

Item veto on CIP bill irks senators



Pedro P. Tenorio



Paul A. Manglona

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
SEVERAL Rota and Tinian senators yesterday expressed disappointment over Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's line-item veto of the capital infrastructure project legislation, claiming that he had been

"ill-advised" by the administration's legal advisers. The senators, who declined to be identified, said similar appropriation bills were enacted into law in the past with no legal concerns raised against them. Variety sources, who also re-

fused to be named, said certain Rota and Tinian senators were "so dismayed" by the line-item veto that the session scheduled yesterday had to be canceled.

Tenorio retained only two CIP projects, both for Saipan, vetoing the rest, including the crucial airport improvement projects of Rota and Tinian.

He said the Senate version of the CIP bill passed by the Legislature contained changes in the project listing that "compromises the integrity" of the CIP master plan, which was prepared with the US Interior Department.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the House of Representatives, in separate interviews, expressed willingness to cooperate and compromise with the Senate and the administration to expedite the

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Saipan harbor unveils its \$43M project today

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

AFTER several years of on-and-off construction, the \$43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project (SHIP) has finally been completed and is expected to give the CNMI a competitive edge in cargo transshipment within the Asia-Pacific Region.

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

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

A new design for the Saipan seaport was developed in 1987 by the Army Corps of Engineers which also rejected a CPA request for funding in 1989. But the United States Congress allocated some \$10 million for the project in 1990.

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

Initial funding for the project came from US Congress at \$10 million; \$13 million from the Retirement Fund; and the Commonwealth Development Authority loaned out \$13.5 million. Two separate bond issues followed in 1995 and 1998.

The project had been hounded by controversies following com-

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Some of illegals nabbed in Guam were Saipan workers

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed disgust over the illegal migration of several Chinese nationals to Guam allegedly after the expiration of their Saipan work permits.

The CNMI chief executive disclosed that he will immediately meet with officials of the Department of Labor and Immigration, Division of Customs and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to promptly arrest similar incidents.

At least 91 illegal Chinese

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

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

Nine suspected illegal Chinese immigrants aboard an 18-foot boat who were apprehended

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US ambassador in Majuro says mail languished in Guam for four months

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO — Four thousand pounds of pre-Christmas letters and packages destined for the Marshall Islands languished in a Guam post office for nearly four months until the U.S. ambassador to the Marshalls intervened to get the mail delivered to Majuro.

It is the latest development in a saga of deteriorating mail delivery to the Marshall Islands.

In a story last Friday entitled



Joan Plaisted

"Guam mail mystery," the Marshall Islands Journal reported on a tip from a Guam resident that two pallets of mail for the Marshalls with postmarks as dated as last November were sitting at the Guam Main Facility post office.

Upon seeing the news item, Majuro-based U.S. Ambassador Joan Plaisted quickly faxed the story to U.S. Postal Service (USPS) officials in Honolulu, asking them to check into the report that pre-Christmas mail

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Students from the new Dandan Elementary School play around the hallway during breaktime yesterday.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Reform Party launch tonight

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

FORMER governor Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said the Commonwealth Reform Party will be officially launched tonight at the Garapan Central Park.

Tenorio, who has expressed willingness to run for the fourth time as a gubernatorial candidate, said the new party will elect its officers tonight and sign the articles of organization.

"We want to get the new party moving," he said, adding that the launching will be attended by Reform's potential candidates in the upcoming elections for the House of Representatives.

"We want to explain what the new party is all about," Tenorio said.



Froilan C. Tenorio

Reform's platform and by-laws will be taken up in a later meeting, he said.

Tenorio earlier revealed that former governor Lorenzo I. DL

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US, Japan work on prisoner exchange

By JOSEPH COLEMAN
TOKYO (AP) — The United States is negotiating a pact with Japan to allow citizens from one country convicted in the other to serve their sentences at home, the U.S. Embassy said Thursday.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley and Japanese Justice Minister Takao Fumimori met earlier in the day to discuss the arrangement, which embassy officials said Washington already has with other countries.

Jinnouchi was quoted by Kyodo News agency as saying he would make "maximum efforts" so that the issue comes up in a May 3 summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

Under the proposal, American prisoners convicted in Japan would go to the United States to serve their sentences, and Japanese convicted in U.S. courts would go to Japanese prisons.

The idea is that prisoners would be better rehabilitated and reintegrated into society in their own countries, an official at the U.S. Embassy said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There are 37 Americans in Japanese prisons and nine others awaiting either trial or deportation, the Embassy said. Kyodo News agency reported there were 23 Japanese in U.S. prisons at the end of 1998.

Japan is now studying whether it should sign a bilateral pact with Washington or join a Council of Europe treaty on such transfers. The United States is a member to that treaty.

The talks come as allegations of human rights abuses in Japanese prisons are on the rise.

Critics say prisoners are subject to strict regimentation and harsh physical and psychological punishment for minor infractions of excruciatingly detailed rules.

RP paper apologizes to Estrada; editors quit

By OLIVER TEVES
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Editors at The Manila Times, one of the Philippines' oldest newspapers, resigned over an apology by its owners Thursday to President Joseph Estrada for a report that prompted him to file a 101 million peso (\$2.6 million) libel suit.

In response to the apology, Estrada said he would drop his suit. Estrada lodged the suit early this month over a story that said he was an "unwitting godfather" for an allegedly improper government contract.

"I would like to extend my sincerest apologies for the anxiety you felt from The Times story published on Feb. 16," Robina Gokongwei-Pe, president of the paper's owner, Metromedia Times Corp., said in a letter to the president published on the front page of Thursday's edition.

She said the story "was never intended to malign or impugn the sterling reputation you have built



Joseph Estrada

up over decades of dedicated public service."

Ms. Gokongwei-Pe had earlier apologized personally to Estrada when she met him at a party and offered him a rose, which he accepted.

The newspaper is owned by the family of tycoon John Gokongwei, whose business empire includes food manufacturing, real estate, airline operations, banking and a chain of department stores.

Managing editor Chit Estrella said

the editors and the reporter who wrote the story, Joel Gaborni, have resigned but will work for 15 more days following a company rule on resignations. Their names were removed Thursday from the staff list published daily in the paper.

Ms. Estrella said they were told by the owners that there was "nothing really wrong with the story" but that they feared pressure from the government on their other businesses.

Estrada denied there had been any pressure.

"There's no truth to that," he said. "We cannot pressure the press. It's the press who are pressing us."

In its original story, the newspaper said the deal, between the state-run National Power Corp. and IMPSA Asia Ltd., an Argentine engineering company, was irregular because last-minute changes were inserted in the contract after it was approved by the government in violation of bidding rules.

Japan tells Arafat: Delay statehood

By CHISAKI WATANABE
TOKYO (AP) — Japan's prime minister urged Yasser Arafat on Thursday not to declare Palestinian statehood before restarting talks with Israel, a government official said.

Japan has been pushing Arafat not to jeopardize the Middle East peace process with such a declaration when the five-year interim period of self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip ends on May 4.

"I understand the Palestinians do have rights to their autonomy, and I strongly hope that an independent state will be established in the near future," Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was quoted as telling Arafat by a Foreign Ministry official.

"But I strongly request that such a declaration of statehood not be made at this point," Obuchi was quoted as saying. "I hope the negotiations will reopen soon and come to a conclusion within a year."

Arafat, who left Japan for Vietnam shortly after the 35-minute session with Obuchi, agreed that the decision was a delicate one, though he said that the end of the interim period would leave the Palestinian autonomous region "in a legal vacuum."

"We are hoping that we'll come to a decision that can satisfy everyone," he was quoted as saying by the Foreign Ministry official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Japanese government considered the statements a softening of Arafat's position on a May 4 declaration of Palestinian statehood.

Arafat was quoted as telling Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura on Wednesday that the PLO Central Committee would convene sometime around April 27 to decide on a statehood declaration—leaving open the possibility that such a declaration could be delayed.

Executor wants judge out

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillbloom's estate executor Bank of Saipan has sought the disqualification of Guam Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III from sitting in the Hillbloom proceedings before the CNMI Supreme Court.

Jack W. Londen, counsel for the executor, sought the removal of Lamorena from presiding over the Hillbloom hearings as associate justice pro tem for alleged conflicts of interest.

Londen asked the high tribunal to designate and assign another member of the panel to serve as associate justice pro tem until such

time the matter is resolved.

First, Londen said, Lamorena has presided over matters in the Guam Superior Court involving the guardianship of qualified heir claimant Junior Larry Hillbloom (Hillbloom son) which are related to the issues under review in the writ proceedings.

The lawyer said under the directive of acting Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, the Supreme Court will be examining the interest of the Guam Superior Court in the guardianship proceeding for Hillbloom, particularly because the child is a resident of Palau.

As the circumstances give rise to

an objective of partiality, Londen pointed out that disqualification of Lamorena is required pursuant to statute and Code of Judicial Conduct.

Second, the executor's counsel said, the parties have requested the Supreme Court to review the propriety and scope of the CNMI Superior Court's reference to Special Master Rexford Kosack.

"Thus, the Supreme Court will necessarily review issues pertaining to the Superior Court's concurrent jurisdiction over Hillbloom as well as issues regarding Hillbloom's attorney compensation agreements," he said.

It is undisputed, he added, that Lamorena has presided over matters relating to Hillbloom's guardianship in the Guam court, including the approval of attorney's compensation agreements and the Dec. 30, 1998 removal of Kaelani Kinney (Hillbloom's mother) as co-guardian for the boy.

In response to the motion to recuse, Joe Hill, one of lawyers for Hillbloom, said the executor's request to disqualify Lamorena is totally groundless.

Hill said the motion is simply another effort by Morrison and Foerster (a law firm representing the executor) to buy time while it

continues to bleed the estate dry of resources while it struggles to survive the many pending actions to penalize or remove them.

"In other words, they (executor's counsel) want this judge (Supreme Court) to believe that all of these diverse parties have something to hide and fear the scrutiny of the court and the Special Master," he said.

"It is a tactic, as old as the law," Hill added.

In reality, the lawyer said, if Guam has any interest, it would be to avoid exercising jurisdiction because this matter consumes limited individual resources.

DYS motorcade against child abuse on tomorrow

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Youth Services will hold the 2nd Annual "For the Children Campaign" motorcade at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Organizers said assembly and briefing on procedures begins at 8 am at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has issued a memorandum urging all government agencies to participate in the motorcade in show of support for children of the Commonwealth.

"To show our support for this event, I invite you, not only to participate in the motorcade but also to encourage members of your staff to do the same same," Tenorio stated in memo.

He also asked agency heads to assist the organizers in preparation of the event.

The governor ordered the Department of Public Safety to ensure the participants' safety.

Blue ribbons, posters and balloons will be distributed.

Participants are urged to honk their horns at the parade.

Chamber wants to hire government employees



Kerry Deets

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce wants to attract public sector employees to its fold.

If successful, the plan would help government cut down on its bloated bureaucracy while, at the same time,

ensure that local residents entering the private sector are skilled.

Chamber President Kerry Deets said the move is part of draft recommendations on incentives that can be given to businesses hiring locals.

Under the proposal, qualified government employees eyeing private employment will be given a six-month salary upon leaving the administration. In return, they will not be allowed to re-enter the public sector for at least five years.

"It brings more of the government workers back into the private sector. We would love to have more of the government employees into the private sector (because they are) very skilled people," said Deets.

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'Comply with wage law'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

DESPITE mounting complaints from members of the private sector, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday told employers to comply with the law seeking to extend similar benefits or cash equivalents enjoyed by nonresidents to their local counterparts.

The governor said the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act has been in effect since 1995 but was never enforced despite the significant economic growth ex-

perienced by the CNMI from that year until the crisis hit the region in mid-1997.

Tenorio said the law has been passed and approved for concerned sectors to comply with which leaves member of the CNMI business community to start providing equal benefits between local and foreign workers.

"I think the business community has reviewed the law that has just been passed, they should

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Navy helps rescue Chinese at high seas



A Chinese illegal immigrant woman curled up in bed yesterday at the Territorial Detention Facility in Mangilao. There are 35 women and 192 Chinese illegal aliens being detained at the overcrowded facility. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The USS Chancellorsville conducted a rescue operation while underway in the South China Sea and rescued stranded Chinese nationals on the evening of April 6.

According to the Chancellorsville Public Affairs Office, the ship answered the call for help from nine stranded Chinese nationals adrift off the west coast of Guam.

Chancellorsville was with the USS Kitty Hawk, en route to the Arabian Gulf, when the conning officer spotted a red light off the starboard side. The Commanding Officer, Capt. V. J. Andrews, and the Officer of the Deck ordered the ship around for a closer look.

As Chancellorsville approached the light, the shape of a small craft became visible and cries for help were heard. Chancellorsville then launched its rigid hulled inflatable

boat (RHIB) to investigate.

The Navy crew found five men and four women aboard, all between the ages of 25 and 35, hungry with little food and no fuel on board the 18-foot boat. One female suffered from severe dehydration.

The hospital corpsman onboard the RHIB determined that medical assistance was needed beyond what could be provided on-scene so the commanding officer decided to embark the people for medical evaluation and humanitarian care.

As the people were being fed and cared for, they told their story, saying they had come originally from China to Saipan, where they had been working.

After the expiration of their working visas, they had borrowed a boat and left Saipan, intending to find work elsewhere. Instead, their boat ran out of gas and they were blown off course.

Chancellorsville happened upon them 76 miles to the west of Guam. At that point, they had been without food for five days and without water for three. All were given food, water, clean

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IMF reps to visit Palau

By Eileen O. Oreiro
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A group of financial and economic planners from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is scheduled to visit the island in May this year to help the government establish statistical indicators that would be used as a gauge on the how the local economy performs.

Financial Advisor Kaleb Udui, Jr. of the Ministry of Administration said the five-man team, composed of an accountant, economists and financial analysts, will stay on the island for three weeks.

The group will have specifically financial and economic planners who will work on establishing statistical baseline for the country's gross national product, gross domestic product (GDP), balance of trade, Overseas Filipino Workers' dollar remittances, employment,

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OSHA wants NMI garment industry health standards

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

INSTEAD of issuing citations, the U.S. Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) would prefer having all garment companies and big businesses in the CNMI to adopt comprehensive health programs to avoid massive occupational health-related problems.

OSHA is set to meet with the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association to discuss the adoption of these programs that govern food procurement, food storage and preparation, water quality, medical management, and employee hazard identification.

In a press conference yesterday, Robert Curtis, director of OSHA Program Support Division pointed out that adherence to these programs will save the garment industry from facing OSHA citations, as well as reduce the risk of water and food-borne diseases among com-

pany employees. "The citations are comparatively minimal in cost as to the cost of having your employees sick where you pay for their medical bills, or your factory shut down in a day," said Curtis.

OSHA called on garment firms to adopt the programs in the same way as they recently adopted a Code of Ethics.

Curtis also stressed that compliance with good health and sanitation regulations can be effectively done even without imposition of penalties.

"The financial cost of a ticket of citation is not the motivation that we need. Instead, the motivation now is they (garment firms) have a much more expensive task for themselves and their workers by implementing these programs," said Curtis.

The OSHA officials expressed hopes that SGMA will heed

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FORUM

A Meeting Place For Our
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EDITORIAL

Wear that blue ribbon

AFTER a rather successful campaign last year, the "Wear a Blue Ribbon project" is again launched on Saipan, hoping to bring the same kind of awareness that tugged the hearts of many children's rights advocates here on island about a year ago.

April is CNMI Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, as proclaimed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. And because issues affecting children are central to any community's development efforts, there should be unanimous consensus on the need to protect the rights of this most vulnerable group.

This celebration should be held most special like in previous years. Once again, the CNMI community takes time to reflect on how much it values its little ones—the children—whom everyone calls the future of the islands, but whose welfare everybody seem to have always overlooked.

While children are indeed any society's most precious wealth, it seems, often times, such a notion ends up being mere lip service.

Many children continue to be deprived of the attention and support they need to develop into responsible members of society. This despite the almost universal agreement of kids being the hope of tomorrow.

How can a community say it looks after the welfare of its children when parents are seen to continue verbally and physically abusing their kids?

We all see children being pinched, slapped, shouted at, hurt, punished and demeaned at the slightest act of mischief or hard-headedness. Adults sexually abuse them and yet most of us don't even seem to notice their pain and anguish.

While kids continue to be neglected, at times unwittingly, by their parents, there seems to be no realization of such neglect. So considered common are kids being left in cars while their parents played poker; some left starving while their fathers drank beer with friends; and a lot of them having had to put up with baby-sitters who sometimes rough them up for watching too much cartoons on TV or for asking too many things.

Even though all are one in saying our children should be top in our priorities, little or none has been done to ensure they are abuse-free.

This is because a lot of times incidents of abuse are not readily detected by those who matter, or because those who matter don't even know that they themselves are perpetrating abusive acts on their children.

It is about time that this community take a stronger stand against child abuse and bring advocacy of children's rights to a higher level.

Let us all stand up as a community for the rights of our youngsters and abhor any form of abuse.

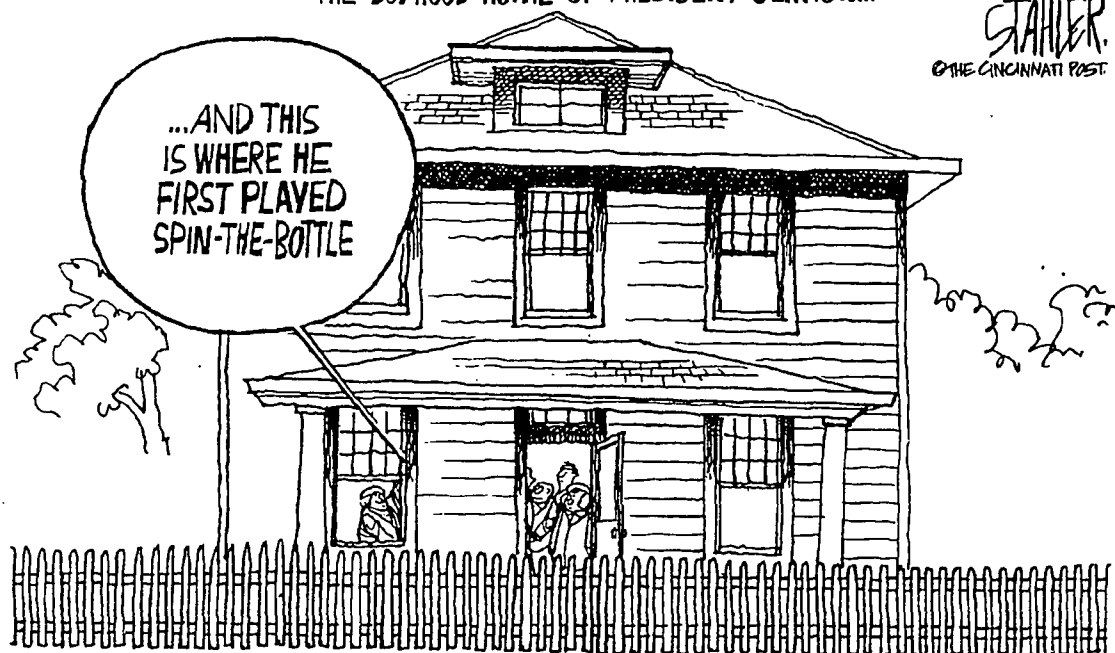
Wear a blue ribbon, join the campaign, ride the motorcade. Be counted.

But more importantly, each and everyone of us should resolve and commit to not allowing our kids get into harm's way.

Moreover, let us all take time and listen to our children—their views, their concerns, even their tall tales. Let's be more attentive, hug them, see through their eyes, be young again.

From there, we can all have a greater understanding of their existence and commit to ensuring they are safe, not only for the rest of the month but all year round.

THE BOYHOOD HOME OF PRESIDENT CLINTON...



Kosovo for beginners

IT'S ABOUT as large as the island of Hawaii, or 100 times the size of Saipan.

Kosovo was an autonomous province in communist Yugoslavia, which was a federation of the "socialist republics" of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Montenegro. Like the USSR, Yugoslavia disintegrated in the early 1990s with four of its republics declaring independence. What is known as Yugoslavia today is the federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

Separatist ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, for their part, have been initiating riots as early as 1981, which led, in 1989, to the revocation of their province's autonomy and the establishment of military rule under the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army. Kosovo shares a border with Albania. By the 1980s, Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, who are Muslims, already outnumber the Serbians, who are Orthodox Christians, nine to one. But the Serbians consider Kosovo the heart of Serbia/Yugoslavia; it is central to their national mythology; it is the "cradle" of their civilization.

In other words, the situation in Kosovo is that 90 percent of its people, the ethnic Albanians, resent being ruled by the Serbians, who want them evicted.

Meanwhile, the more radical ethnic Albanians formed the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) which seeks independence through armed struggle. Under the leadership of the Serbian chauvinist/demagogue Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia responded with a major offensive that included destroying villages and slaughtering civilians, women and children included. The Yugoslav army's war aim is to rid Kosovo of the "Muslim foreigners"—the ethnic Albanians—mainly by terrorizing them into leaving their homeland.

The result is what Time magazine calls "an unavoidable humanitarian catastrophe and a potential continent-wide refugee problem." Worse, the conflict between Albanian Kosovars and Yugoslavians threaten to draw in Albania, Macedonia, Russia, Iran, Turkey and Greece.

As in any war of ethnic nationalism, it's a godawful mess.

Knowing this, the US and NATO tried to broker a peace agreement that would have given Kosovo limited autonomy as a Yugoslav province. Milosevic, however, rejected the accord, resumed the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo and virtually taunted the US and NATO to do something about it.

What should the US and NATO do?

The New York Times' William Safire, one of the more sensible "libertarian-conservatives," recently identified five "schools of thought" in the ongoing debate over US involvement in Kosovo:

- **The Simplifiers**, of which the Clinton administration is the main proponent. They say the US, as the world's lone superpower, has a moral imperative and ethical responsibility to act against naked aggression, brutality and crimes against humanity.

- **The Thoughtful Internationalists**, among whom are US Sens. Richard G. Lugar (R-Indiana) and John S. McCain (R-Arizona). They reluctantly support the bombing of Yugoslav military targets because otherwise the alliance of Western nations would look like a pitiful helpless giant.

- **The America Firsters**, who are mostly from the political Right and whose leading unofficial spokesperson is Pat Buchanan. They say that Yugoslavia's action is a legitimate defense of its national borders.

Interestingly, the Left says the same thing. They compare the conflict in Kosovo with the American Civil War. In addition, they say that the US has no moral standing to deplore civilian casualties in the war in Kosovo because of what the American armed forces did in Vietnam (and in the Philippines, by the way).

Also, they fear that the justification for intervening in Kosovo smacks too much of the old Cold War doctrine that led the US armed forces into Vietnam and similar sorties in other Third World countries. Intrusion.

The American "excursion" in Kosovo, they say, is merely a part of the US quest to make the world safe for US investors and exporters.

The US, they say, is again acting like an imperialist.

- **The Wilsonians**, of which Safire says he is one. Like President Woodrow Wilson, they believe that "Every people has a right to choose the sovereignty under which they shall live." They say that the Ethnic Albanians have been denied their cultural freedom and deserve support for their separatist goals.

- **The Anti-Wilsonians**. Dr. Henry Kissinger is at the forefront of this group, which believes that righteous idealism can further destabilize an already unstable politico-military situation.

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Economic Outlook

Selected characteristics of Saipan's economy

By William H. Stewart
Economic Service Counsel

A REVIEW of economic data for Saipan published as a result of the 1995 census of population and the '97 economic census reveals interesting information on the status of the economy at that time. The total 1997 reported sales and receipts for five of Saipan's major economic sectors, (construction, manufacturing, service, wholesale and retail trade) was \$2.0 billion. These sectors reported an annual payroll of \$314.6 million for 28,068 employees.

In examining only two components within the five sectors, manufacturing and hotels, census data revealed the following: manufacturing, (primarily garment), reported sales of \$762.1 million with an annual payroll of \$146.6 million and 13,686 employees (as of the March 12th payroll). The thirty three CNMI wide hotels reported \$195.1 million in sales with an annual payroll of \$34.4 million with 2,912 employees (as of the same period).



William H. Stewart

Within the five sectors, manufacturing accounted for 38.1% of sales as compared with 9.8% for hotels, (not considering the multiplier effect) with the balance of 52.1% or \$1.0 billion generated by the other three sectors.

In terms of payroll, manufacturing (primarily garment) reported \$146.6 million, (46.6%) as compared with hotels reporting \$34.4 million, (10.9%) with the other three sectors at approximately \$133.6, (42.5%) total payroll \$314.6 million.

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Kosovo . . . Continued from page 4

Like President Clinton, however, Safire maintains that any decision to intervene in a regional conflict should be based on criteria that can only be applied inconsistently. For example, because China is too powerful and too important a nation, the US cannot do anything, at this time, to help Tibet regain its independence. On the other hand, Safire says, in Kosovo, the villain is relatively weak and the potential bloodshed is terrible, so the US can intervene—but with bombs, not troops.

Still, critics from both the Left and the Right fear that the US-led NATO intervention would only push Russia and China into greater military cooperation.

Russia is opposed to the NATO bombings because, historically, it considers itself the "big brother" of its fellow Slavs in Yugoslavia. Moreover, Russia, like China, fears that the transformation of NATO from a defensive security arrangement into a European "superpower" sets a precedent of military intervention that bypasses the United Nations in a domestic dispute in a sovereign country. The LA Times' Jim Mann noted that it is a potential headache for American foreign policy if Russia and China reestablish their close military alliance, which sent proverbial shivers down the spine of the US in the 1950s.

But like the "Cold Warrior" liberals of those days, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Clinton contend that the strongest argument for intervention is the lesson learned in World War II: Aggressors must be stopped immediately before a full-blown international conflict erupts.

Blair and Clinton, incidentally, are political moderates derided by liberals and leftists as "conservative lite." The more rabid Rightists, of course, consider anyone who is not with them as "leftist."

And it was these same Rightists who, in the early 1980s, supported backing the anti-Vietnam alliance in Cambodia that included Pol Pot and his murderous Khmer Rouge. They also found nothing wrong with the series of no less blatant US intervention in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa during the Cold War—all in the name of anti-communism. They now oppose even limited involvement in Kosovo against a puny thug who brutalizes hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who just want to determine their political future in their own homeland.

The US and NATO, to be sure, are opposed to the creation of an independent Kosovo, which, they know, could "inspire"—in the wrong way—the millions of ethnic minorities who live in the nations between Germany and Russia. Hence, the US and NATO position is for Kosovo to regain its autonomy. Indeed, as The New Republic says, the danger now is not that NATO will go too far; it is that NATO will not go far enough.

The US, however, is intervening in Kosovo mainly because it has been embarrassed into action, as Charles Lane wrote recently, noting that amid the slaughters in Rwanda and Bosnia then-President Bush warned Milosevic in 1992 not to wage war against the Kosovars.

Unfortunately for Milosevic, says Lane, after seven years the US finally recovered its sense of shame.

Letters to the Editor

Govendo raps Teno on garment 'addition'

Dear Editor:

How can the CNMI show the federal government that it means business when it comes to local immigration reforms? How about by increasing the number of non-resident garment workers by 2,500? That's how!

In one stroke of the pen Governor Pedro P. Tenorio outbid Froilan Tenorio as the best friend the garment industry ever had by signing H.B. 11-315 into law and adding another 2,500-plus foreign workers to the over 13,500 we now have.

Why is it so difficult for almost all our elected officials to understand that the garment industry makes Saipan look bad to the rest of the world? I wonder if it has something to do with campaign donations?

Our garment representatives will tell you that this bill was necessary to cap the number. Didn't we have a moratorium? The number could have been capped without increasing it. Indeed, the number could have been reduced and capped at 7,500. That would have been a "reform."

Speaker Benavente was against this bill and is doing the right thing by continuing to oppose it as a law which should be repealed. I imagine the Lt. Governor was also against the Governor signing since

he and the Speaker head the 902 team and know firsthand there will be hell to pay in our dealings with the feds. We're burning some serious bridges here!

I'm sure our Secretary of Labor and Immigration was also against this bill since his job is hard enough without having more garment workers to worry about.

Reform is something that our politicians talk about but don't mean. It is difficult to be impressed by the raids, inspections and the deportation of small fry when real reforms are not instituted.

Just ask yourself whether one garment factory has ever paid a large fine, been suspended from doing business or put out of business. Has any owner or manager ever been jailed for a crime? Has the number of workers or factories been reduced? Of course, the answer is no to all those questions.

It has become frightfully obvious that our Legislature and now our executive branch are controlled by the garment industry. Almost everyone is against more garment workers, yet our elected representatives listened to the industry and not the people.

I didn't vote for Teno because I believed that the garment industry would control him. However, I was still hoping that he might have just enough common sense to see the big picture and send H.B. 11-315

back to the drawing boards.

I should have known better—he's still the godfather of this industry. I wonder if I'm the only one who is disappointed.

Besides making CNMI elected officials once again look like liars and fools to federal officials, what does the increase in the number of garment workers mean for the average local person?

Something Teno and our garment representatives can't bring themselves to think about—little garment barracks all over our island.

No matter where you live there are going to be garment workers living not far from you in rented houses, apartments and commercial buildings. You are going to have less water and you will have to be careful not to run them over in your cars.

Your neighborhoods will be more crowded, stinky and noisy than ever. They will become "containerized," big and little buses will come around. Wait and see.

November is coming so don't forget that all our elected representatives except the Speaker, Herman Palacios, Frank Cepeda and Dave Cing voted in favor of increasing the number of garment workers on Saipan. And don't forget Mr. Reform—Teno—who could have shown us some leadership by vetoing this bill.

KENNETH L. GOVENDO

Taisacan advises, salutes Cepeda

Dear Editor:

This letter is addressed to Hon. Cong. Frank Cepeda.

I am glad that you put on top of your list the police force in this upcoming oversight hearing of police and DOC. But what is it to merit an oversight hearing? Just another taxpayers' burden when we all know that we need to exercise financial constraint.

We have to treat this matter on a one by one talk with the commissioner to economize expenditure and lessen tax payer's burden.

The governor has decided to construct a new prison facility purely

on sole source financing. It means that a prison will run like those in the states with medical and dental assistance, a psychiatrist to help evaluate them for public safety.

Your committee should put more emphasis and make this worthy project a priority. In this case, you are also helping the governor enhance success on this endeavor. There is a need for a private discussion regarding this matter with the commissioner.

Your colleagues should have done this thing already but this project was not in their priority list.

Honorable Gov. Pedro Tenorio has told the public about this prob-

lem.

Your job is to provide the required number after Governor Tenorio in his lists made this problem public.

There are such a thing as "Dead on arrival of Bills". Truly, the congressmen can pass the bill without hassle but I know for a fact that there are other good bills that are good only for introduction but end up in the trash can.

Lastly, I will continue to write about your good work at the Legislature and good health to you, Hon. Cong. Frank Cepeda. I salute.

JESUS M. TAISACAN

Pangelinan questions aliens' SS contributions

Dear Editor:

I would like to ask the elected leaders of our CNMI, why none of them has ever thought of challenging the U.S. of A. about the aliens' social security contribution to Uncle Sam.

Allen Stayman and Congressman George Miller are doing lots of crap to stop the importation of our work force and have them sent home. Don't they know that the so-called alien labor force in our CNMI are contributing over \$10 million to Uncle Sam's general fund? I'll try to show a simple diagram later.

Right now I am asking the elected leaders if they can make a law to stop sending the aliens' social security contribution to Uncle Sam and just keep it here. Our CNMI government could surely use this

fund.

Why not? Allen and Georgie always talk a lot and try to find ways to deny our most needed help. The aliens are working here. It is here where they are making a living, not in the U.S. mainland. Uncle Sam will not reimburse these aliens after three, five or eight years when they exit CNMI.

In order to get social security benefit you have to contribute for ten years into Uncle Sam's fund and reach 65 years of age to get it. But most aliens do not stay in CNMI that long. That is a tremendous amount of income Uncle Sam is reaping out of CNMI. When all Allen and Georgie do is talk negatively about our work force.

Let Allen and Georgie collect our U.S. citizens' social security contribution from here. But why

should we allow to let Uncle Sam collect our aliens' contribution?

Turn around and look at Guam. Uncle Sam returned (reimbursed) to Guam the Federal Income Tax collected from the U.S. military staff and dependents, who are station and working there every year in the millions of dollars.

Why not in these 902 negotiations bring this up?

Or just simply and flatly tell the U.S. Treasury Department that starting this Fiscal year October 1999, the CNMI government will keep the aliens' social security contribution for CNMI's better use.

Imagine below how much CNMI can collect and use for our children's education, medical referral and infrastructure within five (5) years within the five (5) stages

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Marianas Variety

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Fund's assets drop by \$12.3M in month

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

STOCK market investments of the NMI Retirement Fund suffered a \$12.3 million loss in February, reversing the \$11.5 million gain of the previous month, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Fund, however, shrugs off fears that the downward trend for the one-month period — the first time in fiscal year 1999 — will affect the retirement benefits made available to the members.

While the Fund gives out some \$26 million annually to pay for retirees' benefits, its fiscal year-to-date stock market assets as of end-February is pegged at \$43,216,446. This amount available for retirees' pension does not yet include the resources gained from the Fund's local investments.

Acting Fund administrator Fred F. Camacho disclosed that market volatility, particularly the drop

in stocks where the Fund invested in, resulted in the decline of off-island investment assets.

Camacho, at the same time, pointed out that the decline in stock market-invested assets will have no bearing at all with the amount of pension the Fund members regularly receive.

"This is not something alarming. Benefits are definitely not threatened," Camacho said in an interview.

The Fund reported a 3.54 percent decline in stock market assets in February which amounts to \$12,313,640 net of fees and expenses.

This brings to \$43,216,446 the FYTD off-island assets of the Fund which is considerably lower than the FYTD assets as of end-January which is \$55,529,556.

During the first quarter of the fiscal year or from October to

Continued on page 38

Tinian relay station bolsters US media presence in Asia

THE RELAY station inaugurated in Tinian just two days ago manifested the United States strong intention to increased its broadcasting activities in Asia and reached the secluded audience in that part of the region, according to an official of the International Broadcasting Bureau.

"We will be broadcasting more in Asia. In the past, we are broadcasting primarily in Europe, so this allows us to broadcast in Asian countries," said Ted Kaufman, a governor to the government owned agency which is running the triumvirate Voice of America, Radio for Free Asia, and Radio for Europe services.

"We will be giving what's going in the other parts of the world, what's going on in the other countries, and what's going on in the United States," he said.

Kaufman along with fellow IBB governor Tom Korologos and Richard Richter, president of the Radio for Free Asia presided over the official launching of the 500 kilowatt relay station of the IBB which would be used jointly by the Voice of America and free Asia for their services which would be beamed from Washington.

The US Army Corps of Engineer had done the environmental study for the facility which was built by Telesource and was being operated by Boeing Company.

Richter said the Tinian station, which is the biggest, was the number four relay facility for their services, aside from those that are already operating in Hawaii, Palau, and on the island which was bought from the media owner Christian Science Monitor, but would soon receded to the US government.

Richter said that VOA has only one facility in Asia and this is located in the Philippines.

Radio for Free Asia is a private entity but it is operating on funds appropriated by the US Congress.

VOA concentrates more on news and informations on a foreign setting while Free Asia delves on current affairs within the host country.

Senate President Paul Manglona said that the multi-million project will promote Tinian especially during this time while the NMI is experiencing economic difficulties.

"This project highlights the need for diversification and for the need for federal projects and US investment here in the Commonwealth, and this is one such very significant investment, es-

Continued on page 41

OSHA: No citation for L&T incident

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE U.S. Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) yesterday cleared L&T Garment Manufacturing Corporation of any citation related to last month's food poisoning incident which downed 1,167 Chinese workers.

However, OSHA cautioned L&T of other citations if it fails to immediately comply with the five-program recommendations set forth by OSHA.

The disclosure came after the completion of the initial phase of OSHA's investigation, and after the said federal agency issued an official letter to L&T documenting a number of recommendations designed to prevent recurrence of similar incident.

Robert Curtis, director of OSHA Program Support Division, yesterday told local government officials and reporters that while L&T will not be meted with fines stemming from the recent massive food poisoning incident, the garment firm will still be under close scrutiny until its full compliance with five recommended programs.

"At this point, there is no citation from OSHA regarding this specific incident (at L&T) . . . But what we want to happen is for these programs to be implemented. If not, then we will resort to citations," Curtis said during a joint press conference called by OSHA, the CNMI Department of Public Health and the Division of Environmental Quality.

Curtis said it will be more helpful for L&T management to cough

out resources to institute corrective programs to address occupational safety concerns rather than use the money to pay for any citation fee.

"We prefer to have Tan Holdings to use their time and resources to ensure the safety of its workers than have them pay the fine," said Curtis.

In a letter addressed to Willie Tan, president of Tan Holdings which is the mother company of L&T, OSHA told the garment company to expand its health programs to minimize the risk of future outbreaks.

These are the Food Procurement Program, Food Storage and Preparation program, Water Quality Program, Medical Management Program, and Employee Hazard Identification Program.

Continued on page 41



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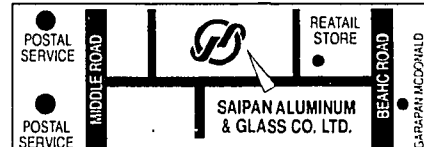
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Customs men warned on 'bribery'

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

CUSTOMS officers found to be accepting bribes will be dealt with harshly. Customs Service acting Director Jose C. Mafnas has warned.

"If I catch any of my Customs officers receiving bribe, I will personally handle the case," Mafnas said in an interview.

"I will not condone it. I will see to it that these bad apples are weeded out," Mafnas added.

The Customs office is one of front-line government agencies most prone to corruption in almost any country, officials said, noting officers may discreetly allow misdeclaration and smuggling of goods for a fee.

Mafnas said he has not received

reports about Customs officers suspected to be taking bribes.

He added that Customs is currently implementing measures ensuring that officers shun bribery attempts.

These include regular meetings during which officers are "re-minded" not to accept bribes.

"It is a reminder. I tell them, 'Don't do it, it is not worth it,'" said Mafnas.

In a related story meanwhile,

Mafnas said some 20 Customs personnel have recently concluded a public relations seminar.

"We are one of the first agencies that visitors come in contact with. I remind them (Customs staff) that the impression (they) give out there will reflect on the CNMI," said Mafnas.

He added that the seminar was held in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Mafnas said there has been a

few incidents involving rude Customs officers.

"There may be one or two cases, (but) sometimes they (visitors) mis-identify us because of the blue uniform," said Mafnas, referring to airport staff of the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) who also wears blue uniform and have, in the past, been the subject of numerous complaints by tourists and arriving guest workers.

Make-A-Wish Foundation to establish office in CNMI

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE Make-A-Wish Foundation, which has chapter on Guam, will see another chapter on Saipan, it was learned yesterday.

Representatives from the foundation came to Saipan yesterday to facilitate the papers needed to establish the new chapter.

Jo Ann C. Garrido and Mary Sanchez, the foundation's executive director and vice president respectively, met with the new foundation's board members Dave Sablan and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to discuss the goals of the organization.

The foundation, which was formed in 1980, serves children between ages 2.5 to 18 afflicted with life-threatening illnesses.

Garrido said the CNMI is covered by the foundation's Guam chapter so its officers have decided to put up an office here.

The Guam chapter was formed in 1987.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation will be assisted by First Lady Sophie Tenorio and her Vision Foundation in putting up the CNMI field office.

Garrido said the foundation, which earns its funds through donations from the community, caters to clients referred by physicians.

The foundation grants certain wishes of children referred to the agency. These wishes come in four categories. They are: I want to go; I want to have; I want to be; and I want to meet.

The CNMI chapter is expected to open this month.

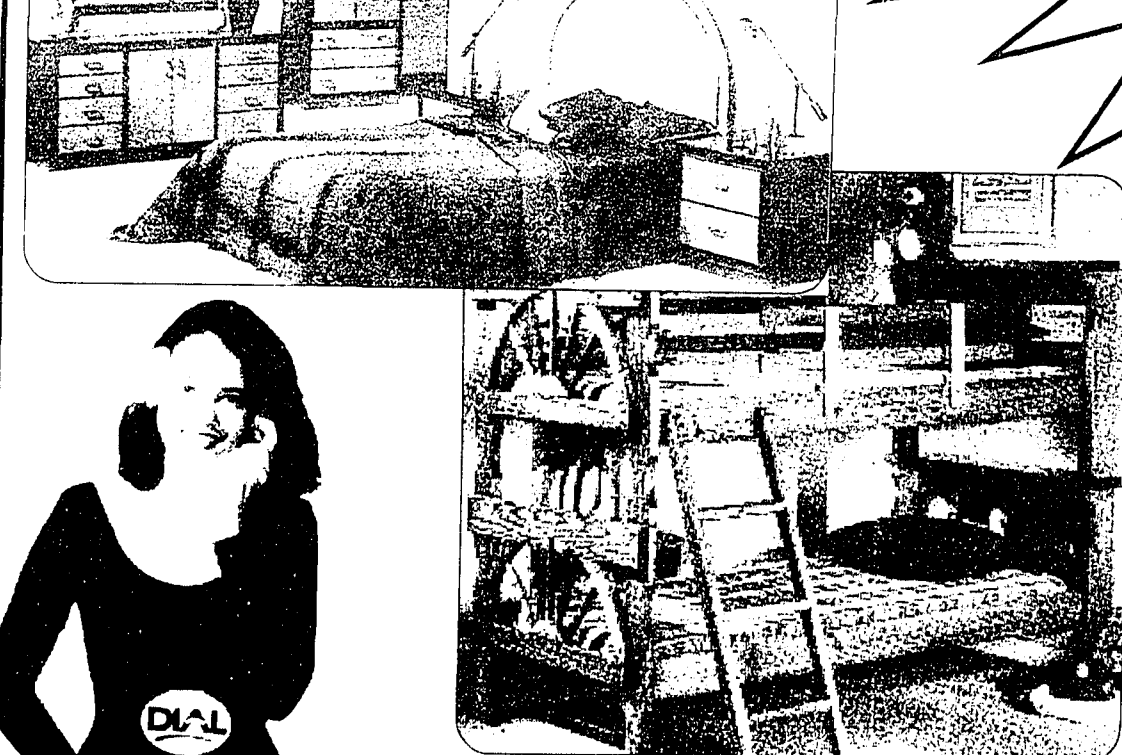


Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (right) joins Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam officials Mary Sanchez (2nd from right), Jo Ann C. Garrido (2nd from left) and the foundation's new board member Dave Sablan (left) after a meeting yesterday at Hala Adai hotel.
Photo by Louie C. Alonso

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LaMotte rebuts pay hike report

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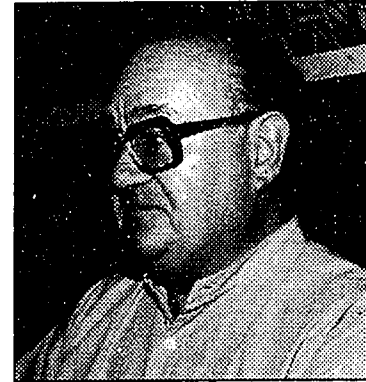
By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Auditor Leo L. LaMotte yesterday clarified that the salary increase that could be granted to him by the proposed fiscal year 2000 budget was based on the previous year's appropriation act, which provided for increased pay levels for certain government officials who are lawyers or possess post-graduate degrees.

"We didn't ask for a pay hike even though my salary has not changed

for close to five years now," LaMotte said.

He said his current pay is \$60,000 a year—and not \$70,000—which would be increased to \$70,000—and not to



Leo L. LaMotte

\$80,000—by the FY 2000 budget proposal.

LaMotte at the same time denied that the salaries of some of his staff members were reduced

Continued on page 38

Bond needed for PSS projects

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT may not be able to swiftly act on several school construction projects contained in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Plan until the Public School System is able to float \$16 million bond which will be used to meet local matching requirement.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said projects in relation to the improvement of public educational institutions like those in Garapan and Oleai elementary schools will

have to wait until PSS finalizes the administration of the bond.

PSS and a financial company from the United States have repeatedly failed to sell the \$16 million bond in the American stock market despite several attempts due to alleged failure to complete requirements.

Latest attempt to sell the bond was in February but efforts also proved futile because of reports on the declining local economy and that the 1997 audit report failed to satisfy buyers.

Continued on page 38

AGO takes on brutality issue

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE CHIEF of the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division yesterday assured the public that the AGO is continuously investigating allegations of police brutality.

"We always welcome the public to approach us with facts or situations (about alleged police visibility) that deserve investigation. We have always done this in the past and we continue to do it in the future," said Assistant Atty. Gen. Kevin Lynch, head of the

AGO's Criminal Division.

Lynch was reacting to statements of the two lawyers from the Public Defender's Office (PDO) that the AGO "ignored" the allegations of a defendant that he was beaten up by police officers.

Assistant Public Defender Masood Karimipour in an interview Wednesday asked the public's help or anyone victimized by the police to come forward.

Karimipour vowed to pursue the case of his client, Ramon Ayuyu, who was allegedly beaten

up and at gunpoint forced to sign documents by some police officers.

The court dropped the case charging Ayuyu with theft following request by the AGO to dismiss the matter as the government's star witness could not be located.

Assistant Public Defender Robert Torres on the other hand, stated that it is clear that the government did not proceed with due diligence on Ayuyu's case to vindicate the latter's right.

Lynch in a telephone interview denied that the AGO is not pursuing misconduct complaints against police officers.

"I think if you look at the statistics and you look at the kind of cases that our office has filed, you will find that we have filed cases involving all kinds of misconduct whether it is police brutality or whether it is financial misconduct or any other kind of criminal wrongdoings by government of-

Continued on page 38

'Reserve 911 for emergency only'

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A TOP official of the Department of Public Safety appealed to 911 callers to dial the emergency number only on "real" emergency cases so that the line can be cleared of calls for "ordinary cases."

Major Clyde Norita, head of DPS Office for Special Programs, said by declogging the line, the police would be able to respond promptly to emergency cases.

Norita said about 60 percent of the patches received by the operator are of non emergency in nature.

Norita advised the public to use the trunkline 6649-000 for other calls.

Several 911 callers have complained about the police's slowness in responding to calls.

Norita has attributed this to the limited number of lines available.

He said DPS does not have a real 911 system which cost at least half

a million dollars to install.

Aside from the real system, DPS also laments the absence of street names and exact address to directly locate places in trouble.

He said the complete system requires the installation of screen monitors which flash questions, guide and instructions when touched.

FBI arrests businesswoman

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested a businesswoman who failed to pay damages to a Bangladeshi worker.

The Variety learned that FBI agents picked up Geraldine Sebaklim shortly after US District Court Judge Alex Munson issued Wednesday morning an arrest warrant against her.

Sebaklim, however, was immediately freed after posting \$800 bail.

During a hearing yesterday morning, Munson cited Sebaklim for contempt and ordered her to spend five days in jail, all suspended provided that she could make monthly payment of the damages.

Sebaklim, doing business as Geri's Security and Manpower Services, was sued in 1997 by Mohammad Miah for violations of Fair Labor Standard Act.

The court issued a default judgment ordering the defendant to pay the security guard \$16,828 in damages.

The businesswoman failed to make the allotment of such payment, prompting Miah's counsel Jay Sorensen to move to have her adjudged in contempt.

When the defendant failed to appear in court, Sorensen asked the court to issue an arrest warrant to which the judge granted.

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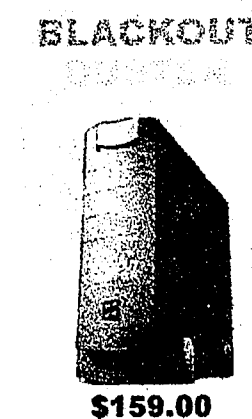
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* Migrants & Refugees * Physical Health Awareness * Sacrament of Penance * Environmental Awareness

Tinayuyut Para si San Roke

Yuus na todoha unnaña ya na nanahuyong i langet yan i tano! I manhulat yan yoase na kanaimo nae gaige i finatai yan i linala. Enao mina hame ni man sen salaon yan milinache na taotao mandidimo papa ya intaguan ham gi sen tagahlo na pintomo yan i faye na inadahimo yan i taihinekog na yineasemo. Hago Asaina, malago na utanfinamauleg i mangilisano, ya i ti igiyon yan yiniusan na minalegmo hanae si San Roke ni sasahnge yan manhulat na ninasiña na unafana! chetnot ni i tatme ayo siha i fumalague gue, ya uogoge siha ni tinayuyutña, pat unañahlalang i finehman i tininasmo na hagas-ha nina kaloha yan ninatenhos nu i isao mame, ya unamahñao i inmerese na sinapet tataotao yan ante, sa inpeka makakat i Santos yan mames na tinagomo. Enao na grasia, masoda ma tuge gi papa i aunan San Roke anae matai ni manachetnudanña, ya ilegña: "I manninaye nu i tatme na chetnot, yanggin uhafalague si San Roke, utan ninahomlo." Magahet-ha na sumen-dangkulo i ninaimo nu guiya; ya meton lokue i inangokonmame guihe siha na finihio Namames hao Asaina, na unekungok ham pago anae intatayuyut hao ya ingagao ni yoase na sinaguemo. I manmauleg na checho San Roke, i santos na pennagaña, i tinas hinanao-ña, i mañinila na ginell'eña nu hago, yan ayo i mamaog na yineaseña nu i tiguangña kilisano anae manina-amte siha gi chetnot ya maninamamagof i manmahalang ya manina gaihinalom siha ya haosusume sumungon taemano i tagkalom na minalagomo; enao siha ni i hagas mina mapao i maagoda na biniburno gi megal na songsong Itala muna intatayuyut hao lokue na chamo yiyilang i taotao siha ya unmaase nu hame yan i teguengmame kilisano. Nafangahaya ham gi manatme na chetno; nalan chago giya hame ayo siha i siha hanalamen i tataotao pat i ante. Nafanunas siha i chechomame yan i finihio yan i hinasonmame, ya chaniha dumidiles gi yiniusan tinayuyutmo. Nafan gai minalek i tinayuyutmame, ya unekungok siha magof. Nae ham ni siningonmame ya infanmesngon; ya inhilat sumungon mangelfmanhongge i chinot yan i chinetan i haanen mame, ya inhago guine i taihinekog na yineasemo i talfinagpo na ginefsagan i langet. Taegenao mohon.

Special Appreciation to
the Family of Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Hilaria Santos
for their generous contribution and support of the 50th Golden Anniversary of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral

Admiral: US values the Northern Marianas, Guam

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

GUAM and the CNMI, being the only US territories in the Pacific region that can host military exercises, will remain strategically important to the US military in light of the current geo-political situation and threats from different terrorist groups, a ranking US navy official has disclosed.

"A lot of things change — the weather changes, the economy changes, geography won't change," said US Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Walter F. Doran.

"Guam and the Northern Marianas have had a long and enduring traditional relationship particularly with the US navy. That is not going to change. In fact, as you look ahead into the future, the importance of Guam

and Northern Marianas, I think, will be more important to us," Doran said in an interview with reporters following a speech before members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Wednesday.

Doran said Guam and CNMI "really provide... the only training area and training ranges in the Western Pacific that are American."

"The opportunity to come out here and use these ranges and the waters that surround them is very, very important... and we treasure it," said Doran, adding that the US military makes it a point to "clean the mess" every after exercise.

"We also take very, very seriously the responsibility (to the environment). When we come out here and use those ranges, we

Continued on page 38

Marshalls: ADB loan is a '\$7 million failure'

By Giff Johnson

For the Variety

MAJURO — Despite tests this week, Majuro's new fresh water distribution system — built with an Asian Development Bank loan of \$7 million — is still not working, according to local officials.

Marshall Islands Finance Minister Tony deBrum called the recently completed but not working water project "a \$7 million failure."

It is a good example of a poorly conceived project that did not take into account local knowledge, he said. "Who's going to be responsible to pay it back?" he asked. "We're not. I hope that the Asian Development Bank will write it off as a grant that failed."

Majuro Water and Sewer Company general manager Bill Roberts said that despite a new round of tests that concluded earlier in the week, there was "no significant improvement in the water pressure."

A major goal of the ADB-funded project was to improve water pressure to the downtown area of this capital city where the bulk of the population is located, six-to-nine miles from the main reservoir. Because rain-dependent



Tony deBrum

Majuro is forced to ration fresh water, it is only available now three days each week and residents and businesses at the end of the pipeline only begin receiving pressure at the end of the day just a short time before the water is turned off. When water inspectors recently turned on the new pipe system, pressure was even worse than with the old system now in use, according to Roberts.

Ministry of Works inspector Thomas Maddison said that the tests of the system, which began in January, are continuing and consultants from Parsons Engineering, which designed the system, will return in three-to-four weeks to complete the testing process in an effort to make the new system work.

Roberts said that Parsons officials are going to "review the design and look at means of making the new system work." But, he said, the lack of water pressure is only one of five significant problems in the new fresh water distribution system.

These problems demonstrate that there was no discussion with local officials knowledgeable in water distribution prior to the system being designed, Roberts said. As an example of one of the problems, he pointed to a large water tank included in the new system to boost pressure. Roberts said the tank is designed for systems providing 24 hour water, such as would be found in the U.S., England and Australia.

"Nobody looked at this and said 24 hour water isn't a fact of life in the Marshall Islands," he said.

DeBrum noted that he and others, including Roberts, had raised concerns about the water project when it was first proposed, but their views were not taken into consideration at the time.

"\$7 million has been spent and there's less pressure in downtown (than with the old system)," he said.

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Couple hurt in accident

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A KOREAN couple was seriously injured yesterday after being hit by a speeding car in front of Downtown Market located along Beach Road in San Jose.

The victims, Je Woon Cha, 63, and his wife, Bock Yoon Soon, 60, were promptly taken to the hospital.

The incident was reported to the police at around 7:30 a.m.

The two were trying to cross the street on their way to the store when they were hit by a red Toyota Rav 4 traveling northbound.

Bock sustained fractures in the pelvis and femur while Je had a laceration on his scalp. Both were in state of shock as of press time.

Public Safety information officer Rose Ada said the victims were standing on the road side near the Isabella Floral Shop when the vehicle approached.

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Utt at Museum to house canoe

For the Variety

A TRADITIONAL Carolinian canoe house — called an *utt*, or men's house — now stands on the grounds of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture (NMI Museum) thanks to a coordinated effort by the Common-

wealth Council for Arts and Culture, the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, and the Office of Carolinian Affairs (OCA).

Roof thatching with coconut palm leaves will begin soon and continue through the Flame Tree Festival April

25th, a news release from the two agencies said.

The 35-foot long framework for the *utt* was constructed over the past few months by James Yangtmai of Saipan, and several individuals from Ifalik, one of the outer islands east of Yap.



The Marshall Islands launched a nationwide immunization and vitamin A distribution campaign for children Wednesday in conjunction with the World Health Organization's World Health Day. Photo shows the Youth to Youth in Health singers using music to promote the campaign. Photo by Giff Johnson

NMC Electronics Fair Saturday

THE NORTHERN Marianas College Professional Programs Department will be participating in the electronic fair slated for April 10 at Joeten-Kiyu Library from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The participation in the fair is part of the College Month

celebration.

A display booth will showcase the latest technology used by both programs used in instruction (classes), and will be manned by Dr. Fred Hill and Dave Cooper.

The community is invited to

visit the display and witness how state-of-the-art computer technologies work.

For more information, contact Tony Guerrero, Dean of Professional Programs, at 234-3690, Extension 1802, or Dr. Fred Hill, Extension 1801.

Whenever possible, these craftsmen used traditional materials and techniques to create a traditional structure that will shelter the 27-foot outrigger canoe, the *Waherak Maihar*.

The *Waherak Maihar* was originally built on Puluwat Atoll in 1958.

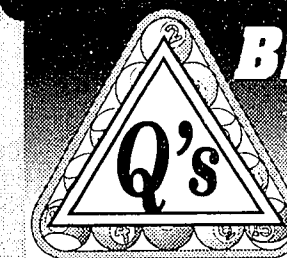
The ocean-going canoe was shipped to Guam in 1976 in order to participate in "Operation Sail," an event where ships from all over the world sailed up the Hudson River during the U.S. Bicentennial celebrations.

It never got there. Transportation problems left it stranded on Saipan after nearly a year in a warehouse on Guam.

Following many months of exposure to the elements, the canoe was finally restored in 1978 through a federal conservation grant sponsored by the Historic Preservation Office of the Trust Territory.

Repairs are again in progress. The refurbished *Waherak Maihar* will make its final voyage on Sunday, April 25th from the Office of Carolinian Affairs (OCA).

Following the Flame Tree Festival, with help from the Saipan Mayor's office the OCA will coordinate the truck transport of the canoe down Beach Road to the NMI Museum where it will be lifted over the courtyard wall and placed beneath the newly constructed *utt* for permanent display.



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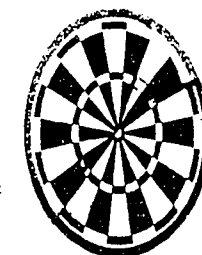
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AROUND the Islands

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

Blue Ribbon drive on

IN AN effort to promote community awareness within the area of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, the Division of Youth Services in conjunction with other youth agencies is starting its Blue Ribbon Campaign to prevent child abuse and neglect.

During the month of April, we ask that the community join together in addressing the CNMI's child abuse problem. Becoming advocates for continual public awareness and various prevention efforts, our community can become a safer place for everyone.

Please take note of the following activities for the blue ribbon campaign:

- March 1, 1999 - distribution to grade schools for bag mes sages
- March 19, 1999 - poster contest deadline (12:00 noon)
- March 22-26, 1999 - pick up bag messages from schools
- March 25, 1999 - distribution of blue ribbons, buttons, and all flyers to schools, government and private offices
- March 31, 1999 - signing of children's declaration
- April 1, 1999 - Radio Spots and Penny Drive begins
- April 10, 1999 - Motorcade — assembly time is 8:00 a.m. at Civic Center
- April 17, 1999 - Celebrity Baggers (Price Costco, Joeten & Payless)
- April 24, 1999 - Celebrity Baggers (Price Costco, Joeten & Payless)
- April 30, 1999 - Radio Spots and Penny Drive ends
- April 27-May 1 '99 - Poster Contest Public Display — Joeten-Kiyu Library

Continued on page 38

NMC fee waived for April

IN LINE with the proclamation signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio declaring the month of April as Northern Marianas College

Month, George Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services, informs the general public that the applica-

Continued on page 38

DFS honors top employees

MARIAN Aldan-Pierce, President of DFS Saipan Limited, announced that Michelle Sablan and Ignacio Rasiang have been Employees of the Month for February.

An awards ceremony was held last March 26 by the Members of the Store Operations, Human Resources, and Administration for the two.

Each recipient was awarded an Employee of the Month Certificate and a \$100 congratulatory check. They are now eligible candidates for 1999 Employee of the Year in their respective categories.

Michelle has been employed by DFS since July 1998, and currently works for the Galleria Warner Bros. Studio Store as a crew member. Her manager, Benny Pinault and the selection committee recognized her superior job knowledge, leadership and professionalism with customers and employees.

Ignacio joined DFS in November 1998 and currently works for the Galleria as a Stock Clerk. His manager Joe Villagomez and the selection committee credits him for his exceptional friendliness, ability to work with his co-workers with ease, and most of all, his eye for detail, producing accurate results.



DFS officials join the employees of the month for a photo during recent awards ceremonies. DFS photo

Meanwhile, last April 1, Vicky Quitano, Teresita Reyes, and Elena Diaz were named March Outstanding Customer Service winners. This new DFS recognition program serves to distinguish employee performance base on customer comments and feedback.

According to Group Sales Manager Ben Babauta, "This month, we TEAM DFS would like to recognize these employees for a job well done in customer service excellence. Everyone in DFS and the Galleria Team is special; this month we extend our congratulatory appreciation to these very special

employees, Vicky, Teresita, and Elena!"

Babauta also notes that outstanding customer service is one of many challenges in businesses.

"Anyone can do customer service, but it takes outstanding people like our sales team members to exhibit excellent customer service. Today we honor these special employees because they received the most positive comment cards from our valued customers," he said.

Vicky, Teresita, and Elena each received a \$25 DFS merchandise coupon and were appointed a designated parking space for the month.

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GDDC awards contest winners

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE GOVERNOR's Developmental Disabilities Council yesterday awarded the winners in essay and logo/theme contests culminating last month's developmental disabilities awareness campaign.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Marizel Hiponio of Grace Christian Academy-Saipan and Jamielyn Famaw of Tinian High School are the first place winners in the essay contest. Oleai Elementary School's



Some of the winners for GDDC's essays logo theme contest gather on stage after the awarding ceremony Wednesday at the Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Evelyn Sanchez and Johnny Reyes are the first and second place winners respectively for the Assistive Technology/theme contest while Lenny Barcinas of Rota Elementary School placed third.

Hopwood Junior High's Alan delos Reyes, Don Omar and Joel Palacios received the first, second and third place respectively in the Assistive Technology/theme contest.

Marianas Baptist Academy's Paul Murphy received the first

place award in the Assistive Technology/theme contest for high school division.

Tinian High School's Farah Cabrera and George Cabrera placed second and third respectively.

The council also recognized the teachers such as Yvonne Aguarino (GCA-Saipan), Julie Vinar (THS), Katherine Darby (OES), Barbara Barcinas (RES), Ronald Lamkin (HJHS), Keiko Manglona (THS) and Robert Berkey (MBA).

GDDC made a special citation for its donors which include Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc. (NMPASI), Westpac Freight and Jami Sefiane, sign language interpreter.

Last month's campaign of GDDC has reflected the principles of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the council's own philosophy through "independence, productivity, inclusion and integration."

Aldan not thrilled on FTZs

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

FINANCIAL benefits that may be derived from operating a free trade zone in the Commonwealth may be "very minimal" as investors "want everything free" according to Bank of Saipan Chief Executive Officer Tomas B. Aldan.

Aldan said tax incentives being offered to the investors will likely eat up a sizable bulk of revenues that the CNMI government would generate for itself.

"The investors want everything handed down on a silver platter. They want tax exemptions, tax holidays. No excise tax, no user fee. They want a lot of things. They want everything free," said Aldan, in an interview.

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

Aldan said the free trade zone being planned to be put up "will work in a sense."



Tomas B. Aldan

"But not at a level where it could supplant the tourism industry," he stressed.

Aldan said government is currently looking into the possibility of using a parcel of public land in Lower Base for the FTZ project. The site, he said, was chosen because it is near the seaport.

Aldan said there are also plans to have the FTZ take the form of a mere storage facility for big offshore companies making the CNMI a transshipment point for

Asian markets.

The Free Trade Zone Development Committee has said CNMI is offering many "non-cash" incentives to entice investors.

These include:

* "Attractive" lease rental rates.

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Explanation sought for staff firing

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

BUDGET officer Ray Diaz, who is also the Saipan municipal office's acting chief administrator, has been asked to explain his decision to dismiss two employees while retaining the nine other employees whose contracts expired last Jan. 26.

Canice Taitano, the president of the Municipality of Saipan Employees Association, asked Diaz to explain the evaluation procedure he used in releasing the two employees and keeping the other employees in question.

Taitano said that the two dismissed employees have good work records and are qualified to stay just like the others.

Diaz, for his part, explained that the two employees were dismissed because their contracts have already expired and that the municipal office does not have any more funds for their payroll.

Upon expiration, the contracts of the two employees along with nine others were extended by two months by the Mayor's Office.

Diaz said he met with the two employees prior to their dismissal. The two understood the situation and did not complain, he added.

Taitano asked why Diaz issued the dismissal order when Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan is off island.

He said Diaz did not have any authority to sign the termination of the employees because he was not a party to the employment contract.

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Teen's car, police car collide

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

A 1998 Nissan Sentra driven by a 17-year old girl collided with a police official's car in Agat shortly after midnight Tuesday.

Capt. Paul Suba, commander of the Agat Precinct Command, was traveling east on San Vicente Street in Agat in a po-

lice vehicle when the girl who was traveling in the opposite direction at high speed apparently lost control and sideswiped Suba's vehicle.

According to investigators, the girl fled the scene after the accident, but was apprehended minutes later at a nearby residence.

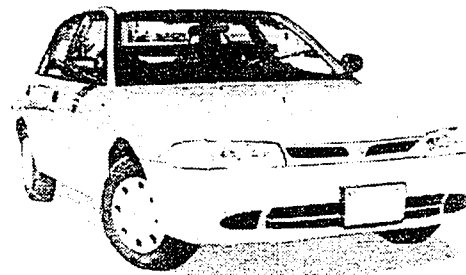
The minor was taken into custody for imprudent driving, leaving the scene of an accident with injuries. The girl does not have a drivers license.

The girl was later released to the custody of her parents.

The three passengers riding with the girl sustained minor injuries.

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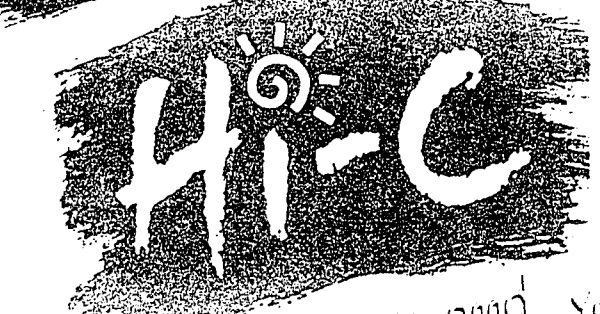
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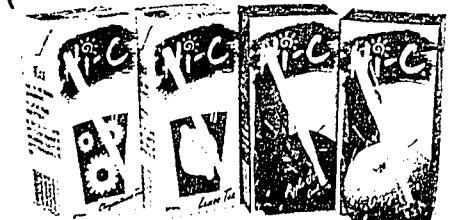
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Palau economy sees flat growth in 1999

By Eileen O. Oreiro
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The local economy is heading for a slight recovery towards the latter part of 1999, owing to the expected commencement of regular flights of Japan Airlines on the island sometime in September or October this year, the Palau Chamber of Commerce (PCC) has predicted.

"At best, it's (a) flat (growth for the whole year)," PCC President Kevin Kirk said.

He added that only the tourism industry would help bring back the local economy towards the road of recovery this year.

"That's the only economy we have. Fishing has gone downhill significantly. All we have is tourism. If tourism stays down, then

the private sector economy is going pretty much down because that's where we got a lot of money," Kirk said.

He said he had heard that some Taiwanese businesses may start offering incentive packages for their employees to come for vacation to Palau. If it is true, the PCC president said it would at least help prop up the domestic economy this year.

Kirk believed that there will be no any growth across the board this year. "If we have growth, I think it will be recovery. I won't call it growth," he pointed out.

"If we're talking about making profits, hiring employees, buying more inventory and equipment and if that's the definition of growth, I would say it is not going to grow," Kirk said.

DPS: No worry on mosquitoes

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

DISEASE-causing mosquitoes will have a hard time entering the CNMI especially nowadays, the Department of Public Health assured.

David Rosario, public health adviser, said the weekly mosquito surveillance being conducted has been further intensified by DPH personnel at Saipan entry points to ensure that no disease-causing mosquitoes will enter the island.

DPH's assurance came after reports that the Japanese encephalitis outbreak in Malaysia may reach the CNMI through mosquitoes that may be brought here by visitors. The Japanese encephalitis virus is caused by Culex mosquito bites and infects meat products.

The health department also intensified its mosquito surveillance in line with the prevalence and outbreak of certain diseases like malaria and dengue in neighbor-

ing countries.

"We regularly check mosquito larvae at the seaport and airport using ovi-traps to check whether we have a dangerous mosquito being brought here or none," Rosario said in an interview.

The ovi-traps are placed some 1,500 feet from critical entry points like the Saipan International Airport.

Rosario explained that once a mosquito larva is trapped inside the device, health personnel will inspect it to determine whether it is a potential disease carrier or not. The process involves feeding the larva for it to develop into a full-blown mosquito before the actual inspection of the insect's possible harm is done.

The regular mosquito surveillance is being conducted by DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health-Vector Control Division personnel.

Rosario pointed out that ovi-

Continued on page 38

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THE FACE

US analyzes TT '99 gains

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — With the completion of Tandem Thrust '99, a special team is now preparing to compare the differences between Seventh Fleet's way of handling the different scenarios of the exercise and previous command's styles.

According to the Seventh Fleet Public Affairs Office, a team of 400 civilians (most of which are retired high ranking officers) and 140 military members from the Joint Warfighting Center (JWC) of the U.S. Atlantic Command will determine what knowledge they will incorporate into future

exercises and also what they will stay away from next time.

JWC members (dubbed as "war gamers") are the ones who helped create the Tandem Thrust military exercise which required more than one year of the most intricate planning to coordinate four services and three nations.

Joint mission essential tasks, or a list of what area the exercise will focus on, were set up beforehand by JWC members with the Seventh Fleet exercise coordinator with the specific needs of the command in mind.

This set the tone for the event,



Walter F. Doran

providing a set course that the Joint Task Force commander followed throughout the exercise.

While the Tandem Thrust '99 exercise was going on, the JWC members took notes on how Seventh Fleet was doing during the challenging scenarios they had developed.

The team held three to four meetings daily to analyze the situation and also brief the commander of the Joint Task Force, Vice Adm. Walter F. Doran, with reports and observations.

The JWC members don't grade exercises, they just report

their observations and make suggestions. In addition, JWC allows a slight amount of leeway in the following of game plans, meaning that a JWC team takes appropriate action if an exercise is straying too far from the course.

JWC has facilitated and observed 66 exercises in the past four years all around the world. The members of the team regularly participate in 12-15 exercises per year.

The JWC team is now set to begin work for Tandem Thrust 2001.

American Samoa gov't stopped from deporting Vietnam workers

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) — The High Court of American Samoa has issued a temporary restraining order stopping immigration authorities from deporting three Vietnamese garment workers who claimed they had been mistreated by their employer.

The Vietnamese workers had their employment terminated by the Korean-owned company, Daewooa Samoa. They have been in custody at the Tafuna Correctional Facility for about a week awaiting deportation.

The women have been transferred to a Government shelter for battered women and children.

They were forced to leave last Thursday through neighboring Samoa, but immigration authori-

ties in Apia ordered them to return to Pago Pago because they did not have any onward tickets.

Their lawyer, Barry Rose told the High Court the women had not been paid wages for the last two months despite an agreement with Daewooa, which promised \$US390 a month in salaries for each of them.

The workers claim they each paid \$US1,000 as airfare to the territory and \$US1,500 to Daewooa's President Kilsco Lee, for employing them.

On March 27 some of the workers decided to stop work until they were paid.

While only three of the Vietnamese women initiated the court case, it is understood that all 50

Vietnamese workers at the Daewooa plant are being represented in the injunction application.

The Vietnamese women have also filed for a permanent injunction to stop their deportation.

The High Court will hear their application on Friday.

The Vietnamese Government raised concern this week over allegations that its workers were being mistreated in American Samoa.

Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States, Le Van Bang reportedly wrote to American Samoan Congressman Faleomavaega Eni to look into the allegations.

Guam village gets a new playground

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The village of Mongmong added a new playground yesterday, thanks to the cooperation of people in the community.

Many island entities worked together to complete "Cindo Park" in Mongmong. IT&E donated brand new playground equipment, members of the Air National Guard volunteered their time and energy to erect the equipment, and the Arch Diocese of Hagatna donated the land, the Mongmong-Toto-Maite Municipal Planning Council and MTM Mayor Andrew Villagomez and his staff were there to support the project.

The land the playground is on was once the site of the old Mongmong church. Tun Felipe San Nicolas "famlan Cindo" gave the lot to the church, Cindo Park is dedicated in his memory.

The playground represents the completion of Phase I of Cindo Park.

Phase II will see the construction of a basketball court adjacent to the playground. Groundbreaking for Phase II is set for the end of this month.

Mongmong-Toto-Maite Mayor, Andrew Villagomez along with the President/CEO of IT&E

Continued on page 38

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Report bares possible sabotage at Fiji international airport by workers

SUVA (Pacnews) - Facilities at Fiji's international airport could be sabotaged by militant members of the country's Public Service Association, as the fight against privatisation of the airport intensifies.

This was revealed in a report prepared by two Australian consultants, Stephen Curnow and Paul Algar in December last year.

The five page report, titled "Summary Risk Assessment and Security Proposals" said the sabotage could take place with-

out the knowledge of the Association leadership.

The report said a recent High court decision to refuse the Association's application to have the privatisation delayed or prevented has "created an air of uncertainty on the future actions of FPSA members in any attempt to delay or criminally hinder the changeover process".

It said the purpose of the sabotage would be to delay the process or embarrass the Government and senior executives of the country's civil aviation au-

thority.

The report did not however predict the precise level of threat saying it was difficult to gauge because information received was varied and confused.

The report said Association members had in the past undertaken acts of sabotage to force their point of view but admitted in the past no one was charged in connection with criminal acts against Government facilities.

Chinese visit Tonga

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—A group of Chinese businesswomen is in Tonga this week to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two countries.

It is the first Chinese delegation to visit the island Kingdom since diplomatic relations were established in November last year.

The Prime Minister said the Ambassador's briefing was helpful and assured Kazak that the Vanuatu Government sympathised with the Palestinian cause.

Vanuatu has diplomatic relations with both Israel and Palestine.

Ethnic tensions in Solomons worsen

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The ethnic tension in the Solomon Islands is reported to be worsening.

Yesterday more than 80 Malaita people were evacuated from Tangarere Village in Guadalcanal Province after they were reportedly threatened by militant groups in the province.

Police Commissioner Frank Short said their properties were also destroyed.

Radio Australia reports the

evacuees were transported to the capital, Honiara, in the Australian patrol boat, Lata.

On arrival the evacuees said they were warned by armed Guadalcanal militants to leave their village or face bloodshed.

They reportedly lived in Guadalcanal Province for many years.

The country's National Disaster Council is housing them at the Catholic Church headquarters.

Fiji, Vanuatu forces lauded for their role in Bougainville

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—The former Commander of the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) on the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville has commended Vanuatu Mobile Force personnel and Fiji soldiers for their role on the island.

Brigadier Richard Powell, who was recently replaced by another Australian Brigadier Simon Willis as head of the PMG, said soldiers from the two countries were like "glue" which held the group together.

He said their knowledge of Pidgin and the cultural links between the Melanesian countries made communication easy for PMG on the island.

"As a result PMG was able to undertake its tasks smoothly and with efficiency," he said.

Brigadier Powell made the comment during a meeting with Vanuatu Prime Minister Donald Kalpokas.

They were attending a dinner in the capital, Port Vila, hosted by the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Perry Head.

PMG comprises troops from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu.

Brigadier Willis, who is the third head of the multi-national group, commenced duty last month.

Vanuatu backs Palestinians

PORT VILA (Pacnews) - Vanuatu has indicated it will support Palestinian efforts to achieve an independent Palestine State.

Prime Minister Donald Kalpokas spoke of Vanuatu's support during a meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador Ali Kazak in the capital, Port Vila.

It is ten years since the Canberra-based Ambassador was accredited to Vanuatu.

Kalpokas said Vanuatu's assistance would be given at international forums in which the Oslo Peace Agreement, governing relations between Palestine

and Israel, is discussed.

Ambassador Kazak briefed Prime Minister Kalpokas on the Oslo Agreement and the fact it ends on May 5.

He said 125 countries had already recognised the State of Palestine.

The Prime Minister said the Ambassador's briefing was helpful and assured Kazak that the Vanuatu Government sympathised with the Palestinian cause.

Vanuatu has diplomatic relations with both Israel and Palestine.

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MACKEREL 89¢ lb	Imitation Crab Meat (1 lb) \$1.99	CANDLE (Jar) 99¢ Each \$11.95 c/s	Wonderful (3 kg) \$6.95	BLUE RIBBON Bleach 1 Gal. \$1.39	BAR-S Bacon \$1.99
				BAR-S Chopped Ham (10 lbs.) \$14.95	

Arrest warrant for tycoon sought

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine Department of Justice has asked a lower court to reconsider its dismissal of a multi-billion peso (multi-million dollar) tax fraud case against tycoon Lucio Tan and immediately issue a warrant for his arrest.

Tan, chairman of Philippine Airlines, is considered to be among the richest businessmen in the Philippines, with interests in

banking, beer, and tobacco.

In December, the Justice Department filed nine counts of tax evasion charges against Tan, his Fortune Tobacco Corp. and its 11 affiliates, and his company executives to recover alleged unpaid taxes totaling 26.5 billion pesos (\$688 million).

The Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court dismissed the case in March after the Bureau of Inter-

nal Revenue withdrew its complaint, saying there was not enough evidence to pursue the case.

The court said local laws require the bureau's approval for the filing of tax evasion cases.

In its motion for reconsideration made public Wednesday, the Justice Department said prosecutors should have control over such cases and the bureau merely serves as a witness for the state.

The bureau "has no legal personality and standing in court and cannot, on its own, withdraw the criminal complaints without the conformity and approval of the public prosecutor," the Justice Department said in its motion.

President Joseph Estrada, whose candidacy in the May 1998 election was supported by Tan, said he would not interfere.

The revenue bureau originally

charged Tan with tax evasion in 1993 during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos.

But that case did not proceed because Tan, in a series of appeals that reached the Supreme Court, managed to get the charges suspended pending an investigation by the justice department.

Tan claimed the tax cases were brought against him for not supporting Ramos' candidacy in 1992.

2 men nabbed for grenade attack

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Two men hurled a grenade into a passing police car in a southern Philippine city but it failed to explode and the men were arrested after a brief chase, police said Wednesday.

Police said the motive for the attack Tuesday night in Zamboanga City was unclear and they are investigating whether the two men, both Muslims, belong to a rebel group fighting for an independent Muslim state in the southern Philippines.

Police said they have identified the two men, who came from Sulu province, where many Muslim rebel groups and bandits are active.

The grenade was thrown into a patrol car carrying six policemen in Zamboanga's commercial district. Police said they seized a pistol from one of the two men.

A series of grenade attacks on passenger buses and terminals occurred early this year, killing and injuring scores of people in several provinces in the southern region of Mindanao.

Estrada orders investigation on report two convicts were framed

By JIM GOMEZ

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Joseph Estrada said Wednesday he will look into reports that three death row convicts who received a 90-day presidential reprieve may have been victims of a police frame-up.

Estrada announced Tuesday a 90-day delay in the executions of the men, who were originally scheduled to die Wednesday for the killing of a policeman during a robbery five years ago.

Estrada said the reprieve would allow a thorough review of the case and avoid an execution shortly after Easter Sunday.



Joseph Estrada

The scheduled execution was also an embarrassment for the government because it had appealed to the United States to spare the life of a Filipino national, Alvaro Calambro, who was executed Monday in Nevada for the brutal slaying of two people.

Aside from reports that the three men may have been framed by police investigators, Estrada said he also learned that the robbers apparently were not aware they shot a policeman, who was not in uniform.

"If their crimes were not that harsh, we can grant them clemency, or just commute their sentences to life in prison," Estrada said.

Continued on page 36

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96 4 DRA ESCORT	ABZ-272	Red	\$10,295	\$6,495
96 4 DRA ESCORT	ABZ-262	Red	\$9,735	\$6,495
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96 4 DRA SENTRA	ABV-382	Gold	\$10,510	\$7,375
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	1 Year	\$1000 to \$49,999	5.25%
	2 Years	\$1000 to \$49,999	5.75%
TIME	30 Days	\$50,000 & Over	4.25%
CERTIFICATE	31-90 Days	\$50,000 & Over	4.75%
OF	91-180 Days	\$50,000 & Over	5.00%
DEPOSIT (2)	181-364 Days	\$50,000 & Over	5.50%
	1 Year	\$50,000 & Over	6.25%
	2 Years	\$50,000 & Over	6.50%

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Rebels ready to release captives

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist guerrillas are ready to release a Philippine army general and four other military and police officers they are holding as prisoners, a rebel leader said Wednesday.

The rebels promised a group of priests and a senator that they will release their captives sometime between Mar. 22 and April 19.

"Everything is ready, so we can still accomplish this on or before

April 19," said Luis Jalandoni, chief peace negotiator for the Marxist umbrella National Democratic Front, in a radio interview. President Joseph Estrada suspended peace talks after the rebels seized Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo and his aide, Capt. Eduardo Montealto, in southern Davao City on Feb. 17.

Several days later, the rebels seized police officer Roberto Bernal in northern Bicol region

and Sgt. Alipio Lozada in southern Surigao del Sur province. The abduction of a soldier accused of spying and held much longer than the others was later made public.

Obillo, commander of the Army's 55th Engineering Brigade, is the highest-ranking military officer seized by the Communists rebels in their 30-year insurgency.

The rebels said they would release all five captives on humani-

Fire destroys building in Palace compound

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A fire believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring destroyed a one-storey building early Wednesday in the Malacanang presidential palace compound, seriously injuring one soldier, officials said.

The fire started after midnight in the room of Ferdinand Borjon, an officer of the Presidential Security Group assigned as caretaker of the group's officers' club, which was destroyed in the blaze, officials said.

Borjon suffered extensive burns over his body and is being

treated in a military hospital, said the officials.

The building, which is used for conferences and parties, is located across a river from the main palace compound in Manila, where President Joseph Estrada resides and holds office.

Presidential spokesman Jerry Barican said the fire, which was put out after an hour by firemen, caused damage estimated at 10 million pesos (\$263,000). An initial investigation showed the fire may have been caused either by faulty electrical wiring or a loose electric fan plug.

Police seize shark meat

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Police seized about 230 kilos (506 pounds) of whale shark meat in two provinces south of Manila last week and arrested two dealers as part of a campaign to protect the endangered fish, officials said Wednesday.

Police found the chopped shark meat abandoned by fishermen in a raid along a coast in Sablayan town in Occidental Mindoro province and from two dealers, who were arrested in Talibon town in Bohol province.

Police Superintendent Edgardo Ingking said the two dealers were caught selling the whale shark meat in Talibon, an island in central Bohol. The two will be charged with violating a ban on the catching and sale of whale sharks.

Maritime Police Chief Rogelio Regalado said they have been closely monitoring compliance with the ban nationwide to save the country's remaining whale sharks and other endangered animals like manta rays, green turtles, dolphins and sea cows, a sea mammal with cigar-shaped body found in the western province of Palawan.

Regalado said the endangered species, which are considered delicacies or aphrodisiac, are widely hunted by fishermen and sold to local and foreign buyers.

The Philippine government banned the killing and sale of whale sharks, considered the world's largest fish, last year to curb their rapid depletion. Violators can be fined up to 5,000 pesos (\$131) and imprisoned up to four years.

About 200 whale sharks are caught and slaughtered in the country each year but there is no official estimate of the remaining population.

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Japan may take in refugees



Workers prepare to load tents for Albanian refugees fleeing from Yugoslavia's war-torn Kosovo to a cargo jet at the New Tokyo International Airport in Narita, east of Tokyo Wednesday. AP

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan said on Wednesday it would consider accepting ethnic Albanian refugees fleeing their homes in war-ravaged Kosovo.

It will be the first time Japan has accepted refugees from Europe.

Japan dispatched an 11-member mission to Albania and Macedonia on Wednesday to study whether it could take the refugees, officials said.

"The mission will study what kind of contribution Japan can make, including the possibility of accepting some of the Kosovo refugees," a Foreign Ministry official said.

"The government will decide whether to accept them after receiving a report from the mission," the official told Reuters. The mission was expected to

return home on April 14.

Japanese law allows refugees to stay for up to six months.

Another Japanese official said there were some people within the government who argued that the geographical distance between Japan and Yugoslavia could make it difficult to take the refugees.

Japan took in about 15,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos after the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

Thousands of exhausted ethnic Albanians are fleeing Kosovo, driven from their homes by Yugoslav forces.

Countries including the United States, Canada, Australia and most members of the European Union have agreed to give temporary sanctuary to more than 100,000 refugees.

Along with 1,000 tents, Japan pledged \$15 million in humanitarian aid last week for refugees fleeing Kosovo.

The aid would be disbursed through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and bring to \$25 million the total aid Japan has given to Kosovo over the last year.

Compensation for horses hurt due to US-Japan joint exercises

TOKYO (AP) — Racehorse breeders received 37 million yen (\$306,000) in compensation for animals spooked by the noise of U.S. fighter planes involved in a U.S.-Japan military exercise, Japan's Defense Facilities Administration Agency said Wednesday.

The 13 breeders said that their horses, frightened by the noise of the jets on Nov. 4 and Nov. 12, 1997, injured their legs crashing against fences, and some of the animals miscarried, said Toshinobu Saitoh, a spokesman for the agency's Sapporo branch office.

The United States will reimburse the agency for 75 percent of the compensation, Saitoh said.

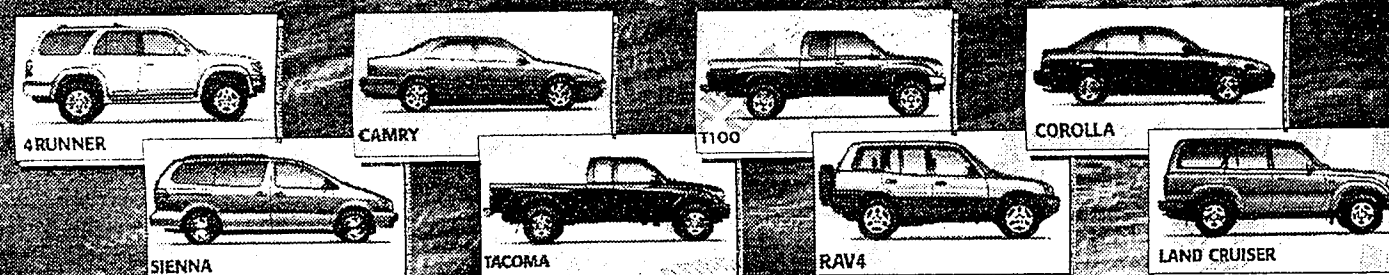
The U.S. military confirmed that American fighters flew over pastures in Hidaka on those days on their way to the exercise off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, he said.

About 85 percent of Japan's racehorses come from Hidaka, which is 750 kilometers (450 miles) north of Tokyo.

Akinori Kozono, an official of the Hidaka Horse Breeders Association, declined to say how many horses were injured or how much compensation the breeders had originally demanded.

He said each breeder negotiated with the agency individually as the association issued medical certificates on the horses' injuries.

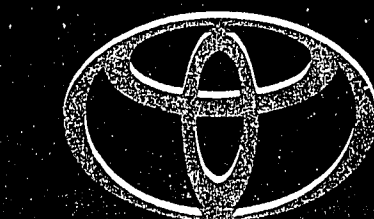
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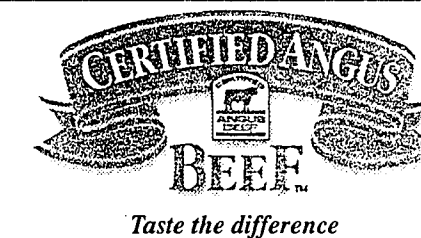


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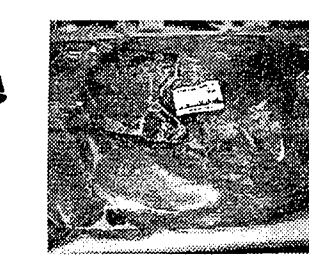
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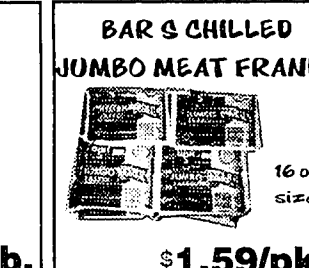
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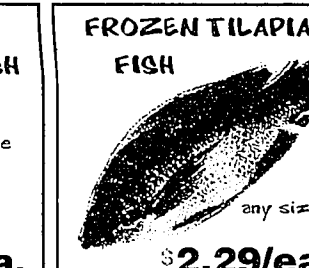
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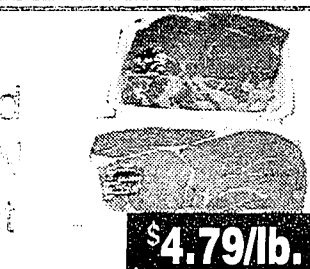
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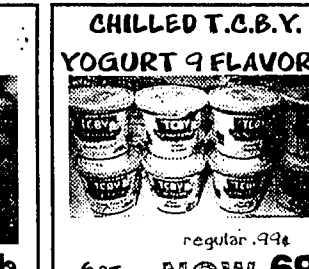
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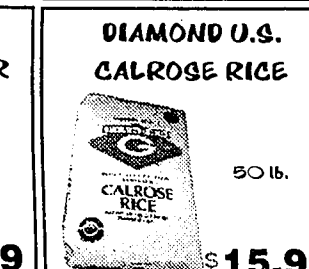
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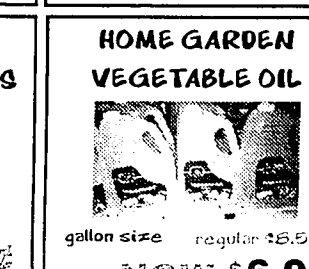
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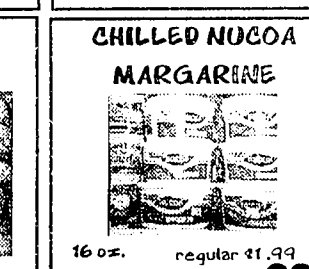
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East Timor unrest worsens

By ANDI JATMIKO
LIQUICA, Indonesia (AP) — At least 25 people were shot or hacked to death in a massacre by anti-independence militia fighters backed by the Indonesian army, East Timor's spiritual leader Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo claimed Wednesday.

In an emotional media conference held after inspecting a bloodied churchyard where Tuesday's killings took place in Liquica town, Belo condemned the violence, saying he was "ashamed to be an Indonesian."

The slayings have cast a shadow over plans by the United Nations to hold a July ballot for East Timor's people on whether to remain part of Indonesia as an autonomous state or to break away altogether.

"I can say that this is a massacre. We are entering the third millennium, but after this incident we are back in the Middle Ages," Belo told reporters at his home in Dili, East Timor's capital.

Belo called for calm and demanded Indonesian President B.J. Habibie investigate Tuesday's violence, the latest in a string of clashes between bitterly divided armed groups either for or against independence from Indonesia, which annexed East Timor as its 27th province in 1976.

He also demanded the international community help prevent more violence in the half-island territory.

The former Portuguese colony has been wracked by guerrilla warfare and human rights abuses since Indonesia invaded in 1975.

The attack on Tuesday was one of the worst since Indonesian soldiers fired on separatist protesters at a cemetery in Dili in 1991, killing at least 50. Human rights activists put the death toll at more than 200.

Many of Tuesday's dead were civilians who had taken shelter in the church and an



Pro-independence East Timorese residents tend to wounded after they were attacked by pro-integrationists in the town of Liquicawest of Dili Tuesday. At least 25 people were shot or hacked to death in a massacre in Liquica, Bishop Carlos Belo claimed Wednesday.

adjacent priest's home after days of communal violence in and around Liquica, about 29 kilometers (18 miles) west of East Timor's capital, Dili.

Belo, the 1996 co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, said the death toll had been confirmed in a letter from East Timor's military commander, Col. Tono Suratman, who accompanied him with journalists to Liquica under heavy armed guard on Wednesday.

Belo said witnesses had told him the number of slain could be higher.

Rafael dos Santos, Liquica's parish priest, said hundreds of armed militia gang members fired at terrified villagers cowering in his house and the church. Many civilians were cut down by swords and machetes, he said.

Dozens of Indonesian troops fired into the air or simply watched the carnage take place, he said.

The ground outside the church and inside the adjacent priest's house was splattered with blood.

Residents of the town told The Associated Press that some of victims were children.

Militia members and dozens of troops were seen on the otherwise deserted streets of the town on Wednesday.

Suratman, who had earlier put the death toll at only five, declined to comment. He said troops killed two separatists after they fired on soldiers.

Initial reports had put the number of victims at 45.

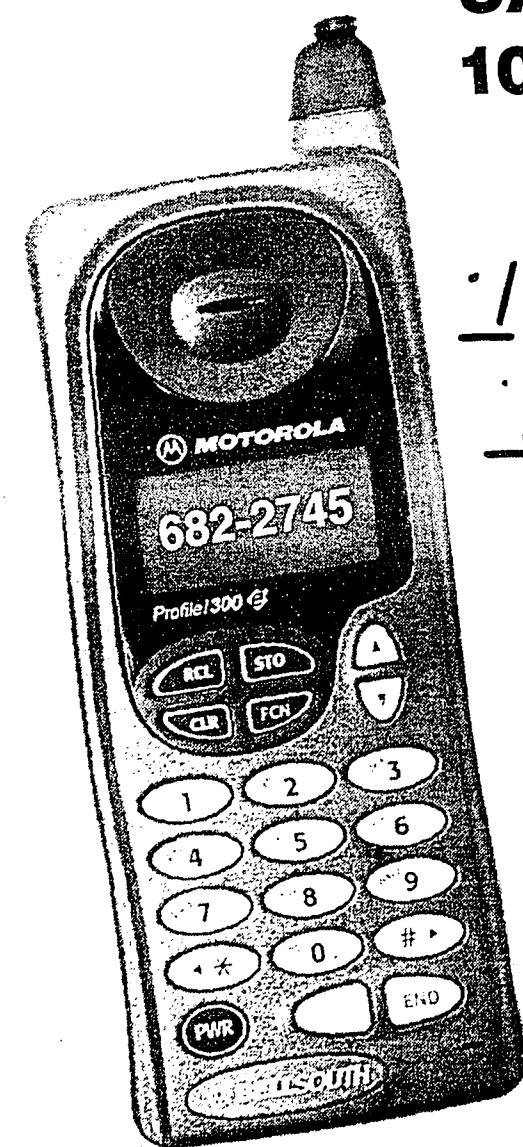
Suratman warned earlier that his troops would take tough action to prevent more bloodshed.

But pro-independence activists accused soldiers of provoking unrest, and any escalation in military operations could exacerbate tensions in the former Portuguese colony.

U.N.-sponsored talks on a peaceful solution in East Timor had gained momentum in recent months, but escalating violence between factions and militant rhetoric have threatened to undermine the peace process.

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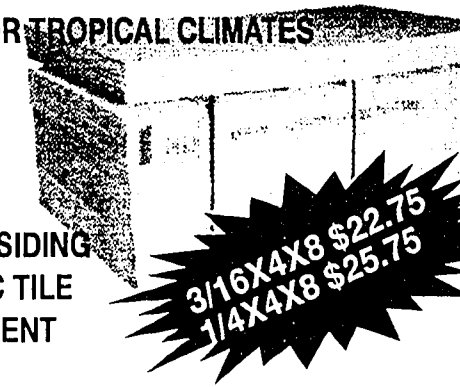
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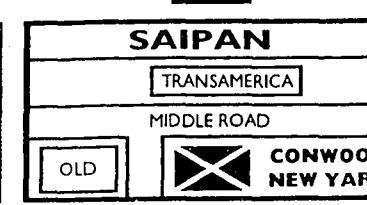
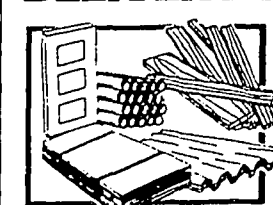
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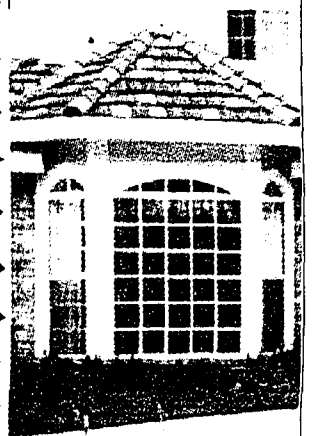
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Tokyo election could give Obuchi 'black eye'

By Linda Sieg
TOKYO (Reuters)—Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's government will suffer a domestic black eye and a diplomatic headache if his ruling party's candidate loses big to a nationalist rival in an election for Tokyo governor on Sunday.

But Obuchi's own political fate will probably hinge more on the state of Japan's economy than on whether, as polls suggest could happen, nationalist author and former ruling party lawmaker Shintaro Ishihara grabs the governor's job in the capital.

Tokyo's race is one of 12 contests for prefectural governorships and a spate of local assembly elections to be decided on Sunday, but the battle in the capital is attracting by far the most headlines.

That's not surprising, given Ishihara's high profile as a fervent nationalist with an anti-American tinge, low expectations that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate can win, and the fact the LDP has joined with non-communist rivals to endorse the same candidates in nine other gov-



Keizo Obuchi

ernors' races.

Early opinion polls have put Ishihara well at the front of a 19-member pack in the Tokyo race, but whether he can garner the 25 percent needed to secure the post is in serious doubt.

If no candidate gets a quarter of the votes, another election must be held in about a month - an expensive burden for a Tokyo metropolitan government already deeply in debt.

An Ishihara victory would be a blow to Obuchi on two counts.

On the diplomatic front, the

tough-talking nationalist who has echoed the title of his 1989 co-authored book "The Japan That Can Say No" with a campaign slogan "The Tokyo That Can Say No," would be an irritant in ties with the United States and China.

"If Ishihara maintains his outspoken posture on foreign and defence policy, it will create a lot of problems, particularly his habit of calling China 'Shina,'" said one government source, referring to Ishihara's penchant for using a term with overtones of wartime Japanese imperialism that Beijing finds offensive.

"Also, his remarks on defence relations may irritate the United States a lot, which the government certainly doesn't want to see happen, even if it's outside the mandate of the governor to intervene in such policies," the source added.

Ishihara - known for his impatience with Japan's defence reliance on America - has called for the joint use of land occupied by the U.S. military's Yokota Air Base and proposed using the space for a new international airport.

Dalai Lama ready for China any time



The Dalai Lama takes part in a question and answer session in Curitiba, Brazil Tuesday. AP

By Joelle Diderich
BRASILIA (Reuters)—The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled leader, said on Wednesday during a visit to Brazil that he was ready to resume dialogue with China "anywhere, any time" over autonomy for his Himalayan homeland.

The Dalai Lama said he favoured a "middle way approach" of negotiations for autonomy under Chinese rule which could preserve and promote the Tibetan people's cultural, religious and linguistic integrity.

"For more than 20 years I have tried to find a mutually agreeable solution on the basis of a middle approach, but

so far there has been no proper response from the Chinese government side," he told a packed meeting in Congress.

"But my position has not changed. As soon as some positive indication comes, I am ready to talk, to dialogue, anywhere, any time," he said.

The Tibetan god-king, speaking last month on the 40th anniversary of an anti-Chinese uprising that forced him to flee to India, said China had recently hardened its position and stopped even informal contacts on the issue.

Chinese officials countered by saying the channels of communication have always been open for the Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. China considers Tibet a province since its troops invaded the country in 1950.

The Dalai Lama held private talks on Wednesday with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Congress President Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, but Brazil was at pains to distance itself from his controversial cause.

A diplomatic source, who asked not to be identified, said the meeting was held behind closed doors to avoid angering Chinese authorities by appearing to grant the Tibetan leader the status of head of state.

The Dalai Lama arrived in Brasilia on Tuesday night after attending a two-day seminar in southern Brazil. He was scheduled to travel to Argentina on Wednesday evening.

US, China to ink aviation pact

By Tim Dobbyn
WASHINGTON (Reuters)—The United States and China have reached agreement on a new civil aviation pact that will eventually double passenger and cargo flights between the two countries, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The current 27 weekly flights available to each country will rise to 54 over the three-year life of the agreement and each country will get to add a fourth carrier in 2001.

After 18 months of talks, U.S. negotiators said their Chinese counterparts had signalled just recently that they were willing to give ground on some key issues, including new freedoms for carriers to choose destinations.

"We were able to close a deal that we think is a very important step forward for our carriers and consumers and cities," said a senior official, who spoke on condition he was not named.

The new agreement is expected to be signed Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

U.S. officials said they believed the U.S. visit of Chinese

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji had helped to close the deal, but it was not a condition set by Washington in deciding whether to support China's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

President Clinton and Zhu are due to meet Thursday.

The officials said the current agreement with China was one of the more restrictive bilateral aviation agreements.

The three U.S. carriers serving the market at the moment are Northwest Airlines Corp. and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines and FDX Corp.'s Federal Express package service.

The U.S. passenger carriers are restricted to serving just three Chinese cities: Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. The new agreement will allow the United States to select two more points in China.

The pact also scraps previous restrictions on what U.S. cities the U.S. carriers can serve China from.

In return, China may select two more points in the United States to be served from China. Previously, service was limited to 10 U.S. cities: Anchorage, Atlanta, Chicago, Fairbanks, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, Portland, San Francisco and Seattle.

AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, Delta Air Lines Inc., United Parcel Service of America Inc. and Polar Air Cargo have all expressed interest serving China.

U.S. officials said the Department of Transportation planned to select an additional U.S. carrier by April 1, 2001.

The 27 weekly flights available to each country would increase to 35 immediately, 44 on April 1, 2000 and 54 on April 1, 2001.

Even airlines that do not get direct access should benefit from an agreement to expand code-sharing arrangements that allow airlines to sell tickets on each other's flights.

Word of the agreement Wednesday first came from White House official Lael Brainard, who specialises in international economic issues.

"That (agreement) obviously serves a whole variety of goals for us," Brainard told reporters. "It will mean new jobs and millions of dollars for a variety of local communities."

U.S. officials said China had agreed to resume negotiations within a year on issues including additional market entrants, code-sharing between same-country airlines and third-country code-sharing.

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Clinton urges candidates:

'Lay off China in 2000 poll'

By Steve Holland

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton on Wednesday urged presidential candidates for the 2000 election not to turn disagreements over U.S. policy toward China into a "campaign-driven Cold War" with Beijing.

"No one could possibly gain from that except for the most rigid, backward-looking elements in

China itself," Clinton said.

A day before he meets Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, Clinton made his case for a constructive relationship with China as his aides scrambled to reach a last-minute deal to open Chinese markets to U.S. exports.

Some Republican candidates for the presidency have attacked Clinton's policy of constructive

engagement with Beijing in the face of allegations that the Chinese stole nuclear secrets from a U.S. weapons lab.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle has accused the Clinton administration of "appeasement" with China. Conservative candidate Pat Buchanan said Monday that Clinton's policy "has degenerated into wilful self-delusion and craven appeasement; and that policy is leading directly to a confrontation and possible conflict with China."

Clinton, speaking at the U.S. Institute for Peace, said a debate over China can be constructive. "But as the next presidential election approaches, we cannot allow a healthy argument to lead us toward a campaign-driven Cold War with China," said Clinton.

Such a Cold War would have "tragic consequences: an America riven by mistrust and bitter accusations, an end to diplomatic con-

tacts that have produced tangible gains for our people, a climate of mistrust that hurts Chinese Americans and undermines the exchanges that are opening China to the world," he said.

It was strong language coming from Clinton, who as a Democratic presidential candidate in 1992 had accused then-President George Bush, a Republican, of "coddling tyrants in Beijing" and sending U.S. officials to "toast" China weeks after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Republican candidate Steve Forbes wasted no time in responding, saying Clinton has a "one-sided approach in favour of China" and that Zhu's visit "will be another episode of Clinton-Gore appeasement of China."

Clinton, in his speech, noted that the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, an independent, bipartisan body chaired by former Republican Sen. War-

ren Rudman of New Hampshire, was reviewing the security threat posed by the Chinese in reaction to the nuclear controversy.

"The issue is how to respond to this. I believe we should not look at China through rose-coloured glasses, nor should we look through a glass darkly to see an image that distorts China's strength and ignores its complexities," he said.

Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg would not say specifically whether the spy charges would come up in Clinton's talks with Zhu. "I would expect the president is going to discuss the full range of issues, which includes national security concerns that we have," he said.

Clinton argued for Chinese entry into the World Trade Organisation, as long as an agreement is reached that gives greater access to Chinese markets to U.S. goods. The U.S. trade deficit with China was \$57 billion last year.

According to US treasury official:

'Chinese face large knot in economy'

By GARY D. ROBERTSON

DURHAM, North Carolina (AP) — China understands the benefits of a market economy, but still must decide how to undo the "large knot" of its state-run businesses, a senior Clinton administration official said Tuesday.

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, speaking on the same day Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji arrived in the United States, said money allocated by the Chinese government to its state-run sector places wages and social services ahead of investment.

Privatizing those government-run businesses could be painful, however, because they generate so many jobs in urban areas and social programs, Summers said.

"As we've seen in other tran-

sitions, it is a very difficult challenge," Summers told students at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. "That is obviously a situation that needs to be reformed, and a situation the Chinese are working on."

Summers said China has made remarkable progress since the late 1970s, when the world's most populous country began to recognize the benefits of capitalism.

"Everywhere you go in the world, if you tell 100 people they get one one-hundredth of what all people pick, they'll pick much less than if you tell them they can keep what they pick," Summers said.

"That basic recognition of human nature is why communism doesn't work and why capitalism does. That is something the Chinese have appreciated much

more as they have moved to a much freer system," said Summers, a former World Bank chief economist considered a possible successor to Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

China's economic stability and growth and opening Chi-

nese markets are "ultimately significant for the global economy" and to balancing trade between the United States and China, Summers said.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators worked Tuesday on an agreement that would open China's

market to American exports and chip away at America's record \$57 billion trade deficit last year.

They hoped to reach the accord by Thursday, in time for Zhu's visit with President Bill Clinton in Washington.

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DOE halts work on computers with secrets

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The Energy Department said it has halted all scientific work on the computers containing the country's most sensitive secrets at its three nuclear weapons laboratories amid fears that security lapses make the computers vulnerable to spying. The New York Times reported Wednesday.

The suspension is part of a new effort to improve security amid charges that China has stolen nuclear secrets from the labs. China has denied the accusations.

Energy Department officials told the newspaper that scientists and researchers at Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence-Livermore National Laboratories who rely on the computer networks have dropped their work and are attending training sessions on computer security.

One of the security lapses is that secret information about nuclear weapons can be duplicated from sensitive computers onto a computer disk and then sent via e-mail through unclassified computer systems, officials told the newspaper.

Normal computer operations will not resume until Energy Secretary Bill Richardson is satisfied security has improved.

In March, a Taiwan-born scientist at Los Alamos, Wen Ho Lee, was fired for security breaches. He had been one of the lab's computer expert on nuclear weapons design. Lee had been under investigation by the FBI for about three years.

Bush has \$7M for presidential run

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Reuters) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush said on Wednesday the committee laying the groundwork for his presidential run will report next week that it raised \$7 million in the first three months of the year.

That amount would be higher than the \$6 million the committee said it had collected in a preliminary report issued last week and well above the amounts raised by his Republican rivals.

"We had a huge surge of money on the last day (of March)," Bush told reporters following a speech here.

Bush has not yet formally entered the presidential race, but is expected to do so shortly after the Texas Legislature ends its current session on May 31. Polls show him to be the current front-runner for the GOP nomination.

He formed a "presidential exploratory committee" last month to raise money and gauge interest in his candidacy. He and other presidential aspirants must file their first quarter financial report by April 15.

Bush's nearest rivals in terms of fundraising are Sen. John McCain of Arizona with \$4 million, former Vice President Dan Quayle, with more than \$2 million, and conservative activist Gary Bauer, \$1.4 million.



George W. Bush

Bush said his exploratory committee was firming up plans for him to make campaign stops in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina after the legislature adjourns.

"I have to go to those early states which are quite important in the process. I have to go up and shake a lot of hands. These are states where 'retail' politics is important," Bush said. "Retail politics" refers to personal appearances by politicians in which they get out to meet people face-to-face and shake hands.

He also said his father, former President George Bush, will soon begin making fundraising appearances for the still-nascent campaign.

"He will do some limited travel for me. I need all the help I can get," Bush said.

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C98-033	1991	SUBARU WGN	ABL-138	7495
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C98-031	1997	TACOMA 4X2	ABC-547	11995
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R99-005	1995	TACOMA	ABD-247	11995
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R99-001	1996	T100 4X4 X-CAB	ABC-296	9995
U98-016	1995	T100 4X4 X-CAB	ABF-473	9995
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Arafat arrives in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a two-day visit to consult with Japanese officials on the possibility of declaring a Palestinian state next month.

Arafat was scheduled to hold

talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura upon his arrival and with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi on Thursday.

Japan hopes to persuade Arafat not to declare statehood on May 4, the end of the five-year interim

peace agreement with Israel, out of concerns such a move would destabilize the Mideast peace process, said a Foreign Ministry official speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened to an-



Yasser Arafat

nex parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip if Arafat declares independence.

Arafat embarked on a week-long tour of international capitals on Monday to discuss the idea of Palestinian statehood.

He began his tour with stops in Turkey and Russia, and was scheduled to visit China and possibly India and Malaysia after Japan.

Arafat, who is on his third visit to Japan, last traveled to Tokyo in September 1997.

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TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

South Korea president to receive US liberty medal

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters)

— South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was named the 1999 recipient of the Philadelphia Liberty Medal for his work toward securing democracy and human rights in his country, organizers said on Wednesday.

Kim, 75, will receive the medal and a \$100,000 cash prize in a July 4 ceremony at Independence Hall, where American colonists declared themselves free of British rule 223 years ago. He joins a list of former medal recipients that includes former Polish President Lech Walesa, Czech President Vaclav Havel and South African Presidents F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela.

Established in 1988 as a legacy of the U.S. Constitution, the Liberty Medal recognizes individuals and organizations demonstrating leadership in the pursuit of liberty.

"During almost half a century, Kim Dae-jung has been not only a symbol of democratic values in the Republic of Korea, but also a heroic figure in its progress toward democracy," said University of Penn-



Kim Dae-jung

sylvania Prof. Emeritus Martin Meyerson, who chairs the Liberty Medal selection committee.

Kim's election as president in 1997 marked South Korea's first peaceful transition of power to an opposition candidate. It was a crowning achievement after decades of struggle for a leader described as "Asia's Mandela."

In 1971, Kim nearly won the presidential election on a pro-democracy platform despite vote-rigging by the military government.

He was kidnapped from Japan by South Korean agents two

Continued on page 36

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor and Immigration Division of Labor (Compliance Section)

PUBLIC NOTICE

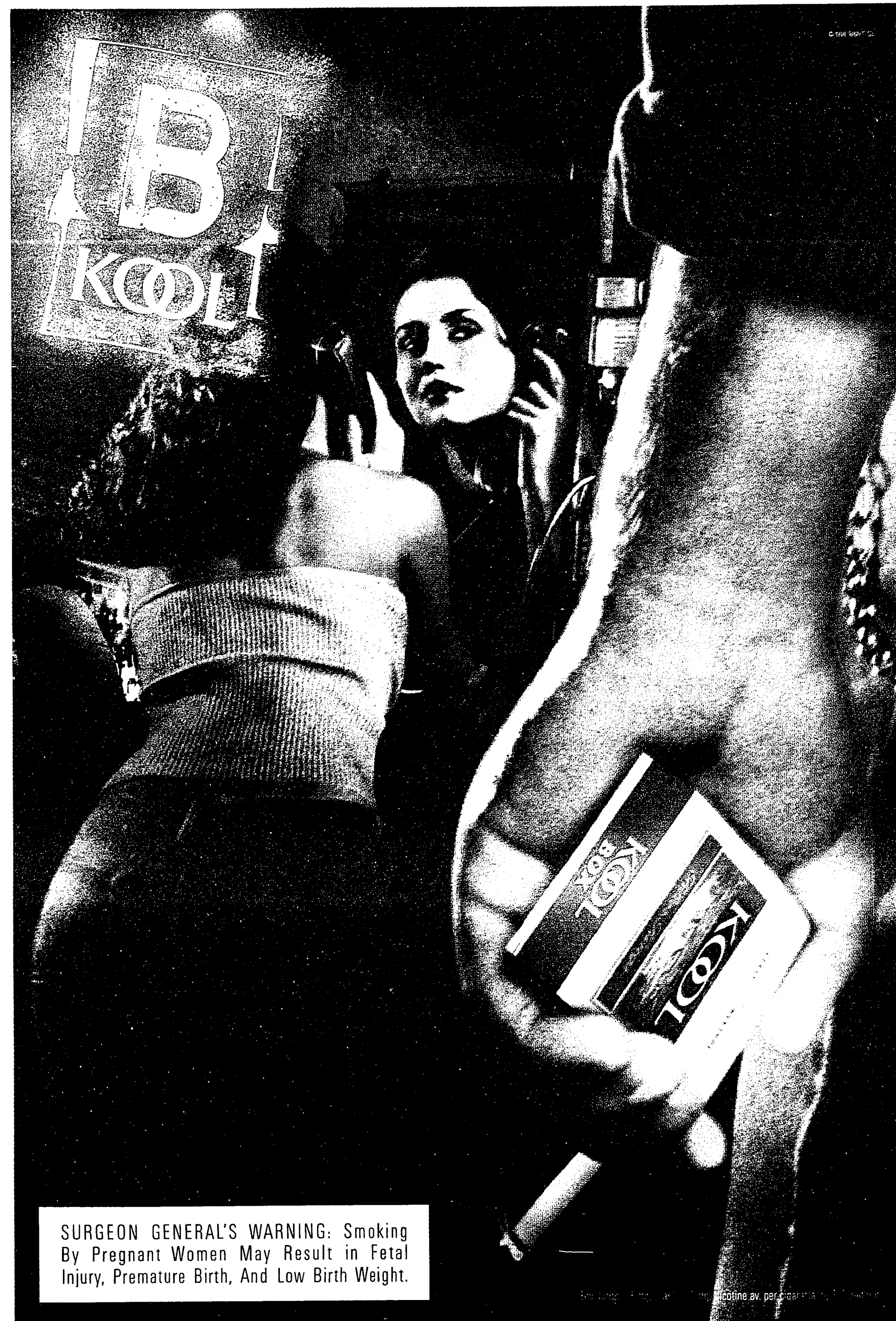
The following person(s) with pending Labor or Agency Case are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Enforcement Section (MCT), located on the 2nd Floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before the date specified below.

NAME	HEARING DATE & TIME
1) Alex R. Castillo LC#99-007	April 22, 1999 10:00 a.m. (THURSDAY)

Failure to appear at the Division on or before the date and time specified above shall be ground for dismissal of the above cases and appropriate action and/or sanction shall be taken against the above individuals, including the referrals of their matters to the Immigration Office for their actions.

Dated this 1st day of April, 1999.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS
Director of Labor



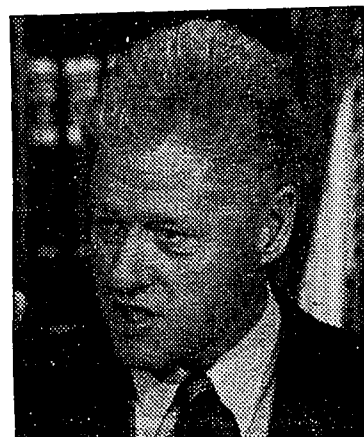
SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.

Clinton: Serbs must comply

By Laurence McQuillan
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton on Wednesday said "nothing less" than full Yugoslav compliance with all NATO demands on Kosovo will end the air war and said recent overtures by Belgrade will not break allied resolve.

NATO alliance was united in its determination to make Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic comply with its goals, even as diplomatic efforts were under way seeking the release of three U.S. servicemen held by Serbs.

"We're determined to stay united and to persist until we prevail," Clinton said of NATO, brushing aside a Yugoslav offer of a ceasefire that would not have met alliance conditions for peace.



Bill Clinton

Adviser Sandy Berger said he could not confirm the soldiers would be freed, as Washington has called for since their capture last Thursday.

"We certainly would welcome the release of the three American soldiers. I can't confirm that that will take place," Berger told NBC's "Today" programme.

NATO has said the three—Christopher Stone, 25, Steven Gonzales, 21, and Andrew Ramirez, 24—were seized while patrolling the Yugoslav-Macedonian border. Yugoslav authorities have said they were captured inside Kosovo.

"These servicemen are being held inappropriately," said National Security Council spokesman David Leavy. "They should be released immediately. We welcome any efforts to do so but as the president has made clear we hold President Milosevic responsible for their safety and well being."

Although U.S. officials were stressing a stay-the-course attitude, there were efforts to encourage Russia to resume its diplomatic efforts to end the crisis.

Vice President Al Gore spoke with Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov on Tuesday for 40 minutes and urged Moscow not to let differences over Kosovo disrupt U.S.-Russian relations.

"The vice president ... in the course of a conversation, simply made clear to Prime Minister Primakov what it was that NATO expected Mr. Milosevic to do to end this bombing campaign," Berger told NBC.

"To the extent that the Russians or anyone else can convince Mr. Milosevic to accede to those conditions, so much the better," he said. At the State Department officials identified nine commanders of Yugoslav units in Kosovo they accused of war crimes and said they may be forced to face international justice.

deployment of an international security force," he said. "Nothing less will bring peace with security to the people of Kosovo."

U.S. officials said they believe recent overtures by Yugoslavia, including the ceasefire offer, were designed to weaken NATO resolve to use military force to end the crisis.

Defence Secretary William Cohen, in Brussels conferring with allies, said there would be no letup in air operations against Yugoslav forces despite the latest manoeuvring out of Belgrade.

"This is no time to pause," he told a news conference, adding that the air campaign that began on March 24 would be "intensified in the coming days and weeks."

"NATO's goals are clear and our determination is undiminished," Cohen said. "We are now moving into a much more aggressive air campaign."

White House officials reacted cautiously to the diplomatic efforts to win the release of three U.S. Army soldiers captured by Serb forces last week.

Spyros Kyprianou, the acting president of Cyprus, was slated to go to Belgrade to discuss the release of the servicemen. U.S. officials said the release must not be contingent upon conditions set by the Serbs.

White House National Security

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Job Vacancy No. 99-008

Opening Date: 04/02/99
Closing Date: 04/16/99

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN I (CASHIER)

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

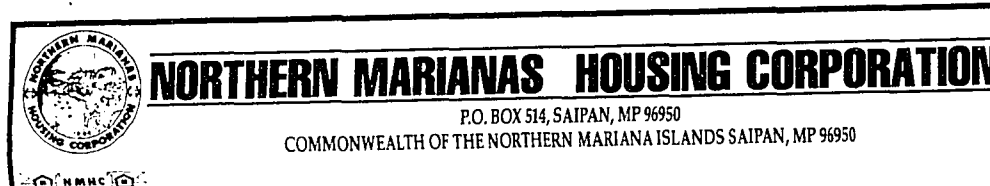
LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

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

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

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

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



INVITATION FOR BIDS NMHC 99-IFB-001

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are soliciting sealed bids for the "Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Building" at San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed bids, in triplicate, must be marked "Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Building NMHC 99-IFB-001", and must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 P.M., local time, Thursday, May 13, 1999, at which time and place, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. Certified Checks of Cashier's Check must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, with a reference of: "CDBG/TINIAN GYM REHAB". BID BOND MUST BE EXECUTED BY A CNMI-APPROVED SURETY.

Plans and Specifications for the project are available on or after Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at the Office of Micronesia Design Group and Associates, located at the San Jose Center in San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Fridays, except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US\$150.00) is required for each set.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian Gymnasium Building in San Jose Village on Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

Attention is called to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 which requires the provision of training and employment and the awarding of contract for work on the project, to low income project area residents and business concerns. NMHC also notifies bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women's business enterprises will be accorded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this request.

Attention is also called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the Commonwealth, Classification and Salary Structure Plans, and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the bond, certified check or cashier's check, which will be returned to unsuccessful bidders in accordance with section "Instruction to Bidders" pages 3-4, Paragraph No. 08, Bid Guarantee.

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

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Date: March 25, 1999

Date: March 25, 1999

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Council debates Iraq policy

By EDITH M. LEDERER
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on

Comply . . . Continued from page 3

therefore try to comply with it. Hopefully our local people will soon get the benefits similar to those enjoyed by nonresidents," he added.

He stressed that higher compliance rate would eventually increase the participation of local workers in the private sector, thus, unbundling the government of too much costs on personnel since a big number of civil service employees may start seeking private sector jobs.

"I'm sure that if they comply with the law that we passed, local workers will stay longer or permanently and eventually become an asset to their company. This law has been passed for so many years and it was never implemented, and now we ask the private sector to comply because it's required," he emphasized.

He said one way of making indigenous people hold on to their employment with the private sector is the strict implementation of a public law which establishes equal wage benefits between foreign and local workers.

According to the new measure signed by Tenorio, the compensatory payment may be given to indigenous workers in the form of similar benefits or cash equivalent. Public Law 11-74 amends the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act of 1995 which mandates private sector employers to provide resident workers, who earn minimum wage or \$3.05 per hour, similar benefits they give to their foreign workforce.

Under the amended version, resident workers earning below the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour should be granted benefits like free housing, transportation, health and medical insurance, and food subsidy which

Wednesday began what is expected to be a lengthy debate on a new Iraq policy, still deeply divided over lifting crippling sanctions against Baghdad and continuing U.S. and British airstrikes.

Highlighting the tension among council members, chief weapons inspector Richard Butler was excluded from the meeting at Russia's request, diplomats said. U.N. efforts to rid Iraq of its

weapons of mass destruction have been stymied for the past seven months, and after the United States and Britain launched airstrikes in mid-December, Baghdad barred inspectors from the U.N. Special Commission from returning.

The Security Council estab-

lished three panels in January as a first modest step to break the diplomatic impasse. The panels focused on re-establishing a disarmament program, improving the humanitarian situation in Iraq, and looted property and missing people after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW99-IFB-012 March 26, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Finance (DOF) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Aluminum Typhoon Shutters for Various Offices of DOF. The offices include the Division of Finance & Accounting, Electronic Data Processing Division, and Division of Treasury offices on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Contractors must visit the sites and familiarize themselves with the three (3) offices covered under this project.

An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466". The Bid Bond must be executed by a CNMI approved surety.

The bid documents are available on or after Tuesday, March 30, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base Saipan. A cost of twenty five dollars (US\$25.00) is required for each set; payment to must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to the Director of Technical Services Division, Lower Base Saipan, Attn: Mr. Andrew W. Smith, P.E., no later than 4:30 p.m., April 12, 1999.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Payment and Performance Bonds must be executed by a CNMI approved surety. Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at fifty dollars (US\$50.00) per calendar day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/LUCY DLG. NEILSEN
Secretary of Finance

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID CUC IFB99-0014

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is requesting bids from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for a customer service center in Garapan. CUC requires the office space to be available no later than May 10, 1999.

The proposed office space MUST conform to American Disabilities Requirements (ADA) and meet the following minimum criteria for consideration:

Office Area:	900 to 1200 square feet;
Parking:	Enough for 8 vehicles;
Electricity:	Must be available on a 24-hours basis with backup generator
Water:	24-hour water preferred. Building with sufficient water storage will be considered;
Bathrooms:	Restrooms that meets (ADA) requirements;
Maintenance:	Building maintenance to include plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning, carpentry and masonry works;
Other Services:	Trash collection and grounds maintenance.
Location:	Will be evaluated for ease of access, availability of parking condition of building and office space.

Bids must be in a sealed envelope marked with CUCIFB99-0014, and must be submitted at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., Saipan, no later than 2 p.m., April 20, 1999.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in its best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Any inquiries may be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG Fajardo, at telephone number 235-7025, ext. 129 or fax number 235-6146.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

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Fax. 233-7679

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB-99-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of 1 to 2 units 66 passenger capacity school bus(es). Detailed specifications are now available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 during regular working hours except Holidays. The bus must have a one year maintenance warranty and safety inspected and registered prior to delivery CIF PSSPANDS, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950. The buses must be delivered within 180 days from date of contract award.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope facemarked "IFB99-004" and submitted in duplicate to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., April 20, 1999, at which date, time and place, all bids will be opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The bidders are requested to submit a copy of their business permit. The bidder has the right to award on a single to multiple award or reject any or all award if to do so is to the best interest of the Public School System. Inquiries to this bid announcement may directly contact the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3763.

/s/Rita Hocog Inos, Ed. D.
Commissioner Of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

2 men . . .

Continued from page 20

said.

The three men — Dante Piandiong, Jesus Morillos and Archie Bulan — were found

guilty of holding up passengers in a jeep on Feb. 21, 1994, in Caloocan city in metropolitan Manila.

Piandiong was found guilty of shooting police officer Gerry Perez, one of the passengers,

who tried to draw a gun. Court officials ruled that the three conspired in the killing and held them equally guilty for the crime.

The three claim they are innocent, but several witnesses iden-

tified them as having been among a group of about five men who staged the robbery. The others are still at large.

While considering clemency for the three, Estrada said he would be unforgiving to rapists

and drug pushers. He suggested he would not stop the execution next month of a rapist who killed his victim, a nursing student, by smashing her face with a concrete block.

Estrada has said he may forgive people who commit crimes out of poverty.

Echegaray was convicted of repeatedly raping his 10-year-old stepdaughter.

South . . .

Continued from page 32

years later, and faced a death sentence in the 1980s until the United States and Japan interceded on his behalf.

His administration has been marked by the release of political prisoners, including his presidential predecessors. Organisers said he had also worked tirelessly to attract foreign investment to South Korea during the Asian economic crisis and to rebuild the country's depleted foreign exchange reserves.

The Liberty Medal is administered by Greater Philadelphia First, a business and civic organisation based in the fifth most populous U.S. city, which has a Korean population of more than 70,000 people.

Belated
Happy Birthday
" Papa "
Get Well Soon!
From Ed

Congratulations

to

Commonwealth Ports Authority

for completing the

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From the Management & Staff of

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and opening doors to a better, stronger Commonwealth.*

*We join the Commonwealth Ports Authority in celebrating
the completion of the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project.*

Congratulations and Wishing you all the Best of Luck

From the Management & Staff of

**Younis Art Studio, Inc.**

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**Congratulations to the Commonwealth Port Authority on
completing the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project!**

Thanks to your leadership, enterprising citizens of the CNMI have a powerful, new advantage against the current economic slowdown and market troubles in Asia.

Developing our ports has never been more critical. So as your hometown airline, you have our continuing commitment to support all efforts at developing Saipan's equally vital airport.



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Work Hard. Fly Right.

LaMotte . . .

Continued from page 8

to "subsidize" the pay hike that would be given to him, as well as to OPA counsel and former attorney general Richard Weil and prosecutor Alan Lane.

Bond . . .

Continued from page 8

Tenorio said the local match for Garapan and Oleai school projects is to be funded out of the PSS proposed bond. "Currently, the bond has not been finalized. I have been informed that we should wait for the finalization of these bonds before we fund these particular projects."

At the same time, the CNMI chief executive disclosed that since PSS is yet to complete its

The last CNMI attorney general whose appointment was confirmed by the Senate, Weil is a Harvard lawyer.

"No one among my our staff will get a pay cut," LaMotte said. He noted, moreover, that in light of the cash-strapped government's austerity measures, OPA spent

master plan on how to specifically spend the Covenant Section 902 funding, projects relating to public schools will have to take the back seat.

Capital PSS improvement projects, as well as other programs, were temporarily held back by the governor when he signed House Bill 11-380 into Public Law 11-78 as he explained that some issues are needed to be resolved by the Legislature and the Administration.

"To avoid taking a piecemeal approach to these issues and to

only \$1.8 million last year despite having a \$2.5 million budget.

LaMotte has been the CNMI public auditor since July 1994.

A certified public accountant and a law graduate, LaMotte worked with the US General Accounting Office and with Deloitte & Touche.

ensure that we spend these valuable dollars in the best manner possible for our students, a master plan is needed," he stressed.

PSS is looking forward to building a new senior and junior high schools on Saipan, a new junior high school on Tinian, as well as to constructing additional classrooms at all existing institutions.

Also part of the initial projects identified by the PSS were several improvement programs which will be determined by respective school authorities, and as stated in the original seven-year CIP Plan.

incurred during the last quarter of FY 1998, but also posted an overall growth for the Fund's assets.

Although all the Fund's seven money managers posted a net loss for the month ending in February, only one of them suffered a FYTD net loss, said Camacho.

G.D. Bjurman and Associates reported a net loss of 6.4 percent or \$868,634 for its FYTD returns.

Atalanta, Provident, Renaissance, Invesco Asia, Ltd., BEA International and Invesco Management and Research are able to register healthy FYTD portfolios.

Guam . . .

Continued from page 17

John Borlas, recognized all the people who helped build the playground yesterday at the ribbon cutting ceremony and awarded them with certificates of appreciation. Most Reverend Arch-

bishop Anthony S. Apuron, OFM Cap D.D. performed the invocation.

Tan Francesca Sayas a daughter of Tun Filepe San Nicolas attended the ceremony and cut the ribbon opening the park along with the Archbishop, and many other island leaders and dignitaries.

Blue . . .

Continued from page 12

During the month of April, "Wear a blue ribbon to show you care!"

"Through community aware-

ness and education, we can stop the cycle of abuse."

For more information or questions, contact the Division of Youth Services and ask for Marilyn U. Igitol, Connie Cabrera, or Nina Somorang at 664-2550/2553.

Admiral . . .

Continued from page 10

take into consideration the environmental concerns... environmental monitoring to make sure that before and after we do exercise, we do not harm the environment. We clean up after ourselves," said Doran.

Doran expressed hopes an arrangement can be made between the Seventh Fleet, Guam and CNMI for more future ship vis-

its. "It's a wonderful place to come for rest and relaxation because it is America," he said.

Some 31 percent, or about 3,160 hectares of Saipan, Tinian and Rota's total land measurement of 31,000 hectares, is allotted for exclusive US military use, according to official CNMI government figures.

NMC . . .

Continued from page 12

tion fee normally assessed for admission will be waived during the month of April.

All students who register in April will not be assessed the application fee.

For more information, please contact Janice A. Tenorio, Director of Admissions, Records, and Financial Aid at 234-3690, Extension 1400.

DPS: No . . .

Continued from page 16

traps are also very helpful in the detection of possible entry of mosquitoes causing malaria and dengue fever.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio earlier called for vigilance on the possible entry of contaminated meat products and animals infected with the Japanese encephalitis virus since majority of meat products sold in the local market are imported.

AGO . . .

Continued from page 9

ficials, "Lynch said.

The prosecutor pointed out that the AGO regularly investigate and prosecute those kind of cases (misconduct) where there are facts and evidence that support the charges.

With regards to Ayuyu's police brutality claim, Lynch said Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams looked into the matter and tried to get more information so that it could be thoroughly investigated.

"So it is not a question of us overlooking that at all," said Lynch, adding that he has to confer with Williams if there is something that he feels necessary to do.

SAVE ENERGY

Hollywood Movie Review

Story of love lost-- and found



Kevin Costner (middle photo) and Robin Wright Penn (right) star in "Message in a Bottle," Warner Bros.' romantic drama also starring Paul Newman (left). Photo by Ben Glass

By Lucette Bentley
For the Variety

A romance about love lost and found, "Message in a Bottle," based on Nicholas Sparks' New York Times bestseller, stars Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn, and Paul Newman.

What starts out as a potential newspaper story for Theresa becomes the key to reopening her heart.

Following a hurtful divorce, Theresa Osborne (Wright Penn) fills her life with caring for her son, Jason, and working as a researcher at the Chicago Tribune.

On a solitary holiday while Jason visits his father, Theresa is walking along a deserted stretch of coastline when she discovers a bottle containing a moving, passionate letter, signed simply, "G".

The letter's poetry and heart-

ache reach out to Theresa, prompting her to begin a search for the author that eventually leads her to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to a sailboat builder named Garret Blake (Costner).

Since the death of his wife Catherine, Garret has led a solitary existence, except for his relationship with his father, Dodge (Paul Newman), who attempts to wrest his son away from his grief for Catherine. As Dodge says to Garret, "You choose—the past or the future. Pick one and stick with it."

The questions about love and fate compel Garret and Theresa to reach out to one another also prompted the filmmakers to question their own beliefs about how people handle loss and find the strength to move on. Producer Denise Di Novi observes, "Everyone has been hurt, and

some people just shut down for the rest of their lives. It takes enormous courage to love again following great pain."

Kevin Costner has a different perspective, nothing, "Sometimes, it's hard to recognize the good things that are right in front of your faces because we're too busy looking over our shoulders."

"Whether or not you believe in fate" added Kevin, "things come into our life for a reason. What we're asking is—if you had come across this letter, would this be a journey you'd be willing to take?"

Denise Di Novi remembers, "I received a copy of Nicholas' new book in galleys and it was only halfway finished; the final chapters were in outline form. But I knew from the first page that there was something very special here. I thought it was

one of the most beautiful love stories that I had ever read.

"I had such a firm conviction that the role of Garret should be filled by Kevin Costner that I dreamt about it" says Di Novi. "I felt so strongly about it that the next morning, I spoke with Warners again and said, 'This is Kevin—it has to be him. It's his role.'"

Kevin Costner comments, "I think successful people visualize what has a strong possibility of happening. Lucky for me that first, Denise saw me in the role and that second, the material presented a story and a sensibility that I wanted to help realize on the screen."

He continues, "I thought the story was extremely emotional. 'Message' revolves around three people and their inability to reach out to each other, to bypass the wreckage and the

walls that separate them. The character of Garret is a man who's been fashioned by his environment and the circumstances of his life; he's a boat builder and a widower, and his loner instincts had almost totally cut him off from everyone around him."

"What interested me" confided Paul Newman, "is the intricacies of the relationship between father and son." He continues, "I believe that both Dodge and his son have lived lives of excess. So the question for both of them becomes whether you live in yesterday or whether you live in tomorrow."

Wright Penn explains, "I don't think we've seen a pure love story in a very long time. I like the fact that there is a spiritual connection to someone before meeting them, and a self-fulfilled prophecy toward that kind of love."

Mind, logic and intuition

Blaise Pascal, the extraordinary mathematician and philosopher of the seventeenth century, wrote in his classical work, *Pensees* (Thoughts), that there are two kinds of minds, the mathematical or logical, and the intuitive. The intuitive mind is like a ray gun, able to look into a complicated situation and discern its essence in a glance, often unaware of the processes which led to the conclusion. Pascal called such a mind a strong one.

The logical mind, however, is reflective, reasoning from principles or axioms and methodically arriving at conclusions through the force of logical argument. Pascal called such a mind a comprehensive one.

It is possible, Pascal noted, for minds to be strong and narrow, as well as comprehensive and weak. What is wanted then is a sort of dynamic equilibrium between both poles. After all, it makes sense to talk about a logical intuition and an intuitive logic.

Pascal also talked about a third type of mind, which is neither

intuitive or logical, which he called a dull mind. However, as a teacher I do not believe that any mind is inherently dull, only sleeping, remembering always the immortal words of Plotinus, namely that minds are not vessels to be filled, but fires to be ignited. The psychologist Carl Jung also made a perceptive (intuitive) remark in this regard when he said that everyone has a right not to be bored.

Many of us, it seems, are intuitive, or impulsive. We either see an answer in flash or don't bother with it. There are some standard questions that may be asked to test this. They may seem silly but it is surprising how many students and others get the wrong answers.

For example, you may ask, What weighs more, a pound of bowling balls or a pound of leaves? Or, If a farmer had 17 sheep and all but nine died, how many were left?

Simple? Consider the next question. If a pen and a pencil together costs \$1.10 and the pen is a dollar more than the pencil, what did each one cost? Did you come up with the answer? If you thought one cost \$1.00

and the other ten cents, you are mistaken because \$1.00 - \$0.10 = \$0.90. The answer is, of course, \$1.05 and \$0.05.

Now consider the following question. Suppose you bought a horse for \$60.00 and subsequently sold it for \$80.00.

Later, you decided you missed the horse so you bought it back for \$100.00. Finally, after a few years, you sold again for \$120.00. What was your total profit, if any? It is surprising how many miss the answer to this one, which is \$40.00.

Let's go to second gear. In the following question I am not looking for an exact answer but only want a ball park figure based on your intuition. Suppose there is a flat stretch of railway track 5000 feet long. Now under the hot Saipan sun the track expands 2 feet. Since each end of the track is secure, the track buckles. Assume this happens symmetrically, that is the buckle takes place in the center of the track. How high do you think the bulge will rise above the ground at the middle? An inch? 4 feet? A tenth of an inch?

Well the exact answer can be

found using the Pythagorean Theorem. The track is now 5002 feet long, and half of that is 2501. Now the height the track rises equals the square root of the difference of the squares of 2501 and 2500.

That is the square root of 5001, which is approximately 71 feet. In this a surprise? If you take into consideration the curve of the track, the actual answer is about 67 feet, and this is still more than you may surmise using your ray gun of intuition.

PUZZLES

1. Two missiles speed directly toward each other, one at 9000 miles per hour and the other at 21000 miles per hour. They start 1317 miles apart. How far apart are they one minute before they collide? (Can you answer this one by your intuition?)

2. Three beach walkers came upon a pile of coconuts. One took half the coconuts plus half a coconut. Another took half of what was left plus half a coconut. The third took half of what

remained plus half a coconut. Exactly one coconut was left over which they threw into the ocean. How many coconuts were there in the original pile?

3. The Marquis loved to give dinner parties and pose puzzles to his guests. This time he filled a wine-glass half full of wine and the rest of the way with water. Then he took another glass twice the size of the first glass and filled it one-third full of wine and the rest of way with water. Then he poured both glasses into a tumbler. The question he posed to his guests was, What part of the mixture is wine and what part water? Do you know the answer?

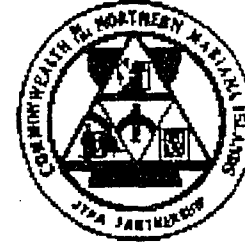
Answers to Last Week's Puzzles

1. Here are a few solutions: $35 \times 41 = 1435$; $65 \times 938 = 63895$; $2541 \times 6 = 15246$.
2. The time was 9:36 PM.
3. 179 is the divisor, leaving a remainder of 164 in every case.



Office of the Job Training Partnership Act Office of the Governor

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



PUBLIC NOTICE (04/07/99)

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

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

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

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

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

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

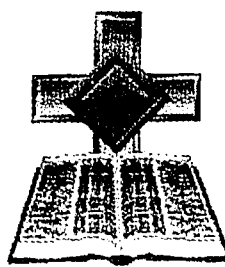
For more information, please call Mr. Martin Pangelinan or Mrs. Laurent T. Chong at 664-1700/04. I am looking forward to working with you on such worthwhile endeavor.

/s/Felix R. Nogis
Executive Director



Death & Funeral Announcement

MARCELINO JOAQUIN CABRERA SABLAN



better known as

"JOAQUIN POP OR PAUL"

Was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on
Sunday, April 4, 1999 at the age of 39.

PREDECEASED BY:

Parents: Tomas Palacios Sablan & Isabel Mendiola Cabrera
Parents-in-law: Jhuan Chisato & Kliu Techur Chisato
Brother & Sisters: Vicente S. Sablan, Soledad S. Basa & Rita S. Mettao
In-laws: Francisco C. Basa, Fernando M. Benavente, Victoria M. Sablan & Francisca Vicenta M. Sablan

SURVIVED BY:

Wife: Grace Chisato Sablan
Children: Jenaida, Josephine, Tarla, Joaquin, Jr. & Jose

Brothers/Sisters-in-Laws: Maria M. Sablan, Faustina S. Benavente, Gregorio S. Sablan, Ana S. & Henry T. Indalecio, Jesus S. & Rita G. Sablan, Juana S. & Daniel T. Muna, Natividad C. Sablan, Matilde S. & Martin M. Taisacan, Manuel & Consolacion C. Sablan, Raphael M. Mettao, Maria & Juan L. Ada, Maria & Alfredo Gonzales, Thomas C. Sablan, Isabel & Melchor U. Maratita, Pedro & Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita & Jose T. Castro, Bernadita & Isidro T. Cabrera

Brothers/Sisters-in-Laws: Mitsuo & Mariane Chisato, Francisca & Yoshiwotki, Joseph & Halga Ngracheluol, John & Julie Wills, Melanie Chisato, Juan & Glendora Camacho, Darlene Hicks, Lucia Chisato, Froline Chisato, Liverio Chisato, Dominicio Chisato (deceased).

He is additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces, aunts & uncles.

Rosary is being held nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Church.

Last respect may be paid on Monday, April 12, 1999 at the San Antonio Church from 8:00 - 3:00 p.m.. Mass of
Christian burial will be offered at 3:30 p.m., Interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICES
235-6516

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION AND PROFOUND GRATITUDE...

Extended to our relatives, friends, and acquaintances from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam and afar for all the kind words of sympathy and generous support offered to us during our time of sorrow in the loss of our most loving mother.

We appreciate your presence and prayers during her illness and until her death and at the nightly rosary and most especially at the funeral services of our beloved mother and grandmother.

We are truly blessed and grateful to be recipients of your compassions generosity. You will always be remembered in our hearts and prayers.



"God is always testing us"

Cecilia Tenorio Sablan

NAN CHILANG (DEDA)

July 21, 1921 ~ March 9, 1999

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen i Tamaguon-na,
Yan i Familia Siba

Tinian ...

Continued from page 6

pecially for employment," he said.
"The bottom line is all about spreading information to whole of Asia and so it is wonderful to be part of this process. When you considered the advancement and attachment to the information superhighway, you begin to sympathize with people from East

Asia who don't even get information from radio," he added.

Tinian Mayor Frank M. Borja commended the IBB and Boeing for what he called their commitment to train locals in the areas of communication, radio transmission, and computer programming.
"I am confident that with the proper training, our local residents will enhance their skills to pursue a career opportunities in the variety of technical field."

OSHA ...

Continued from page 6

"All these programs will prevent future food poisoning incidents from happening," Curtis added.

Connie Hunt, OSHA-Saipan director, said L&T has confirmed in writing that it will adhere to the specific areas that need improvements as identified by OSHA. She said failure of the said garment firm to act on its promised compliance will guarantee absolute citation.

"We got a commitment from the company and we will continue to watch them," said Hunt, adding that OSHA investigation is still ongoing as the exact root of the food poisoning incident is yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said L&T has been doing well in addressing the 22 concerns earlier raised by DPH to prevent the recurrence of the food poisoning incident.

"L&T is doing progress. They have addressed most of the concerns we raised," said Villagomez.

In a separate interview, Lawyer Steven Pixley, chief legal counsel of Tan Holdings, said L&T is more than willing to adopt the OSHA-recommended programs.

"L&T is willing to cooperate with OSHA and the health department for the safety of its workers," added Pixley.

Curtis, together with his associate Dr. Allan Heins arrived in Saipan on Monday to participate in the investigation of the food poisoning incident.

The arrival of the two Salt Lake, Utah-based officials of OSHA's Health Response Team was precipitated by the request of OSHA Region IX director Frank Strashheim.

The two officials left yesterday afternoon shortly after the press conference held at DPH.

The food poisoning incident at L&T happened on March 24 where 1,167 workers who ate peking duck, rice and cabbage at the factory cafeteria suffered vomiting, stomach cramps, and nausea.

OSHA described the said food poisoning as the biggest occupational health-related incident in the U.S. in the last 27 years.

Navy ...

Continued from page 3

clothes, and showers while medical assistance and transport was

Chamber ...

Continued from page 3

Deets argued that while a six-month salary may be huge, spending such for each outgoing government worker "is actually saving government a lot of money if you add up all the numbers."

The proposal was arrived at following a recent meeting business leaders had with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, during which the "perception that local residents are entering the workforce with inad-

OSHA ...

Continued from page 3

OSHA's call.

"They should work together on that and we do hope that they do so," Curtis said.

Curtis explained that the Food Procurement Program will ensure that food purchased for distribution to employees is free of harmful chemical and biological contamination.

Among others, this means that

IMF ...

Continued from page 3

import and export, tax statistics, among others.

Udai explained that the format of the statistics would be the same figures published in the Bank of Hawaii's "Republic of Palau Eco-

requested from Kitty Hawk.

In all, three of the nine refugees required immediate medical attention. A Kitty Hawk doctor was flown over who ensured that the patients were stabilized and two

equate education, work ethic and basic job skills" were among those discussed, according to the Chamber's official newsletter.

The meeting focused on ways the business community can cope up with a recently-enacted law requiring guest workers to leave CNMI after three consecutive years and stay out for six months.

Tenorio, according to Deets, was seeking for a "concerted effort among local businesses to hire local residents."

The governor, said Deets, is will-

the procurement will be limited to food stocks which have passed inspection to meet applicable government standards including those pertaining to quality, cleanliness, and the absence of pesticide residues and biological contamination.

The Food Storage and Preparation Program is aimed at ensuring that food served to employees is stored and processed using safe practices to minimize food contamination.

The Water Quality Program en-

conomic Report."

"It was the IMF who helped us prepare the GDP before, which was published by the Bank of Hawaii," the financial advisor said.

At the same time, Udai told Palau Horizon that the IMF people are set to review Palau's economic progress over the past few years. They will also conduct consulta-

HS-14 helicopters soon arrived onboard to transport the patients to Guam. The patients were then transported via military helicopter to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam for medical treatment.

ing to "revisit" the law if it eventually proved to be a failure.

Tenorio also requested for the recommendations.

Deets said she is "hoping" to have all proposals submitted to the governor within the next 30 days. Other proposals include a call for government to "seriously consider" cutting the number of non-essential employees and a plan requiring local residents to acquire at least two years of experience before they may be qualified for a government job.

Deets said she is "hoping" to have all proposals submitted to the governor within the next 30 days. Other proposals include a call for government to "seriously consider" cutting the number of non-essential employees and a plan requiring local residents to acquire at least two years of experience before they may be qualified for a government job.

ures that employees are provided safe potable water for drinking, washing and culinary purposes.

Meanwhile, the Medical Management Program, including the ongoing analysis of accurately recorded illness records, will assist in the recognition, evaluation and control of potential disease outbreaks and hazards.

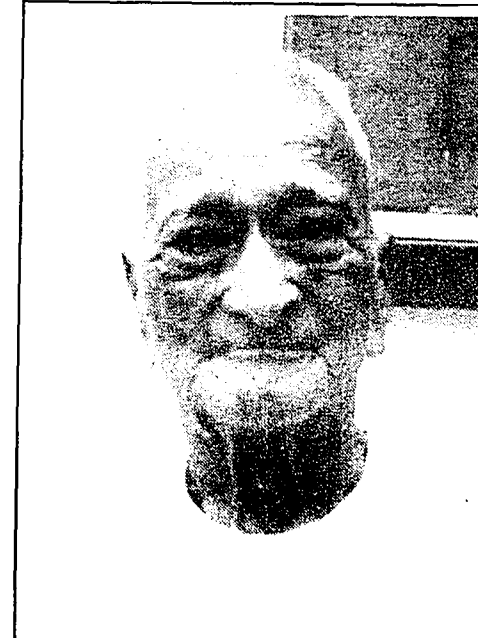
The Employee hazard Identification program will ensure that employees have an active role in reporting unsafe working conditions without fear of reprisal.

tions on both financial and economic matters, the financial advisor added.

Currently, the Republic is ill-equipped with the statistics concerning country's economic matters.

Udai said every country that is an IMF member gets this kind of services.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



**Agustin
Sablan
Tudela**

"TANG TING"

August 28, 1907-April 05, 1999

In his passing, he now join his:

Wives: Elena Reyes Deleon Guerrero

Cecilia Palacios Sablan

Sons: Gregorio Dlg. Tudela

Francisco Dlg. Tudela

Father: Francisco Ramirez Tudela

Mother: Ana Rosario Sablan

Parents-in-Law: Gregorio Chabraham Deleon Guerrero/Josepha Cruz Reyes

Gregorio R. Sablan/Soledad Cruz Palacios

Step-son: Antonio S. Cabrera

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses: Joaquin S. Tudela (Maria Muna), Maria T. Camacho (Antonio Camacho), Ana T. Arriola (Joaquin Arriola), Jesus S. Tudela (Anuncia Borja), Isidro S. Tudela (Rosa P. Cabrera), Victoria T. Borja (Vicente Borja), Rosa T. Muna (Sebastian Muna), Felicidad T. Cruz (Enrique Cruz), Jose S. Tudela

Brothers/Sisters-in-law: Maria Dlg. Tenorio (Jose P. Tenorio), Juan R. DL Guerrero (Nicolasa D. Quitugua), Pedro R. DL Guerrero, Jose R. DL Guerrero, Herman R. DL Guerrero (Maria C. Tenorio), Antonio R. Deleon Guerrero, Concepcion Deleon Guerrero Sanchez (Juan A. Sanchez), Jesus R. DL Guerrero

Brothers/Sisters-in-law: Francisco P. /Maria D.T. Sablan, Jose P./Dolores T. Sablan, Pedro P./Lina M. Sablan, Antonio P./Maria S. Sablan, Nicolas P./Isabel Sablan, Ana P. Sablan, Maria S./Jesus D. Guerrero, Soledad S./Pio Mendiola, Romaldo/Antonia S. Santos, Tomas P. Sablan/Rita S. Sablan/Isabel C. Sablan

His loving memories will live within the hearts of his:

Children, spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren: Natividad T. Castro & Manuel T. Castro (Felix T./Ludevina T. Castro, Augustin T./Nathania N. Castro, Maria Elena C./Jesus H. Sablan, Juan/Maggie P. Cruz); Rafael Dlg. Tudela & Carmen C. Tudela (Lucia T./Ramon Sardea); and Jesus DLG. Tudela

Step-daughters: Margarita C. Tudela & Jose C. Tudela (Francisco C./Cynthia A. Tudela, Diego C./Victoria O. Tudela, †Aldebert C. Tudela, Brain C./Candy A. Tudela, Priscilla C. Tudela, Bernice C./Calistro Reyes, Lillian C./Jose Camacho, Alvin C. Tudela/Clarissa C. Tudela, Gary C. Tudela, Adeline) and Carmen C. Tudela & Rafael Dlg. Tudela (Lucia T./Ramon Sardea)

Sisters-in-law/brother-in-law: Nieves/Ramon Q. Taitano, Maria V. DL Guerrero

Also survived by numerous Godchildren, Grandchildren, Greatchildren and Great Great Grandchildren.

Rosary is being held nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jose C. Tudela (Margarita) in Chalan Kanoa Dist. #3. Last respects may be paid on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 from 7:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Mass for Christian Burial will be offered on the same day at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Burial will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICES
235-6516

US . . .

Continued from page 1

was backlogged in Guam. "Indeed there was a backlog of mail in Guam," Plaisted said Wednesday this week. Sea mail for the Marshall Islands sent by ship from Oakland, California in late 1998 was improperly pack-

Reform . . .

Continued from page 1

Guerrero, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Ray S. Guerrero and former Saipan mayor Jesus S. Guerrero are joining the new party. The Guerreros—all former Republicans—supported Tenorio,

aged together with mail for other islands, so instead of being dropped off in each island on the ship's route, it went straight to Guam where it sat for months, she indicated.

USPS officials in Honolulu got the Guam post office to put the mail for the Marshalls—about 4,000 pounds worth—on a flight from Guam to Honolulu over

whose running mate was the former mayor, in the 1997 elections. Tenorio ran against Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero, whose campaign manager was Ray S. Guerrero, in the 1989 and 1993 elections.

Tenorio said he expects other "dissatisfied" Republicans to join the new party.

A former Democrat, Tenorio said the Democratic Party's act-

the weekend in time to make a weekly USPS charter flight to Majuro earlier this week.

"That's why we're getting a lot of Christmas catalogs and old mail this week," Plaisted said.

"The problem has been solved, thanks to immediate action by USPS in Honolulu. They got right on it."

ing chair, former Saipan mayor Jose S. Rios, and former chair Lupe Manglona, have also expressed willingness to join the new party.

Tenorio said he is hoping that most of the Democrats would join Reform, which he described as a pro-business conservative party that will field a complete slate in the 2001 general elections.

Item . . .

Continued from page 1

passage of a new CIP appropriation bill.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) declined to comment, saying that the Senate legal counsel is currently reviewing the governor's line-item veto message.

Rota and Tinian senators are concerned that the delay in the construction of their islands' CIP projects will further hamper their

economic development plans. Manglona estimated that it could take up to three months before a new CIP bill is passed.

"We hope we could work double time on this," he said.

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) said he will urge for closer cooperation between the Legislature and the administration to "iron out differences."

"We all have to sit down and compromise," he said. "All of us are concerned about the CIPs, including for Rota and Tinian—

both deserve to get funding for their projects."

House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan) said he will begin drafting the new CIP bill for the remaining \$20 million in matched Covenant funds.

"We support the governor's contention on his line-item veto message but we are still willing to consult the Senate in drafting a new bill," he said.

"We have to compromise," House Commerce and Tourism Chair Oscar M. Babauta (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) said.

Some . . .

Continued from page 1

early Wednesday morning in Guam claimed they came from China to work on Saipan. When their work permits expired, they allegedly borrowed a boat to find work elsewhere.

"I am very surprised that these things happen although we are making all the attempt in monitoring our shore in Rota and Tinian. Unfortunately, there's nothing we can do if they do anything just to leave the island for other place," the CNMI governor said.

However, Tenorio said his government will not sit on its laurels and allow illegal migrants to use any island in the CNMI as jump off points to unlawfully enter Guam or other neighboring islands and countries.

"I hope we can do something more stricter. I will be meeting with the members of my staff to find out what we can do to make sure that these things don't continue to happen again," he emphasized.

He added that the government

will tighten its monitoring efforts in Saipan, Tinian and Rota as part of intensified action aimed at blocking moves by Chinese nationals to use the islands as jump off points to enter Guam illegally.

According to a report by the US Coast Guard, hundreds of Chinese are still being smuggled into several islands in the Pacific, particularly Guam. In just a short period of time, about 600 individuals from China have illegally migrated to Guam.

The US Coast Guard said that for the past 10 months alone, Chinese nationals have illegally entered Guam in at least eight drop-off points.

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

INS officials believe that the smuggling operation of humans to America is a conspiracy involving a multi-million dollar scheme to get the aliens to US soil. Currently, the Department of Corrections has been home to over 300 illegal immigrants.

Saipan . . .

Continued from page 1

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

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

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

Under the old design, the completed dock would have had merely 1,400 linear feet of berthing space and a 17-acre container year, while the redesigned plan offered 2,600 linear feet of berthing space and a 22-acre container yard.

In addition, the channel, turning basin and berthing area would be wider and deeper to accommodate a larger number and greater variety of vessels.

Pangelinan . . .

Continued from page 5

below:

• \$150.00 B/Wkly x \$.08 out of every dollar x 24 pay-periods per annum x 300 maid/farmers = \$86,400.00

• \$200.00 B/Wkly x \$.08% per dollar x 24 pp. x 10,000 employees per year = \$3,840,000.00.

• \$300.00 B/Wkly x \$.08% per \$ x 24 pp. x 10,000 employees = \$5,760,000.00.

• \$400.00 B/Wkly x \$.08% per \$ x 24 pp. x 500 supervisors = \$384,000.00.

• \$500.00 B/Wkly x \$.08% per \$ x 24 pp. x 500 Asst/General Mgrs = \$480,000.00.

Grand total of \$10,944,000.00. There are an estimated 40,000 Alien Employees.

So what do you say my leaders? I know the island of Guam is considered the island of the geniuses. But our elected leaders are no less ignorant.

PETE G. PANGELINAN

Selected . . .

Continued from page 5

lion. Total employees within these sectors at payroll period ending March 12 were as follows: manufacturing - 13,686 (48.8%); hotels 2,912 (10.4%) and the other three sectors - 11,470 (40.9%) for a total 28,068.

Of the 1,166 reporting businesses for Saipan within the five sectors mentioned above, 19 percent were owned by CNMI born individuals with 26 percent owned by other U.S. citizens for a total of 45 percent. Of the remaining businesses, 11.6% were owned by Japanese citizens; 14.3% by Koreans; 7.8% by

Chinese; 5.1% by Philippine citizens; 2.5% by citizens of other countries with 16.7% not indicating citizenship, total non U.S. citizenship of businesses - 55%.

Two years earlier the 1995 population census for Saipan, Tinian and Rota revealed the indigenous population at 20,161 or 34.3 percent of the total of 58,846. At that time the Filipino population represented 33%; the Chinese - 11.5%; Korean - 3.9%; Japanese - 1.6% and all others - 15.7%. Certainly by 1999 the characteristics of the population has changed considerably but reliable data as to how much alteration the area has experienced will not be available until the next census is taken in the year 2000.

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SALES & MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

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Please respond in person with your resume to:
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2nd Floor, DFS Galleria, Beach Road, Garapan
Look for Iles V. Mohammad

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES, INC., a leader in the Saipan community, is committed to providing excellence in customer and employee satisfaction. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for the following opportunities.

FULL TIME ACCOUNTANT

- B.S. in accounting, preferably CPA
- At least 2 years experience in retail and wholesale accounting
- Must be able to prepare financial statements and reports
- Knowledgeable in computers, preferably in IBM As 400
- Must be reliable/flexible
- Customer service oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Highly motivated/good work ethics

EXCELLENT BENEFITS AND COMPETITIVE SALARIES. QUALIFIED RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUMES IN PERSON AT THE J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES, INC. HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER, SUSUPE.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: **ITB99-0037**
FOR: **PREVENTIVE & TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OWN SMARTNET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**
OPENING DATE: **May 07, 1999** TIME: **10:00 A.M.**

GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PREVENTIVE & TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OWN SMARTNET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:

This is to inform the general public that **SEDINIA D. HABOC** (a.k.a. DINIA), whose picture appears hereon, is **NO LONGER** connected with WDI Saipan, Inc. dba Capricciosa Restaurant effective April 6, 1999. Any transaction and dealings she has from this day on will not be honored by the company.

From the management of WDI Saipan, Inc.

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

House Lots for Lease • 1,500 sq. m. Lots
• Mt. Tapuchao • View Managaha Islands • Road Access
• Electricity • Water • Payment Accepted
• 54.95 Year Lease

Please call Lisa at Tel. # 234-5684

Keep Saipan Litter Free!

WDI SAIPAN, INC.
has openings for:

WAITRESS/WAITER

- Experience preferred.
- Must be able to work different shifts.
- Must possess valid CNMI Driver's License.
- Must have own reliable transportation.
- Police Clearance.

WDI Saipan, Inc. offers competitive employee benefit packet.

Please apply in person at:
Tony Roma's & Capricciosa Restaurants
2:00 p.m. - 4 p.m. only (Monday thru Friday)
No phone calls, please.

WDI SAIPAN, INC.
La Fiesta III, 1F & 2F, San Roque (across Hotel Nikko)

Hard Rock CAFE is now looking for a professional, fun-loving

CLOWN

And/Or

MAGICIAN

who can perform:

- Magic tricks and/or comedy shows

If you think you have what it takes, Please respond in person with your resume to:
HARD ROCK CAFE
2nd Floor, DFS Galleria, Beach Road, Garapan
Look for Jet

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: **ITB99-0038**
FOR: **PURCHASE OF VEHICLES**
OPENING DATE: **May 07, 1999** TIME: **1:00 P.M.**

GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PURCHASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool Tennis Court

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HOUSE FOR RENT

Avail. Furnished or Unfurnished.

3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath,
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Trash Collection and
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Located in San Vicente
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- Commercial Space Across
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- CW/Complete Furnishing/Equipment 234-7452/9380
- Studio Type Units Good For Staff Housing Ask for Ruben

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\$23 pay additional we'll cover you better.
1st Fines \$100 - \$150 • Higher Fines \$350 - \$500

Starting June 1st
Come to 7.12 Insurance
Across PG Hotel in CK.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 Bedroom, Fully Furnished
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Located in San Vicente
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Pager No. 236-5408

WANTED TWO HOUSE CLEANER

Performs any combination of following duties to maintain hotel premises in a clean and orderly manner. Moves and arranges furniture; turns mattresses; dusts blinds; polishes metalwork; arranges decorations; apparatus or furniture for functions, etc. Collects soiled linens for laundering and counts same also receives and stores linens. Performs other duties described under CLEANER (any industry) 1 Master Title. May deliver television sets, ironing boards, baby cribs and rollaway beds and sets them in guest rooms. May clean and remove debris in and around premises.

Salary: 3.35 per hour
Call Summer Holiday 234-3184 Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

HOUSES FOR RENT

- Three Bedroom with One Bathroom, partly furnished concrete house.
- Two Bedroom with One Bathroom (Part of a Triplex) Furnished.

Both are located in Puerto Rico Village and Available with 24 hours city water, 1000 gallon reserved water tank, telephone and cable tv wires are in place. Bi-weekly yard maintenance is also provided.

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price reduced
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2nd Floor, 24 hours Water
San Vicente
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(Furnished)
North of PIC Hotel
Call: Sally at 234-3694

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New 2-Bedroom Apartment Units
Near Kobler Elem. Sch., Coral Ocean Point
24 hour water, fenced location, air-con in each bedroom, refrigerator, stove, water heater & trash collection. 235-4341 evening.

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RECYCLE

With Heartfelt Gratitude

We, the family of the late

Margarita C. Muna-Igitol

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, clergymen, friends and neighbors for your kind expressions of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved into the caring hands of our Creator.

WE EXTEND SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Frs. Gary Bradley, Rolly Petronio, Edwin Musico, Seminararian Nonoy and the servers; Representative & Mrs. Frank G. Cepeda, Representative & Mrs. Dino M. Jones, Representative & Mrs. David M. Apatang, Senator & Mrs. Thomas P. Villagomez; Saipan Mayor's Office, Carolinian Affairs Office;

CHC doctors, nurses & staff, medical referral office (Saipan & Guam); Margaret's personal physicians Drs. Wurr, Medlin, Stearns & staff of FHP; Emergency Medical Technicians; Department of Public Safety;

Techa Eleanor S. Dela Cruz; Shalom Choir, Children's Choir of Santa Remedios Church; musical selections by Emmy Peter, Baby Cano & Jun Flormata; Divine Mercy and Christian Mothers Associations for your prayers and visitations;

AND TO ALL - who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the nightly rosary, the Eucharistic Celebration of her life and placing her to rest and most especially for your offering of Mass and prayers. The many acts of kindness and generosity gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss.

We extend our appreciation to all those who have shown us compassion, not just during her final months, but throughout her entire life. Most especially, we thank our Lord for His infinite goodness, for giving us family and friends as yourselves and for allowing our beloved to receive the final blessing and spiritual gifts of healing.

From our hearts.....

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE PARA HAMYO TODOS!

God Bless and Peace Be with You always!

SI PETE (PJ) IGITOL, I FAMAGUON, YAN FAMILIA

Marianas Variety

Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted



PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MANUEL A. TENORIO dba T&S Construction Tel. 288-2796(4/9)F30440

02 MASON-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: ROY M. PANGELINAN dba Marianas Home Builder Tel. 256-7769(4/9)F30441

01 MAINTENANCE (ASSITANT), BUILDING REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SL CORPORATION Tel. 234-7220(4/9)F30439

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER, DEPARTMENT-Salary:\$4.50-4.50 per hour
Contact: MECHILLE CORPORATION dba Tongyang Carpet & BIF Furniture Tel. 234-1361(4/9)F77743

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: M & P CORPORATION Tel. 234-1364(4/9)F77744

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$600.00 per month
01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: REMEDIOS C. LLOYD/PA-CIFIC COMMUNICATIONS dba Trinity Beauty Salon Tel. 234-2327(4/9)F30435

01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT, INC. dba Royal Restaurant Tel. 234-8950(4/9)F77722

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:\$3.05-4.20 per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT, INC. dba Saipan Ocean View Hotel Tel. 234-8900(4/9)F77720

01 SALES MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00-1,200.00 per month
Contact: LC CORPORATION Tel. 288-5707(4/9)F30437

04 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (SPECIALIST)-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$4.75 per hour
Contact: COMPUTER WORLD TECH-NOLOGY, INC. Tel. 235-2684(4/9)F77733

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 Q.C. CHECKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 SEWING SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
14 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
06 CUTTER, HAND-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: EUROTEX SAIPAN INC. Tel. 234-5277(4/9)F77725

01 (SUPERVISOR) STORE -Salary:\$650.00-700.00 per month
Contact: MERGE CLIENTELLE CORPORATION dba Where Else Boutique Tel. 234-5414(4/16)F77789

01 CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT-Salary:\$5,400.00 per month
01 CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$4.00-5.00 per hour
01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$4.00-5.00 per hour
Contact: FLETCHER PACIFIC CONST. CO., LTD. (CNMI) Tel. 234-3301(4/16)F77882

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
03 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour
03 AUTOBODY REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 (AUTO) ESTIMATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSE J. NELSON dba Joenels Auto Repair Shop Tel. 235-4964(4/9)F30436

01 OFFICE CLERK-Salary:\$3.35 per hour
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$1,600.00 per month
Contact: PETE A. TENORIO dba Pete A. Tenorio & Assoc. Tel. 234-8555(4/16)F30522

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORPORATION dba Kareena's Retail Tel. 235-8752(4/16)F30523

01 GARDENER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
01 SALES ASSOCIATE-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
Contact: CARMEN SAFEWAY ENTERPRISES dba Carmen's Baby News, C-Mart, Floral Lane, Pacifica Funeral Services Tel. 234-7313(4/16)F77865

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN HUI LING CORP. dba Yellow House Tel. 235-9188(4/16)F30527

01 STORE KEEPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN FEDERAL "ZJC" GROUP LTD., CO. dba Golden Crown Store Tel. 233-8899(4/16)F30526

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: EASTERN HOPE CORPORATION dba Keeraku & Rakuen Restaurant Tel. 233-4242(4/16)F30524

02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TRIPLE E CORPORATION dba International Carpets Tel. 234-1146(4/16)F30540

02 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SUWASO CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club Tel. 234-7000(4/16)F77859

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TRI ENTERPRISES, INC. dba HealthCare Specialties Tel. 322-2783(4/16)F77871

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.30 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BUILDING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KANG CORPORATION dba Kang Auto Supply Tel. 288-9366(4/16)F30534

01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SHIN HUNG DEV. CORP. Tel. 234-1605(4/16)F30531

04 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: LETTY A. JONES dba D/L Personnel Ser. Supply Tel. 322-5389(4/16)F30528

01 MECHANIC, HEAVY EQUIPMENT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-2700(4/16)F30536

02 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC. Tel. 233-3973(4/23)F78019

01 SEWER (MACHINE OPERATOR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 DIGITIZER (SUPERVISOR)-Salary:\$550.00-1,350.00 per month
Contact: ISLAND APPAREL, INC. dba Island Apparel Tel. 288-3442(4/23)F30621

02 STAFF NURSE-Salary:\$1,200.00-1,545.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$650.00-700.00 per month
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$650.00-700.00 per month
02 SALES ASSOCIATE-Salary:\$3.46 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 234-7327(4/23)F30622

01 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (SCUBA DIVING)-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: BLUE SEA SPORTS, INC. Tel. 234-7903(4/23)F30619

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$600.00-700.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS PARAMOUNT CORP. dba Marianas Rental Tel. 233-4030(4/23)F30618

01 STOCKER (HELPER) CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: BJC CORPORATION dba BJC Discount Store Tel. 235-0388(4/23)F30615

03 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: FLORENCIA M. PABLO dba R&F Construction Tel. 235-2386(4/23)F30616

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$10.00-15.00 per hour
01 (ASST) PRODUCTION MANAGER-Salary:\$7.00-15.00 per hour
26 SEWING MACHINES OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
06 PRESSER (MACHINE OPERATOR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
04 CUTTER (MACHINE)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: EXPRESS MANUFACTURING, INC. Tel. 322-6743(4/23)F30605

01 TRANSLATOR-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
Plus \$500.00 housing allowance
Contact: TANDEM SKYDIVE (SAIPAN), INC. Tel. 234-5860(4/23)F30603

01 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: GLOBAL TRADERS, INC. Tel. 234-7415(4/23)F30604

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 (SUPERVISOR) NIGHT CLUB-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 DANCER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN FUCHENG CORPORATION dba Hollywood Karaoke/Good Massage Tel. 233-9668(4/23)F30608

08 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
06 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ACE CORPORATION dba Restaurant Tel. 235-7831(4/23)F30610

01 (OPERATIONS) MANAGER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: LAURO T. MANACOP dba GTM Enterprises Tel. 235-7282(4/23)F30613

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
01 BUILDING REPAIR (MAINTENANCE)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
Contact: PEDRO C. SAN NICOLAS dba PAB Gen. Const. Tel. 322-3045(4/23)F30602

02 INTERPRETER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
Contact: AMERICAN FUCHENG CORPORATION dba Hollywood Club/Good Massage Tel. 233-9668(4/23)F30607

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$5.00-9.93 per hour
02 (INDUSTRIAL) WELDER (ARC)-Salary:\$4.50-5.00 per hour
02 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS CORPORATION Tel. 322-0407(4/23)F30609

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In Re The Estate Of
Isabel G. Nelson,
Deceased.
Civil Action No. 98-865D

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: April 27, 1999
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: John A. Manglona

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Administrator has filed a petition with the Commonwealth Superior Court for a Decree of Final Distribution of the Estate of Isabel G. Nelson, deceased. The hearing on said petition for a Decree of Final Distribution has been set for April 27, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. You are requested to appear at the hearing.
Dated: April 1, 1999

/s/Clerk of Court

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Carpeted 2-Bedroom, Fully Furnished Apartment in San Antonio, Close to stores, church and beach. Nice location. For appointment to see, Call: 235-0526 Serious Inquiries only.

HOUSE FOR RENT
2 BEDROOM, CONCRETE HOUSE 24 HOURS WATER AS LITO AREA CALL: 288-8138

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Studio Type - \$270/month
Furnished, Good Power & Water, Single or Couple only. In Kobleville Tel. 288-2222

FOR RENT
5 Bedroom House
Furnished or Unfurnished Located at As Perdido Call: Glen at 235-2379 or Cris at 235-1176

GARAGE SALE
April 10 & 11
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Besides RadioCom, CK
PAYLESS BEACH ROAD
Tel. 234-7066

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

CAR FOR SALE
'93 Nissan Pathfinder SE Fully Loaded \$9,500
'96 Honda Civic 4dr, Fully Loaded \$8,995
'96 Toyota Dyna Ex-Cab Heavy Duty \$5,995
Pick-up, Loaded \$5,995
'96 Suzuki Swift 4dr, Sedan w/AC \$4,995
For more information pls. call RUDY 235-1242
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SAN JOSE MOTEL
DAY TIME - \$15.00
ONE NIGHT - \$20.00
WEEKEND - \$25.00
Free Services: Hot Water, VCR and Video Tape, Drinking Water, Rooms available for monthly rental
\$250.00 \$300.00 \$350.00 \$400.00
Call Tel. 235-8899

1999 Harley Davidson
Custom Softail-Motorcycle
INQUIRE IF INTERESTED
(670) 322-6319

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
J & M CORPORATION,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
ANGELIS N. PORTIN,
Defendant.
Civil Action No. 99-003E

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: ANGELES N. PORTIN
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the attached Complaint, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICE OF JOHN M. CHAMBERS, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:
THE LAW OFFICE OF JOHN M. CHAMBERS
MSV Bldg. II, Garapan
Box 10001, Dept 162,
Saipan, MP 96959
Tel. (670) 233-6901, Fax: (670) 233-6903
As soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Court house in Rota or at the Superior Court in Saipan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
By Order of the above Court:
Dated: March 12, 1999.
/s/Dep. Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of the Guardianship of
CALEB ALEXANDER ARRIOLA,
A Minor,
By: Laura Lynn Arriola,
Petitioner.
FCD GU Civil Action No. 99-0074

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

The petition of Laura Lynn Arriola seeking to be appointed as guardian of Caleb Alexander Arriola has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on the 12th day of April, 1999 at the hour of 1:30 p.m.
Any person who has any objection to this petition may file his or her objection with the Commonwealth Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.
Dated this 30th day of March, 1999.
Clerk of Court
/s/Dep. Clerk of Court

FOR RENT
5 Bedroom House
Furnished or Unfurnished Located at As Perdido Call: Glen at 235-2379 or Cris at 235-1176

GARAGE SALE
April 10 & 11
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Besides RadioCom, CK
PAYLESS BEACH ROAD
Tel. 234-7066

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

FOR RENT
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FURNISHED
CALL: 234-6707

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1999
Born today, you can be quite clever when you remain calm and collected, but when you let your temper take over, you are so mercurial and unpredictable in your responses to the worlds stimuli that you're likely to endanger yourself in many ways time after time. You must always take care that you control that temper of yours if you're to enjoy the fruits of your labors. Allow your baser instincts to take over and you're sure to suffer more than your share of hardships and may end up risking more than one cherished friendship in the process.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You will soon recognize the signs of being "in transition" at this time. Today, you can take the first steps toward a major change.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You're likely to learn more about a friend today than you had anticipated, but there will be no reason to question the relationship. Share a secret!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Progress may be slow today, but steady. You will have to be patient, for any tendency toward rushing forward should be curbed as soon as you recognize it.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're most likely in for a long day, and you'll want to pace yourself. You needn't try to tackle your multiple responsibilities all at once.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may disagree with a close friend and co-worker on the next step to take. Your plans are nearing fruition, but there is time for compromise.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You can have a great deal of fun today, thanks to hard work put in earlier in the week. Someone is likely to call on you for a favor during the evening hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You're in a fine position to lend a hand to someone else today, but you will want to be sure that you're helping out in your own unique fashion.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — This is a good day to con-

overly defensive.
Also born on this date are: Dennis Quaid, actor; Keshia Knight Pulliam, actress; Paulina Porizkova, model; Hugh Hefner, publisher; W.C. Fields, actor and comic.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're going to want to do things very much your own way today, and you're not likely to brook any opposition. Avoid becoming

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 — Scotia
5 "—, Three Lives"
9 Hiatus
12 Arrow poison
13 Grandma, for some
14 Corrida cry
15 Jason — of "Sleepers"
17 "Crocodile"
19 Macaws
21 Invigorating
22 Part of paragraph
26 Vigoda ID
27 Place of safety
28 Sorrel
30 Direct at target
33 Exists
34 College certificate
37 Therefore
38 Vigor

DOWN

2 Small bite
3 "— Clear Day"
4 Animal doc
6 Bread types
63 Exercise system

Answer to Previous Puzzle

LOVE WINK CAN
IBEX OONA ADE
SITCOM EH RIN
FORTUNES PI
ARIEL CIV NAG
CE DAD TIP NO
TOW REE COCOA
AT MYSTICAL
ARRAY EMIT
MER EI AMIDST
ANE AWOL EIRE
NON HOWL REAL

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KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER
HERE'S A BEDTIME PUZZLE THAT MAY PUT YOU TO SLEEP.
One night, Count Dracula went to bed feeling exhausted. Why am I so worn out?" He asked his pet bat. "I know your problem," said the bat. "You must have gotten some

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Write the names of the picture clues in the blanks. Then write the numbered letters in the matching blanks above.

6 4 5
2 7 8 9
10 3 1

ANSWER: "TIED BLOOD"

Read with your child everyday.

Robert De Niro
Billy Crystal
YOU try telling him... his 50 minutes are up.

analyze this

THE MOVIE HOUSE
Fri 7:00-9:30 Sat 4:30-7:00-9:30 Sun 4:30-7:00
SHOWING 234-FILM

SPORTS

Pennant race heats up

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

WITH only five ballgames remaining in the 1999 Saipan Softball Association (SSA) men's fastpitch league, the race for second and third place is heating up as the Sunrisers edged the Hunters to a 10-7 victory, while Lite Beer squeezed by Piao's for a 9-8 win Monday night at Susupe softball field.

The Sunrisers win came in the big fifth and sixth innings.

A two-out rally in the fifth was started by Sunrisers' Ray Seman who connected for a single to

center field. Dennis Ngeskebei then shot a solid double to right, scored Seman. Ben Cabrera scored one RBI with his double to left field. Keeping the rally alive was Kirk Vergith. Vergith homered to left field for two runs, before a Scallem Macaro infield fly to short ended the inning.

Another three runs scored in the top sixth inning gave the Sunrisers a 10-3 lead.

With the Hunters needing seven runs to tie the ballgame, Nick Castro connected for a two run single. A Paul Camacho solo home run in their final up at bat

was all the Hunters could muster as they slipped into sixth place at 12-8.

Paul Roberto was credited with the win while the loss went to Joe Sablan.

Lite Beer 9, Piao's 8

The House of Rep's Piao's are still trying to scratch their way out of last place. But Lite Beer's Clark Ngiraidong tightened the lid in the bottom of the seventh inning when he scored the winning run on Ron Benavente's sacrifice to short left, for a 9-8 Lite Beer victory.

Piao's Bob Lizama connected

for a solo home run to right field at the top of the first.

Lite Beer answered back with a five run bottom of first inning.

Piao's threatened as they tied the ballgame at 5-5 in the second inning.

With Piao's down by one run at 8-7 at the top of sixth, Bob Lizama scored the tying run on a Vincent Sablan's single, before Lite Beer's Ngiraidong ended the Piao's hopes of a win.

Piao's Bob Lizama was perfect at the plate after going 4 for 4, and scored four times.

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Fiji PM supports 'sevens' players' money demand

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's Prime Minister has come out in support of rugby sevens players who have demanded a better share from the \$US120,000 prize money they won in Hong Kong two weeks ago.

The players want an extra \$US2,500 from the Fiji Rugby Management Board.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka told the players at an official function that they deserve a better treatment.

"What you have done for the country and Fiji rugby cannot be measured in terms of money. The Fiji Rugby Management Board should give you the money," he said.

Players threatened to pull out from the Japan Sevens tournament this weekend if their demands are not met.

The Rugby Management Board has not made a decision but is understood to have assured players their demands will be met when they come back from their overseas assignment.

Alfonso leading RP chess match

RONNIE Alfonso scored three straight wins and drew one game to take an early lead in group "A" of the first Philippine Labor Day chess tournament.

Half-a-point behind are reigning CNMI champion Manny Domingo and Rey Yana, who defeated Domingo in their individual game.

Employing the king's fianchetto defensive set-up, Alfonso edged Ding Lavilla after defeating Roel Bince in a Reti opening game.

Alfonso's other victory came at

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SPORTS NOTES

Rota Blue Triathlon

THE SIXTH Annual Rota Blue Triathlon is scheduled for tomorrow. Events include swimming, biking and running. Kick off time is 7 a.m. from East Harbor.

For more information please call Rota MVA 532-0988 or the Saipan MVA office at 664-3200.

Pepsi-Lite challenge

The Pepsi-Lite Three-on-three Basketball Challenge is scheduled for April 10 and 11th, at Ada Gym.

Age categories are; 13-15 boys/girls, 16-18 boys/girls, Open men/women, 35-years old and over—men/women.

Entrance fees for adults is \$50. and \$25. for youths.

Prizes include Pacific Islands Club Water Park passes, drinks, tee-shirts, baseball caps, and various other items.

For more information please call Jovie Omar or Elias Rangamar at Ada Gym, 234-1001/2.

RGA

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold the RGA Challenge this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

The two-man best-ball tournament starts at 7:30 a.m.

Registration fee is \$30.

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NMASA March 'Athletes'



Yvette Murphy

RUNNING—Original from Great Britain, now training in Saipan, is a veteran of long distance races. Murphy last competed in the Guam Seiko marathon and won first place in her division, and second place overall with a of 4 hrs. 10 minutes.

Tony Camacho—baseball—The Miller Lite Brewers' center fielder recently went 6 for 6 at bat to lead his team to a win. In that ballgame Camacho connected for two home runs, a triple, two doubles and a single.

Camacho is a member of the CNMI (SPG) National Men's baseball team.

Student Athletes of the Month.

Melissa Coleman—swimming—Ten-year old Melissa in her first year of swimming competitions, qualified for the B-Champs division recently in a Guam meet. She took three first place wins, and three second place finishes during the Guam meet.

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Glazers beat Pepsi 27-14

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

DOUBLE NINE-run innings eventually led to a Glazers victory over Pepsi, 27-14 in Wednesday's Major League action at Palacios Baseball Field.

Held scoreless in their first inning, Glazers dug their toes in the dirt and put on a show that plated nine runs each, in the sec-

ond and eighth innings.

Bruce Norita connected for an astounding seven RBIs, tying Jerome Salas's record for RBIs in one game. Norita also homered in the second inning.

Glazers plated three runs each, in the second, third, and eighth innings, and four runs in the fifth.

But the Glazers scored five

runs in the sixth, one run each in the third and fourth innings, and two runs in the seventh.

Pepsi's Ton Guerrero's three doubles placed him in the lead in that category.

Taking the win was Joe Terleje who went five innings.

The loss goes to Audi Maratita after going just 1-1/3 innings.



From left, Rease Togane, Patrick Ayuyu, Andre Mendiola and Ruke Togane. Ayuyu and Mendiola from Rota are presently in Chiba, Japan training at Togane Kick Boxing Gym.

Contributed photo

Little League Standings

Little League Baseball (Little, Seniors, Big leagues), team standings.

Little league division: (As of Mar. 28)

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dandan Blue Jays	7	0	1.000	—
Garapan Pirates	5	0	1.000	1/2
San Vicente A's	6	1	.859	1
Kautz Glass Glazers	5	2	.714	2
San Roque D-9ers	4	2	.667	2-1/2
MV Reyes Of Aces	4	2	.667	2-1/2
Tanapag Braves	4	3	.571	3
Little Knights	4	3	.571	3
Chalan Kanoa Padres	3	4	.429	4
Kagman Lions	2	3	.400	4-1/2
San Antonio Cardinals	2	4	.333	4-1/2
Cruisers	2	5	.286	5
St. Jude Hustlers	1	4	.200	5
Kagman Rockies	1	6	.143	6
New Starz	0	5	.000	6
Fielders	0	6	.000	6-1/2

Seniors league division: (As of Mar. 30)

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tanapag Braves	3	0	1.000	—
Hustlers	2	0	1.000	1/2
Young Starz	2	1	.667	1
Dandan Jets	1	1	.500	1-1/2
San Roque D-9ers	1	1	.500	1-1/2
Of Aces	1	2	.333	2
Knights	0	2	.000	2-1/2
Kautz Glass Glazers	0	3	.000	3

Big league division: (As of Mar. 27)

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Vicente Starz	3	0	1.000	—
San Roque Expo	2	1	.667	1
Pirates	2	1	.667	1
Koblerville Hustlers	1	2	.333	2
Tanapag Devil Rays	1	2	.333	2
San Roque D-9ers	0	3	.000	3

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