

## Dynasty confirms business not good

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

BUSINESS outlook for the Asia-Pacific Region remains bleak for the next two years. Thus, the cost-cutting measures instituted by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino which sent back three Filipino workers Sunday and will reportedly trim down the number of employees by almost half.

But Kui Fah Liew, general manager of Hong Kong Entertainment which operate the Dynasty, said they are more optimistic about the market, as he raised hopes that the market will start picking up in 12 months.

"Some economists in the world are predicting that the recession would go as far as 24 months [two years]. We don't look that far. We are hoping that the economy will turn around in 12 months," he told reporters.

He said the business environment has been stable although it has not been moving up and "it is the reason why we are looking at a 12-month recession." He said the market is not expected to pick up in a year.

Liew met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday to assure that

Continued on page 20



Barry Small (center), a survivor of the KAL 801 crash was declared an honorary member of the Guam Fire Department yesterday by Captain Gil Reyes (left), and given a hard hat which was worn by Chief Chuck Sanchez (right) on the day of the crash. Variety Photo

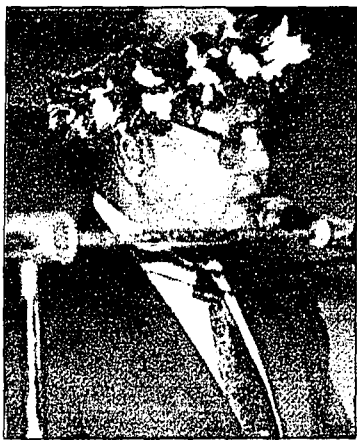
## New law scraps EIC, poker cap

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

STARTING next year, low-income Northern Marianas residents will no longer receive their annual earned income credit after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed into law a legislation that eliminates the EIC and increases licensing fees for poker and pachinko machines.

House Bill 11-262, or the Fiscal Integrity Act of 1998, officially became Public Law 11-25 to also lift the limit on the number of gaming machines on Saipan, as well as repeal the sunset provisions in the local tax law.

"Although I have approved this bill, I urge the Legislature to monitor its implementation closely so that any provision which proves contrary to its purported intention



Pedro P. Tenorio

can be immediately addressed," Tenorio said in his transmission letter to the Legislature.

The government is expecting to generate an additional \$9 million from the new revenue-collecting measure which was passed by both

chambers of the Legislature earlier this month.

House ways and means committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes stressed that elimination of the excess tax credit on EIC will eliminate the risk to the Commonwealth and the NMI taxpayers.

"The Commonwealth's implementation of the EIC in a manner that diverges from that of the US Internal Revenue Code exposes the CNMI to potential liability in the tens of millions of dollars," Reyes said.

PL 11-25 intends to repeal the sunset provision under Public Law 9-22 which would bring taxes imposed on cigarettes to \$0.50 per every 20 cigarettes and \$0.15 per gallon of fuel. Alcoholic beverages will be taxed by 10 percent

Continued on page 23

## KAL crash survivor reunites with rescue team members

By Sara Grant  
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING — "I want to tell the people of Guam they have been brilliant."

That's what Barry Small said yesterday about the treatment he's received on Guam since the crash of Korean Air Flight 801 in August of last year.

Small visited the Tamuning Fire Station and met with crew members from the Guam Fire Department where he was declared a member of the "brotherhood of service of firefighters" by Captain Gil Reyes.

One of 29 people who sur-

vived the crash which took 229 lives a year ago, Small has been on-island to attend memorial ceremonies and extend thanks to those who helped him following the tragedy.

At the small gathering with firefighters from rescue units 1, 2, 3 and 4, Reyes presented a hard-hat to Small that was worn by Chief Chuck Sanchez the day of the crash.

"All the training we do ultimately leads to being able to assist survivors. Having Barry here today is the greatest honor that we could ask for," Reyes

Continued on page 23

## DPHS negotiates reduced rates for medical referrals

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

IN LINE with the government-wide belt tightening effort, the Division of Public Health is working closely with its key Hawaii-based health care provider in obtaining discounts for CNMI patients referred by the DPH Medical Referral Office to Honolulu.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, who will be heading for Honolulu tomorrow, said he will be meeting with officials of

Continued on page 20



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

## 10 new rooms put WSR back on single track



PSS Commissioner Rita H. Inos joins other officials for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 10 newly-completed classrooms at the WSR Elementary School. Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

FOLLOWING the completion of 10 newly-constructed classrooms, William S. Reyes Elementary School is now back to the single track system.

WSR Principal Maria C. Pangelinan yesterday said that since the school now have enough classrooms to accommodate a total of 839 students for school year 1998-1999, it will now cease the old track

Continued on page 23

## 2 kids die in Guam incidents

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Police reported yesterday that two children died in separate incidents here.

Guam Police Department said a four-year old boy drowned

shortly after noon during a family outing at the Inarajan Pool.

The boy's uncle spotted his nephew's body floating on the pool.

The boy, whose name was with-

Continued on page 20

# Japan opposition eyes early polls

By MARTIN FACKLER  
TOKYO (AP) — Criticizing the "qualifications and ability" of Japan's new Cabinet, opposition lawmakers called Monday for new elections and said that only a revolution in politics could end the country's economic woes.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi faced blistering criticism as he fielded questions on the floor of Parliament for the first time since becoming prime minister last month.

"What qualifications and ability does this new Cabinet have?" said lawmaker Kansei Nakano, a member of Japan's largest opposition party, the Democratic Party.

"Without new policies there will be no reforms. We must dissolve the Parliament," he said as several lawmakers broke into applause.

Obuchi rejected the demand, say-

ing he would focus on fixing the economy.

"I will exert all my energy and take all possible steps... to grapple with the economic problems," Obuchi promised.

Opinion polls have shown Obuchi's Cabinet to be one of the least popular new governments in decades, with fewer than one-third of voters expressing approval.

Nowhere was the declining popularity of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party more clear than in last month's parliamentary elections, when a landslide victory by opposition parties cost the LDP control of the upper house of Japan's bicameral Parliament.

As a result, Obuchi must win the support of opposition lawmakers for his bills even to pass.

The tone of Monday's debate sug-

gested he may face a tough time.

Obuchi has promised quick action to revive a recession-bound economy that threatens to throw the rest of Asia into a new round of economic chaos.

He is seeking to stimulate consumption with more than 6 trillion yen (\$41 billion) worth of tax cuts and 10 trillion yen (\$69 billion) in public spending.

But that's not enough, say opposition politicians.

They point out that many of Obuchi's initiatives were written by Japan's powerful bureaucrats, who have traditionally made policies to be rubber-stamped by Parliament.

It was exactly such an arrangement, with its backroom deal-making and lack of accountability, that led Japan into its current morass, said Takenori Kanzaki, a lawmaker with

Continued on page 20



Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah waves to the people during the proclamation ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan Monday in Brunei Darussalam. Thousands of people lined the streets to see Brunei's future ruler who will be the 30th sultan. AP

# Taiwan, US sign WTO accord

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan and the United States have signed a bilateral agreement for the island's accession to the World Trade Organization, news reports said Sunday.

Vice Minister of Economic Affairs Lin Yi-fu and U.S. Assistant Trade Representative Robert Cassidy signed the pact in Washington Friday, after lengthy negotiations on tariff rates for 8,000 agricultural and industrial products, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said in a statement.

Under the agreement, Taiwan will cut tariffs on many agricultural and industrial products, open up its tele-

communications and financial services sectors, and enter into agreements on government procurement and civil aviation pacts sponsored by the World Trade Organization.

The liberalization of financial services will have long-term benefits, the Central News Agency quoted Taiwan Central Bank officials as saying.

To date, the island has signed trade agreements with 23 out of the 26 organization members that requested bilateral talks. Hong Kong, Canada and the European Union still need to sign with Taiwan, the ministry added.

Taiwan has successfully negoti-

ated with all members that objected to its bid to join the 132-member trade body. Officials said they hope to enter the WTO early next year, but much depends on China's attitude.

Relations across the Taiwan Strait have often been hostile since Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war to Mao Tse-tung's Communists in 1949.

Although economic relations have warmed up considerably, China — which views Taiwan as a renegade province — has said the island must not be admitted to the WTO ahead of it.

# Green tea sickens 10 in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Ten employees of a wood preservative company in northwestern Japan were hospitalized Monday when they complained of nausea and other symptoms after drinking green tea made with water from a communal hot pot, officials said.

Preliminary tests by police investigators showed traces of cyanide in the hot pot water and victims' vomit samples, Kyodo News reported.

A police spokesman with the

Niigata prefectural, or state, police could not confirm the report, however, saying an investigation was still under way.

The sickening comes just two weeks after four people in Japan died from eating arsenic and cyanide-laced curried rice.

Emergency medical authorities received a call at 8:01 a.m. Monday (2301 GMT Sunday) from a branch office of Xyence Co., located near the city of Niigata, said Toshihide

Watanabe, a spokesman for the Niigata municipal fire department.

Ten of the 13 employees in the office were rushed to local hospitals for treatment of nausea, dizziness and numbness after drinking the hot tea, Watanabe said.

Niigata, on the Japan Sea coast, is 256 kilometers (159 miles) northwest of Tokyo. The curry poisonings occurred in Wakayama, a small coastal city 453 kilometers (283 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

# UN suspends new Iraqi inspections

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The United Nations has suspended new inspections of Iraqi arms sites in response to Baghdad's refusal to cooperate with weapons monitors, a U.N. official said Sunday.

The arms inspectors will continue to monitor sites that already have been searched — because Iraq has agreed to that — said Janet Sullivan, spokeswoman for the U.N. program. But new inspections, which often involve surprise visits, were being put off "in light of the present situation."

"Pending further instructions... inspections in respect of disarmament activities are temporarily suspended," she added.

Iraq, which is pressing hard for an end to eight-year U.N. economic sanctions, announced last week that it would no longer cooperate with arms inspectors entrusted with ensuring that Baghdad has dismantled its weapons program. The Security Council called the move "totally unacceptable," but urged more negotiations and suggested it was open to easing the strictures.

Meanwhile, the daily Al-Thawra of the ruling Baath Party said in an editorial published Sunday that Iraq would accept nothing short of an end to sanctions.

Under the terms of a U.N. resolution adopted following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the current ban on Iraqi exports is to be lifted only after U.N. experts declare that Baghdad has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction and the means to make such armaments.

The sanctions include a ban on the free export of Iraq's oil, its most profitable commodity.

In Washington, U.S. officials stressed Sunday that Saddam Hussein's quarrel is with the United Nations, not the United States. But they reminded Iraq's leader that American forces remain on guard and ready to strike if necessary.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said almost 20,000 American military personnel in the Persian Gulf area have twice as much firepower as before a separate showdown with Iraq last fall.

Both Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stressed in television interviews that it is the U.N. Security Council that must stand firm against Saddam's latest act of defiance.

Central Bank Governor Gabriel Singson said the decision to raise the rates was taken in response to the peso's sharp depreciation.



Tokyo currency dealers hold their heads identically Monday afternoon as the Japanese yen rate against the U.S. dollar, 146.33 yen, flashes on the indicator. The dollar rose against the yen on fresh signs of economic weakness in Japan. AP

# Central bank raises key RP interest rates

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine Central Bank announced Monday it will raise its key overnight borrowing rate to 15 percent from 13 percent in an effort to slow the peso's rapid depreciation.

The central bank also raised its overnight lending rate to 17 percent from 15 percent, also effective Tuesday.

The rise in overnight rates appeared to have an immediate calming effect on the market, with many banks reducing their offer rates for the dollar on the news. Higher interest rates tend to make a currency more attractive to investors.

Central Bank Governor Gabriel Singson said the decision to raise the rates was taken in response to the peso's sharp depreciation.

Because Tinian Dynasty is hurting:

# Revenues may drop

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

PROJECTED revenues for the next fiscal year may suffer a slight drop, after Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino revealed that it has also been affected by the worsening economic situation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

"The projected revenues may be affected, although I am not sure how much or how severe," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said.

In his revised budget proposal, Tenorio mentioned the projected government income from the opening of the Tinian Dynasty and the construction industry.

Earlier, the governor said the CNMI government is not yet banking on the revenues that may be collected from the new casino gambling industry on



Pedro P. Tenorio

Tinian adding that his administration has been informed that marketing efforts for the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino will not begin until August of this year.

But he said the government will

continue to monitor the casino industry on Tinian closely and will recommend the supplemental appropriation if revenue collections from the sector warrant it.

"When we submit our budget, we take into consideration the new industry but we did not count too much on the casino," Tenorio said, stressing that there will be no changes in the revised \$242.5 million budget proposed for the next fiscal year.

He also said that not even the reported decline in revenues and business profits of the Tinian Dynasty will affect the proposed budget. "We have to look at the submitted projections again but most of the revenues that we included are the increase in user and poker machine licensing fees," he pointed out.

The government is anticipating some \$2.5 million increase in projected revenue collections for the Fis-

cal Year 1999, which prompted the government to inflate next year's budget proposal to \$242.5 million.

He said a meager net increase in resources was identified in the revised projections over the May 1 submitted estimates, although the total is still lower than that of last year.

He said an increase of \$5 million over and above the administration's first estimate on revenue collection

Continued on page 19

# Underwood airs hope his bill on CNMI delegate 'will be the last'

By Brandon N. Ashcraft  
Variety News Staff

WASHINGTON D.C. — Congressman Robert A. Underwood expressed hopes yesterday that US Congress would act in favor of his bill which proposes to establish CNMI representation in the US House of Representatives.

Under the proposal entitled "The Northern Marianas Delegate Act," a CNMI representative would be present during floor discussions at the US House, and would be allowed to vote on the committee level.

It was the third time that the bill was filed, and Underwood said he hopes it would be the last time.

"We seek and pursue a more perfect union," stated Underwood in his letter to the Speaker of the House, adding that the NMI was a "proud nation of free citizens that enjoy elected representation in the federal government."

In pushing for the bill, Underwood noted that there are American citizens living, working, and paying taxes in the CNMI, hence they should be represented in the House.

"Our citizens are excited about freedom and we work to preserve democratic ideals and strive for equality of opportunities."

Underwood is a non-voting representative in D.C. for Guam. He can vote in committee but can not vote on



Robert A. Underwood

the floor. Juan N. Babauta is the CNMI's resident representative to

Continued on page 19

# Free advice to landowners

By Sara Grant  
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam — I Tano-Ta Consultants will be conducting meetings throughout the island this week to help educate people on the changes brought about by the I Tano-Ta Land Use Plan, which was enacted into law in April of 98.

The plan is a comprehensive legislation designed to create rules and regulations for future development on the island.

Marcel Camacho, who works for the company has worked on the Land Use Plan for eight years, has been also

Continued on page 19

# Hearing set for Guam lawyer

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Daniel Del Priore has been charged by the Attorney General's office with theft of property held in trust.

According to Magistrate's Complaint, filed in the Superior Court of Guam, on July 30, 1998, Del Priore a former attorney, was hired by Perfecto L. Taladoc and his family to settle on an automobile accident which occurred November 30, 1996, with the responsible party, Josefa Briones.

The court document stated that on September 12, 1997, the family agreed to allow Del Priore to settle their collective claim for \$50,000.

Three possible settlements were

contemplated, but actual distribution and division would take place at a later, undetermined date.

The Taladoc family signed the agreement, however unknown to them Del Priore had already settled the claim with Briones and her insurance adjuster.

On August 19, 1997, Del Priore had Briones sign a promissory note agreeing to pay the Taladoc family an additional \$5,000 at \$100 a month through Del Priore's office.

The complaint states that this was done without the knowledge or consent of the Taladoc family.

Court records show that after some time without word from Del Priore, Perfecto Taladoc was asked by his

Continued on page 20

# Dynasty: Labor laws would be observed

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government has expressed concern about the alleged violation of labor policies committed by the management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino when it started furloughing employees who were reportedly not properly notified of their retrenchment.

Thus, the meeting between Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and officials of the Tinian Dynasty yesterday morning in Capitol Hill, where Hong Kong Entertainment general manager Kui Fah Liew assured him that existing CNMI and federal labor policies will be observed.

"They assured us that they will follow our labor policies from our

meeting this morning. They assured us that they will not violate labor laws," Tenorio told reporters.

He added that the Dynasty management has been meeting and discussing with its close to 1,200 employees the possible options that may be agreed upon by both parties.

As this developed, Dynasty management met with some representatives of the casino-hotel's multi-racial workforce Sunday night before the workers assembled in a vacant space between the Sapphire and Topaz buildings at the Dynasty staffhouse.

The negotiations, according to well-placed sources, resumed last night where both the management and the

Continued on page 19

# \$3.8M funding for new schools OK'd by House

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE of Representatives has approved the redirection of some \$3.8 million from the Solid Waste Management Project to supplement funds for the immediate construction of two new schools.

The new Dandan Elementary School needs additional \$1.3 million for its construction, while the Kagman Elementary School needs additional

\$2.5 million, for a total of \$3.8 million.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta said the \$3.8 million was taken from the \$26 million fund for the Puerto Rico dump closure and opening of Marpi landfill.

"The House re-appropriated 3.8 million from the solid waste funding because the leadership agreed that the

Continued on page 19

# Guam, NMI law enforcers undergo tactical training

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

IN COLLECTIVELY addressing the increasing number of illegal shipment of drugs and ammunitions in the Pacific, various law enforcement officers from CNMI, Guam and the US recently came to Saipan for a one-week simulated cargo ship raid and other sea vessels inspections.

Customs Services Deputy Director Joe Mafnas said the one-week training aimed at training law enforcement personnel in sea-related inspections of cargo and sea vessels in order to curb illegal shipment of prohibited drugs like "ice" and marijuana, as well as different types of unlicensed ammunitions.

"The whole training concentrated on marine-related inspections but it was participated in by multi-judicial officers from here, Guam and the mainland," Mafnas told the Variety.

The semi-Navy Seals training, dubbed as the "Marine Tactical Training," was participated in by 42 law enforcement personnel from the CNMI Customs

Continued on page 19



US Sen. Daniel Akaka (left) meets with National Zoo's Dr. Don Nichols (center), the veterinarian trying to isolate a lethal virus to which only the brown tree snake is susceptible. Also at the briefing was CNMI Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta, who supports the grant which pays for Nichols' work.

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER  
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

## Homeowners burned by FHA 'inspections'

WASHINGTON — "Responsibility" is a word we often hear from politicians these days. Except, it seems, when a politically powerful interest group is involved.

We've been reporting recently on the government gravy train known as the Federal Housing Administration. Set up to help low-income Americans become home owners, the FHA has instead become a high-priced welfare program for bankers and real-estate brokers who know that the government will bail them out of any jams.

Unfortunately, the biggest losers are often the home buyers themselves. When a bank makes a typical mortgage loan, it has every incentive to make sure the home is in good shape and that its customer is credit-worthy. Otherwise, they lose their money if the buyer defaults on the loan.

But with FHA loans, the banks make the profits while the government assumes all risk by covering any loan defaults. It should come as no surprise, then, that some banks and real-estate professionals have been less than vigilant in making sure home buyers get what they pay for.

As we reported last week, part of the problem involves the FHA policy of "lender-select," which allows banks to choose their own property appraisers. We found that many banks are partial to appraisers willing to "play ball," which sometimes means inflating the price of a home and neglecting to mention major property flaws or needed repairs.

Experts cite lender-select as a major reason why federally insured mortgages increased by 30 percent last year.

The appraisal process is problematic for another reason: Many home buyers are misled to believe the appraisal is a thorough inspection — the equivalent of the government's stamp of approval.

But inspections have never been mandatory for homes insured with federal funds, even though taxpayers get stuck with the bill when a home forecloses.

Dorothy Bob, a first-time home buyer, thought the appraisal of her Buffalo, N.Y., FHA home was actually an inspection. Her realtor told her the "inspection" revealed only a small problem with the storm windows.

But within months, Bob's dream house started falling apart. The furnace conked out, the kitchen burners wouldn't work, the septic system broke down three times, the roof leaked, electrical outlets quit working, and wires in her attic caught fire. None of these problems were pointed out before she bought her home.

Bob says she knew that the home wasn't new, and she was expecting a problem or two. But she wasn't looking for a fixer-upper. "FHA should have had an inspector, or told us the appraisal wasn't the same thing as an inspection," Bob told us.

Carl Edwards of Indianapolis has a similar story. He bought a home with an FHA loan, believing the house had met stringent FHA guidelines. "The appraisal was presented to me as an inspection," he told our associate Kathryn Wallace.

Shortly after Edwards moved in, major repairs were required on the central air conditioning, furnace, hot water heater and septic system. Edwards also had to replace the roof. After months of expensive repairs plus a mortgage payment, Edwards defaulted on his loan and the government paid off the lender.

Edwards has since lobbied Congress and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (which oversees the FHA) to make inspections mandatory — something he has been told will never happen. "You would think FHA would be more concerned with how and where FHA's money goes, and would want to inspect the properties before investing in them," Edwards said.

Phil Prehn, director of a Syracuse homeowners' group, has seen hundreds of cases of slick realtors taking advantage of unsophisticated first-time home buyers, while the agency turns a blind eye.

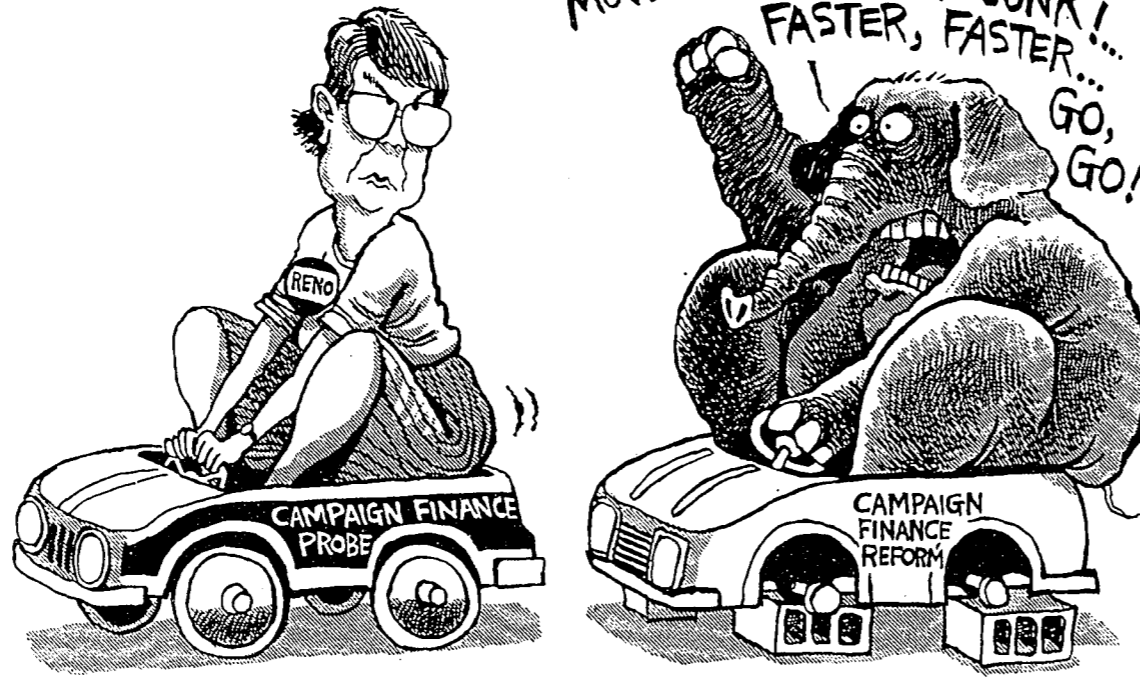
"If HUD really wanted to decrease the number of foreclosures, they would fully inspect homes and have that inspection available to potential homeowners," Prehn told us. "A key component to any kind of reform at HUD is to work harder to make sure (FHA) homes are livable in the first place."

A HUD spokesman conveniently notes that the reason inspections aren't required is that the agency doesn't want to burden prospective homeowners with extra costs. But the spokesman added that HUD has always encouraged FHA customers to invest in a thorough inspection.

But you aren't likely to hear those same encouraging words from most bankers or real-estate agents, who give generously to both political parties and don't support anything that might shrink their profit margins.

"Responsibility" simply isn't in their lexicon when the federal government is paying the tab.

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Info-tech corner By David T. Hughes

## Eyeball camera easy Install, fun to use

AIMS Lab is one of the first technology companies out of the corral to utilize the new Universal Serial Bus (USB) for peripherals. Their new Five PC camera hits the value/usefulness target with a bullseye.

We've all seen the little eyeball cameras around for several years now. They gave grainy black and white and then later, color, pictures. However, it almost required someone like me (grin) or a NASA genius to get one of the suckers hooked up on the computer.

Users either needed a video capture card or one of the "Snappy" interface units to utilize the little cameras. Things improved slightly when Connectix and others designed their little cameras so they can be plugged into a computer's printer port.

But, that hookup also confused many users, thinking they to chose between a printer and a camera.

Now, with the introduction of USB, these external devices - such as the AIMS Five camera, just plug into the uniquely shaped plugs and go. The USB ports function a lot like the PCMCIA cards on laptops. You don't have to turn your computer off to install the devices once the software is installed.

Plug it in or out and it's on or off. Simple, painless and no geek needed.

There's no more need for capture cards, external power supplies, etc. the little Five camera not only provides video, but also audio from a built-in microphone.

I was prepared to see a cheap camera with a fixed-focus lens, but was very pleasantly surprised after the almost boringly easy software installation.

The camera was constructed very well and the picture is excellent -

considering the fact that the whole shebang only cost about \$150 or under.

Instead of a fixed-focus lens, there is a honest-to-goodness focus ring - just like a

real TV camera. This allows users to focus anywhere from one-inch to infinity. I also understand there are so-called macro lens systems for sale to use on these little cameras. Using one of these external lenses it would be possible to focus on a much smaller object.

Why have a camera? Of course, the obvious answer is so you can have live videoconferences online with such programs as Microsoft's NetMeeting, Vocaltech's Internet Phone, etc. In fact, AIMS includes a copy of VDO phone with the installation software.

But ... there's a lot more you can use the little camera for: Also included with installation software is a program called M@X that allows you to send compressed full-motion video as an email attachment OR make single frame snapshots for such goodies as greeting cards, letters, etc.

Included in the box are the software, very well written instructions, the camera and a little rubber thingie they call a "softmount." Think of a rubber donut with an eyeball on top and that's how you keep the camera in place. But, that means you have to put the camera on your desk, on top of the monitor or someplace else where you have to look up or down.

I salvaged some heavy-duty Velcro(r) from past projects and used half of it on the camera and the other half about eye-level on the monitor. No more looking up and down!

This particular unit is only for folks with relatively new computers. Look on the back of your computer near where you plug in the mouse. If you see two small open slots you are probably in luck and can use the Five and other USB devices on the way.

I give it an 8 on the Hughes Buymeter. Look for it in your favorite computer store or buy it online from their web site at [www.aimslab.com](http://www.aimslab.com).

## Wabol administrator wants Ted Mitchell out of premises

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE NEW administrator of the Wabol estate wants lawyer Ted Mitchell evicted from Transamerica building, but Mitchell said the eviction notice is "null and void."

Carmen Nekaifes, who was recently declared by the Superior Court as the estate's new administrator, on Thursday gave Mitchell a three days notice of eviction, which Mitchell described as "unreasonable and abusive," "harsh and vindictive."

Nekaifes said Mitchell "must be off the estate's property by 4 p.m." yesterday.

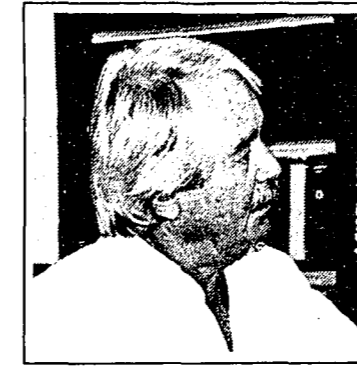
According to Mitchell, however, the Superior Court's Aug. 3 ruling removing his client as estate administrator "is automatically stayed for... 10 business days, or until Aug. 17."

In a letter to Nekaifes's lawyer, Michael Dotts, Mitchell said until Aug. 17, "you are absolutely prohibited from taking any action to enforce the order."

Therefore, he added, the "purported 'eviction' is a nullity."

Mitchell added that his client, Concepcion W. Moteisou, was scheduled to appeal the Aug. 3 ruling in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Meanwhile, he added, "we de-



Ted Mitchell

cline (the) offer to agree to the eviction, for fear that it would moot the stay motion and the appeal."

Mitchell maintained that Nekaifes "is not, legally and legitimately, the (administrator) of the estate, despite (the Aug. 3 ruling) purporting to install her in that office."

Mitchell said his client "is entitled, as a matter of due process of law, to a hearing on any application of Nekaifes for appointment as (administrator). No such hearing has been held."

Mitchell said he will file a demand for such a hearing.

"By the way," he added, "as a matter of landlord/tenant law, you are attempting to evict a tenant under a formal, written lease without having taken any steps to terminate the lease. Hence, the lease is still in force."

Mitchell told Dotts that "the estate is bound by that lease, unless and until

you take proper steps...to terminate (it)."

The Superior Court's Aug 3 ruling states that Moteisou is removed as estate administrator and Mitchell as counsel to the estate.

The ruling in this famous Article 12 case named Nekaifes, the second oldest sister of the late Elias S. Wabol, as the new administrator.

The court ruling, in addition, stated that a copy of the decision will be sent to the chair of the Northern Marianas Bar Association's ethics committee "for appropriate disciplinary action, if any, in respect to... Mitchell," referring to Moteisou's leasing the estate to Mitchell.

The Wabol v. Villacrusis & Transamerica case was initiated in 1984 by Mitchell's client and her brother Elias S. Wabol to challenge the lease of their Garapan property to Antoni T. Lim.

Elias died in 1986 and his sister was appointed administrator.

The most important issue of the case was the question whether Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution was valid, in light of the US constitutional provision that requires equal protection of the law.

Article 12 states that "The acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property within the commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent."

## CNMI given bigger CDBG grant money

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI has received since 1975 over \$10 million in Community Development Block Grant, a federal funding intended for community development projects.

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Director Marylou Ada said for this year CNMI got \$1.3 million in CDBG funds or an increase of \$43,000 from the previous year.

CDBG funds have been used for street paving, infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, and construction of multipurpose public facilities, said Ada in an interview.

Ada explained that the amount of CDBG funds will

depend upon CNMI's population size and how much HUD in Washington D.C. allocates to the insular areas.

The construction of the CDBG-funded Kagman Community Center is expected to begin this September, Ada earlier disclosed.

Other CDBG projects now on the NMHC's drawing board are shelter for battered women, community centers in As Matusis and Koblerville, halfway house for mentally patients, Tinian youth center, Pinatag Park rehabilitation, among other things.

The Multipurpose Center in Susupe and Beach Road pathway were constructed through CDBG funds.

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# Sablan: MVA to tighten belts

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

MARIANAS Visitors Authority board chairman David M. Sablan said MVA should tighten its belt and possibly cut down some expenses to work within its limited budget.

"We have to work within means. We soon have to cut down a lot in different areas," said Sablan, referring to MVA's \$7 million budget under continuing resolution.

Although he had no chance to really go into the budget for the different categories, Sablan said he intends to address the budget issue with Marian Aldan-Pierce, chairperson for the MVA board's Finance committee.

"First, we've got to be realistic. We cannot continue to yell for \$10 million when the money is not there," the MVA chairman pointed out.



David M. Sablan

According to former MVA acting managing director Alvaro Santos, the agency has submitted to the Governor's Office a \$10.7 million budget for Fiscal Year 1999 to make

CNMI's tourism industry competitor.

Santos earlier stated that MVA feels that the \$10,689,362 budget is needed to carry out specifically the "Visit the Marianas" promotion campaign.

Such campaign was reportedly not included in the \$7 million budget.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio had stated that the administration will approve the MVA's request for increased fund-

ing if the agency could guarantee to bring in tourists.

With the government's limited resources, Tenorio, however said, he does not know whether the administration can come up with the need the MVA is asking for "at this time."

Sablan said that to address the funding problem, MVA needs to adjust its ability to promote.

"I reiterate the fact that money is not everything. I'm going to get these

people to contribute time and effort," Sablan said.

The MVA chair said the agency must resort to "greasing" which means "roll up your sleeve and start working with your hands so that we can work with the little money that we got."

Sablan vowed to ensure that "everybody works within their means and maximize what money we've got."

## Underwood again sponsors bill for NMI delegate in US Congress

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

(This article is being published again after it was inadvertently cut short in yesterday's issue)

GUAM Delegate to U.S. Congress Robert Underwood has introduced a legislation which seeks to provide for a non-voting CNMI delegate to the US House of Representatives currently enjoyed by representatives from all other non-state areas of the US.

Guam and the US Virgin Islands were granted representation to the House of Representatives in 1972 while American Samoa was allowed to have its own representative in 1980. Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia were also represented in the US Lower House.

"As a Delegate, I know the difficulties attached to the kind of office I hold. There are real limitations to what I can do here. But I have the freedom to speak, to argue, to introduce legislation, to participate in debate..." Underwood said.

The legislation, according to him, is consistent with recommendations of the Commission of Federal Laws, appointed by President Ronald Reagan, which recommended a CNMI Delegate in 1985.

"Their current non-representa-

tion in the US House of Representatives is the least perfect representation of any citizen on American soil. The dedication and loyalty of our American citizens in the CNMI should not be overlooked," he stressed.

Bills seeking to grant CNMI non-voting delegate to the Lower Chamber have been introduced on five occasions — three times by Underwood and twice by Rep. Elton Gallegly [R-CA].

In 1996, the House Resources Committee, chaired by Rep. Don Young [R-AK], recommended that the House pass one of Gallegly's bills but it was pulled from consideration after being attacked by Rep. George Miller [D-CA].

Miller had argued that the people of the CNMI are unworthy of the privilege because of the abuse of foreign laborers which has allegedly occurred in the islands.

"But the privilege — if privilege it be — has been denied the people of the Northern Marianas for 23 years, since long before the issue of foreign labor abuse arose," CNMI Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta said.

CNMI residents have sought representation since the days of

the Marianas status negotiations on the Covenant in the early 1970s.

"In approving the Covenant of political union with the US, the people of the CNMI elected to live under federal laws. We do not fear it. We seek its protection for ourselves and for all persons living in the Northern Marianas. What we want is to have a voice in making those federal laws which govern us," Babauta said.

Underwood, at the same time, said the best way to resolve the labor and immigration problems is "to throw open the doors of the House and invite a representative of the CNMI to the table of public discussion."

"How unfair, how unkind, how un-American it is to keep any American from having this privilege," he reiterated, adding that a delegate from the CNMI will advance their cause and can work to resolve situations and concerns before they snowball into larger issues.

Under the legislation, the Northern Marianas Delegate will be able to introduce legislation, debate issues on the floor and vote on the amendment of legislation as it is drafted in committees.

## Transfer of licensing to Rev & Tax backed



David A. Wiseman

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce (SCC) is supporting government's plan to remove the business license application process from the commerce department to the Division of Revenue and taxation.

In his letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, David A. Wiseman, who chairs the Chamber's Government Relations Committee (GRC), said such a move "should increase the processing of business license, which, recently has been very slow."

"I am writing to you in support of your administration's plan to implement changes in the process of business license applications," said Wiseman.

"It is our understanding," he added, "that the plan would remove the business license application process from the Department of Commerce."

Wiseman said the issuance of business licenses is "primarily, a government revenue raising device and is considered to be a governmental ministerial task."

"In view thereof," said Wiseman, "the most appropriate and efficient agency to handle such task would be the (finance department's) Division of Revenue and Taxation."

"The Chamber compliments your administration in this move which will streamline the business license process," Wiseman said.

The administration's plan came in the midst of reported complaints by several businessmen about the government's licensing process which, they claimed, is being slowed down by red tape.

## Bellas denies motion to dismiss prostitution case

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday denied a motion to dismiss the case against alleged prostitutes Lu Xue Cui, Xia Lan Wang and Gui Qin Mao.

The counsel for the defendants wanted the case dismissed, saying that the CNMI government discriminates on the basis of gender in enforcing the anti-prostitution law.

No men have ever been prosecuted for violating the anti-prostitution law, the defendants' counsel said.

But according to Bellas, "the court is not persuaded by the defendants' attempt to bootstrap their selective prosecution argument."

He said the defendants' lawyers failed to demonstrate "a pattern of unequal administration of the law."



Timothy H. Bellas

The defendants' counsel said the government did not arrest nor charge seven male customers present inside Linda House Karaoke and Gift Shop at the time of the defendants' arrest.

However, the ruling said, "Mere presence in this establishment... means very

little without some evidence to support criminal wrongdoing."

Further, the defendants failed to prove that the government acted with a discriminatory purpose when it decided to prosecute them.

The defendants—Lu, Xiao and Gui—were charged with prostitution in June last year as a result of information detectives received about alleged prostitution-related activities conducted at Linda House Karaoke and Gift Shop in Garapan.

Assistant Attorney General Robert J. Steinborn represents the government in this case.

Joseph Horey is counsel to Lu and Xiao, while Bruce Berline is Gui's.

Linda House Karaoke and Gift Shop's owner herself, Linda Wang, is facing promoting prostitution charges.

**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby give notice that a Special Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 1998, 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, Professional Building in San Jose.

**AGENDA**

- I. Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Oath of Office
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Communications
- VI. Committee Progress Report
  - a. Public Relations and Advertising
  - b. Policy
  - c. Personnel
  - d. Tourist Site Preparation
  - e. Visit 99
  - f. Finance
  - g. Other Committees-Recommendation on Restructuring of Committee
- VII. Review of Budget for FY-1998/1999
- VIII. Miscellaneous-Legal Matters
- IX. Other Urgent Matters to be brought before the Board
- X. Announcement
- XI. Adjournment

/s/ David M. Sablan  
Chairman

## Man nabbed for trying to use stolen check

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

POLICE have arrested a man who was allegedly using a stolen check to purchase groceries.

Department of Public Safety (DPS) spokesperson Rose T. Ada yesterday said the incident happened at Joeten Dandan.

She said Scott Castro Blewett, 28, was caught with the \$600 check, which he allegedly tried to cash.

The check was stolen from Saipan E Tours and has been confiscated by the police, Ada said.

DPS has already filed a complaint in the Superior Court, charging Blewett with forgery and theft. Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas set the bail at \$2,000.

Meanwhile, DPS is asking the public for any information regarding the assault and stabbing incident at Beach Road.

The victim, Andres D. Dar, 56, was beaten up and stabbed by two young men.

The incident happened around midnight on Friday in front of the San Jose church.

Dar was passing by the area when he was approached by two young men, who are believed to be teenagers.

Ada said the two told Dar to give them cigarettes, which Dar didn't have.

When he walked away from the two, one of the men punched Dar in the back of his head.

Dar ran towards Beach Road, but the two caught up with him near Midnight Karaoke.

One of the two stabbed Dar several times.

DPS's phone number is 234-6333, while the Crime Stoppers hotline is 234-7272.

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**JOSE C. SABLAN**  
Mayor of Saipan

# 'Crisis gets businesses united'

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
THE CURRENT economic crisis being felt has caused business groups to band together to survive, according to Lynn Knight, press relations officer of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI).  
In an interview Knight said the local business community have been experiencing a boom over the past 10 years that "we really did not need to worry so much about promoting individual businesses."



Lynn Knight

"We were really lucky we were in a boomtown... a very, very exciting boomtown, we immediately got hotel occupancy up to like 86 percent," said Knight.  
"Now," she added, "that has changed."  
Knight said the local business community "is getting together for the first time in ways they have never done before."  
She said such banding together "is actually a good thing" in that "in the long run, we are going to learn to work with each other."

According to Knight, current efforts by the business community "will pay off in a couple of years. "A real rebound is going to (happen after) two years," she said.  
These efforts, she said, includes tapping new markets and finding ways "to interest people in coming" to the Commonwealth.  
Knight has said HANMI is alarmed over the 30 percent drop in hotel occupancy rates.  
She said hardest hit by this are the medium-priced hotels.  
"A lot of people that were in the

middle before are now going to go for the lower-priced ones," Knight explained.  
Knight said HANMI members are now "dealing with it their own way."  
This, she said, includes downsizing workforce and "doing different kinds of packages and special promotions."  
Among hotels reported to have been planning to reduce workforce is the newly-completed Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino (TDHC).

## Gov't lay-offs can displace alien workers in private sector

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
NONRESIDENT workers will ultimately bear the brunt of lay offs in the public sector, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI) predicted.  
In an interview, HANMI PIO and businesswoman Lynn Knight said government office workers rendered jobless as a result of cost-cutting measures "will have to go to the private sector."

"And they are going to end up replacing nonresident workers," Knight said.  
Knight said government lay offs will be necessary as the economic crunch continues.

She explained that with less private sector revenues, less taxes go to government. And, she added, with government having less money to spend, the bail out would be to reduce its size.

"Sooner or later we are going to have lay offs. Certainly, in some way, we are going to have to reduce the size of government," said Knight.

"Local persons qualified to do office work will be absorbed by the private sector. There is going to be a shift," said Knight.

"I'm sure of it," she added citing a statute that compels firms to give preference to resident workers qualified for the position.

"So you'll have an office worker from government replacing an office worker in the private sector," Knight said.

The economy has been experiencing a slowdown since the last few months of 1997 following a series of currency devaluation in several Asian countries.

The devaluation has hit hard on the tourism industry which has continuously seen a dwindling visitor arrival since the start of this year.

The situation is being aggravated by the ongoing Japanese economic crisis.

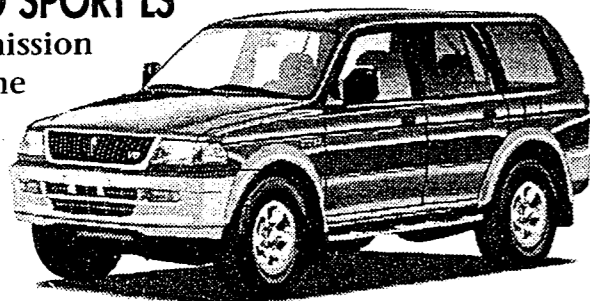
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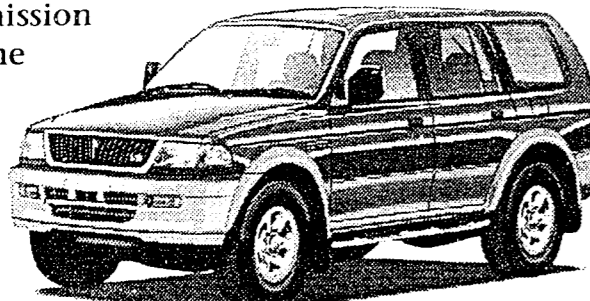
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# AROUND the Islands

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

## Kantan Isla next month

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE BIGGEST gathering of local musicians will be held on September 11 and 12 at the American Memorial Amphi Theater.  
Dubbed as "Kantan Isla Concert" (Island Music), the event

will be hosted by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) in support of the local musicians in the island.  
Cindy Macaranas, event organizer, said the event is meant to allow local artists promote their own brand of music.

There will be a total of eight local bands and four soloists that will be performing in the concert.  
Bands have to perform their own materials.  
"However, local (ones) could perform an English piece (provided that the) song (is) their own

original composition."  
"They cannot perform the songs of other artists. This concert is a way of celebrating the talents of these local musicians. They should be promoting their songs and themselves and not the songs of the foreign artists," said Macaranas.

hotel people could invite them in different occasions," continued Macaranas.  
The rules of this event is that each bands will have a sponsor and the sponsors have to pay the bands.  
Macaranas said that the registration for the bands in the Kantan

Continued on page 20

## Public invited to Club 200

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE AMERICAN Red Cross is inviting the public to come and participate at the Red Cross' 10th Anniversary Club 200 Dinner and Raffle event on September 5 (Labor Day Weekend) from 6 to 10 pm at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan.  
The purpose of this event is to

raise funds for the training of Red Cross volunteers. Red Cross said that their volunteers are conducting daily training activities teaching the people the skills and giving them the information they need to keep the families safe.  
Red Cross also trains volunteers to respond to local emergencies. The organization's objective is to keep the families safe everyday.

The Club 200 Dinner and Raffle event costs \$200 per ticket. The ticket includes an entry for two to the event that include a buffet dinner, drinks and entertainment, one raffle entry and a bigger chance to win great prizes.  
The ticket could be paid through a credit card at the Pacific Gardenia—Amex, Visa, MC.

Macaranas added that the difference of the concert is the musicians will be paid unlike some other cultural events.  
"Our reason for this is for the musicians to perform better. Because in other concerts where they were singing for free, the tendency is they just throw out their songs and that's it."  
"Here, they really have to master their art because they are being paid for it. Our reason for this is because we will be inviting managers from different hotels. These

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## PacificCare gives back to Guam, NMI communities

TAMUNING, Guam—At least 10 non-profit organizations on Guam and the CNMI will receive \$35,000 from PacificCare Asia Pacific, a division of PacificCare Health Systems, Inc. as it formally introduce the PacificCare Foundation in celebration of its anniversary.

PacificCare Health Systems President and CEO Alan Hoops and Bill PacificCare Foundation President Bill

## Guam calendar

### GMTA meeting

Compiled by Maxine Hillary  
Variety News Staff  
THE Guam Mass Transit Authority Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting today at 6:00 p.m. in the GMTA Conference Room at 236 East O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam. For more information or special accommodations please call Ramona Perez at 475-4682.

### UOG enrollment

ENROLLMENT at the University of Guam for the Fall Semester will continue through Friday, August 14. Late registration will be held on August 17 and 18.  
Classes begin on August 17. For more information please call 734-2244. TTY 735-2243.

## NMBPA meeting set

THE NORTHERN Marianas Beauty Pageant Association will hold its general membership meeting today, August 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the DFS Conference Room.

Items on the agenda will focus on the NMI Beauty Pageant, which will be celebrating its 25th

Continued on page 20

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2x4x20	STD & BTR	\$7.85

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# AROUND the Islands

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## Tinianian to host regional meet

THE TINIAN & Aguiguan Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting the Twelfth Annual Convention of the Pacific Basin Association of Conservation Districts (PBACD) commencing September 9 thru September 11 at the Multi-Purpose Gymnasium on Tinian.

The inception of the Pacific Basin Association of Conservation Districts in 1986 is unique to the Pacific Basin as it represents the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei and American Samoa.

Soon the Republic of Palau will be added to this organization further expanding representation within the Pacific Basin.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts meet annually on rotation basis to identify and resolve mutual resource conservation problems.

The theme for the 1998 convention is "Conservation and the Pacific Islands' Nature Treasure." This theme highlights Pacific island cultures, conservation and sustainability of our limited natural resources.

Guest speakers from various U.S. government agencies along with speakers from local government agencies will address island resource concerns.

All interested individuals are invited. Registration will take place at the conference site from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 9. There is a registration fee of \$50.00 for participation in the convention.

For more information, please call the Tinian & Aguiguan Soil & Water Conservation District at the Department of Lands & Natural Resources at telephonenumber 433-9298/9293.



STAKES. GTE Pacifica General Manager Dave Rogers pose with well-wishers (from left) Tinian Chamber Pres. Philip Mendiola-Long, Senate Vice President Tomas P. Villagomez, Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Sablan, Utilities Board Chair Juan S. Dela Cruz, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Manager Lawrence Fong, and Cong. David M. Apatang.

Photo by Jojo Dass

## Registration begins for Fall Semester

REGISTRATION for Fall Semester classes at Northern Marianas College begins Tuesday, August 18 at the As Terlaja campus.

"We are offering dozens of courses in a host of different fields for people interested in upgrading their skills or pursuing certificate and degree programs," said Vice-President Jack M. Sablan.

"NMC has courses in word processing, accounting, CNMI history, developmental and college English, teacher training, nursing and much

more," Sablan said.

"New students should come to the college as soon as possible," said Dean of Student Services George Pangelinan, "so they can complete application and financial aid forms and sign up to take the free English and math placement tests required before registering for classes."

"Forms take time to process and placement tests are only offered at certain times," Pangelinan said, "it makes sense to take care of these

Continued on page 19

## BDC to hold work shops

THE NMC Business Development Center's Director Jack J.M. Peters announced a free workshop on Marketing, Finance and Business Law for small businesses to be held on Thursday, August 13, at 6 pm.

The workshop will be conducted on Saipan in the Distance Education Room at the Saipan campus of Northern Marianas College.

According to Peters, "The workshops will be presented by several members of the BDC's

Continued on page 19

## Irked by DPW 'inaction,' Cepeda builds bus stop on his own funds

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

DISMAYED by the apparent "irreponsiveness" of a government agency in meeting the needs of students, Cong. Frank Cepeda (Precinct 4) donated a new school bus stop at Tanapag area where a lot of students reside.

Cepeda said he has been requesting the Department of Public Works for two years now to put up a bus stop at the said area where there are a lot of households whose children are studying. But until last month, his request remains ignored.

"I have approached DPW for this. It's been two years but up to now, they haven't made any moves," said Cepeda, adding that many residents in the area are pushing for such project.

The bus stop, which has been painted red, blue and white, resembling the American flag, is located across the Saipan Ice in Tanapag.

According to Cepeda, he used his personal money to erect the bus stop which took four days to finish.

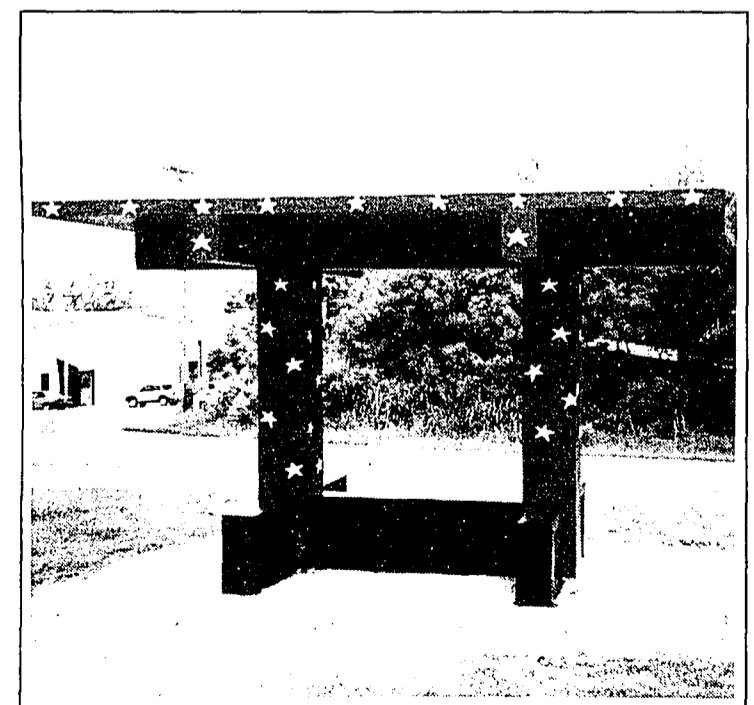
"If only government employ-

ees do their job to provide the public with the needed services, then they can help improve this community," he said.

Meanwhile, Public School System Commissioner Rita H. Inos said that she still have to review the list of school regis-

trants to see if there really is a need for school buses to load and unload students at the new bus stops.

"I'm gonna have to look at the routes of the buses first but I appreciate Cong. Cepeda's move," said Inos.



The new blue, red and white-painted bus stop donated by Rep. Frank Cepeda is located in front of the Saipan Ice in Tanapag.

Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

## Froilan gov't sat on Puerto Rico dump problem -- Cing



David M. Cing

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

TINIAN — Former Governor Froilan C. Tenorio "did much talking" but had actually sat on the worsening Puerto Rico dump problem, Sen. David M. Cing said Friday.

Expressing concern on the dredged materials that have piled up on the dump, Cing also proposed that government start looking for abandoned quarry sites where these may be transferred.

"I don't think they (previous administration) managed that (dump). As you can see, it (dredged materials) pile up and it goes all the way up it seems that they did not touch that at all," said Cing.

"I believe," he added, "that he (Tenorio) did not do much about that (dump)."

"Maybe he was talking just because the election was (getting) close (at the time) but in terms of action, there was no action," said Cing.

"Election or no election, it was obvious that it was a problem already.

"As for me, I don't care if I'm losing the election or not. If I am the governor, I still have to concentrate on that... and do what I have to do in regards to solving that problem," Cing stressed.

Utilities Executive Director Timothy Villagomez has said the previous administration spent "close to a million dollars" for a solid waste management design that will not work because it was "incomplete."

The design also failed to pass standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and smoke emission levels.

Cing said a Commonwealth-wide body should be formed "and see if Tinian or Rota has a place that needs to be filled back."

"Maybe we can move that here by barge or something less costly," he said.

He stressed though that abandoned quarry sites on Saipan are suitable areas for transfer sites.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) started dredging the island's seaport area last year as part of a plan to further deepen the site's seabed and have the port



Froilan C. Tenorio

accommodate bigger sea vessels.

Big transport operators have however shunned the move explaining that the CNMI is still too small a market for them.

The CPA is now being asked to transfer the dredged materials to the Marpi landfill.

It has also issued requests for proposals for a new solid waste management design that will likewise make use of an incineration system.

At least four firms have responded to the call.

There are fears the dredged materials could cause mudslides once the typhoon season sets in.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC), citing reports culled from federal weather forecasters, has said the islands are in for weather disturbances similar to last year's Joan, Keith, and Paka.

## NMC may get full powers to invest endowment funds

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

A LEGISLATOR is proposing to give the Northern Marianas College board full powers to invest its \$5 million Land Grant Endowment, although it will still be required to seek approval from the Commonwealth Development Authority on issues concerning bond flotation and getting loans.

House committee on health, education and welfare chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said while his bill seeks to grant NMC the power to choose where to invest its land endowment fund, there is also a need to have a consistent flow of accountability on any bond issuance.

"Two issues arise, one is the legislative authority in appropriations and sanctioning of borrowings of the Commonwealth; second is that under the statute creating CDA and the recently enacted Public Law 11-3, we need to have a consistent flow of accountability," he said.

House Bill 11-154, also known as the Postsecondary Education Amendment Act of 1998, seeks to empower the Board of Regents to invest Land Grant Endowment Funds, other endowment funds and funds donated to or raised by NMC in a manner that will yield a fair and reasonable rate of return.

Hofschneider said since NMC does not receive funds from the CNMI government for capital improvement, granting its board to invest trust funds will enable the College to build necessary facilities.



Heinz Hofschneider

Public Law 11-3 designates \$500,000 annually from the interest of Marianas Public Land Trust fund to be deposited into the NMC trust fund.

"The whole purpose of this legislation [HB 11-154] is to allow the endowment money of NMC... to relieve the restrictive language as to what sort of investment they can be allowed to pour in the money," he said.

The bill stated that the NMC Trust Fund will have to be invested with care, prudence and diligence in fixed income and equity holdings. It also requires the \$5 million Land Grant Endowment to be deposited in the Trust Fund and similarly invested.

"The interest of such investment shall be used for payment of bonds and for other related purposes," Hofschneider said, but promptly adding that his bill does not allow NMC to get loans or issue bonds without the concurrence of the CDA.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE  
August 6, 1998

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, SECTION 11, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING ON JULY 30, 1998 WILL RECONVENE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1998 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, WAKIN'S BUILDING, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

AGENDA:

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - Roll Call
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- ADOPTION OF MINUTES
- REPORTS
  - Fund's Availability Report
  - Chairman's/Executive Director's Report
  - Personnel & Budget Committee Report
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- DCD MATTERS
  - Loan Applications
- ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- OTHER MATTERS
- ADJOURNMENT

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

(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/JUAN S. TENORIO  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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## Elsewhere in the Pacific Fiji warned economic recession will worsen

SUVA (Pacnews)—An economist has warned that Fiji's economic recession will worsen next year.

Economist and National Federation Party M-P Wadan Narsey says taxpayers will feel the worst of the worsening economic conditions — and will need to cut down on unnecessary spending and save more money.

Mr Narsey urged people to cut down spending on unnecessary goods such as alcohol, tobacco products, jewellery, kava and toys.

He says the recession is will continue into next year and if the Fiji sugar industry has another poor year, the economy will slide even further.

Meanwhile, the Fiji government's forecasted revenue

for this year has been reviewed downward.

Finance minister, Jim Ah Koy has told the Lower House of Fiji's parliament of the contraction of the economy by 4 percent this year will have a profound impact on government's fiscal performance.

Environmentalists fear the

## Brown tree snake believed from Guam found in Hawaii

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—Another brown tree snake has been found in Hawaii, after being carried into the American state aboard a plane from the American territory of Guam.

The snake, which first entered Guam from Melanesia during World War Two, has devastated local wildlife, causing nine of Guam's 11 native bird species to become extinct.

Environmentalists fear the

same destruction could occur in Hawaii and other Pacific islands if the snake becomes established.

This is the second time that the brown tree snake has been found aboard a plane in Honolulu.

The dead snake was discovered in the landing gear of the Air Micronesia jet by an employee servicing the plane at Honolulu International Airport.

## NZ foreign minister meets with Solomons leaders

WELLINGTON (Pacnews)—The New Zealand foreign minister Don McKinnon is holding talks with Solomon Islands government leaders on the second leg of a five-nation Pacific tour.

Mr McKinnon is to meet the Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu to discuss bilateral issues and aid programmes and is later expected to

open the Small Business Enterprise Centre in Honiara.

The Centre is being funded by New Zealand as part of its aid programme to support private sector development in Solomon Islands.

Mr McKinnon who is leading a 40-member strong delegation will also visit Nauru, Kiribati and Fiji.

## Solomons businessman alleges PM received \$21K donation from PNG

WELLINGTON (Pacnews)—A Solomon Islands businessman claims the country's Prime Minister received US\$21-thousand dollars from the Papua New Guinea government - which was meant as a donation to a cultural organisation.

Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu has rejected the allegation, say-

ing that he was never given the money.

Francis Sawane, a prominent businessman and former key supporter of Ulufa'alu says the money was donated by the PNG High Commission in Honiara to the traditional Shell Money Making Association.

Sawane says he should have received the money on behalf of

the Association - and claims instead Ulufa'alu received the donation during campaigning for the last Solomon Islands general election.

The allegations have now been referred to the country's Leadership Code Commission, which investigates improper behaviour by politicians and other public office holders.

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### How to list your event with Community Calendar

- Listings must pertain to events such as weddings, christenings, anniversaries, special observations or occasions, achievements of local residents and activities of non-political local organizations and groups.
- Information must be accompanied by all information concerning the event. I.e., names, dates, places, event title, etc. Also include phone numbers and contacts for additional information. Be as complete as possible.
- Photos must be accompanied by appropriate captions and identification of subjects in photos.

Listings for CNMI can be faxed to (670) 234-9271 or mailed to: Marianas Variety, Community Calendar, P. O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950

Listings for Guam can be faxed to (671) 649-4687 or mailed to: Marianas Variety, Community Calendar, 960 South Marine Drive, Suite 152, Tamuning, Guam 96911. E-mail us at: yas@gtepacific.net

## Nauru foreshadows cuts to public service

YAREN (Pacnews)—The Government of Nauru has formed a Budget Review Committee, to explore ways of reducing the islands expenditure and increasing revenues, while enhancing the delivery of government services.

Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo, who is also the Minister of Finance, has foreshadowed

## Opposition head calls on PM to step down

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands Opposition leader Job Duddley Tausinga has called on the prime minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu to resign.

In a press statement, Mr Tausinga says that the Solomon Islands Alliance for Change government no longer has the support of Members of Parliament and therefore it would be unconstitutional to rule with a minority.

He says it would also be an abuse of the democratic system enshrined in the constitution and a mockery of the principles of transparency, responsibility and accountability.

Tausinga also confirms that a list signed by all Opposition MPs has been submitted to the acting governor general, Paul Tovua.

The Solomon Islands Governor General has confirmed receiving the signed list.

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## Fiji politician ill, taken to hospital

WELLINGTON (Pacnews)—The leader of the opposition Fijian Association Party Josevata Kamikamica has been admitted to hospital with a mild stroke.

Family members say he is in a stable condition and is recovering.

Mr Kamikamica who has not been in parliament since the 1994 snap election, has been trying to form a coalition with the Fiji Labour Party and the Party of National Unity, ahead of the next general election.

The parties are reported to be in the final stages of coming up with a common election platform.

## MPs opposed to new constitution are urged to contest open seats

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's Opposition leader, Jai Ram Reddy has challenged colleagues who have criticised the country's new Constitution, to contest open electoral seats and not just communal ones.

Open seats can be contested by any Fijian racial group, while communal seats are allocated to one racial group - either Fiji Indians or indigenous Fijians.

Mr Reddy told parliament the government has taken a giant step in introducing the twenty-five open seats — but some MPs are still reluctant to take the step of standing in them.

He says many of the MPs who refuse to run in the open seats are those who spoke out loudest against the 1990 Constitution, which prompted the change.

## Vanuatu taps Mobil for fuel

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—The Vanuatu government has asked the Mobil Oil company to temporarily supply all government fuel needs in the capital, Port Vila and the town of Luganville on Santo island.

Mobil, which operates 85-percent of the government fuel storage facilities will underake the new supply

arrangement, until a tender is prepared and floated for the total supply of government fuel requirements.

The government's Energy Unit in Port Vila says Vanuatu's other fuel suppliers, British Petroleum and Shell will be able to bid for the contract, once the tender details are finalised.

## Tidal wave was 15m high

WELLINGTON (Pacnews)—Australian scientists say the tsunami which hit Papua New Guinea last month reached up to fifteen metres high.

The Australian Geological Survey organisation says less than 20 min-

utes elapsed between the earthquake which caused the tidal wave - and the tsunami striking — leaving the villagers with no time to escape.

More than 2-thousand people are confirmed to have been killed in the disaster.

# Override attempt on sentencing bill looms

By Brandon N. Ashcraft  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Guam legislature is likely to override Gov. Carl Gutierrez's veto of a bill establishing a so-called "greater truth sentencing."

The bill, authored by Sen. Mark Forbes, was vetoed by the governor last May 6.

The override move is part of the

## Trial for NMI Corrections officer slated

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court trial of a Division of Corrections officer charged with unauthorized use of a government vehicle, theft of services and misconduct in public office has been set on Oct. 19.

According to the complaint filed by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) Corrections Officer Thomas R. Limes, 41, on Dec. 13, 1997 allegedly used a government vehicle to bring four jail inmates to his ranch in Tanapag.

Limes then allegedly asked the inmates to slaughter a cow.

Limes was arraigned in court yesterday.

AGO has accused him of "operating, using a government vehicle for personal business and unauthorized non-government purpose."

Limes is also accused of "unlawfully using the services of inmates for personal business," and for misconduct in public office.

Limes is represented by lawyer Ken Govendo, while Assistant Attorney General Marvin Williams represents the government.

In another court case, AGO sued Jerilyn Igitol Cabrera of As Lito for allegedly assaulting Nora Mari Tee with a Benjamin air rifle.

According to the AGO complaint filed in the Superior Court, Cabrera allegedly "threaten to cause or offer to cause bodily injury" to Tee.

Cabrera was also charged with criminal mischief for allegedly damaging an unspecified property of Tee, which was valued as less than \$250.

## Two nabbed on Guam with 'ice'

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Two residents were arrested early yesterday morning for drugs on Route 14, in Tamuning.

According to PIO, Larry Flores, of the Guam Police Department, Sargent C.N. Castro pulled over a white Mitsubishi mirage, for a cracked front windshield. The officer noticed that both the driver and the front seat passenger appeared to be nervous, in addition they could not produce any identification.

Sargent Castro inquired if they had in their possession any contraband or weapons. They said stated that they had none. He asked if he could search the vehicle, the driver, and the passen-

Continued on page 20



Carl Gutierrez

agenda the next session.

The bill seeks amendments to a Guam law dealing with the granting of parole to convicted criminals.

Under the law, "An offender sentenced to a term of imprisonment may be released conditionally on parole upon completion of two-thirds of his fixed sentence," unless the term of imprisonment was given due to a violent criminal act.

The offender may be released "con-

ditionally on parole upon completion of 85 percent of his fixed sentence."

Violent crimes, under the code, include aggravated murder, murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, first and second degree criminal sexual conduct, aggravated arson and first and second degree robbery.

The Forbes seeks to amend provisions dealing with exception for parole eligibility, to say that any individual confined in Guam would be eligible for parole release after completing two-thirds of their sentence or after a time set by the Court.

Unless an offender is serving a sentence for a violent crime, he would be considered for release on parole after spending 85 percent of his prison sentence. Persons serving a lifetime sentence shall be considered for parole after twenty-five years.

In his veto message, Gutierrez noted that Bill No. 67 had a similar proposal

Continued on page 20

## Reader's Digest: No malice in NMI article

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE READER'S Digest magazine said the 1997 article which was the subject of a \$3-million libel suit filed by a Rota businessman contains constitutionally protected "expressions of opinion which are not actionable."

Richard W. Pierce, counsel for defendant Reader's Digest Association, Inc., also stated that plaintiff Rafael L. Quitugua cannot prove that the article was published with actual malice or any other kind of fault.

"The article is privileged on the ground that it constitutes fair comment regarding a matter of public concern and attention," said Pierce in the defendant's answer to the complaint.

Quitugua, through counsel Steve Pixley, sued the magazine in connection with the article, which he said, raised "false" and "malicious"

Continued on page 20

## Guam public hearings slated

By Brandon N. Ashcraft  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Guam legislature is set to conduct this week oversight hearings on various proposals including the confirmation of certain individuals appointed to government positions.

The Committee on Agriculture, Land, Housing, Community and

Human Resources Development meets at 9 a.m. today to hear the confirmation of Jose M. Guzman, who was appointed director of the Guam Housing Corporation Board. If confirmed, Guzman would have a six-year term at the board.

Also set for confirmation hearing is Ernest S. Wussig, appointed mem-

Continued on page 20



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# China battles dike breaches

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
**BEIJING (AP)** — China dynamited dikes along a stretch of the swollen Yangtze River on Sunday in a desperate bid to divert floodwaters menacing cities and huge swathes of farmland in central Hubei province.

Second dikes were blown at 12 a.m. (0400 GMT) in Jianli County, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) upriver from the industrial center of Wuhan, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. More solid primary dikes farther back from the river remain mostly intact along the Yangtze.

The aim was to divert up to 800 million cubic meters (28 billion cubic feet) of water and lower the raging Yangtze's water level by 10-25 centimeters (4-10 inches), it reported.

That appeared to be an effort to

avoid flooding the much larger Jingjiang diversion area farther upriver, where about 330,000 people have already been evacuated to high ground. Their homes and fields will be covered by water if China's Cabinet gives the last-ditch order to open floodgates and possibly blast Jingjiang's dikes.

For that to happen, water levels on the Yangtze would have to reach the record high of 45 meters (148.5 feet) at Shashi city, north of the flood diversion area, Xinhua reported. The water level at Shashi stood at 44.70 meters (147.5 feet) at noon Sunday, after falling slightly from Saturday, Xinhua said.

Jingjiang was last used to divert the Yangtze in 1954, when floods killed more than 30,000 people. A curfew has been im-

posed in the area and security forces removed residents who were reluctant to leave behind their homes and belongings.

In Jianli, 50,000 residents were forced out of their homes ahead of the flooding, and many were "reluctant to move," Xinhua said.

Xinhua has said that residents affected by any diversion schemes will be compensated for lost property and crops.

Soldiers and civilian volunteers, meanwhile, struggled to plug a major breach in the Yangtze dike at Jiujiang city that burst Friday, Xinhua said.

A lack of expertise and proper equipment were slowing efforts to fill a hole in the dike that has flooded a 4-square-kilometer (1.6-square-mile) area of the city.

Eight river boats have been sunk in the breach to try to block it,



Chinese soldiers in Jiujiang drop sandbags into floodwaters in an attempt to stop it from flowing over levee in Jiangxi province Sunday. AP

along with several truckloads of stone, soybeans, rice and various other materials, the agency said.

Residents have constructed a 90-meter (297-foot)-long temporary levee behind the breached dike to contain the flooding, with another 3,000-meter (9,900-foot)-long dike raised behind it as an extra precaution, Xinhua said.

The Jiujiang hole is one of the most serious breaches so far in the approximately 30,000 kilometers (18,600 miles) of dikes in the Yangtze region that authorities worry could collapse after weeks of rain and flooding.

A flood crest, the fourth this

year, was heading toward Jiujiang after roaring through upstream sections of the river in Hubei province Saturday, Xinhua said. Water levels at Wuhan, an industrial center in Hubei with 7 million inhabitants, have been rising slowly since Saturday, it said.

More than 2,000 people have died nationwide in floods caused by seasonal rains that arrived a month early and fell much harder than usual. Millions more have been made homeless, while flood damage and the relief effort are expected to be a major drag on the Chinese economy in the second half of 1998.

## Hong Kong issues year's first cyclone warning

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Tropical depression Penny aimed at the South China coast on Sunday, prompting Hong Kong officials to issue their first tropical storm warning of the year.

At 3 p.m. (0700 GMT), Penny was centered about 420 kilometers (260 miles) southeast of Hong Kong in the South China Sea. It was expected to move towards the coast of Guangdong, passing within 200 kilometers (125 miles) of Hong Kong on Monday, said a bulletin issued by the Hong Kong Observatory.

A tropical depression is a cyclone with maximum wind speed near the center of 62 kilometers an hour (38mph).

Maximum winds near the center of Penny were estimated at 25 knots (29mph). Penny is forecast to strengthen gradually and move northwest or west-northwest at about 22 kilometers per hour (14 mph).

A standby storm warning was issued in Hong Kong on Sunday morning.

Although officials said it still was difficult to predict Penny's exact path, a higher warning level was possible. If a level 3 alert is issued, shelters will be opened for people who live on boats on Hong Kong's numerous islands.

Winds were forecast to strengthen Sunday night and weather Monday was expected to deteriorate with squally showers, the bulletin said.

# Jiang visit to Japan on

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese President Jiang Zemin will visit Japan this fall as planned amid growing concern over the ripple effects of Japan's worsening economic crisis, state media reported.

Jiang is "willing to engage in a wide range of contacts with all walks of life in Japan, including the government and the public," the official Xinhua News Agency quoting

him as telling newly appointed Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura.

China is anxious for Japan to prop up the sagging yen and reverse a dip in its imports that contributed to lower Chinese economic growth in the first half of the year.

Komura briefed Jiang on measures the government of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi is taking to revive the ailing Japanese economy, and promised Japan will make "contributions to easing the Asian economic difficulty," Xinhua said.

Japan is China's biggest trading partner and a major source of investment and development aid. But their relationship is still haunted by memories of Japan's brutal 1931-1945 occupation of China, and Jiang reminded Komura that Japanese militarism had brought "catastrophes to the Chinese people."

Obuchi's new Cabinet will "strictly observe" the sentiments expressed by Murayama, Komura said.

Jiang had planned a state visit to Japan in the fall to meet with Obuchi's predecessor Ryutaro Hashimoto. But Hashimoto resigned abruptly after his governing Liberal Democratic Party suffered a major setback in parliamentary elections last month.

Japan had planned a state visit to Japan in the fall to meet with Obuchi's predecessor Ryutaro Hashimoto. But Hashimoto resigned abruptly after his governing Liberal Democratic Party suffered a major setback in parliamentary elections last month.

## Obuchi to compromise with opposition on financial bills



Keizo Obuchi

**TOKYO (AP)** — To accommodate demands from opposition parties, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's government would be willing to amend key bills aimed at cleaning up the morass of bad loans weighing down Japan's economy, Obuchi was quoted as saying Sunday.

"We need to pass (the bills) as early as possible by striking a compromise with opposition parties, no matter what the cost," Obuchi was quoted as saying by Kyodo News service.

Last week, the government and the governing Liberal Democratic Party submitted six bills to Parliament de-

signed to clean up bad loans in the financial system and establish a "bridge bank" system aimed at preventing bank failures from triggering a wave of corporate bankruptcies.

Opposition politicians say the proposals will bail out struggling banks without attacking their problems head-on. They have also called for measures to punish executives guilty of mismanaging banks.

"We must enter into talks with opposition forces that may have negotiable plans," Obuchi was reported as saying at a news conference in the southwestern city of Nagasaki.

Although the LDP holds a 13-seat majority in the more powerful lower house of the two-chamber parliament, the opposition controls the upper house.

The bank legislation is needed to clean up the estimated 80 trillion yen (\$551 billion) in bad loans clogging the country's financial system. Most of the debts are left over from the collapse of the real estate market in the early 1990s.



A group of "Haneto" or dancers of the Nebuta Festival, dance ahead of their giant paper "Nebuta" float of "Red Devil" Tuesday in Aomori City, northern Japan. About 2,000 dancers joined the six-day annual summer festival. AP

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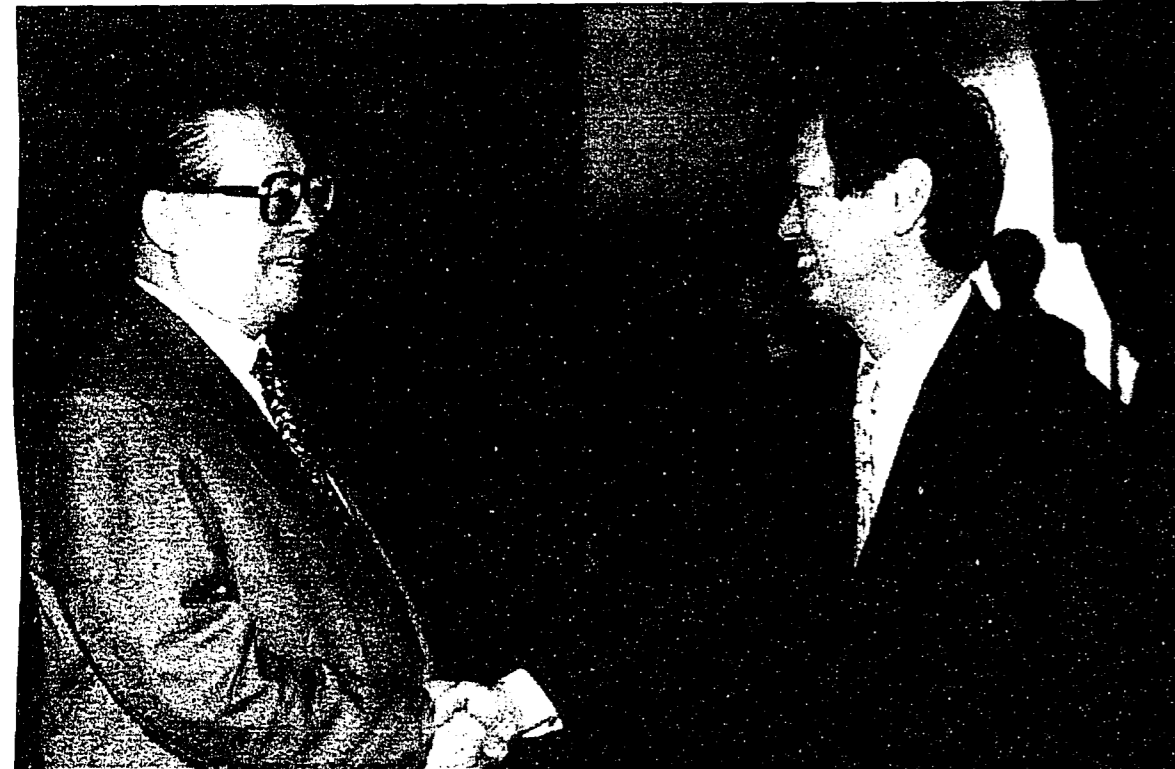
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# Myanmar nabs 18 foreigners



Japan's new Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura (right) shakes hands with Chinese President Jiang Zemin during their meeting at Beidaheon Sunday. Jiang will visit Japan this fall. AP

**By Patrick McDowell**  
**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — Myanmar's military regime detained 18 foreigners Sunday, including six Americans, for distributing pamphlets the government said were intended to incite unrest.

The detentions came a day after the 10th anniversary of a nationwide uprising against military rule that passed without any reports of disruptions in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

In addition to the U.S. citizens, three Thais, three Malaysians, three Indonesians, two Philippine nationals and an Australian were being held, a government official said in a statement faxed to The

Associated Press in Bangkok.

The coalition of private organizations that sent the activists confirmed the nationalities, but identified only one person: Jaran Dithachai, a political science professor at Bangkok's Rangsit University. The other identities were withheld pending notification of families.

Annelyn Deluna, a coalition member, said the 18 people were the entire group sent to Myanmar, where they were handing out "goodwill messages" supporting human rights and democracy and urging people to remember the 1988 uprising. She was hopeful they would be deported Monday.

The government statement said

18 foreigners "were apprehended attempting to incite unrest in Yangon," the capital of Myanmar.

"Foreigners who were distributing the pamphlets in downtown Yangon were reported to the police by citizens and taken to police stations for questioning and are being detained while the investigation continues," according to the statement.

Seditious materials were found in their hotel rooms, it said.

The government identified the organizers as Na Ga Forum Asia Group, but the activists told The Associated Press that that was the name of their travel agency. They described themselves as an ad hoc coalition of pro-democracy

groups from six countries.

The government said the foreigners arrived on tourist visas Friday from Bangkok and had planned to leave Sunday.

A U.S. Embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the case "has been raised with senior leaders, who have assured us that the Americans are being well-treated. We are seeking consular access to them."

Exile groups and pro-democracy activists had been predicting for weeks that the people of Myanmar might rise up against the government Saturday, the 10th anniversary of nationwide protests against military rule. The government changed leaders but eventually crushed the unrest with bullets and bayonets. As many as 3,000 people died.

Sources close to the opposition National League for Democracy told reporters in Bangkok that leader Aung San Suu Kyi had ordered her supporters not to provoke the military.

The anniversary came two weeks ahead of an Aug. 21 deadline set by Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, for the government to finally convene the parliament elected in 1990.

The opposition overwhelmingly won the vote, but the military never allowed the parliament to meet. The military has ruled the country since 1962.

Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest or largely confined to her home for the past decade, recently engaged authorities in a six-day standoff on a road outside the capital.

## Taiwan detains China official in drug busts

**By MARCOS CALO MEDINA**  
**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** — Police arrested eight men, including a mainland Chinese official and a former Hong Kong police officer, in two drug busts which yielded millions of dollars worth of heroin and amphetamines, news reports said Sunday.

The drug busts were reportedly the largest in Taiwan history.

Deng Deming, 43, who works for mainland China's State Council office in Hong Kong, was arrested with Hong Kong residents Cheng Wei-wen and Li Kuo-chiang, both 50, Malaysian Tan Chien-chi, 45, an Taiwanese Hsu Chin-chien, 35, in a bust which yielded eight kilograms (18 pounds) of heroin, the official Central News Agency reported.

United Daily Evening News said that 50-year-old Li was a former Hong Kong policeman.

Despite tenuous relations between China and Taiwan, the Chinese mainland is thought to be a major source of illegal drugs passing through the island, but it was rare for a mainland official to be arrested in a drug bust.

It was unclear whether the arrest might further damage relations between the two sides, which have been strained by the killing of a Taiwanese city counselor on the mainland.

The heroin — wrapped in 22 separate pieces — was found in food containers in an unidentified building in Taipei, and had an estimated street value of 300 million Taiwan dollars (\$ 8.8 million), the news agency said.

Deng, allegedly part of a drug syndicate that stretched from Hong Kong to Singapore, flew in from Hong Kong on Aug. 5. He was rounded up early Saturday morning while doing business with the other suspects, the report added.

Taiwan Television quoted police as saying the four men were using Taiwan as a transit point for drug distribution to other parts of southeast Asia. The TV report added that the heroin may have come from south China's Yunnan province, which straddles the narcotics production area known as the Golden Triangle in northern Myanmar.

"The packaging of the heroin pieces are all different, so we cannot determine at this point where they originally came from," Taipei District Inspector Huang Pao-hen said on television.

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A supporter of Taiwan independence mourns the death of Lin Ti-chuan, a member of southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung city council, who was kidnapped and murdered during a visit to the northern Chinese town of Haicheng. AP

*If any gov't is behind African attacks:*

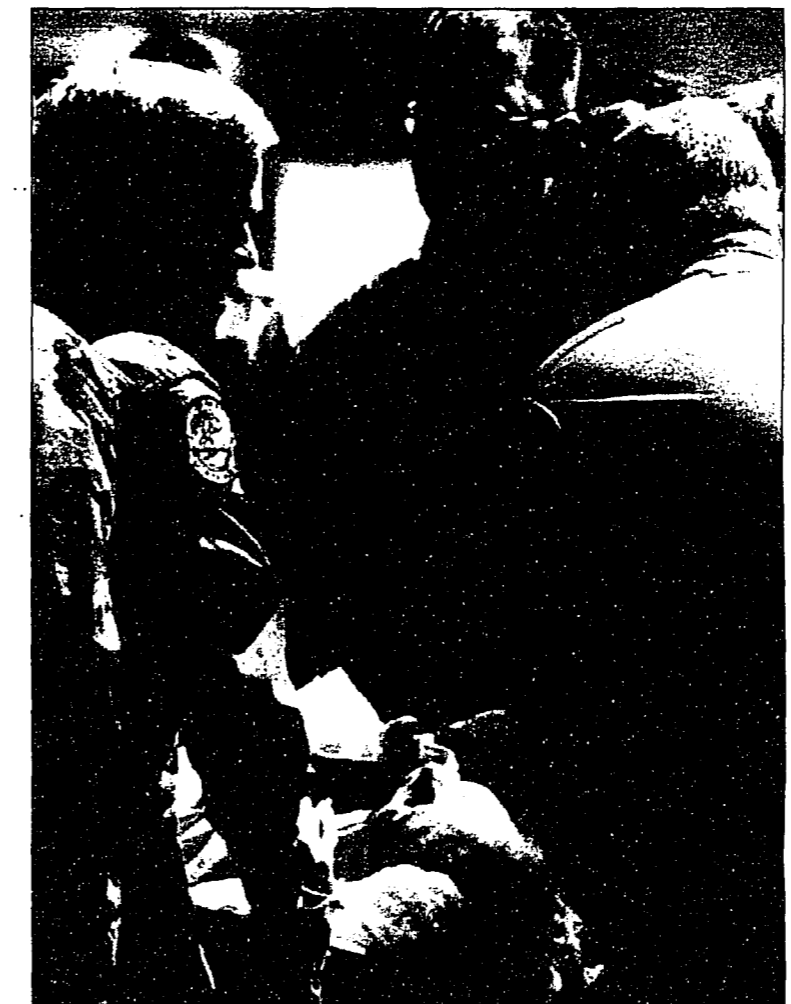
# US vows to hit back

**By LAURA MYERS**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Senior U.S. officials promised Sunday to track down those responsible for blowing up two American embassies in East Africa — and to strike back if the attacks were sponsored by a government.

The Clinton administration, which ordered embassies world-



William Cohen



An injured victim of the Nairobi US Embassy bombing is carried by US soldiers after arriving at Ramstein Air Base, Germany on Sunday. AP

wide on high alert after Friday's blasts that killed at least 12 Americans, also plans to consider increasing security at older U.S. missions to protect diplomats better in an era of global terrorism.

"We respond and retaliate as swiftly as possible to those states who have sponsored the terrorism," Defense Secretary William Cohen declared. "We saw that responsible for the almost simultaneous explosions in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi and Tanzania's capital, Dar es Salaam, they said the attacks appeared to be perpetrated by a highly trained and organized terrorist group.

Cohen called the twin attacks well-coordinated, "long in the planning."

"It was not the act of some isolated individual, a madman," he said on ABC television.

Sandy Berger, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, said several hundred U.S. investigators, including more than 100 FBI agents, are seeking out clues at the sites in Africa and elsewhere.

He and other U.S. officials refused to reveal specific information.

"It's an act of unadulterated evil," Berger said on CBS television. "And we will pursue every lead that we have until we have tracked these people down and held them accountable."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pleaded with Americans to have patience with the investigation. Like Cohen, she suggested the U.S. government would retaliate if necessary.

"While there might be an instant gratification to do something about an attack on us, we have to be absolutely sure we have the facts straight," Albright said on NBC television.

"The memory of the United States is very long, and our reach is very far," she said. "There is no statute of limitations on any of these crimes."

The bombings killed more than 200 people and injured thousands. Among the dead was Jay Bartley, a 20-year-old university student from San Diego, and his father, Consul General Julian Bartley, 55, the last of 12 Americans confirmed dead. Their bodies are to be flown home at midweek, Albright said.

## Pope decries terror bombings

**CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP)** — Pope John Paul II on Sunday decried the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania and lamented war and other suffering in troubled spots around the world.

The two bombings, the pope said, rendered "ever more precarious security on the African continent."

In condolence telegrams sent Saturday, John Paul said he hoped the violence would prompt the international community to "cooperate and double efforts aimed at building a world of peace and justice in which such offenses to life and to the dignity of man find no place."

Addressing tourists and pilgrims at his summer residence outside Rome, the pope said the season's relaxation "shouldn't make us forget the fate of many populations which suffer hard trials and see their present and future threatened."

The pope denounced as "injustifiable massacres" the latest violence in Rwanda and Guinea-Bissau involving army forces and rebels, and noted that in Congo, "weapons have again begun to speak."

John Paul also recalled those suffering in Sudan, where famine looms in the south, theater of war between rebels and the military for 15 years.

Turning his attention to Asia, John Paul expressed dismay that the people of Myanmar "still haven't seen realized their own aspirations for democracy" and noted there was hope that dialogue and negotiations might lead to a solution for East Timor, the disputed territory where Indonesia pulled out 600 combat troops on Saturday.

John Paul also remembered the victims of flooding in China, Bangladesh and South Korea.



Pope John Paul II

## 16 people injured in Nairobi bombing arrive for treatment

**By GEORGE BOEHMER**  
**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AP)** — A C-141 cargo plane carrying 16 critically and seriously injured victims of the Nairobi embassy bombing arrived Sunday at Ramstein Air Base, where they were met by medical teams and a squadron of ambulances.

Forty ground and medical personnel rushed to meet the plane and help the 11 Americans and five Kenyans to eight ambulances headed to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl. Most were carried on stretchers, but several were able to walk, including one woman with bandaged eyes escorted by two nurses.

An Army helicopter waited nearby to fly a critically injured Kenyan, believed to be a U.S. embassy employee, immediately to a neurosurgical intensive care unit at the University Medical Center in Homburg, 30 kilometers (20 miles away).

Lt. Col. Russ Turner, chief medical officer on board, said the patients endured the 9-hour journey from Nairobi quietly. The injuries were typical of a bomb-



Kenyan volunteers give blood at the Uhuru Park Sunday to supply the Nairobi hospitals having to cope with thousands of wounded people after the bombing of the US Embassy in the Kenyan capital last Friday. The toll currently stands at at least 190 dead with more than 4,000 wounded. AP



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Surplus/Pathway Project: Gabion Materials**

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed proposals for the purchase of surplus materials listed below. Interested proposers may conduct a visual inspection of the surplus materials at the NMHC Office in Garapan, at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, August 14, 1998, and 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 28, 1998. The Gabion Materials will be sold "AS IS" with no implied or expressed warranty. The materials will not be sold by piece. Therefore, proposals should be for each item by lot, or for all items, as follows:

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
1.	200 Pcs.	Type A (6'X3'X'3') PVC Coated Gabion (8X10) Mesh
2.	298 Pcs.	Type D (6'3'5') PVC Coated Gabion (8X10) Mesh
3.	7.5 Rolls	PVC Coated 8X10 Mesh 12'X150'/Roll 13500 SF (1800 SF/Roll)
4.	3 Rolls	Filter Fabric by Maetex MK 155-4oz. 1800 SY (15'X360'/Roll - 600 SY/Roll)

Interested proposers may pick up Proposal Form at the NMHC Office from Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sealed proposals, in duplicate, shall be submitted to Ms. Marylou S. Ada, Corporate Director, at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, September 10, 1998, at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. The proposal shall be signed by the owner or authorized representative of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled "SURPLUS PATHWAY PROJECT". Proposers shall be responsible for the proper placement of its firm's individual name, address, telephone and fax number on the outside of the proposal envelope.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped disabling conditions, or national origin.

Questions or additional information may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, or Norman K. Pangelinan, Program and Housing Manager, at 234-0447/7689 7670 during regular business hours.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in the said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in NMHC's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of NMHC.

/s/ JEANY ALDAN  
 Acting Corporate Director



Freah Abu Madain (left) Palestinian Justice Minister, swears in the new cabinet led by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) at Arafat's office in Gaza City Sunday. Palestinian legislators approved Arafat's new cabinet by a wide margin. AP

## Palestinian legislators okay Arafat's Cabinet

By IMAD MUSA  
**RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)** — Legislators approved Yasser Arafat's new Cabinet by a wide margin on Sunday, despite criticism that the Palestinian leader has done nothing to address charges of widespread government corruption.

The legislative council, which is dominated by Arafat's Fatah faction, approved the Cabinet by a vote of 55-28 with three abstentions. The new ministers were to be sworn in at a ceremony Sunday night in the Gaza Strip.

Arafat announced the new Cabinet last week, a year after legislators demanded the old one be dissolved because of corruption.

But the roster left in place most of the former ministers — including those accused of corruption — and added 10 others.

Two ministers — Hanan Ashrawi and Abdel Jawad Saleh

— quit last week in protest.

Ashrawi, a prominent Palestinian political leader, said Sunday that the substantial vote against the new Cabinet was "a warning signal ... that this government has to face the serious expectations of the people."

Husam Khader, a Fatah legislator who voted against the Cabinet, said the council, "by giving a vote of confidence to this government, has legalized corruption."

The council demanded last year that Arafat dissolve the Cabinet after a legislative committee report found extensive abuses in all government ministries and recommended that three ministers — Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi, and Transportation Minister Ali Qawasme — be put on trial.

The three ministers, who denied any wrongdoing, all retained their jobs in the new Cabinet.

## Britain denies plot to kill Gadhafi

**LONDON (AP)** — Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Sunday that allegations by a former intelligence agent that Britain plotted the assassination of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi were "pure fantasy."

Cook said that he had investigated David Shayler's allegations, reported in newspapers this month and in a BBC TV interview aired Friday, that Britain's Secret Intelligence Service channeled funds to an Islamic group to kill Gadhafi.

Cook said in a BBC TV interview Sunday that he was "perfectly satisfied" that the Secret Intelligence Service, more commonly known as MI6, had never forwarded any proposal for the assassination attempt.

"There was no government inspired plan to assassinate Gadhafi. There was no SIS proposal to do it, and I'm fairly clear there has never been any SIS involvement," Cook said.

Britain's foreign intelligence agency can legally carry out acts abroad which would be outlawed in Britain provided they are authorized by the foreign secretary.

Shayler told the BBC that the SIS channeled about \$160,000 to an Islamic group to kill the Libyan leader by planting a bomb under a road on which he was traveling. The BBC reported that a February 1996 attack on Gadhafi killed several people, although Gadhafi himself survived.

Shayler, who worked for Britain's internal MI5 intelligence agency from 1994 until 1997, was arrested in Paris on Aug. 1. London is trying to extradite him to face charges under the Official Secrets Act. The former agent has threatened to put a 7,000 word dossier on Britain's secret services on an Internet website.

## Havel is getting better

**PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)** — President Vaclav Havel's condition improved Sunday, but doctors said the Czech leader may remain in intensive care for another week.

Havel's personal physician, Ilya Kotik, said the 61-year-old president is still breathing with the occasional aid of a respirator, but that his pneumonia was subsiding thanks to new antibiotics begun last week.

"The president is without fever and feels good," Kotik said.

But Kotik cautioned that his pulmonary X-rays and blood tests were not yet normal. "There is still time before we celebrate victory."

Havel's wife, Dagmar, said he is watching movies and reading newspapers, and communicates through written notes.

"I hope we will be able to go out for a little walk, soon," she said.

In April, the Czech leader suffered a ruptured colon while vacationing in the Austrian Alps and underwent an emergency colostomy, an operation in which doctors form an artificial opening in the colon for expelling waste.

On July 26, doctors in Prague closed the colostomy and Havel subsequently developed pneumonia on Aug. 3.

As with Havel's previous operations, breathing problems and infections have hindered his recovery.

Havel has been hospitalized five times since December 1996, when a third of his lung and a cancerous tumor were removed.

The Czech presidency is a largely ceremonial position, so while Havel is hospitalized there is no need for his powers to be transferred to someone else.



Passengers from the hijacked plane wait for a bus after giving testimony to security officials at Domodedovo airport in Moscow, Sunday. An airplane hijacking ended peacefully at a Moscow airport on Sunday after a four-hour standoff between security forces and the anonymous author of a note who demanded \$100,000 and threatened to blow up the plane. AP

## Hijacking at Moscow airport ends

By GREG MYRE  
**MOSCOW (AP)** — In a peaceful but confusing end to an airline hijacking, security officials on Sunday calmly removed 70 male passengers from an airplane — including the men believed responsible for commandeering the aircraft, a news report said.

After a four-hour standoff, the 70 men were taken inside the terminal building at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport for questioning.

Authorities tried to determine who was responsible for a hijacking note that demanded 621,000 rubles (dfls 100,000), the Interfax news agency said.

Authorities decided to peacefully remove all the male passengers from the plane after they became convinced that none had any dangerous weapons,

Interfax reported.

The women and children had been allowed to leave the plane earlier.

Before the incident ended, authorities had said that two hijackers had seized the East Line flight, which was carrying 97 passengers to Moscow from the Siberian city of Tyumen.

During the flight, crew members came across the note demanding the money, plus a flight to another country, authorities said.

When the plane landed in Moscow, it was moved to a remote corner of the airport. Within minutes, security forces in armored personnel carriers were at the airport.

But it appeared later that authorities were never able to pin down exactly who was responsible for the note.

The security forces remained on the tarmac for several hours while authorities spoke with the airplane's crew.

After about two hours, the women and children were evacuated.

After two hours more, the male passengers were removed from the plane and taken to the terminal building on a bus.

The male passengers were being kept in a hall in the terminal building for questioning, Interfax reported. There was no word that anyone had been arrested.

Since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, airport security has deteriorated, particularly at regional airports. There have been a number of hijackings on domestic flights, but in most cases the hijacker has surrendered following negotiations with authorities.

## Registration...

**Continued from page 10**

matters early because some popular classes get filled quickly."

Registration will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, August 18-20 at NMC. On-going students are scheduled for August 18 and 19 with August 20 designated for new students.

Northern Marianas College is a U.S. Land Grant institution continuously accredited by the California-based Western Association of Schools and Colleges (W.A.S.C.) since 1985. It was last accredited by W.A.S.C. in 1996 for the maximum possible six year period.

## Revenues...

**Continued from page 3**

from wages and salary for the next fiscal year is expected. The governor

## Underwood...

**Continued from page 3**

Washington, but is not an official representative in the House.

In a letter to Underwood, Babauta thanked the congressman for reintroducing the bill. He said the CNMI citizens—"the only people within the United States without a voice in congress"—were looking forward to having their own representative in Congress.

The second time the bill was introduced, former CNMI Gov. Froilan Tenorio supported it but pulled back due to federal allegations of labor abuse.

Congressman George Miller was one of the vocal opponents of the CNMI, but he was not opposed to a delegate from the CNMI in the house. He originally introduced the idea to pull U.S. immigrants out of the CNMI, which was supported by the Clinton administration. Miller was in the CNMI last summer to "keep tabs

## Dynasty...

**Continued from page 3**

labor side will propose packages to compensate those who will be laid off and those who will volunteer to return home.

Dynasty insiders who spoke on conditions of anonymity said the management has expressed willingness to provide an equivalent of one month salary and free plane tickets employees who have already reached the three-month probationary period.

Those who have been employed less than three months will be given an equivalent of one to three weeks salary, depending on the length of their stay.

The workers are proposing a uni-form three-month salary separation

pay to all employees who will be given their walking papers and those who will volunteer to leave, regardless of the length of their stay.

"What about the expenses we incurred when we were processing our papers for our employment here. We have also shelled out money to recruitment agencies for placement fees," a Dynasty staff told Variety.

The workers are also clamoring for a separation notice that should be handed down to them in accordance to the labor regulations of the CNMI and US governments. An employee claimed he was informed that his contract will not be renewed on the same day he was asked to leave.

Five Filipino workers were scheduled to leave for the Philippines

## Free advice...

**Continued from page 3**

conducting seminars and offering material on the changes taking place with the passage of the plan into law.

"Now is the time for the education process to begin. We've gotten overwhelming response from the professional community including engineers, planners, surveyors, real estate agents, bankers, etc. This plan affects everyone," he added.

The plan will give owners of small plots of land more options to develop their property.

"Now there's more opportunity for people to build more homes, for example, the new zoning allows people to build two houses on their land rather than only one," he said.

According to Camacho, the Land Use Plan will totally revamp the previous zoning laws.

The meetings will be free of charge and held at several different loca-

## \$3.8M...

**Continued from page 3**

solid waste project will not be using the entire \$26 million this year or until next year," Babauta told the Variety.

He said the House sort of "borrowed" the \$3.8 million from the land-fill project.

"It will be refurbished in other form from our local resources, if not this or next year, then when the economy booms or during the next CIP," said the legislator.

He added that the money will enable the Public School System to move on with its long-time plan of building enough classrooms for the entire CNMI.

"I would also like to recommend to the PSS to continue their efforts in

## Guam...

**Continued from page 3**

Service, Department of Public Safety, Department of Labor and Immigration, Guam Customs Services, Guam Police Department and US Coast

also mentioned anticipated net positive gains amounting to \$6.1 million from the increase in user's fee rate from 3.5 percent to 3.7 percent under Public Law 11-23, and the value of garments exported.

Amusement machine license fee, which was proposed to be raised to \$6,000 per machine and the removal of the limit in the number of poker and

on them," wanting them to handle the so-called labor abuse problems.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio asked the senate for a chance to "clean up our act" when he first took office recently. The Senate gave the CNMI two years address labor issues. Tenorio is in full support of the proposal.

Underwood has received support from the Chairman of the Resources committee Don Young, among others. One of the issues that could effect the bill within the senate is cost.

Sunday. Only three went back home while the other two remained on the island.

The two workers are reportedly contemplating on filing formal complaints before the labor and immigration department. They were said to be brought to an undisclosed safehouse.

At the same time, Tenorio said he has been assured by Dynasty officials that they will discuss with their employees to explain the business prospects for the casino-hotel. "Dynasty is left with no other choice but to review their operations so they could maintain the business."

He cited the economic upheavals in the Asian region which, he said, has adversely affected the Northern Marianas that hurts even a multi-million dollar company like the Tinian Dynasty.

tions.

- Today from 4-7 p.m. at the Asan-Maina Mayor's office
- Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. at the Chalan Pago-Ordo Community Center
- Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the Agaña Mayor's office.

The Land Use Plan will take effect in May of 99. Camacho has asked the Landuse Commission if it is possible for people to petition to make zoning changes now rather than wait until 99.

On the other hand, the Kagman School's 26 classrooms will be able to accommodate around 600 students and will "take tremendous load of the student population in various schools," remarked Pellegrino.

The Dandan school will be breaking ground on October this year, while the Kagman school will be ready for occupancy on August next year.

Earlier, government officials were looking at two more options for the additional funding of the two schools. These are to waive around \$4.8 million funds from the Commonwealth Development Authority, and to tap covenant funds for 1996 to year 2002.

Guard.

Law enforcement officers from Florida conducted the training which was held from Aug. 3 to 7, starting from the Smiling Cove Marina going to the other water areas of the island.

Mafnas added that Guam will also be holding a seminar called "War on

Ice" on Aug. 18 for police officers.

In another development, former Acting Customs Director Jerome Kintol is now appointed as Customs director. He, however, is presently on medical leave, and Mafnas will temporarily take over his functions while he is away from office.

## BDC...

**Continued from page 10**

Graduate Internship Program, which is funded by the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA)."

Each year the CDA grant allows the BDC to bring in graduate and professional degree students to work

pachinko machines in Saipan, is also raising hopes for an additional \$3.9 million in total revenues.

Some \$1.9 million more from operational reimbursement may also pad government revenues in 1999.

In addition to the revised \$242.516 million Fiscal Year 1999 budget, the governor also appropriated some \$6.752 million for the exclusive use of the Division of Public Lands, generated from public land leases.

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### Override . . .

Continued from page 13  
in the past, which he likewise rejected.  
"Bill No. 67 is a bill to make parole unavailable until 85 percent of an offender's sentence has been served."  
"Right now," he added, "the truth in our sentencing laws is that parole is unavailable until 2/3 of an offender's

sentence has been served."  
According to Gutierrez "truth sentencing" is not applicable on Guam as it is a concept applied to jurisdictions "where the jury imposes a sentence." On Guam, the judge gives sentence, not a jury.  
The governor said that incarcerating offenders for longer period of time, would be costly for the government as it would require expenses for the construction of a bigger prison.

### Reader's . . .

Continued from page 13  
accusations against him.

The complaint which was filed in the US District Court was referring to Henry Hurt's article published in June 1997 in which he was described as a "politically well-connected businessman."

The article titled "Shame on American Soil," was about human rights and labor abuses allegedly committed against guest workers in the CNMI.

Pierce in response contended that the statements concerning Quitugua in the article are not

defamatory and are therefore "not actionable as a matter of law."

The statements about Quitugua, Pierce said, are fair and accurate reports by the consul (Renato Villapando) and principal officer of the Philippine Consulate to the Attorney General's Office of the CNMI and a complaint and request for assistance.

Such report, the lawyer said, was prepared in the ordinary course of Villapando's official function and as official document of the Philippine Consulate.

Villapando's report, Pierce said, was provided to Hurt during the course of his investigation and was relied upon by Reader's Digest in the writing of the article.

### Two nabbed

Continued from page 13  
ger. They said yes, officer Castro then called in back-up units. When they arrived the officers inspected the vehicle and conducted a pat down on the pair. They found a straw in the front shirt pocket of the passenger, which allegedly

contained ice.  
The driver, Ronnie Garrido Cruz, 36, of Dededo, was arrested and charged with intent to deliver a controlled substance. The passenger, Benjie Holwitz Perez, 28, of Chalan Pago, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance. Both were booked and confined.

### Guam public

Continued from page 13  
ber of the Agricultural Board of Commissioners.  
On Friday, the Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Sen. Joanne M.S. Brown, will discuss Bill No. 655, entitled "Solid Waste Reduction Act," which seeks to provide incentives for waste recycling, source reduction, and composting for all agencies, and schools.  
Also to be discussed is a bill pro-

posing to establish rules and regulations for the Build-Operate-Transfer Plan for Guam Waterworks Authority.

In a related development, Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco yesterday implemented Resolution No. 406 which recognized Peter Noble Lombard, II, for being the first Guam resident to graduate valedictorian at the U.S. Naval Academy of class 1998.

Lombard is also being accepted as a medical student at John Hopkins University.

### Hearing . . .

Continued from page 3  
family to find out what was happening. He did so for a weekly basis for nearly over a year. Each time he did he was told "We're working on it."  
The family found out by chance court records state, when Josefa Briones called the family in order to obtain an extension of time to make the payment of her promissory note agreement of \$5,000. She did this because on July 9, 1998, Del Priore threatened to take her to court because she was late with her payment to him. The record revealed that Mr. Taladoc was shocked when he found out that Nanbo insurance issued a settlement check for \$50,000 nearly

one year ago to Del Priore, in addition to \$5,000.

According to the complaint, John Taranino the appointed guardian of all Del Priore accounts, stated that Del Priore cashed the \$50,000 settlement check at the Bank of Hawaii, without the knowledge or consent of the Taladoc family.

The complaint stated that Del Priore has been disbarred permanently as of July 17, 1998 and his assets were seized on July 28, 1998 by the Supreme Court.

According to court records Del Priore settled the case without the knowledge and consent of the Taladoc family, collected the settlement check, cashed it and retained the funds.

Del Priore is slated to have a preliminary hearing on August 18, at 4:00 p.m.

### Japan . . .

Continued from page 2  
the opposition Heiwa Kaikaku group.  
"The LDP's tradition of collusion between politicians and bureaucrats caused them to put off fixing (the economy's) problems," he said.  
Instead, bureaucrats have sought to protect client industries,

thus preventing market forces from weeding out weaker companies and forcing the others to put their houses in order, he said.

"I want to grapple with economic problems with strong political leadership," Obuchi replied.  
The opposition directed its sharpest criticisms at new Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, a former prime minister who served as finance chief once before, in 1986-1988.

### Kantan . . .

Continued from page 9  
Isla Concert will be done on a first come, first serve basis. The organizers will be needing 8 bands to complete the line up.  
The concert major sponsor Budweiser will be giving some special give aways during the event.  
"There will be lots of food and good music during the concert. We are planning to have four bands each night and maybe two soloists. There will be food vendors like in the Flame

Tree Arts Festival and Budweiser will be there to sell drinks," said Macaranas.  
Organizers are hoping to surpass the success of the Flame Tree Arts Festival last April. This project is not under the CNMI Heritage Month Calendar under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs but the message is nothing but the same. And that is to enrich and promote the Chamolinian music.

For interested bands who want to participate in the concert, they could now register at the Arts Council in Capitol Hills.

### PacifiCare . . .

Continued from page 9  
Wood will be on Guam and in the CNMI especially for the introduction and grant presentations.  
At least five of the organizations based on Saipan were to receive \$2,000 to support the operation of their existing projects and programs.  
These are the Karidat, Gumata, CHC Dialysis Unit, Northern Marianas College Foundation and Crimestoppers.

Total funds awarded through grants in the CNMI is \$10,000 in celebration of PacifiCare's 10 years in the community.  
Today on Guam meanwhile, another batch of five non-profit organizations will be awarded \$5,000 in grant also to assist its operations.

These are the Alee Children's Shelter, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Sanctuary, Inc. and the Southern Guam Lions Club.

Total funds awarded through grants on Guam is \$25,000 in celebration of PacifiCare's 25 years in the community.  
"We are pleased to be able to give back to our communities in a way that will positively affect everyone," stated Dan Koon, plan president for PacifiCare Asia Pacific.

"The Foundation is an important part of who PacifiCare is. It's a way for us to thank the people we serve and have them share directly in our success. And, what better time to introduce the program than during our anniversary celebrations of 25 years on Guam and 10 years in the CNMI."

### NMBPA . . .

Continued from page 9  
anniversary next year and promises to be a spectacular event.  
The NMBPA is soliciting the talents of anyone interested to help with the planning and organization of the 1999 NMI Pageant advertising, candidate relations, hospitality, technical activities, and other areas.  
If you have any questions, please call Edward Manglona at 664-3215.

The PacifiCare Foundation, founded in November 1991, is a private, non-profit, corporate foundation which receives its funding through profits generated by PacifiCare Health Systems and through voluntary contributions made by PacifiCare employees.

The Foundation is devoted to charitable causes that enhance the health, wellness and welfare of individuals, families and the community.

PacifiCare Asia Pacific, with its staff of over 400 local employees, provides medical and dental insurance and services to more than 43,000 members in Guam and the CNMI through its Choice Plus and HML health plans and its FHP Guam and Saipan Medical and Dental Groups.

### Dynasty . . .

Continued from page 1  
government that Tinian Dynasty will observe existing local and federal laws as the company starts implementing cost-cutting measures.  
Liew said the hotel-casino is downsizing but promptly added that the management has been trying to come up with other measures that would prevent the re-trenchment of workers.  
"We will try not to lay off people. [Because] it will cost us more money to bring them back," he stressed.  
He pointed out that the actions taken by the Dynasty were meant to prepare the facility for a possible worse scenario, which is the

12-month recession in Asia where Dynasty is hoping to get most of its visitors and casino players.

"We are projecting for the next 12 months. We want to be prepared for what is going to happen. We foresee based on the market figures of the Asian market — that's where our market is — the outlook is not good," he said.

He emphasized that the measures will help them keep the hotel-casino facility open and in full operation. "We want to be prepared for any eventualities so that we can keep the casino open."

Liew added that Tinian Dynasty is looking for alternative ways to prevent any re-trenchment, citing the possibility of cutting work hours.  
"We are discussing with employees and consider what they

can come up with. We are working together. We try to save jobs and not lay off," he continued.

At the same time, House commerce and tourism chair Oscar M. Babauta said if the downsizing of the Tinian Dynasty is any indication, the CNMI is faced with a gloomier economic picture.

"Dynasty is looking at getting their customers from China and Hong Kong. These areas have also been affected by the economic upheavals in the region and there's nothing we can do about that," Babauta said.

He added that if a multi-million dollar company like the Tinian Dynasty is hurting, more so the small and medium-scale businesses which remain the backbone of the economy.

### DPHS . . .

Continued from page 1  
the Straub Clinic and Hospital, Inc. to set the record straight on the said discounted rates. He did not say the exact amount of discounts.  
"We're cutting a scheme . . . where Straub is going to provide some discount for the services they're providing to our patients; discounts to the CNMI government or medical referral patients," he told reporters.  
Straub Clinic's total medical claims to DPH from Jan. 1990 to Dec. 1996 had been pegged at \$800,000.

now the Straub Clinic and ensuring that the best possible care is provided to our citizens when we do send them there," said Villagomez.

The health chief added that he will also be negotiating with other health care provider firms in Hawaii where the bulk of CHC medical referrals go. "We'll also explore other services that can be provided in Hawaii, through the Queen's Health Systems and (another) medical center," he said.

### 2 kids . . .

Continued from page 1  
held, was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.  
Flores said the drowning incident is under investigation.  
Meanwhile, police also reported the death of a two-month-old baby yesterday morning.  
Flores said the baby's parents discovered her lifeless body at around 8 a.m.  
The infant was transported to Naval Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.  
The cause of baby's death is yet to be determined.

from the same federal grant.  
"I'll also be looking at the transitional living quarters there in Hawaii, the same building that we'll be building up here under the CDBG grant," he said, adding that he will try to get some idea on how the quarter will be built and managed.

## Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month  
Contact: S.J.G. CORPORATION Tel. 235-3403(8/25)T27705

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of The Adoption of THALIA MARIA ROKOP HOFSCHEIDER, A Minor Child. FCD-AD Civil Action No. 98-304

### NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a verified petition was filed in the above-entitled court for the Petition For Adoption and Termination of Parent Child Relationship of the minor child by Freddy U. Hofschneider, Jr., the petitioner. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and The Law Office of Perry B. Inos, Suite 2-C, Sablan Building, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.  
A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on August 28th, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the Superior Court, San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Dated this 29th day of July, 1998.

Jovita C. Flores  
Clerk of Court  
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk

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4 Units, 2 Bedrooms,  
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Appraised for \$231,000  
Priced for Quick Sale at \$120,000  
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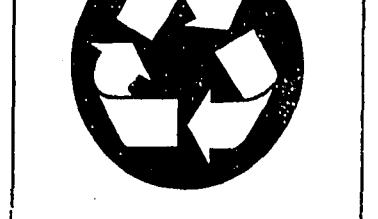
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Royal Condo in Garapan, across Middle Road  
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STUDIO TYPE - \$350  
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Single or Couple Only (Koblerville)  
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DEADLINE: 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.

## WANTED

### PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY

Skills to include:  
Word Processing, Basic Bookkeeping & Standard Office Procedures.  
Must be able to communicate effectively.  
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Call Jack McClure, GM / Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc.  
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A Four (4) Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 2 Patios, French Windows, Newly Built Executive House is Available For Rent. The House is Located at a very quiet and safe neighborhood at San Vicente near the 14 Station of the Cross. It has a 3,000 gallon water tank with pressurized waterpump and all the rooms have brand new airconditioning units. You must see to appreciate it. Price is negotiable, Call Tel. No. 235-9009 to arrange for house opening.  
ITEMS FOR SALE: • Four Wheeler Motor Cycle for only \$1,500.00, original Price is \$2,500, very good condition.  
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Employee in this classification is primarily involved in Long Distance Telephone Sale Services.  
MINIMUM SKILLS:  
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• Ready to open  
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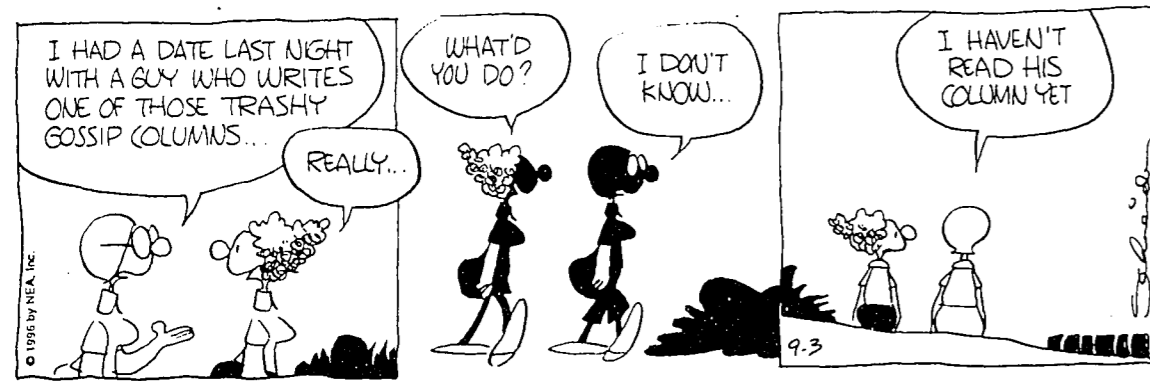
CAMOUFLAGE PANTS, MEDICAL UNIFORMS, CAMPING EQUIPT., CANTEENS, MISC.  
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Nizeki International Saipan Co., Ltd.  
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To our Dear Sheila & Geng Geng Maalihan  
Happy 8th and 5th Birthday  
August 11  
May the good lord bless you  
Love & Care  
Dad, Mom, Sam & Maggie

**EK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider**



**Garfield® by Jim Davis**



**PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz**



**STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY**

**TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 1998**  
**BORN** today, you are quick to get into the swing of things when asked, but you are never one to give yourself over entirely to the way others are doing things, or to an assignment that someone in charge may hand to you. You always reserve a part of yourself for yourself, even when you are working feverishly and faithfully for others; this is what gives a slightly enigmatic air about you that almost everyone is sure to notice. You mustn't be asked to explain yourself or your work, or you will disappoint those who ask — and, often, the explanation would change daily!  
 While it often comes across that you don't really know why you do what you do, you are a first-rate student of human nature, and you seem to understand exactly why other people behave as they do in almost every situation. You never turn a blind eye toward the ways of the world.  
 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.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12**  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may be coming to false conclusions all day. Take care that you don't allow yourself to think that you're always in the right.  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — There is no reason to think that you are above the rules today. Be sure that you are doing things in a manner that others find acceptable.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — You may not be looking forward to doing something you know you have to do, but you can minimize any discomfort by improving your attitude.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) — You are likely to feel as though you have more power over others than you really do; when you find out you don't, you're sure to be disappointed.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — Now is the time to play that one card you've been holding throughout the game. It is important that you surprise others into impulsive reactions.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Yes, you know just where you stand, and you're very eager to make changes that will last a lifetime. Are you really ready to make an about-

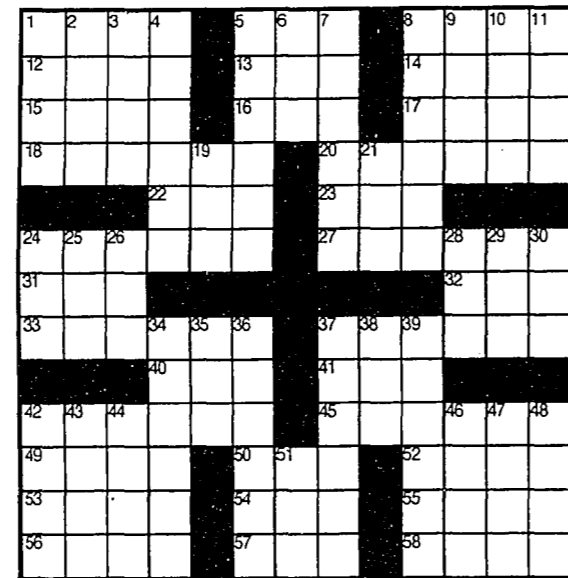
face?  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A promise comes your way from someone you do not know that may have you thinking that the impossible is quite achievable after all.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You must take care that you're not expecting too much from someone else or from yourself! Be sure you're being realistic.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — An early-morning effort can pay off handsomely before nightfall. After dark, you may choose to behave in a manner that is wholly unexpected.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Those around you are waiting for you to make some sort of announcement regarding what you think of the current proceedings. Let them wait!  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You can make an earlier start than expected today. Toward midday, however, you'll want to slow down and take a look at your progress.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Thanks to a favor from a friend, you'll feel much better about yourself in a situation that may have others quite frustrated indeed.



TURN LITTLE THINGS INTO BIG MONEY WITH A CLASSIFIED AD!

**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Takes to court  
 5 Kennel sound  
 8 Donald Duck's nephew  
 12 Stare at  
 13 Club dues  
 14 Biblical preposition  
 15 Make unclear  
 16 Kin (abbr.)  
 17 Singer  
 18 Actress Miles  
 20 Asher  
 22 Silkworm  
 23 Seabird  
 24 Hesitated  
 27 Took a break  
 31 Hockey great  
 32 Ginger —  
 33 "Raging Bull" actor  
 37 Femme —  
 40 Decay  
 41 Year (Sp.)  
 42 Anticipate  
 45 dozen  
 49 Having little lat  
 50 Auricle  
 52 Robert —  
 53 Pay the kitty  
 54 Baseball stat  
 55 Pleasant  
 56 Ms. West, et al.  
 57 Dry, as wine  
 58 Concordes  
**DOWN**  
 1 Weeps  
 2 Unlikely  
 3 Hebrew month  
 4 Caters to  
 5 Scared  
 6 Female ruff  
 7 Cleveland Indians pitcher (1936-56)  
 8 People  
 9 Single item  
 10 Engrave with acid  
 11 Ox harness  
 19 Anger  
 21 Mineral  
 24 Pea holder  
 25 Metric measure  
 26 Vase  
 28 Chinese pagoda  
 29 Building addition  
 30 Scottish river  
 34 Pappas and Dunne  
 35 Mythical bird  
 36 Playful water animal  
 37 Woven material  
 38 Collection of anecdotes  
 39 Memento  
 42 Character actor Jack —  
 43 "Warrior Princess"  
 44 Top of the head  
 46 Yalies  
 47 Four-sided figure (abbr.)  
 48 Witnesses  
 51 Honest —



**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

DIME EGGS SAT  
 EDEN ALIE ONE  
 LARGER LADLE  
 ARTS SLOTS  
 KINGSHIP ON  
 APNEA AER GHI  
 RS STAMPED IT  
 LOY ZEE PEEVE  
 OF ISLANDER  
 ORGAN EAST  
 LAUREL STURDY  
 ERR EELS RENA  
 SAT RENO EDAM

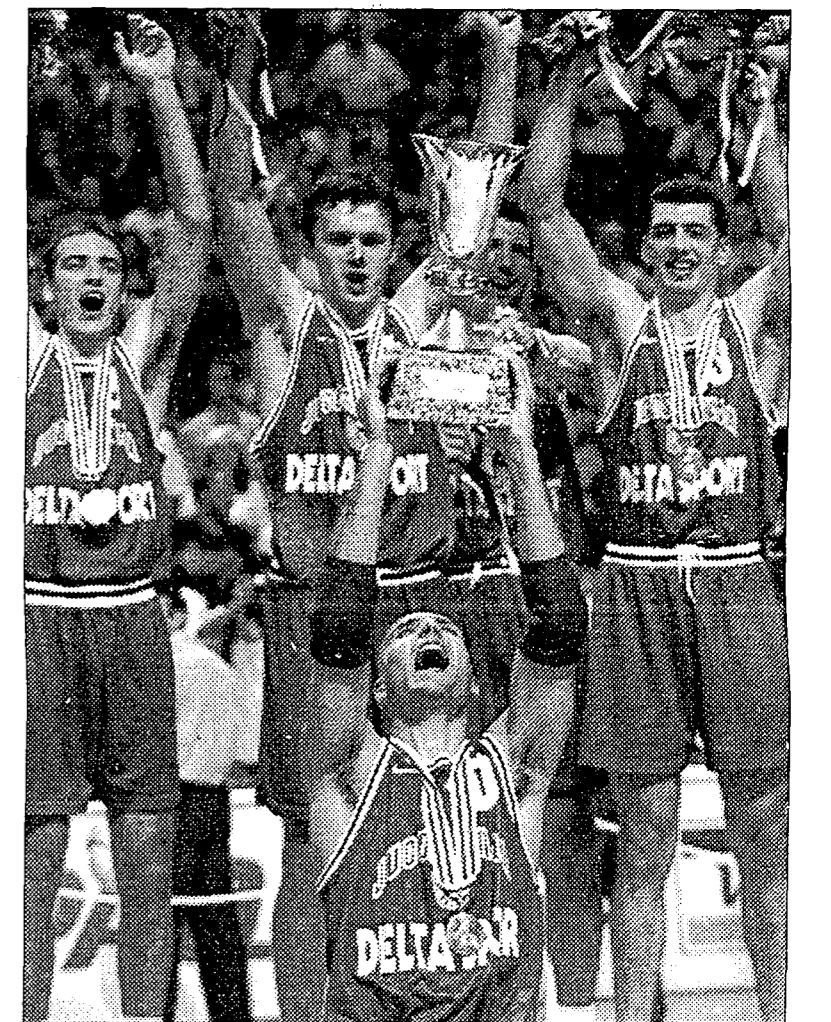
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**Yugoslavia beats Russia for fourth World title**

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — Yugoslavia showed yet again it plays the best basketball this side of the NBA. The European titlist captured its record fourth World Basketball Championship crown Sunday with a 64-62 comeback victory over Russia as Zeljko Rebraca led the way with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

The gold medal joins the ones Yugoslavia won at the 1970, 1978 and 1990 world championships. It was banned from the 1994 tournament because of war sanctions, but has since added two straight European golds and a silver behind the U.S. Dream Team at the 1996 Olympics.  
 "After the embargo we played in

four straight finals and won three times. It's incredible. We have a lot of reason to be very proud," Yugoslav coach Zeljko Obradovic said.  
 "We had many problems, and players who weren't here. But we got this again," he added, tugging on the gold medal hanging around his neck.  
 Earlier Sunday, Jason Sasser scored 23 points as a U.S. team with no



Yugoslavia's team captain Sasa Djordjevic raises the trophy after his team beat Russia 64-62 in the final of the World Basketball Championships in Athens, Greece. AP

**10 new . . .**

Continued from page 1  
 approach.  
 "With these 10 new classrooms, we're now out of the multi-track. We're back on a single track system," Pangelinan told the Variety.  
 She added that it was only last year that WSR went on a multi-track system due to the inadequacy of classrooms to accommodate the growing number of students. The school principal remarked that the 10 rooms will accommodate 246 students from grades I, IV and VI.  
 She also said that WSR will no longer have problems with the "psychological effects" of the old track system.  
 "Back then, students don't want to come back to school after they

went on break, and that's the problem with multi-track in our school," she said, adding that the single track system has also increased the enrollment in the school, or from 773 last school year to 839 this year.  
 Pangelinan remarked that there are currently three temporarily closed classrooms due to cracks in the roofs. She said the Department of Public Works still have to inspect it for repairs.  
 The principal added that there is a need to upgrade a lot of old school buildings, some of them already 50 years old. The 52-year old WSR, she said, is in fact the oldest school in the CNMI which was built in 1946.  
 "My next goal is to repair the roofings, replace the tiles, upgrade electrical wirings so that we can use the aircons and computers in

every classroom," said Pangelinan.  
 She added, "Every year, we pledge that we're going to work closely with the BOE, the Commissioner and the legislature to improve one building at a time because we know that money is very limited."  
 Moreover, yesterday's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 10 new rooms coincided with the opening of WSR's classes. The ceremony was led by Public School System Commissioner Rita H. Inos, Saipan Mayor Jose Sablan, Cong. Karl Reyes, Cong. Oscar M. Babauta and officials from the Department of Public Works.  
 Both Babauta and Reyes went to WSR, and the latter is in fact the son of the late William S. Reyes, the person the school was named after.

NBAers routed Greece 84-61 to capture the bronze.  
 Rebraca, who plays for Italian club Benetton Treviso, hit two free throws with 4.7 seconds left to provide the winning margin before a sellout crowd of 18,000 at Olympic arena.  
 Dejan Bodiroga chipped in with 11 points and 5 rebounds and was named tournament MVP.  
 "There are 12 MVPs on our team,"

said Bodiroga, a guard who averaged 14.7 points and 4.9 rebounds over nine games.  
 "I'm very happy that I was voted MVP but the most important thing is that we won the world championship and we are No. 1 in the world."  
 They did it without Charlotte Hornets center Vlade Divac and injured former NBA player Predrag Danilovic.

**KAL . . .**

Continued from page 1  
 said.  
 Small said he has never seen people work harder than the men did at the crash.  
 "These firefighters deserve nothing but praise...I heard there was some criticism of these men after the crash which is a shame because they did such an amazing job," Small added.  
 After addressing the group, Small mingled with workers, chatted and recounted his experience from the crash.  
 Firefighter Matt Untalan is a part of Rescue Unit 1, which was the first to arrive at the site.  
 "I remember seeing him when I got there...I don't see how he survived," he said.  
 Other firefighters recalled memories including seeing a series of explosions which threw Small and other firefighters back into the sword-grass.  
 Small said he has been overwhelmed with the hospitality from the citizens of the island.  
 "The people of Guam have been brilliant...I also want to tell the

firefighters 'don't change,'" he said before he left.  
 He added that he has had no contact whatsoever from Korean Airlines.  
 At the time of the crash, Small worked for Heli-Guam as a helicopter repairman; but he's not so eager to get back into flying.  
 "I think I've taken too many risks," he said.  
 Small, who will return to New Zealand today, has had a series of surgeries on his leg, which will have to undergo still more work.

economic growth in the Commonwealth.  
 At the same time, the governor vetoed House Bill 11-103, which was similar to HB 11-262. The latter addresses some of the major concerns contained in the HB 11-103, which, like PL 11-25, seeks to protect the fiscal integrity of the CNMI by repealing sunset provisions in the local tax laws and eliminating the Earned Income Credit.  
 But the disapproved legislation hopes to increase poker machine licensing fees to \$8,000 that will be retroactive starting January this year.

**Rafter wins du Maurier Open**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Patrick Rafter became the first player in 10 years to win the du Maurier Open without losing a set Sunday when he beat Richard Krajicek 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.  
 The 25-year-old Australian had a clean slate in five matches, matching Ivan Lendl's feat accomplished in 1988.  
 Krajicek, who had victories in six of seven matches against Rafter entering the final, had lived by the serve and volley in his previous matches against Rafter. Krajicek entered the final leading the entire du Maurier field with 64 aces but was limited to dealing 10 to Rafter, putting only 59 percent of first serves in play.  
 "I couldn't punish him on my

serve," Krajicek said. "That's a shame."  
 Both players held serve their first six times in the first set, setting up the tiebreaker, where Krajicek began to struggle. Rafter scored minibreaks all three times Krajicek missed his first serve to take the tiebreaker 7-3.  
 "The Dutchman also struggled on his groundstrokes. His weak backhand seldom cleared the net and his forehand, usually a terror to opposing players, faded as well."  
 "He really destroys me a lot with that forehand and the times that I did go there I got lucky on them," Rafter said. "I went there at the right times."  
 Said Krajicek: "I count on my forehand more and it really let me down."

**New . . .**

Continued from page 1  
 sold or consumed in any establishment.  
 The government previously increased excise taxes imposed on certain commodities but later installed a sunset provision.  
 Poker machine annual fees were suggested to be pegged at \$6,000 per machine while licensing fee for pachinko slot machines has been raised to \$6,000 per machine from \$2,000.  
 The new law stated there will be no restriction on the number of

poker machine licenses issued in and for the Third Senatorial District and the number of poker machine licenses issued for the First and Second Senatorial Districts may be increased as determined by the restrictive legislative delegation.  
 PL 11-25 provides that the number of licenses to be issued shall not exceed 200 each for Tinian and Rota, while there will be no limitation on the number of licenses issued for Saipan.  
 Tenorio said the lifting of the limit in the number of gaming machines on Saipan is timely since studies have shown that the ceiling has been a deterrent to the

given out to the winners.  
 Participating players will also get a CCA ID card, CCA rating and t-shirts courtesy of Marpac Distributors, Inc. and its promo manager Jobbie Macabalo.  
 Marpac is also donating banners for the tournament.  
 For more information, contact Junnel Lomantas at his daytime phone number, 233-3193, or through his

**Buenaventura . . .**

Continued from page 24  
 the Pacific Islands Club and the Pacific Gardenia.  
 There is an entry fee of \$25 for each player, and two categories for the tournament — bracket A, for veteran players, and bracket B for new players.  
 Each player will be given one hour per game.  
 Cash prizes and medals will be

**NMI . . .**

Continued from page 24  
 dominated the weightlifting competition in Palau, on their way to a Games-leading 38 gold medals. Nauru finished fourth in the overall medal count with 51.  
 For Kiribati, it was the first appearance in the Micronesian Games, and the island nation walked away with 15 medals in '98.

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# SPORTS



## NMI collects 36 gold medals in '98 Games

By Michael Wright  
Variety News Staff

AN AMAZING 27 gold medals in swimming helped the CNMI to the second-best total of gold of all the participating nations at the 1998 Micronesian Games in Palau. That's 27 CNMI first-place finishes in 32 swimming races.

Overall, the CNMI collected 78 medals in the week long competition which concluded Sunday morning with the one-mile open ocean swim event (the CNMI took a combined five of the six medals in the men's and women's races). Interestingly, the CNMI equalled its 1994 Micro. Games total of 78.

The host nation dominated the final medals tally, collecting 118 overall, including an impressive 58 silver medals. Palau earned most of its hardware at the track, though fans from the host nation are probably cheering most loudly for their gold medal victory in men's baseball. Guam was the favorite in that sport coming in to the Games.

Palau also surprised Guam in women's basketball, taking gold away from the 1994 winner.

The small nation of Nauru, who collected only 17 total medals in '94,

Continued on page 23

### TOTAL MEDAL STANDING

PLACING	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	PALAU	31	58	29	118
2.	GUAM	35	27	19	81
3.	CNMI	36	27	15	78
4.	NAURU	38	3	10	51
5.	MARSHALLS	5	7	21	33
6.	POHNPEI	0	8	13	21
7.	KOSRAE	4	5	11	20
8.	YAP	5	4	8	17
9.	CHUUK	3	7	7	17
10.	KIRIBATI	0	8	7	15
	<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>451</b>

## Big haul at annual sportsfishing meet

By Tony Celis  
For the Variety

THE CONNIE-B II skippered by William McGus and Troy Williams braved Saipan's choppy water on Sunday to win the 14th Annual Saipan Sports Fishermen's Association Tournament. Their catch of a 68.8k (151.24 lbs.) marlin netted them first place and \$3,000.00 in cash prize in the billfish category. Second place went to Bwi-Bwi with 67.4 (148.59), trailed by Pacific Blue with a 58.8k (129.63 lbs.) marlin for third place.

Eighty boats, some travelling the 115 nautical miles from Guam to Saipan gathered at Smiling Cove for this year's tournament.

The event attracted a large crowd. Among them was Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. While not an "avid fisherman," Tenorio said "I'm here to show support for the tournament and to relax a bit. It's a nice Sunday afternoon," said the smiling governor.

A \$10,000 special cash prize was the big bait (a contestant must beat the '97 marlin record of 624 lbs.).

The Marianas Visitor's Agency co-hosted the event. Jack Diaz and Martin Duenas of MVA were on hand both days to assist the

officials and make sure the event went smoothly.

"Promoting the CNMI is our priority," said Diza. "We invited off-island fishermen to Saipan for them to see firsthand, our beautiful island and good off-shore fishing. This year the big fish

aren't biting," said Diaz.

"Our association will assist anyone interested in holding a fishing tournament of their own."

The association celebrated the event with a banquet at the Dai-Ichi Hotel last night.

### Final Results:

Pacific Blue Marlin  
(Makaira mazara, C: Batto)

KGS. / LBS.

Connie-B II (William McGus)  
68.6 151.24

Bwi-Bwi (Eloy Inos)  
67.4 148.59

Pacific Blue (John SanNicolas)  
58.8 129.63

Gloria II (John T. Sablan)  
52.2 115.08

Acanthocybium solandri  
(Wahoo, C: Toson)

Raemma (Pete Itibus)  
15.0 33.07

O.J. Boy II (Irvin Taimanao)  
14.8 32.63

Jaws (John Reyes)  
14.6 32.19

Princess Lora  
14.0 30.07

Coryphaena hippurus  
(Mahimahi, Dolphinfish,  
C: Botague)

Lady Lupe (Diego Benavente)  
8.2 18.08

CM-974-PU (Joe Songsong)  
7.8 17.20

Victoria  
6.8 14.99

San Pablo  
5.0 11.02

Katsuwonus pelamis  
(Skipjack, bluefin tuna C:  
Bunita)

Bwi Bwi (Eloy Inos)  
7.2 14:48

St. Jude (John Reyes)  
6.8 14.99

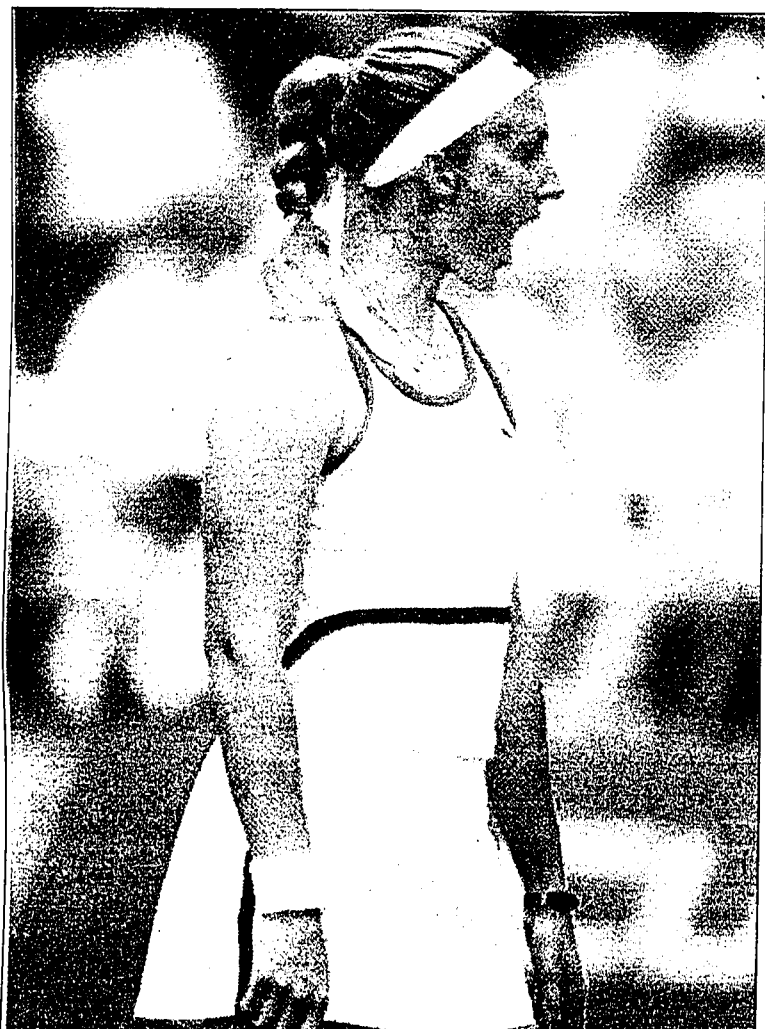
Lady Lupe (Diego Benavente)  
6.8 14.99

Yellowfin:  
Gateway (Jerry Perez)  
22.4 49:38

Blue Water Hunter  
(Roy Hussey, Jr.)  
22.0 48.5

Lady Lupe (Diego Benavente)  
21.6 47.62

Total Weight:  
Blue Water Hunter (Roy Hussey, Jr.)  
106.4 234.57



Mary Pierce of France reacts to a line call during her loss to Lindsay Davenport of Newport Beach, Calif. in the final of the Toshiba Tennis Classic Sunday in Carlsbad, Calif. Davenport won the match 6-3, 6-1.

## Buenaventura tops active chess

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

ELYG. Buenaventura Jr. won eight games and lost only one to finish first in the fifth leg of the CNMI Chess Association's active chess tournament Sunday at the 13 Fishermen Memorial.

Last week's winner, Rey Villamor, was half-a-point behind with a score of 7.5 points.

Another veteran player, Manny Domingo, finished third, scoring six points.

Alex dela Cruz, who finished eighth, was the only player who

managed to beat the highly-rated Buenaventura.

Ten players participated in the tournament, which is a weekly event sponsored by the CNMI Chess Association (CCA).

In a CCA "active" tournament, each player is given only 15 minutes to finish a game.

Meanwhile, interested players have until Aug. 16 to register for the 1998 Allied International Insurance Services Cup/Individual Chess Championship Tournament.

Sponsored by the Allied International Insurance Services (AISS) and

the CNMI Chess Association (CCA), the date for the round-robin tournament's opening day will be announced once the players' registration is completed.

CCA vice president Junnel Lomantas said CCA will also hold a "birthday bash" on Aug. 16 for CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura Jr. at the 13 Fishermen Memorial.

There will be barbecue and refreshments and all players who want to register for the AISS cup are invited, Lomantas said.

The tournament will be held at

Continued on page 23

## Katayama wins at Sanko Grand

TANO, Japan (AP) — Shingo Katayama let a four-shot lead slip away but then beat Kazuhiko Hosokawa in a playoff Sunday in the Sanko Grand Summer Championship, his first victory in a three-year career.

Hosokawa, in contention for his fifth career victory, forced the playoff with a final round of 3-under-par 69, tying Katayama at 14-under 274 for the regulation 72 holes. Katayama shot a 73 af-

ter starting with a four-shot lead.

In the playoff, both Katayama and Hosokawa matched par until Hosokawa missed a 5-foot (1.5-meter) par putt on the third hole.

The 25-year-old Katayama reached the green in three and sank a 3-foot (0.9-meter) putt to save par and win the tournament.

"Five months ago, I was in the hospital," said Katayama,

who missed three months of this season's tour due to lower back surgery.

"Today, I just kept telling myself that I'm fortunate enough to be here and play golf."

Katayama won 18 million yen (\$124,000) from a purse of 100 million yen (\$690,000).

Hideki Kase fired a 5-under 67 for 275, followed by Tsukasa Watanabe, and four others tied for fourth at 276.

### SAIPAN

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