ever investigated on U.S. soil.

## Saipan . . .

Continued from page 5

additional claims.

CPA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CUC for the completion of the long-delayed \$4.9 million Saipan Sewerline Project. Under the agreement, CUC would shoulder about 70 percent of the total project cost.

"This is a very significant project not only to CPA but to the entire community of Saipan. This is just a matter of getting involved in the claim that will allow us to continue with the project," Salas stressed.

He said CPA has consistently asked CUC to consider the FAA restrictions which subject the ports authority to cough out only 30 percent of the total project cost. "Apparently, that is just too many attempts on our part."

The CPA executive director emphasized that CUC should take a look at the total project and how it would benefit close to a thousand households in the Dan Dan community. "We should get differences out of the way."

He also mentioned the possibility that the project contractor might sue the ports authority. He said, however, that in the absence of CUC's participation and PDL's refusal to cap its claims the according to FAA restrictions, CPA's hands are tied with regards to the completion of the project.

Salas stressed that the contractor's claim is a legitimate part of the total project cost, provided this undergoes proper verification and validation processes, adding that FAA restrictions of 30 percent for CPA and 70 percent for CUC also apply to the claims.

"Given that kind of restrictions,

we hope CUC understands our situation. We have the money available for the \$4.9 million cost. The project will help protect 70 percent of water up at the airport land while also benefit Dan Dan residents," he added.

He mentioned the importance of completing the project under the terms of agreement signed between CPA and CUC since the utilities corporation will not be able to undertake this project for another 10 years.

PDL contends that it continues to incur equipment standby costs due to CPA's temporary suspension of the sewerline project, and that the losses have already ballooned to \$1.9 million by Jan. 9, 1999.

CPA however certified only \$350,000 which was later reduced to \$268,000 following series of validation and verification process.

## Gov't . . .

Continued from page 5

Privatization of the health insurance, however, does not necessarily mean that the government will no longer have a role to play to ensure that its employees are taken care of properly, according to DPH.

Villagomez said once the health insurance is privatized, the

government's role will be to ensure that the private insurance company pays DPH diligently for every medical services incurred by its subscribers, especially from the government sector.

The governor also repeatedly expressed support on any move to privatize the government health insurance, saying it will help the cash-strapped government sustain its other operations and to continuously provide basic services to the

community.

"I will support privatization if that will improve the billing of the insurance. I like to see even some of the government agencies privatized. Privatization is not bad," the governor said.

The government health insurance, which is under the auspices of the NMI Retirement Fund, earlier revealed that the amount it collects in premium is far lower than the claims given to subscribers.

Earlier, Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan had sought the removal of Guam Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III from sitting in the related Hillblom proceedings before the Supreme Court for alleged conflicts of interest.

## New . . .

Continued from page 1

kind or cash. However, P.L. 11-74 only applies to resident workers who do not receive the federal minimum wage rate of \$5.15 an hour. Current CNMI rate is \$3.05.

HANMI, meanwhile, warns against lawsuits that may arise from the private sector's in compliance with the new law unless clarifications and amendments are made.

HANMI, one of the biggest private employers in the CNMI, added that the new law raises the cost of doing business during an economic crisis, creates further instability in the investment climate, and may cause some businesses to close if they cannot absorb the cost.

Compliance will only happen after the Department of Labor and Immigration comes up with a set of rules and regulations governing the implementation of the law, according to what was resolved on Friday during the meeting between legislative leaders, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce directors and HANMI officials to outline specific problems of businesses in implementing the law.

Ron Sablan, HANMI president, said the business community cannot implement the "Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act" until amendments are made and numerous ambiguities are clarified through regulations.

"We agree with compensating local workers fairly and we understand the law. But we have difficulties implement in its because it's very vague — without

rules and regulations.

"It's so ambiguous, we can expect a whole series of lawsuits when businesses have difficulties complying. We would rather work with our leaders to get out list of questions resolved before the trouble begins," said Sablan in a HANMI statement released on Friday.

Businesses' concerns include the re-definition of standard hourly wage, the benefits that would be included, the exemption or inclusion of executive benefits and the time period needed to average the cost of benefits.

HANMI also raised the possi-

bility of business closure if they are unable to provide the benefits to all, the calculation of the value of medical benefits when employer self-insures, and the increased cost of doing business among large business entities.

In some instances, one could say businesses are actually penalized for hiring locals, said HANMI.

Forexample, a prominent Saipan business has 37 employees of which 36 are locals and one is non-resident. The alien workers is a middle-management level accountant, a position for which the company is unable to hire a local.

The average cost of the persons' benefits is \$4,000 per year. The cost must be added to the salaries of 28 locals working in the company who make less than the U.S. minimum wage. The total added cost to the business is \$112,000 per year.

"After the discussion . . . there seemed to be a consensus among the group that there should be some changes to the law. The law really opens up a can of worms because it was so briefly worded.

"In these (hard) economic times, we really can't afford to create further instability," said Sablan.

## Teno . . .

Continued from page 1

bents.

Given this situation, Tenorio can arguably seek a fourth term since the restriction applies to him during his third term as CNMI governor. But he stressed that he is bowing out as soon as his term expires in 2001.

"I am happy with the way I have administered the government and helped provide better changes for the community during my previous terms in office. I will just try to do my best until 2001 to make CNMI a better place and provide our people with a higher quality of living," he added.

Tenorio has expressed opti-

mism that his non-confrontational approach in running the government will bring the Administration to accomplishing its programs of action despite the current economic turmoil.

He emphasized that he is happy about the way major concerns raised by the federal government have been addressed by his Administration. He said that the government was able to meet its expectations and targets for the first few months of his administration.

He admitted however that even when something has been accomplished another thing always comes up. "We are doing our best but when you accomplish something, another thing always comes up so it's a never-ending process. We just would like to do what is best for the people and the community."

## Tinian . . .

Continued from page 1

office has been under a seven-hour work day since last year.

But a Tinian Republican, who declined to be identified, said the employees' relation with the mayor is "besides the point."

"The point is they're not for his candidate, Cing, they're for Hocog and they are being terminated because of that," the Tinian Republican alleged.

Then a Democrat, Hocog ran with Borja in the Unity slate in the 1997 general elections.

Last month, however, the Tinian Republican Party announced its endorsement of Hocog's senatorial candidacy.

Hocog will be running with Municipal Council Chair Henry H. San Nicolas, who will seek the island's lone House seat.

Cing, for his part, will seek a third term reportedly with Council Chair Norman Palacios, a Republican, as the House candidate.

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ONE NIGHT - \$20.00  
WEEKEND - \$25.00  
Free Services: Hot Water, VCR and Video Tape, Drinking Water. Rooms available for monthly rental \$250.00 - \$300.00 - \$350.00 - \$400.00  
Call Tel. 235-8899

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5 Bedroom House  
Furnished or Unfurnished  
Located at As Perdido  
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Cris at 235-1176

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TO ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:  
This is to inform the general public that **SEDINIA D. HABOC** (a.k.a. **DINIA**), whose picture appears hereon, is **NO LONGER** connected with **WDI Saipan, Inc.** dba **Capriciosa Restaurant** effective April 6, 1999. Any transaction and dealings she has from this day on will not be honored by the company.  
From the management of WDI Saipan, Inc.

# We Design & Print

- Brochures • Calendars • Books • Menu Covers
- Posters • Corporate Logo • Letterheads
- Business Cards and more . . .



**Younis Art Studio, Inc.**

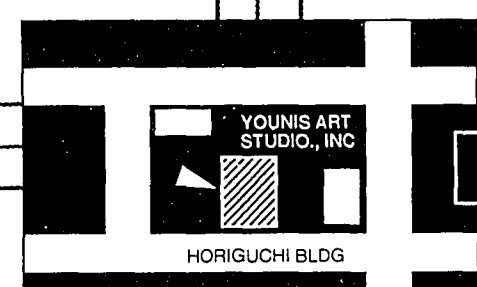
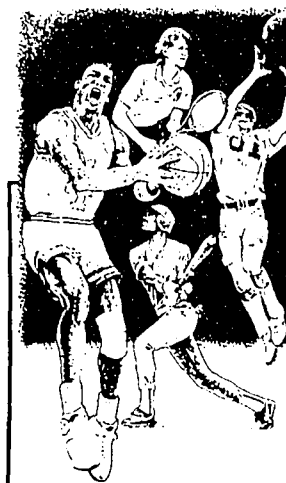
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We've been a medium for the public exchange of ideas for many years. We take that responsibility seriously. Our goal is to bring you the people and events that touch your life objectively. Without you, we'd be speechless.





# **Classified Ads Section**

## **Employment Wanted**



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at tel. 664-2078.

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per month  
Contact: SU CORPORATION Tel. 288-9430/(4/12)M30455

02 (ASST) GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000-\$3,000.00 per month  
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03 PHYSICAL THERAPIST-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: OSAKO, LTD. dba Oosako Restaurant Tel. 233-3783/(4/12)M30444

01 SUPERVISOR, ELECTRICAL-Salary: \$3.75 per hour  
01 STEELWORKER-Salary: \$3.30 per hour  
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: WORLD ELECTRIC & CONST. CO., INC. Tel. 235-6233/(4/12)M30446

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
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01 STOCK CONTROL CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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02 JANITOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
04 PACKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 QUALITY CONTROL SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$4.50 per hour  
04 STOCK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
23 CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
03 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: WINNERS CORPORATION Tel. 235-1804/(4/19)M30552

01 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC. Tel. 322-4701/(4/19)M77898

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$650.00-1,000.00 per month  
05 TRUCK DRIVER, DELIVERY ROUTE-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
01 REFRIGERATION MECHANIC-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month  
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 MARKETING MANAGER-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month  
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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,400.00 per month  
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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.30 per hour  
Contact: MYUNG SUNG CORPORATION dba Int'l Insurance Tel. 234-1941/(4/26)M30629

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
01 GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. dba La Fiesta San Roque Tel. 322-0998/(4/26)M78028

**CLASSIFIED ADS FIRST**

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$6.80 per hour  
Contact: HATAMATA INTERNATIONAL, INC. dba Dolce Hair Mode Salon Tel. 233-3768/(4/19)M30543

01 MECHANIC (HEAVY EQUIPMENT)-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour  
Contact: DAUDENCO C. MACALINAO dba Unity Trade Service Inc. Tel. 322-7461/(4/19)M77896

01 AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
\$110.00 housing allowance plus \$50.00 gasoline allowance per month taxable.  
Contact: STS ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-3760/(4/19)M30545

01 LICENSED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST-Salary: \$10.00-14.00 per hour  
Contact: DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC. dba Bio Pathology Laboratory Tel. 233-0233/(4/19)M30547

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Contact: QUINCY CORPORATION dba Micronesian Marine Tel. 234-9696/(4/19)M30549

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01 SUPERVISOR, REAL ESTATE-Salary: \$1,500.00-4,200.00 per month  
Contact: NUZEKI INT'L. SAIPAN CO., LTD. Tel. 234-5050/(4/19)M77895

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.75-4.50 per hour  
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01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: CLOFFE CABRERA Tel. 234-7651/(4/26)M30631

01 (ASSISTANT) COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: L & MENTERPRISES Tel. 322-6322/(4/26)M78040

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
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01 DELIVERER ROUTE TRUCK DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
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**CLASSIFIED ADS FIRST**

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.

## **URGENT NEED**

The CNMI Museum urgently needs palm fronds to complete roof of utt constructed on museum grounds.  
Please call: 664-2160

## **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Carpeted 2-Bedroom, Fully Furnished Apartment in San Antonio, Close to stores, church and beach. Nice location. For appointment to see, Call: 235-0526 Serious Inquiries only.

## **HOUSE FOR RENT**

2 BEDROOM, CONCRETE HOUSE 24 HOURS WATER AS LITO AREA CALL: 288-8138

## **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Studio Type - \$270/month Furnished, Good Power & Water, Single or Couple only. In Koberville Tel. 288-2222

## **1999 Harley Davidson**

Custom Softail-Motoreycle INQUIRE IF INTERESTED (670) 322-6319

## **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

- 1 & 2 Bedroom, Fully Furnished, Split Type A/C on all Rooms Including Living & Dining  
- Breezy Atmosphere, Ocean View.  
- Spacious Parking  
- 24 Hours Power & Water W/Standby Generator  
- W/ Laundry Facilities  
Please call: 235-7171/7272 287-7070

## **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM**

In the matter of the estate ) of )  
Vicente Garrido Tajalle, )  
Deceased. )  
Probate Case No. PR-0014-99

## **NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION**

THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN COURT UNLESS YOU DESIRE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that EDITHA E. TAJALLE has filed a Petition For Letters of Administrations upon the Estate of the decedent named above, reference to which petition is hereby made for further particulars.

A hearing on the petition is set for April 22, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., of said date, in the Courtroom of the Superior Court of Guam, Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam.

Dated: February 25, 1999

Clerk, Superior Court of Guam

By: s/Josefina L. Aquino Clerk

## **FOR RENT**

New 2-Bedroom Apartment Units Near Kobler Elem. Sch., Coral Ocean Point 24 hour water, fenced location, air-con in each bedroom, refrigerator, stove, water heater & trash collection. 235-4341 evening.

## **AUTO INSURANCE**

\$23 pay additional we'll cover you better. 1st Fines \$100 - \$150 • Higher Fines \$350 - \$500 Starting June 1st Come to 7.12 Insurance Across P.G. Hotel in CK.

## **HOUSE FOR RENT**

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms w/swimming pool, nice view, w/laundry facilities, price reduced CALL: 322-3685

## **Apartment For Rent**

2 Bedroom Apartment (Furnished) North of PIC Hotel Call: Sally at 234-3694

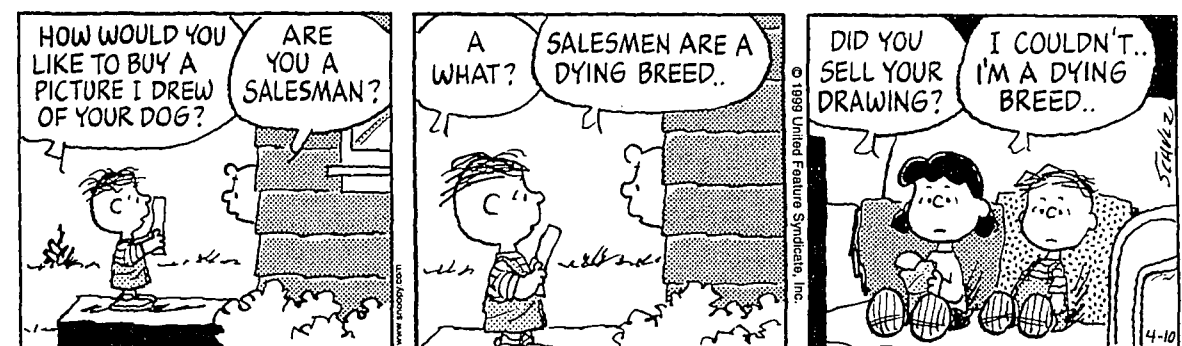
## **EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider**



## **Garfield® by Jim Davis**



## **PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz**



## **STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY**

**MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1999**  
Born today, you are a peace-lover from start to finish by knowing how to turn the bad into good. You are a go-getter and an aggressive advocate for all causes if it wins your support. You are not the kind to take things lightly, particularly in affairs that involve close friends, family members and loved ones. You are one of the most ambitious individuals born under this or any other sign, and you're not the kind to willingly share what little vulnerability you have with anyone, whether it involves family, friends or strangers.

You are one of those fortunate individuals who knows a great deal about a great many topics, and yet you rarely have to pick up a book. Your instincts and talents so varied and keen that you will never seem to have trouble learning a new activity or skill. You love to learn!  
Also born on this date are: David Letterman, comedian and talk-show host; Herbie Hancock, musician; Shannen Doherty, actress; Andy Garcia, actor; David Cassidy, actor, singer, and entertainer; Vince Gill, singer.  
To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13**  
**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
— You may feel as though

you're being "overactive" today, even when you are doing the bare minimum. Assignments come at you from all sides.  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
— You can expect some financial assistance today, though you may not recognize it for what it is at first. Keep facts and figures straight.  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
— You'll be hardworking and on-target throughout much of the day. It may surprise others that you're willing to do so much without any kind of break.  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
— Someone knows how to bring out the best in you today, and at the best moment. You should pay attention to what he or she has to say to you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
— You may have to deal with more than your share of mundane issues today. You're the only one in a position to recognize when certain things must be done.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
— Communication on all levels is likely to be more difficult for you than usual. You may feel as though you're speaking a foreign language at times.  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
— You may be called upon to follow someone else's path throughout much of the day in order to figure out what went wrong before it's too late.  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
— You're going to have to be quite multi-faceted throughout

the day, capable of doing a variety of different things all at once.  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
— There may be a delay in the transfer of messages during the first part of the day. Later, you'll have to work doubly fast to "catch up."  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
— It's time to "grin and bear it" one more time today, thanks to a "friend" who doesn't know that he or she is encroaching on your territory.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
— Love is likely to take a more prominent position in your life at this time, but you mustn't make the mistake of thinking that it is risk-free.  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
— You're eager to experience something new and exciting today, but you mustn't go so far out of your way that you permanently risk a current project.



## **CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

### **ACROSS**

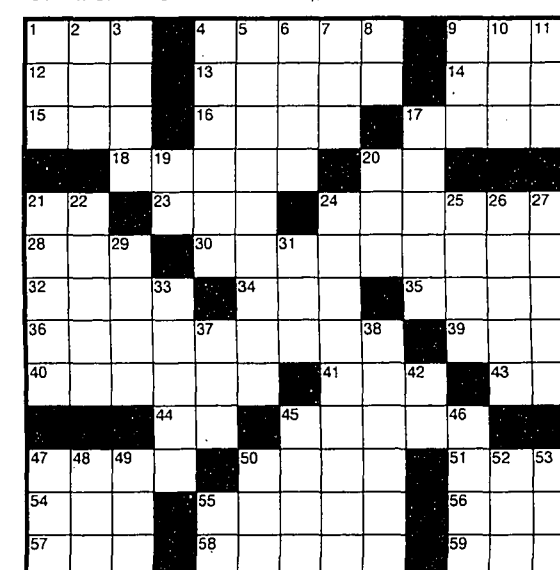
1 Married  
4 She plays Fran's mother on "The Nanny"  
9 Deli sandwich, for short  
12 "— Maria"  
13 Secluded  
14 "Norma"  
15 Weaken  
16 Small seeds  
17 To order  
18 Set a value on  
20 Note of scale  
21 Sinatra ID  
23 Ike  
24 Tennessee team  
28 Here (Fr.)  
30 Band instrument (2 wds.)  
32 Kyle of soccer  
34 Container  
35 File of —  
36 Mr. Universe

### **DOWN**

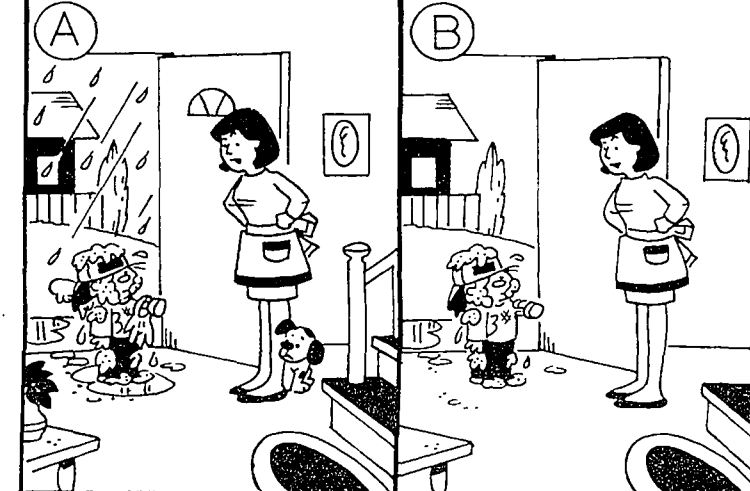
1 Existed  
2 Ms. Gabor  
3 "Ed Wood" star  
4 Grand —, Mich.  
5 Earthquake's focal point  
6 Neck part  
7 Bitter vetch (abbr.)  
8 "— tu, Brute!"  
9 Lingerie item  
10 Youngster  
11 Golf mound  
17 Shaping devices for  
19 gelatin  
20 Public passage (abbr.)  
21 Business enterprises  
22 "To Kill a Mockingbird" character  
24 Decorations  
25 Cupid  
26 Measuring stick  
27 Besmirch  
29 "— Living" (target)  
31 Direct (out of target)  
33 Brilliance  
37 Ship's journey  
38 Most recent  
42 NBC's owner  
45 Soup du —  
46 Speech organs  
47 Mr. Hope  
48 Ginger —  
49 Female ruff  
50 — Diamond  
52 River island  
53 Born (Fr.)  
55 Lead symbol

### **Answer to Previous Puzzle**

NOVA ILED GAP  
INEE NANA OLE  
PATRIC DUNDEE  
ARAS BRISK  
SENTENCE AV  
HAVEN OCA AIM  
IS DIPLOMA SO  
PEP CID PLAID  
RE GENERATE  
APART DIRE  
SHIRES NEARLY  
TIS ALIE DIEG  
TLE RYES YOGA  
12-22 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate

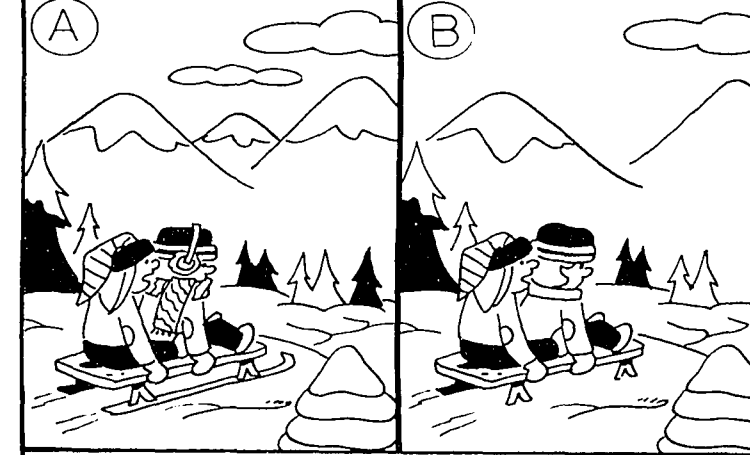


## **KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?**



"You say you're my son? Do you have any identification?"  
ANSWERS: RAIN, BURN, DOOR, GLASS, DOG, STAIR RAIL, FLOWER VASE, BALN GLOVE, WATER PUDDLE.  
© 1999 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 4/10

## **KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?**



"If you must hit a tree, remember that maples are hardwood and pines are softwood."  
ANSWERS: CLOUD, TREE, MOUNTAIN, SNOW, NO MOUNTAIN, SCARF, EARMUFFS, SLEIGH, RUNNER.  
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## Big unit gives Arizona first win

ATLANTA (Reuters) — Randy Johnson signed a four-year, \$53 million contract in the offseason to be the ace of the Arizona staff and on Saturday he delivered his new team its first win of the season.

"The Big Unit" struck out 15 in a six-hitter to carry the Arizona Diamondbacks an 8-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Johnson struck out at least one batter in every inning and walked just two in his 57th career complete game. Out of 123 pitches, he threw 83 strikes.

Tony Batista provided the offense with a four RBI day. He went 5-for-5 with a solo homer in the fourth inning and run-scoring singles the sixth, seventh and ninth to set a team record for hits in a game.

Damian Miller added three hits and two RBI and Matt Williams also had three hits for the Diamondbacks, who banged out 16 hits in support of Johnson's stellar performance.

Atlanta starter and reigning Cy Young Award winner Tom Glavine, who won all three of his starts against Arizona last year, allowed five runs over six innings.

In Los Angeles, Kevin Brown started earning his record \$105 million salary by allowing three hits over eight innings as the Dodgers blanked the Colorado Rockies 2-0 for their fifth win in six games.

Raul Mondesi belted his fourth homer and Eric Karros also homered for the Dodgers, whose 5-1 start is their best since 1988, a year they went on to win the World Series.

In Pittsburgh, Ed Sprague belted his fourth career grand slam in a six-run fifth inning to lead the Pirates to a 9-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Kurt Miller relieved Cubs starter Brad Woodall in the fifth and preceded to walk Kevin Young and Jason Kendall on eight pitches to load the bases before Sprague drove a 2-1 offering over the center-field fence to make it 7-3.

In Montreal, Todd Pratt, filling in for injured Mets star catcher Mike Piazza, hit a two-out single that scored Matt Franco all the way from first base in the 11th inning to lift New York to a 4-3 victory over the Expos.

Pratt was 0-for-4 with two

strikeouts before he came through with the winning hit.

Piazza will miss up to three weeks with sprained right knee ligaments he suffered in Friday's win over Montreal.

In St. Louis, Eric Davis delivered a two-run single in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift the Cardinals to a 4-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Juan Acevedo (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn the win in relief of rookie Jose Jimenez, who gave up two runs and six hits with four strikeouts in seven innings.

## Swim . . .

Continued from page 28

Each of them swam slightly off course. The misjudgment added a few yards of running to the finish line.

Saipan's Amanda Johnson crossed the line first at 15.21, for the gold.

One second behind for second place was Rudolph, also of Saipan, with a 15.22 timeslip.

Gum's Sophina Taitano was just three seconds back, at 15.24, for third place.

the boy's eight-year old and under division had Japan's Uta Ichino edging out Saipan's Rezne Wong by three seconds for first place. Ichino came in at 14.07, Wong was second at 14.10.

Ichino swims for the Watermates Swim Club of Japan. For the first time in the events history public elementary schools fielded their own team. Youngsters from San Vicente and WSR elementary schools sent their swimmers to the event.

Steve Marron and Brenda Atalg each won sixth place finishes in the ten and under age bracket.

That division were won by SSC's Ken Tanzawa and Myana Welch with times of 16.36 and 19.22, respectively.

## Rockball . . .

Continued from page 28

won the next three overtime sets for the ballgame.

Despite winning the first three (sets) Mandatory Sub failed to "juice out" Shut Up, thereby forcing the ballgame into o-kon (extra sets). Shut Up won all three extra sets, 8-1, 10-0, 9-3.

In other rockball action, No Fear, an MHS alumni rockball team, faced Brotherhood in an exhibition tournament. The ballgame served as a welcomed challenge for Brotherhood who have been inactive for awhile.

## Olympian . . .

Continued from page 28

weightlifting programs such as at Hopwood Jr. High and the Marianas High School.

He will also be working with the CNMI National Weightlifting team which is in training for the May-June, South Pacific Games.

## O'Meara rallies but, is still a long shot

By DENNE H. FREEMAN  
AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Besides being the defending Masters champion, Mark O'Meara is also a realist.

He feels he's too far back for another Sunday charge to the green jacket.

"I don't have much of a chance, to be honest," O'Meara said after shooting a 3-under-par 69 to get to 1-under 215. "I'm probably out of the tournament unless there is a miracle."

Jose Maria Olazabal was the leader at 209.

The diabolical 17th hole took the steam out of O'Meara's bid on Saturday. Masters officials moved the tee back 25 yards (23 meters) to 425 yards (388 meters) and planted numerous pine trees down both sides on the par-4.

Also, somebody forgot to water the green.

Pilar Denight of the Manukai Swim Club was only six-tenths of a second behind winner Eri Yamazaki of Watermates Swim Club, in girls 12-under.

Yamazaki's time was 18.52.

For the master's division the introduction of the 2.5km was welcomed. Twenty-four competitors took part in the new and longer course.

Dan Okeefe of Guam, winner of several Cocos Island swims in the past, won the 2.5km race with a time of 32.46.

In second place was Saipan's Kevin Seely at 35.27.

Nicole Forelli topped the women's master's division. Forelli of Saipan came in first at 42.55 beating Japan's Miwa Kohara by about one minute at 43.47.

The other master's event, the 1.3km, pitted several former S.S.C. members. Vince Seman won the 20-29 age division. Seman's time of 22.41 was three minutes faster than second place finisher David Denight, of Guam, at 25.57. In third place was Japan's Daisuke Umegaki, at 27.08.

"The organizers of the Ocean Swim were also privileged again

Elsewhere, Urawa Reds' former Japanese international striker Masahiro Fukuda came back from a three-game injury layoff to score twice in a 3-0 victory against Bellmare Hiratsuka at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Two of the Reds' goals were created by Yugoslav World Cup midfielder Zeljko Petrovic, who was returning from suspension after being sent off against Sanfrecce Hiroshima two weeks ago for two yellow cards.

The first of those cautions was for displaying a T-shirt saying "America-NATO - killers" but this time he adhered to the league's request for no more political slogans.

Reno in Wanshington to seek legal assistance.

There are now over 270 Chinese illegals being held at DOC.

It costs the Government of Guam over \$90 per day to house and feed the detainees.

In an earlier interview, Director Sablan said the Federal Government has not reimbursed DOC at all and the expense is directly hurting the department.

Since January, over 400 Chinese illegals have stepped on to American soil via Guam.

U.S. District Court Judge John S. Unpingco is also meeting with Justice Department head Janet

Alien . . .

Continued from page 1

"The continual influx of these people is placing a huge demand on personnel, facilities and resources," a prison official said.

Gov. Carl T. Gutierrez, DOC Director Angel Sablan, INS representatives will meet today to plan out strategies and seek assistance from Washington.

U.S. District Court Judge John S. Unpingco is also meeting with Justice Department head Janet

# Hamed wins by KO

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Prince Naseem Hamed knocked out Paul Ingle in the 11th round Saturday night to retain his WBO featherweight title for the 12th time.

Hamed totally dominated the first eight rounds, flooring Ingle in the first with a left hook and again in the sixth with a left to the body.

But Hamed, who had hardly been hit until then, suddenly began to look tired and vulnerable as Ingle took charge in the ninth and 10th and bloodied the champion's nose.

Then, 45 seconds into the 11th round, Hamed landed a short left to the top of Ingle's head that sent the English challenger toppling backwards to end the scheduled 12-round fight at the MEN Arena.

Hamed, who extended his record to 32-0, with 29 knockouts, said he may have broken his right hand in the fight and would go to a hospital for X-rays.

Ingle, the former European and Commonwealth champion, lost for the first time after 21 wins.

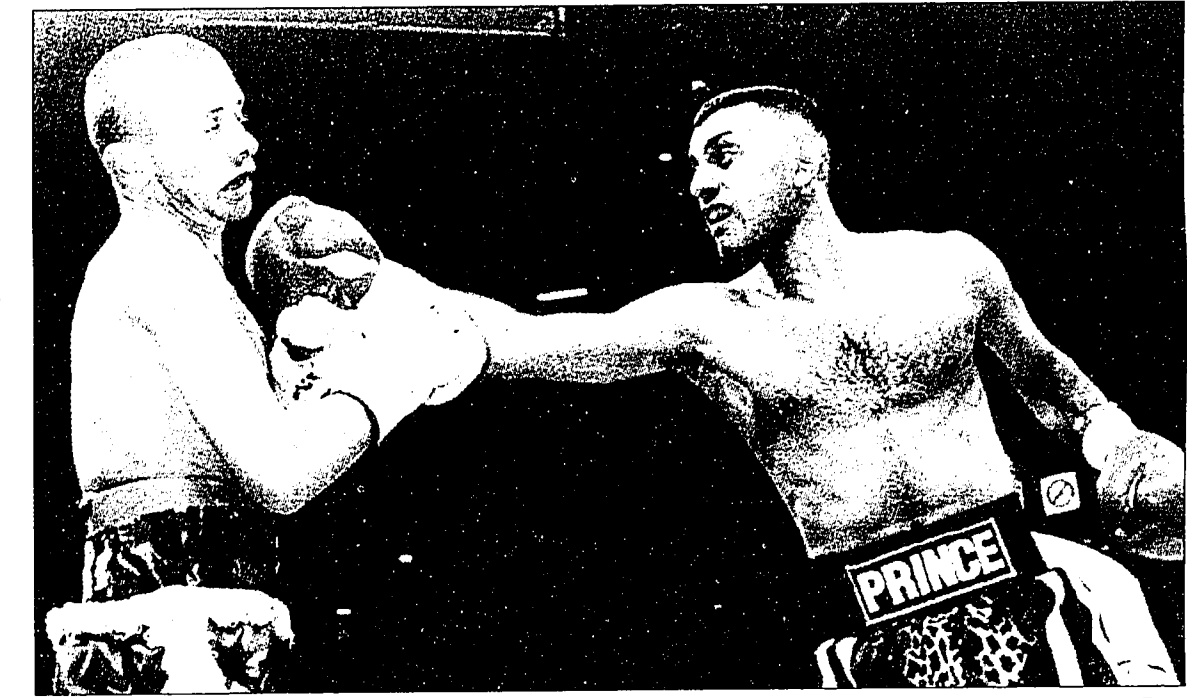
Hamed weighed 126 pounds, one-half pound more than Ingle.

Later, on the same bill, 40-year-old Thomas "Hit Man" Hearn won the lightly regarded IBO cruiserweight title with a unanimous decision over fellow American Nate Miller.

Hearn, a former five-time world champion fighting in Britain for the first time as a pro, rarely got to display his punching power as a

listless Miller turned the fight into a drab, lackluster affair.

The judges scored the fight 118-112, 117-112 and 118-111 for Hearn.



WBO Featherweight Champion Prince Naseem Hamed of Britain (right) lands a punch on challenger Paul Ingle at the Manchester Arena, Saturday. Naseem retained his title with an eleventh round stoppage. AP

## Dragomir, Seles reach finals

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (Reuters) — Anna Kournikova was again derailed in her bid for her first WTA Tour singles title as the Russian teenager fell to unseeded Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir in the semifinals of the Bausch & Lomb Championships on Saturday.

Dragomir halted the ninth-seeded Kournikova's impressive run on the Amelia Island clay by scoring a 6-3 7-5 victory that set up a final against second seed Monica Seles, who annihilated former champion Conchita Martinez 6-0 6-1.

The 38th-ranked Dragomir, owner of four career WTA Tour titles, became only the second unseeded player in the tournament's 20-year history to reach the final, joining Carling Bassett, who went on to lose to Chris Evert in 1983.

"It would be huge for me to beat

Monica," Dragomir said. "I don't want to think about it too much because I'll get too excited."

Kournikova, by far the tour's highest profile player never to win a title, looked on her way to ridding herself of that distinction.

After reaching the Hilton Head final last week - where she lost to Martina Hingis - Kournikova continued playing some of the best tennis of her career, posting decisive upsets of top seed Lindsay Davenport and sixth seed Patty Schnyder here.

But Dragomir rallied from down a break in each set to halt the 17-year-old Russian glamour girl's title quest.

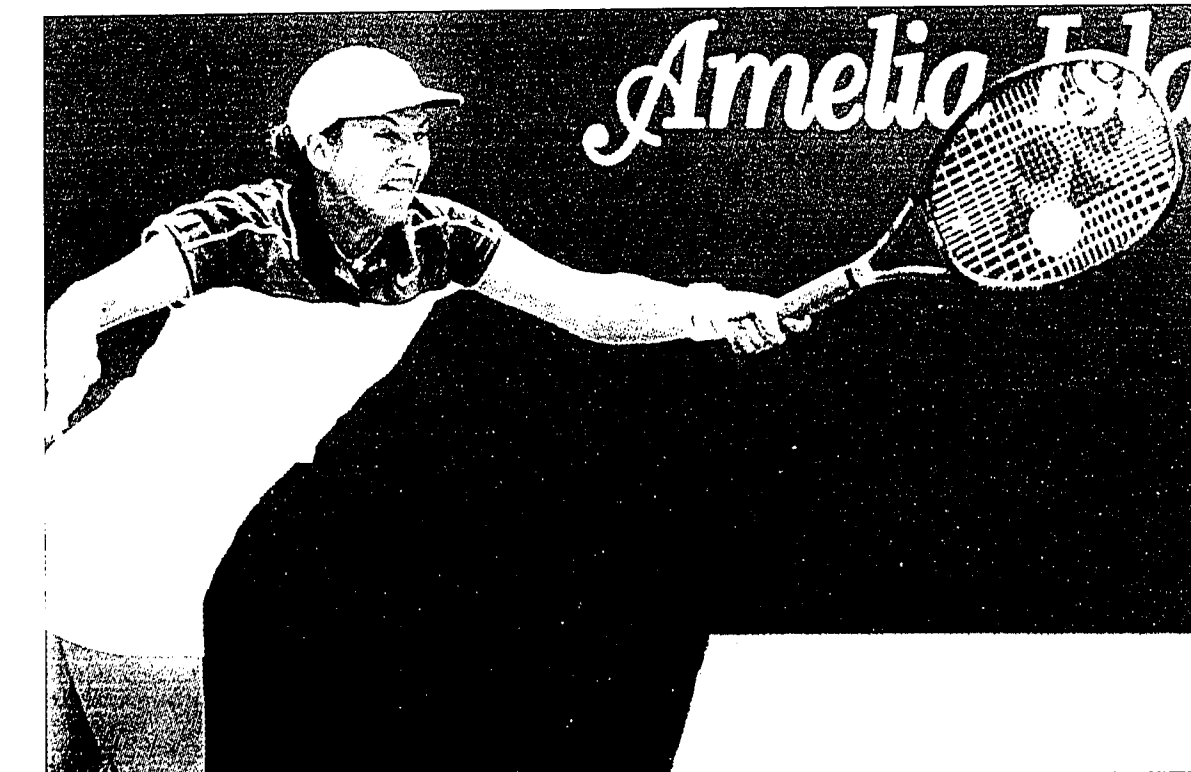
"I mixed up my game a lot and she doesn't like that," said Dragomir, who won five consecutive games after falling behind 0-2 to seize control of the first set.

"She likes it when you give her rhythm and the same pace. I had to play with a lot of spin on the ball and come to the net sometimes. I made her miss probably more than she usually does," added the Romanian, who made just 14 unforced errors compared with 35 for Kournikova.

Dragomir, 26, recovered from a 1-3 deficit in the second set, which featured five consecutive service breaks before the Romanian closed out the match by holding serve at love.

"I probably tried to finish points too quick because I didn't want to do a lot of running," said Kournikova, who pulled out of the doubles with a minor hip injury.

"I don't want to use that as an excuse because she played well," added Kournikova.



Second seeded Monica Seles of Sarasota, Fla., reaches to return a shot during her semifinal match against Conchita Martinez at the Bausch & Lomb Championships, Saturday in Amelia Island, Fla. Seles defeated Martinez 6-0, 6-1. AP

## Agassi and Brooke Shields to divorce

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (Reuters) — Actress Brooke Shields and tennis star Andre Agassi have thrown in the towel and announced on Saturday they are divorcing after almost two years of marriage.

Shields' publicist Lisa Kasteler issued a statement from her Beverly Hills office on behalf of the couple saying, "We have the utmost love and respect for each other and will remain the best of friends."

Agassi was publicly less forthcoming on Saturday, telling reporters in Hong Kong, "We have filed for divorce and we are divorced ... it is over."

The normally flamboyant U.S. tennis star spoke to reporters after reaching the final of the \$350,000 Hong Kong Open and gave no reason for the bustup of the marriage.

Agassi married Shields, star of the hit U.S. sitcom "Suddenly Susan" and star of such films as "Pretty Baby" - in 1997 in a quiet Roman Catholic ceremony. Shields, then 31, practically sprinted up the steps of the church, almost tripping in a dress with a five-foot (1.5-metre) train.

## Miami humiliates Chicago, 82-49

CHICAGO (AP) — How low can these Chicago Bulls go?

To the depths of NBA history. The Miami Heat held the Bulls to the lowest point total since the introduction of the shot clock, humiliating the shell of a team that once won six championships 82-49 Saturday night.

The Bulls had been on the other end of the previous low-scoring game, limiting Utah to 54 points last June in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, but that was when they had Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. The previous low for a regular-season game was 55, by Indiana against San Antonio on March 29, 1998.

The Bulls also set an NBA low with only 18 field goals, one fewer than the previous mark by Indiana against New York in 1985. And they just missed another league mark for offensive foul play, making just 23.4 percent of their shots (18-of-77). The worst shooting performance ever was .229 by Milwaukee against Minneapolis in 1954, the first year of the shot clock.

The Heat opened the game with a 15-0 run behind a smothering defense. The Bulls trailed 23-8 at the end of the first quarter, 45-23 at the half and 67-33 after three quarters.

Cavaliers 81, Hawks 67

At Cleveland, Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and Cleveland held Atlanta to 29 percent shooting.

The Cavaliers broke a two-game losing streak and handed the Hawks their third consecutive loss.

## Olazabal takes one-stroke lead

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Greg Norman never did find his ball.

Somewhere during that lonely walk over Hogan's bridge and back to the 12th tee on Saturday, he may have found something even more critical to his chances of finally winning the Masters — composure.

The reward is another spot in the last group Sunday, this time trailing Jose Maria Olazabal by a stroke.

Despite the stroke-and-distance penalty for losing his ball in the bushes behind the green, Norman kept his poise by knocking his next shot on the green and making a 22-foot (6.7 meters) putt to save bogey.

Even though his ball landed in a divot on the next hole, leading to

another bogey, Norman never once thought about his past failures at Augusta National or wondered if it was only a matter of time before another collapse.

"That's when I had to fight hard and keep my composure," Norman said.

He birdied the 18th to get within one stroke of Olazabal, putting him in the final pairing at a major championship for the first time since his disastrous 1996 Masters, when he squandered a six-stroke lead.

Is fate finally on his side? "I'm a little more at peace and at ease with myself," Norman said. "Don't get me wrong. Tomorrow, I'm going out there to win."

Olazabal had a great recovery of his own, coming out of the woods to make a two-putt par on No. 18 for a 1-over 73.



## SPORTS

## Olympian to help athletes

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

OLYMPIAN Gold Medalist, Sevdilny Marinov of Bulgaria will spend a week on Saipan, it was learned from NMASA.

Marinov, a weightlifter, had won the Gold Medal in 1988 and the 1992 Olympics. He also won in the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

Marinov's visit was organized by Oceania Weightlifting Federation's president, Paul Coffa.

Marinov will visit as many country members of the International Weighting Federation, which includes the CNMI.

"There is minimal expense to our association, and this is one of the benefits of belonging to such international federations," said NMASA.

Marinov is scheduled to arrive in the CNMI between April 30 and May 10. His visit will coincide with the preparation of the All Schools Weightlifting Championships, and would probably be a big assistance to local weightlifters. The All Schools event is scheduled for May 8, at Ada Gymnasium.

The weightlifting Olympian is scheduled to provide assistance to many of the island's

Continued on page 26

## Rocball playoffs start Wednesday

AFTER months of playing in the sweltering noon heat, the long awaited rocball championship playoffs will kick off, starting Wednesday, at Marianas High School's (MHS) Pugua-rocball-Court.

Leading to Wednesday's playoffs, was last week's semi-finals ballgame between team Shut Up and Mandatory Sub.

Shut Up eventually defeated the M.H.S.'s faculty team Mandatory Sub, in triple overtime (O-Kon).

With the win, Shut-Up will face D-Ex, today. The winner will get their chance and challenge undefeated Brotherhood in the championship.

In women's division, Islanders will go up against Kawabonga. the undefeated Islanders will have their work cut out for them, as kawabonga has been steadily improving their game.

Down but not out, Shut Up came back from a three set deficit and

Continued on page 26

## JAL donates to Palau's I.S.S.L.

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The private sector is throwing more support to government sports programs, one of which is the Inter-Scholastics Sports League (ISSL).

Japanese Airlines Manager Ken'ichi Inoue for Palau just recently handed to President Nakamura a \$5,000 check in support to the ISSL which was started off by the Ministry of Education right after the August 1998 Micronesian Games.

According to Education Min-

ister Billy Kuartei, the ISSL is being participated by four regions encompassing over 20 elementary schools, including private schools.

Through the ISSL, the government could scout for future national athletes that could compete both at the national and international levels.

Kamabara, Ltd., a Japanese freightliner connected with the Palau Shipping Company donated \$2,000 a month ago. WCTC gave the ISSL \$1,200 worth of fuel.

## Yokohama flattens Osaka, 6-0

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japanese World Cup striker Shoji Jo scored a hat trick as Yokohama F Marinos demolished Cerezo Osaka 6-0 in J. League action at the 2002 World Cup venue of Yokohama International Stadium on Saturday.

Jo, who attracted the interest of Spanish clubs Real Mallorca and Tenerife last year, took his tally for the season to six in six games and moved two goals clear at the

top of the scoring chart.

The victory pushed Marinos into fourth place in the 16-team table on 12 points, three off the pace being set by 1997 champions Jubilo Iwata.

Jubilo won 1-0 away to Hristo Stoitchkov's Kashiwa Reysol with a second-half header from Hideto Suzuki and now have 15 points.

Continued on page 26



Participants to the 6th Rota Blue Triathlon join Ms NMI International Michelle Sablan (from left) Hideya Miyatsuka (champion), Taro Shirata (2nd place), Kiykazu Onishi (3rd place), Stuart Smith, Frank Calvo and Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona.

Contributed photo

## Ocean Swim sets new records

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

THE H.B.S.C. 21st Ocean Swim event attracted close to a hundred participants from nine swimming clubs in Japan and two from Guam. In addition San Vicente and WSR elementary schools each fielded their own teams, the Saipan Swim club and several others from Saipan made up this

year's open water competition, held off the Saipan Diamond hotel.

"Good water conditions brought stiff competition especially in the young group events," said Bill Sakovich in a press release to the Variety.

Saipan's Sho Saso battled Japan's Tyoya Taguchi in the 11-12 year old age group.

The young Japanese swimmer, Taguchi, however was six-seconds quicker crossing the finish line and wound up with the "gold".

Both swimmers set a new course record with their 17:51 and 17:57 timeslips, respectively.

The old record was set and held by Josh Taitano back in 1994. Taitano's time was 18:01.

Other course records were also established in the "masters" division.

Chloe Wurr of Saipan set a record in the 40-49 age bracket with her 21:55 time slip.

The new record was almost two minutes faster than that set previously by Carol Lyn Pierce.

Kimiko Numazawa of Japan, swimming in the 60-years and over bracket shattered the old record by over eight minutes. He came in at 30:04 minutes. Kimiko swims for Sakuranbo Suiyukai swim club of Japan.

One of the tougher events was the eight-year old and under division 0.6km course. The course ran from the Diamond hotel's shoreline to the first WWII tank and back around.

The trio of Amanda Johnson, Mara Rudolph, and Sohpinia Taitano were neck and neck in this event.

Continued on page 26

## Ocean Swim official results

Results of the 21 Annual Saipan Swim (Apr. 3)

Girls, eight-years and under

| Name           | Team | Time  |
|----------------|------|-------|
| Amanda Johnson | SSC  | 15:21 |
| Mara Rudolph   | SSC  | 15:22 |
| Sophia Taitano | Man  | 15:24 |
| Melissa Halaby | SSC  | 19:01 |

Boys, eight-years and under

|                   |     |       |
|-------------------|-----|-------|
| Uta Ichino        | WM  | 14:07 |
| Rezne Wong        | SSC | 14:10 |
| Jun Sik Yoon      | SSC | 15:21 |
| Michael Camacho   | SSC | 15:35 |
| Seiji Hirabayashi | SSC | 15:36 |
| Taichi Matsumoto  | WM  | 16:35 |
| Taku Abiru        | WM  | 17:35 |
| Dylan Cruz        | Man | 19:33 |
| Jimmy Manila      | Man | 20:11 |

Girls, ten-years old and under

|                 |     |       |
|-----------------|-----|-------|
| Myana Welch     | SSC | 19:22 |
| Melissa Coleman | SSC | 23:10 |
| Natasha Good    | SSC | 23:12 |
| Christina Chang | SSC | 24:42 |
| Tetsu Chang     | SSC | 30:17 |
| Brenda Alarig   | WSR | 33:36 |
| Shane Joseph    | WSR | 50:48 |

Boys, ten-years and under

|                |     |       |
|----------------|-----|-------|
| Ken Tanzawa    | SSC | 16:36 |
| Quincy Johnson | SSC | 18:58 |
| Tristan Cope   | SSC | 19:22 |
| Tsutaie Abiru  | WM  | 23:17 |
| Ken Tagagi     | WM  | 26:38 |
| Steven Marron  | SVS | 58:19 |

Continued on page 26



Swimmers from the HBSC 21st Ocean Swim emerge and run towards the finish line last Saturday.

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