

# Body of missing seaman found

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

DEPARTMENT of Public Safety's search and rescue team yesterday found the body of a Filipino seaman who has been reported missing since Tuesday

night.

As of press time, police refused to release the identity of the victim. Sources, however, identified the recovered body as Delfin Linadja's.

DPS Information Officer Rose

Ada said the victim's body was found floating at sea south of the Puerto Rico dump site.

Ada said the police received the "missing call" at about 10:50 p.m. Tuesday, which prompted them to immediately dispatch a

search team.

The information officer said the team made their search until late Tuesday night but was unable to locate the victim. It was when the officers resumed the search early yesterday morning that Linadja's

body was spotted.

The 36-year-old Linadja, the Variety learned, was an employee of the Marianas Tug and Barges with an office located at Puerto Rico.

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**Garment firm slapped with 60 criminal charges**

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday filed 60 criminal charges against a garment factory for alleged fraud and illegal deductions from alien workers' wages.

N.E.T. Corp., doing business as Pacific Coast (formerly Sutex Manufacturing) was charged with 30 counts of Immigration fraud and 30 counts of illegal deductions from workers' salaries.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams in the complaint stated that N.E.T. Corp. committed the offenses on or between July 1, 1997 and Jan. 21, 1999.

Williams stated that the company "did manufacture, traffic in, import, export, sell, receive, possess without authorization or use any false, forged, counterfeit, altered or tampered with official Immigration and Labor documents, permits or identification cards or any other official Im-

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Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta (fifth from left) with (from extreme left) Paul Reyes, Peggy Norman, Estelle Hofschnneider, Jeridine B. Demapan, Christie Aughenbaugh and Nathaniel Norman during a reception for the 1999 Junior Statesmen Program students held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

## Teno leaves for DC today

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio is leaving today for a public hearing in Washington DC to defend the Commonwealth against a serious attempt by a US Senate body to extend federal immigration laws into the Northern Marianas.

The governor will be joined in by five other representatives from the administration, including those coming from the Department of Labor and Immigration.

But before he flies to the US mainland, Tenorio assured CNMI residents and businessmen that the government had prepared well enough in order to present strong arguments before

the US Senate committee on energy and natural resources, which has jurisdiction over CNMI and other insular areas.

"We are ready to respond to their questions," he said, adding that the CNMI panel would be presenting a well documented paper which details the government's self-imposed labor and immigration reform programs.

Commonwealth officials are also expected to touch on the issue of economic sufficiency, as they have joined voices in underscoring that a federal takeover of local immigration and minimum wage would spell disaster for the islands' crumbling economy.

The CNMI chief executive said the House committee on foreign

and federal relations' position is identical to the Administration's draft testimony which is to oppose extension of federal laws into the islands.

He stressed the CNMI is ready to defend the Commonwealth government's stand to retain local control of immigration and minimum wage before the US Congress when hearings on federal takeover legislation begin.

Tenorio said his administration would continue to ask the federal government to withdraw its plan to strip the CNMI of its immigration and minimum wage control, citing its adverse effects on the local economy, especially at a time of plunging visitor arrivals and low business activities.



Pedro P. Tenorio

He said the government has instituted labor and immigration reforms that would address the concerns raised by the federal government when strong federalization proposals surfaced last year.

## PSS will not charge school bus fare

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System has assured the public that it will not charge its students with school bus fare in the coming school year, which is set to open on Aug. 9.

Louise Concepcion, PSS associate commissioner for administration, said the education agency has found enough resources to continue its busing services to public school students.

Concepcion said under the Board of Education policy, PSS will continue this coming school year to provide safe, adequate transportation to and from school

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# 1st woman-piloted shuttle returns to Earth



Commander Eileen Collins poses under the nose of the space shuttle Columbia at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — With the first female commander at the controls, space shuttle Columbia returned to Earth late last night after a quick trip to orbit to drop off the world's most powerful X-ray telescope.

Air Force Col. Eileen Collins landed the shuttle at 11:20 p.m., the first woman ever to do so. The runway was illuminated with xenon lights for the rare night touchdown, and the moon was nearly full.

"Welcome home," Mission Control said as soon as the shuttle rolled safely to a stop. "Eileen, to you and the crew, just an outstanding job deploying Chandra [the telescope] and bringing Columbia home for a beautiful landing."

The landing - only the 12th in darkness out of 95 shuttle flights - went much more smoothly than Friday's launch, which came after two delays and was plagued by a possible hydrogen fuel leak and a short circuit. Neither problem affected the ride home.

Collins, 42, a former test pilot who twice served as a shuttle copilot, guided Columbia over central Texas and southern Louisiana, down across the Gulf of Mexico and on into Florida, where 150 people gathered to welcome the five astronauts home.

Columbia appeared as a gold and white streak in the sky as it passed over the home of Mission Control 15 minutes before touchdown.

"You look great passing over Houston right now. Beautiful shot," radioed Mission Control.

At five days, it was NASA's shortest planned mission in nine years. Only one flight, in 1997, was shorter; a defective fuel cell ended

that laboratory-research mission after only four days.

The mileage for the trip: a relatively modest 1.8 million miles. Despite its brevity, the mission to deliver the \$1.5 billion Chandra X-ray Observatory to orbit was a plum assignment for Collins. She was the first woman to command a space mission in 38 years of U.S. human space flight and the only woman to actually land a spacecraft of any kind, anywhere.

Columbia made it to orbit safely despite what photographs suggest was a hydrogen leak during liftoff. An engine could have shut down if more fuel had seeped out, forcing the first emergency landing for a shuttle.

A leak could explain why Columbia ended up in a slightly lower orbit than planned.

NASA will examine the shuttle's engines to determine whether there indeed was a leak and also what caused the short circuit five seconds after liftoff.

The astronauts accomplished their main goal just seven hours into the flight, flawlessly releasing the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, which began a five-year journey to search for signs of black holes and study galaxies and quasars.

Chandra is using its thrusters to eventually reach an orbit extending one-third of the way to the moon.

Next up for Columbia is a piggyback ride on a Boeing 747 to California for a yearlong overhaul.

Columbia, the oldest of NASA's four shuttles, will become the second to be equipped with a modern, Boeing 777-style cockpit, featuring nine high-resolution, liquid-crystal computer screens rather than the three old-fashioned ones.

## NATO commander to step down

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has told Gen. Wesley Clark, the American commander who led the successful NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia, to give up his command two months early next year.

Clark, an Army four-star general who is supreme allied commander in Europe, fielded a call from Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Tuesday with word of the early relief of command.

Clark, who had the tough job of molding together a multinational NATO military during the 11-week air campaign against Yugoslavia, was scheduled to step aside in July of next year, having just received a customary one-year extension of his term as the NATO commander in Europe. But the Clinton admin-

istration has decided to install Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, now the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Ralston's current appointment expires in February and to avoid an automatic reduction in Ralston's rank upon leaving a Joint Chief's post, his appointment as European commander must become effective in May.

Two senior defense officials, who spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity, confirmed Shelton's call to Clark.

The move, approved by Defense Secretary William Cohen, comes a month after NATO ended the air campaign over Yugoslavia and its province of Kosovo, having forced the Belgrade government to halt its repressive campaign against an ethnic Albanian-Muslim population

in the southern province.

Speaking to reporters today at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Cohen said he regarded Clark highly and attributed his early replacement to a matter of timing rather than a measure of Clark's performance.

"I looked for the same qualities that General Clark had in serving in his capacity as commander as the European forces," Cohen said. "I see the same qualities in General Ralston, namely diplomatic skills, his ... war record as such and the capability of serving in that capacity."

Clark, interviewed by telephone from Brussels, told the Post. "I'm not going to speculate on what opportunities might be available in public life or private life. There is a long time yet to do this job, and I've got to keep my attention on it."

## DCCA:

# 'Cannabis not indigenous herbal medicine'

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

COMMUNITY and Cultural Affairs Sec. Thomas Tebuteb yesterday clarified that Cannabis, which is popularly known as marijuana, is not an indigenous medicinal plant which the local people in the Commonwealth have been using since the early times as claimed by some groups.

Tebuteb's statement was made after some supporters of the proposed Commonwealth Cannabis Tax Act (CCTA) are questioning

the statement of Public Health Sec. Joseph Kevin Villagomez when he said that marijuana petition is "alarming."

Supporters of CCTA said marijuana is an indigenous curative herb which is being used by the local people in the Commonwealth long time ago to treat various illnesses.

Tebuteb also pointed out that legalizing marijuana in the Commonwealth could create potential social impact in the local community.



Sec. Thomas Tebuteb

"It has negative social impact. Aside from the written pros and cons about the use of marijuana in the Commonwealth, legalizing it here could have a bad impact on the whole community and the family setting," the secretary said.

Marijuana was introduced in the Commonwealth during the Peace Corps days in 1960s.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio earlier cited some sociological findings that marijuana use has a great potential of shooting up crimes. The governor also pointed out

that marijuana is still classified as drugs by the leading groups such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

Marijuana legalization in the Commonwealth is proposed by lawyer Ben Scales, Jerry Hemley and Bernard Guerrero.

The group seeks to include the CCTA in the ballot for the general elections in November.

However, some medical experts claimed that use of marijuana helps in the treatment of cancer, anorexia, chronic pain, spastic-

## Teno backs restrictions on entry of Chinese

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday backed the restrictions intalled by the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) on the entry of People's Republic of China nationals into the Northern Marianas, citing problems previously encountered by the CNMI in dealing with numerous Chinese overstayers.

Tenorio said the restrictions have actually been installed since the CNMI government came upon problems relating to the deportation of overstaying Chinese workers in the islands.

Beijing has previously been uncooperative in the re-admission of deportable Chinese nationals who were found to have illegally stayed in the CNMI.

The governor said Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares merely reiterated the existence of a local government policy on the restrictions enforced against citizens of what the United States and the CNMI consider as "high-risk" areas.

"There is an existing regulation for those coming from high-risk areas. Before they could board the plane, they should at least have a letter of authorization from DOLI," Tenorio told reporters.

He also explained that DOLI has been obligated to point out the implementation of its policy on the entry of PROC nationals because of recent claims made by a lawyer that Chinese nationals admitted to work in the CNMI can actually apply for asylum.

The CNMI chief executive argued that lawyer Bruce Jorgensen's claim was misleading, especially when he mentioned that existing federal laws guarantee that the workers can apply for asylum here. "It is very misleading because the CNMI implements its own immigration laws, apart from the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA). There is a procedure for us to go through if there is an asylum request," Tenorio said.

Visitors from mainland China are allowed to come to the CNMI by invitation. At present, the CNMI government only allows Chinese with Hong Kong identification cards or British passports to visit the Northern Marianas.

## Jones says 'takeover' hearing should be held on Saipan

HOUSE Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan) has requested the US Resources Committee through its Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) to consider bringing the September 16 oversight hearing on enforcement of federal laws to the CNMI, with high hopes of encouraging local citizens' involvement in lawmaking endeavors.

Through this, Jones believes that private and business individuals will be able to completely understand and react to the proposed bill.

Furthermore, Jones cited that this will further allow the people to look at the implications on how this will adversely affect the territory's commercial growth and development in the political system.

In a letter addressed to Young, Jones expressed that the administration of this policy pertaining to

labor as delegated to the Northern Marianas commonwealth government pursuant to the "Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" is very important for the continuing economic and political progress in the Northern Marianas.

"I realize and appreciate the concerns raised by federal officials in some areas that need additional attention.

"We, indeed, are making genuine efforts in addressing and correcting these problems, and with the support and participation of our federal government, we shall overcome them.

"I fully realize that a trip to these distant islands is an extra demand on yours' and other members' heavy congressional schedule. (MRAM)

## Group pushing for 'pot' legalization eyes tie-up with US organization

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

A LOCAL group pressing for the legalization of cannabis, or marijuana, sale and use in the CNMI is looking at establishing a solid organization that will carry various goals similar to those being advanced by the United States-based National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

According to Jerry Hemley, principal proponent of the marijuana legalization plan, his group is now exploring the possibility of organizing a CNMI chapter of the influential group NORML, with which he is currently securing membership.

Hemley said discussions are underway about the registration of a local group which will be called Hemp Entrepreneurs of the Marianas Pacific (HEMP),

although he stressed that everything is still in the planning stage.

At the same time, he mentioned that his group is now looking at holding of a big promotional rally which will pave the way for mass educational campaign on the medical merits of marijuana use.

Several studies cited by the NORML have disputed popular claims on the health and social risks of marijuana use. These include the findings of researchers from the University of Adelaide and Transport for South Australia which indicate that drivers under the influence of marijuana run little risk of having automobile accidents.

The research team examined blood samples of 2,500 South Australian drivers and determined that those under the influence of marijuana were no more likely

to have an accident than those who were drug free.

Study leader Dr. Jason White said the findings hold worldwide significance, adding that alcohol produces the greatest impairment to driving and the effects of drugs are very small when compared to its effects.

Another study made by researchers from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine bared that habitual marijuana smokers do not experience a greater annual rate of decline in lung function than nonsmokers.

"Findings from the present long-term, follow-up study of heavy, habitual marijuana smokers argue against the concept that continuing heavy use of marijuana is significant risk factor for the development of chronic lung disease," the UCLA study said.

## Administration vows to pay \$6.8M in water, power bills

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday assured the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that his Administration will work toward the complete payment of all its water and power bills, which have now reached nearly \$7 million.

Tenorio said he has instructed Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen to explore other means that would enable the Administration to settle its outstanding utilities account, even through installment basis.

"All of us have the responsibility to pay our obligation. We are already looking into other ways on how we can settle or at least reduce our outstanding account," the governor told reporters in a



Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen

brief interview.

He pointed out the value of the government's self-imposed austerity measures which, he said, has helped in efforts to replenish the Commonwealth's dwindling coffers amid continued slowdown in the local economy.

"The situation is not getting

better. We have the responsibility to pay vendors, as well as our retirement, utilities and also hospital bills. So many departments are asking for additional money in order to efficiently operate but again, we have to live within our limited resources," he added.

At the same time, the CNMI chief executive called on all government agencies to take serious steps in conserving or at least minimizing their utilities consumption in order to help the Administration cope with its obligations to CUC.

According to a report, the government owes CUC some \$6.8 million in utility bills accumulated over the last six months. In efforts to collect from the government, CUC is coming up with a special payment schedule for the Administration.

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## In Switzerland

### Flash flood kills 18

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (AP) — At least 18 people seeking the thrills of an Alpine river adventure drowned when a flash flood swelled a mountain stream into a deadly, tree-ripping torrent.

Authorities were trying Wednesday to identify all the dead, but the victims included tourists from the United States, Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, according to Heinz Wey, the Swiss Consul General in Sydney, Australia.

The accident Tuesday near the central Alpine resort of Interlaken was believed the worst ever to afflict the sport of canyoning, in which participants slide, jump or rappel down waterfalls and mountain streams into gorges without rafts.

Six people were injured, including one critically. One person was still missing, feared dead, early Wednesday after a huge rescue operation, Swiss television reported.

The search operation resumed at daybreak. Three specialists were brought in to help take care of relatives.

"It's awful," said Georg Hoedle, one of the managers of the Swiss-based tour organizer, Adventure World, choking back tears at a press conference. "We've been organizing canyoning for six years and until now have only had the occasional broken leg."

One survivor, 22-year-old Wellington University student John Daniel Hall, was taken to the hospital with a suspected concussion and an injured back.

His mother, Ann, told New Zealand Press Association that her son was traveling on a Contiki European tour comprised of New Zealanders, Australians and South Africans.

"We were told first he had a broken back and perhaps a broken leg but it seems his back is just bruised and his leg has been cut, not broken, we think," Mrs. Hall said.

She said many of the team members were rappelling down a river canyon when they were hit by a flash flood. Her son told her he was swept a long way down the river over a series of waterfalls, but it wasn't clear whether he had been rescued or scrambled ashore by himself.

**Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful!**

# GOP completes Precinct 1 slate

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE REPUBLICAN Party, bared yesterday its congressional candidates for the largest precinct on Saipan.  
According to Joseph C. Reyes, the chairman of the Republican Party in Precinct One, the group has already completed its six-man candidates for the congressional seat.  
Five of the six candidates are incumbents: David Apatang, Ana Teregeyo, Karl Reyes,

Herman Palacios and Manuel Tenorio.  
Martin Ada completed the Republican group slate.  
Precinct One covers Chalan Piao, San Antonio, Koblerville, As Lito and As Perdido, San Vicente, Kagman 3 and some part of Kagman 2 area.  
Reyes, who is on his third term as the club chairman of the Republican Party in Precinct One, said that for the incumbent candidates of the group, two years is a long time yet it is still

short to serve the local community.  
"Bear in mind that when you are in the legislature, making public laws will be your priority and you still have the constituents that you want to satisfy. They are trying to live up with the responsibilities in the community services and I know that it will be very difficult. And with the new guy, Martin Ada, coming in, I am sure that he can do better," Reyes said yesterday.

Reyes said, Ada is working for the Legislature which gives the new guy on the political block some idea on what the legislation process is all about.  
The main goal of the Republican Party, he said, is to have their candidates installed in the office and reach as many registered votes as possible.  
"Our mission is to go out to the public and get elected. We want to provide the Commonwealth with its needs that is constantly changing, and the

best laws there is," he said.  
The party is battling for its solid teamwork as its greatest advantage in the coming elections.  
"We operate as a team and we will continue to work as a team. The vision and mission statement is very clear and that is to make the Commonwealth a better place for the community, business and every people in the island regardless of citizenship," Reyes said.

## 528 lbs. of banned medicine confiscated

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff  
CUSTOMS Services has recently detected a significant increase in the volume of confiscated pharmaceuticals brought into the island, from 331.4 lbs in the month of May to 528 lbs. for the month of June.  
According to Customs Airport Branch Manager Capt. Greg Sablan, this translates to 15 to 20 large trash bags of foreign over-the-counter and prescription medicines.  
These pharmaceuticals were said to be seized from 137 passengers who came in last month.  
The medicines were either brought by or consigned to passengers from Guam, Philippines,

and China.  
Customs pointed out that majority of the confiscated drugs have non-English labels which is a violation of the multiple provisions of the law governing this matter.  
Under the new regulations, foreign prescription drugs will not be allowed to enter the CNMI unless they are accompanied with registered doctor's prescription, is consumable for 90 days only, and is intended only for personal — and not commercial use.  
The law also prohibits the entry of over-the-counter drugs from foreign countries other than the U.S. mainland. Moreover, authorized over-the-

counter drugs are those approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.  
Its implementation is pursuant to Public Law 11-40, otherwise known as the Pure Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Device Act.  
Contrary to last month's report that Chinese garment workers are the number one violators of this law, this time, Customs was able to note a decrease in the number of Chinese workers bringing in such pharmaceuticals.  
Customs has been working closely with the Department of Public Health to ensure that no unauthorized prescription and over-the-counter drugs enter the CNMI since the ban started early this year.

## Ex-treasurer charged for stealing

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday charged a

former treasurer of the Tinian Amateur Softball Association for allegedly stealing funds from TASA.  
Luciana A. Hocog, 31, was charged with theft by unlawful taking and forgery before the Superior Court.  
Assistant Atty. Gen. Kevin Lynch in the complaint stated that Hocog committed the offenses on or about June 1998 through April 1999 on Tinian.  
The defendant "unlawfully took or exercised control over movable property of Tinian Amateur Softball Association with purpose to deprive the other

person of the property to wit: obtained cash money of \$1,626.71 while treasurer for TASA," said the chief of the AGO Criminal Division.  
Lynch added that Hocog "did, with the intent to defraud another person or with knowledge she was facilitating a fraud or injury to be perpetrated by anyone, make, complete issue or execute, a writing to wit: a bank book so that it purports to be the act of another."  
Hocog was summoned to appear and answer the charges at Tinian Superior Court on Aug. 13.

## Sewer construction closes Beach Road's northern part

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff  
MOTORISTS who regularly use Beach Road, especially the portion from the Quatermaster all the way to the National Office Supply, should refrain from taking the road because it will be closed to traffic, it was learned.  
The Department of Public Safety said the road's North-bound lane portion in Garapan will be temporarily closed to vehicle beginning yesterday because of the ongoing sewer line construction.  
The road will remain closed until Friday.  
The Southern direction,

however, will remain open.  
DPS spokesperson Rose Ada advice motorists to use the Middle Road and the back road as alternate routes.  
Ada also asked heavy equipments to refrain from using the Garapan portion of the Road in order not to clog traffic while the closure is in effect.  
She also referred drivers to avail of Middle Road.  
The Coastal Resources Management earlier said that the construction of the sewer lines will improve the condition of the island's lagoon which is reported to be polluted.

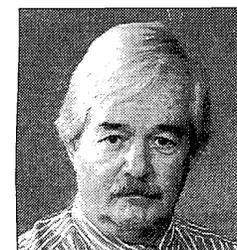
## In Mogambo case

# Mitchell's motion to dismiss denied

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
THE SUPERIOR Court has denied lawyer Theodore R. Mitchell's request to drop him from a lawsuit filed against him by a bar and an insurance firm over an assault incident in 1993.  
Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas said Mitchell's motion to dismiss is premature since a "trier of fact has yet to find that Mogambo Inc. is a fortfeisor (a person who commits a tort), let alone an actively negligent one."

Mogambo and its insurer Century Insurance Co.  
Court records showed that on the evening of Aug. 9, 1993, lawyers James Grizzard and Mitchell were customers in the Cafe Mogambo, a restaurant and bar operated by Mogambo, Inc. on Saipan.  
That evening Mitchell pushed Grizzard causing him to lose his balance and fall backward where his head struck a cigarette machine owned by Elm's Inc.  
Grizzard and his wife, and Mitchell executed in 1995 a mutual release and covenant not to sue. Under the agreement, Mitchell was released from liability for the injuries sustained by Grizzard in the incident.  
Grizzard then sued Mogambo

and Century Insurance.  
Mogambo and Century also filed a third-party complaint against Mitchell for assault and battery, negligence, contribution and indemnity.  
Mitchell then filed a third-party complaint against Elm's Inc. for indemnity.  
Mitchell filed the motion to dismiss the third party complaint of Mogambo and Century Insurance contending that he has been discharged from liability for contribution under the Grizzard-Mitchell release.  
Mitchell said Mogambo and Century cannot make a claim for indemnity since Mogambo participated in the act which caused plaintiff's injuries.  
He argued that he is not liable for



Theodore R. Mitchell



Judge Timothy H. Bellas

contribution to Mogambo/Century under Commonwealth law because Grizzard released him from all liability resulting from the incident.  
Bellas in his order issued Tuesday said since the court has yet to ascertain whether the release was in fact given in good faith, dis-

missal of the contribution claim is premature at this time.  
With regards to indemnity issue, Mitchell contended that Mogambo/Century cannot bring a third-party claim for indemnity against him because he and Mogambo are tortfeasors.

## Proposed change in UMDA board nixed

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
THE SUPERIOR Court yesterday rejected a move by Larry Hillblom Charitable Trust and guardians for three Hillblom children to take control of the United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. Board.  
Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro said the current UMDA Board has basically done its job and there is no legal or practical reason to substitute the directors at this time.

Castro agreed with UMDA counsel Brian W. McMahon that to order the replacement board members to not only call a special meeting, but also to direct the board as to what to place on the agenda and how to vote is clearly inappropriate as a matter of corporate law.  
The Hillblom Trust and David Moncrieff, Milagros Feliciano, and J. Steven Grist, guardians for Jellian Cuartero, Mercedita Feliciano, and Nguyen Be Lory respectively, filed through their lawyers a joint motion seeking court order as to how the Hillblom estate shares are to be voted at the scheduled UMDA annual shareholder meeting this Saturday in Guam.  
The moving distributees (Trust and the three guardians) in their attempt to install their slate of directors apparently wished to increase the level of expertise on the UMDA board with six persons—four from the US mainland and two from Saipan, including former CNMI Lt. Gov. Pedro A. Tenorio.  
The distributees added that certain restrictions on the sale of UMDA stock were put into the UMDA corporate articles and by-laws after Hillblom died, restricting alienation of these shares based on citizenship and or national origin.

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**STRIKE THAT!**  
By Ferdie P. de la Torre



## Sexual Jokes

LAST week's two-day bench trial for Immigration Officer Vicente S. Pangelinan was an emotional one. Some of those who attended the hearing had to hold their tears when the victim cried as she narrated her horrible experience under the hands of Pangelinan that day of July 25, 1998. The victim was working overtime at the time as Labor investigator in the Labor and Immigration Office when the defendant came in and embraced her from the back and tried to kiss her. Surprised, the victim screamed "Diablo! Vicente stop!" She moved away and tried to get out, but the Immigration officer grabbed her. The victim eventually managed to free herself when she kept on resisting.

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Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas acquitted Pangelinan of the charge of misconduct in public office, saying the prosecution failed to establish that the defendant used his title or his position in the government in committing the offense. When Bellas announced Pangelinan's conviction of assault and battery (with sexual contact), the victim's cry broke the deafening silence in court. Observers, mostly DOLI employees, looked at the victim who embraced her mother tightly. A teary-eyed woman, whom we believe a DOLI personnel, was standing beside, trying to massage the victim's shoulders to comfort her. The woman was looking at the direction of Pangelinan, who remained staring on the floor. Honestly, we just controlled our tears as we could feel the victim's mixed feelings of pain and joy.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the judge left the courtroom, Immigration personnel, including those who testified for Pangelinan, stood up one by one and left the courtroom quietly. After a few minutes, the defendant stood up and, escorted by his counsel, went straight to the door. Left behind in courtroom were the victim and her mother and some of those who were sitting on the right side of the room. During the first day of the hearing, it was Judge Bellas who noticed that all women were sitting on the right side row behind the prosecution table. While all men, mostly Immigration officers, were on the left side row sitting behind the defense table. A scene that tends to prove that DOLI personnel may have been "divided" themselves on where to side on that very serious case involving their "star investigator."

\*\*\*\*\*

It's sad and unfortunate that the "sexual assault" occurred considering that a year before that incident, Immigration Captain Isidro T. Cabrera was convicted for raping a Chinese woman deportee who was in his custody. While the victim was left alone sitting on a couch, Cabrera raped her. Court records also showed that the then Immigration captain raped the poor Chinese again when all the Immigration inspectors left the room to clear the passengers from the flight who had just arrived at the Saipan airport. Cabrera is currently serving a jail term.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio had warned that strong disciplinary actions will be meted public officials found to be perpetrating discriminatory sexual acts. Tenorio stated a few months ago that public misconduct, especially those involving sexual assault, violates both local and federal laws which may be grounds for serious disciplinary action including dismissal from office. The chief executive stressed that his administration maintains a "no tolerance" policy on issues concerning misconduct of public officials being the subject of sexual harassment complaints.

\*\*\*\*\*

With the governor's strong warning, our Immigration officers should now also learn lessons both from Cabrera and Pangelinan cases. Pangelinan's case hopefully is the last one. Immigration and Labor personnel should stop the "free-for-all" in their office in which employees, according to

Continued on page 7



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER  
**WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**

## Iraq, Iran And Israel

WASHINGTON — Sources tell us that America's Middle East policy is in a state of flux, attempting to evolve from confrontation to accommodation. It calls to mind something said by former Sen. Sam Nunn: that the United States has no Middle East policy.

**IRAQ**  
For now, British-American air strikes against Iraq continue, almost daily, from a base in Turkey. Containment may still be the order of the hour, but with no weapons inspectors inside the country — except for a United Nations team now there dismantling a laboratory — it is hard to know exactly what we are trying to contain. To bring clarity to the situation, President Clinton has called for the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and his replacement with another regime. However, there are at least 70 opposition groups, with few of them willing to work together, much less discipline themselves, to accomplish the tricky task of overthrowing Saddam Hussein. And if some of them did succeed, could they govern? This problem is likely to outlast that of the Israeli-Palestinian-Syrian peace process.

**IRAN**  
For a time, our policy was dual containment of Iran and Iraq. In Iran, however, that's beginning to change. With students recently in the streets demanding more reforms from moderate President Mohammad Khatami, the administration, though tactfully silent about the current commotion, may well be poised to pursue a more open atmosphere — even while Iranian supporters of the hard-line religious leader, Ali Khamenei, call for "Death to the Americans."

Our approach has been zigging and zagging, since distress lingers in Congress over Tehran's drive toward nuclear weapons. But Iran nonetheless was called "one of the brightest spots in the Middle East" at a conference not long ago put on by the Stanley Foundation of Iowa and London's Royal Institute of International Affairs. There, participants from

the United States and Europe noted that Iran has good reason to want a strategic arsenal, and that reason is right next door, in Iraq, a country with whom Iranians fought a bitter war through much of the 1980s.

Some at the conference pointed out that officials in Tehran are convinced the Clinton administration is manipulating the religiously fanatical Taliban in Afghanistan, another neighbor whose borders with Iran are electrified with tension. That may be so, since there have been press reports that Taliban has been at odds with Osama bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist said to be responsible for bombing two American embassies in East Africa a year ago. No doubt Washington wants to encourage this discord and stop Afghanistan from protecting bin Laden. Still, it's hard to see the Taliban as a tool of Washington, as Iran apparently does.

**ISRAEL**  
Aside from peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and now Syria, given new hope by the election of Israeli President Ehud Barak, what are America's goals? Palestinian statehood, we are told, may be in the cards, though there remain good reasons — such as terrorism — for opposing this.

A poll conducted by the Israel Policy Forum, an American Jewish group dedicated to advancing the Middle East peace process, found that 83 percent of those polled said the United States should assure both sides in the Middle East peace process that their central goals would be met. For Israel, that means security and a united Jerusalem; for the Palestinians, independent statehood.

Even former Prime Minister Netanyahu, while in office, referred to a future Palestinian "entity," a word that carries less emotional impact than "state" but accepts the reality.

The Jewish community's position has quietly evolved to the point where AIPAC, the leading American Jewish lobby, withdrew its opposition to Palestinian statehood earlier this year.

ANALYSIS

## Bosnia peace process still fragile

By Fredrik Dahl

**SARAJEVO (Reuters)** — World leaders attending a Balkan reconstruction summit in Sarajevo this week will find themselves in a country still struggling to build lasting peace four years after the Bosnian bloodshed ended.

Key steps forward have been taken since the guns fell silent here in 1995, including the launch last year of a common convertible currency, but the ethnic divide between Serbs, Moslems and Croats remains wide.

About 800,000 people are internally displaced, unwilling or unable to return to their pre-war homes in areas dominated by another group.

Thousands of NATO-led peacekeeping troops are deployed throughout the mountainous and scenic former Yugoslav republic to prevent any renewed fighting.

Key war crimes suspects are still at large, including wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander, Ratko Mladic. "There is peace here now but I don't think that is enough," said Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Moslem co-chairman of the country's central government, the Council of Ministers.

"The implementation of the peace agreement has not succeeded because people do not go back to their homes," he told Reuters.

**Sarajevo a symbolic choice for summit.** In a symbolic move, the Bosnian capital was chosen to host a Balkan "stability pact" summit following the Kosovo war, despite the logistical nightmare of organizing a major event in a relatively small town still scarred by the 1992-1995 Serb siege.

The meeting, on Thursday and Friday, is expected to gather representatives from more than 30 mostly European countries. It aims to encourage political and economic reform in the region after a decade of conflict.

The stability pact groups the 15-member European Union, nine non-EU countries in the region, the United States, Japan, Canada and Russia. Some other countries will take part as observers.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said last week he hoped the leaders would make "concrete commitments" to help bring stability to southeast Europe.

Silajdzic said "this bloody century" had started in Sarajevo, referring to the 1914 assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an event that sparked World War One.

"So the cycle may close in Sarajevo," Silajdzic said. "The new millennium may begin in Sarajevo."

The conference will once again turn the international spotlight on Bosnia and on progress in healing the wounds of Europe's worst conflict since World War Two.

The 43-month fighting over territory was the bloodiest of the four Balkan wars in the 1990s, killing more than 200,000 people and driving many more from their homes.

The 1995 U.S.-brokered Dayton accord finally ended the conflict by dividing Bosnia into two highly autonomous entities: the Moslem-Croat federation and the Serb republic.

A \$5.1 billion international aid package for 1996-1999 has helped in repairing crucial infrastructure.

"I think that nowadays we have the same level as Bosnia and Herzegovina had before the war, in terms of roads, water supply, electricity - this has been done," said Carlos Westendorp, the international community's High Representative in Bosnia.

Sarajevo has been transformed from a living hell for its citizens to a place where everyday life is resembling normality.

Key buildings remain destroyed by shelling, including the old government building, the Habsburg-era post office and the former offices of the renowned newspaper Oslobođenje.

But many others have been rebuilt or repaired and most shattered windows have been replaced.

Despite impressive physical reconstruction in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia, however, the underlying peace process remains fragile with only slow progress in some areas.

These include the return of refugees, seen as crucial if Bosnia is ever again going to be the multi-cultural society it once was.

Western envoys have also voiced growing frustration over the pace in introducing free market reforms to reduce dependence on massive foreign aid.

"The economic situation is very poor," said Westendorp. "Bureaucracy is all over the place, to invest in Bosnia is a nightmare."

Political analyst James Lyon of the International Crisis Group (ICG), a think tank, said implementation of the Dayton accord had largely failed.

"Dayton relied on the three ethnic groups to cooperate to reconstruct the country's institutions and to create a unified Bosnia and Herzegovina," Lyon said. "Those three ethnic groups essentially refuse to cooperate. That is why Dayton is failing."

Ethnic groups remain to a large extent in control of separate parts of the impoverished Balkan country.

"We were supposed to have two multi-ethnic entities, instead you have three mono-ethnic entities," Lyon said.

But the head of the Bosnia mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ambassador Robert Barry, took a more upbeat view, saying world leaders flying in to Sarajevo should feel encouraged by the peace process.

"Certainly, there is a sustainable peace," Barry said. "I think there is progress towards ethnic reconciliation. It takes time to heal but I think it is healing."

ANALYSIS

## Mercosur row to test dispute mechanisms

By Gilbert Le Gras

**BUENOS AIRES (Reuters)** — The latest row to hit South America's Mercosur trade bloc is pushing the continent's top two economies to test little-used trade dispute panels because political solutions to the squabble have proven elusive.

The four-year-old Mercosur is mired in a fight over Argentina's plan to impose quotas on cotton imports effective July 31, which prompted Brazil to postpone talks on Mercosur auto and industrial policy next week.

"This is Mercosur's first great crisis," said former Argentine Trade Secretary and Chamber of Exporters vice-president Alberto de las Carreras. "One of the biggest errors of Mercosur is to try to solve problems without recourse to trade tribunals."

While Argentina's ambassador to Brazil spoke of the danger posed by Brazil's decision, the Foreign Trade office called it an opportunity to strengthen Mercosur. "What we're concerned with is consolidating and solidifying Mercosur," Argentine Foreign Trade Undersecretary Felix Pena told Reuters.

The two countries dominate Mercosur, the world's third-

largest trade bloc since its 1995 formation, which includes Paraguay, Uruguay and associate members Chile and Bolivia. Mercosur embraces a \$1 trillion marketplace of 200 million consumers who trade \$15 billion in goods each year.

Until this year trade disputes were settled by Mercosur's political leaders. However, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who has fallen in public opinion polls, and lame-duck Argentine President Carlos Menem, in the final months of his mandate, may be too weak to forge a compromise.

Mercosur's first trade dispute panel was convened in January over Brazil's addition of import license requirements for hogs and dairy products. The panel ruled in Argentina's favour two months ago.

Brazil's currency devaluation in January precipitated the current crisis as recession-struck Argentine industries, which ship more than a third of their exports to Brazil, feared their giant northern neighbour would export its way out of its economic problems or at the very least undercut prices.

Pena said there were 25 sensi-

tive product areas where Argentine industries faced damaging competition from Brazil. Argentine shoes, dairy products and textiles were among the products feeling the brunt of cheaper imports, he said.

"We have a problem and we must solve the problem," he said.

He welcomed Brazil's call for a meeting of Mercosur's Common Market Council, which handles disputes within the bloc, to discuss Argentina's decision this month to curb imports of Brazilian cotton textiles, beginning July 31, for two years.

The World Trade Organisation's Dispute Settlement Body set up a panel on Monday to investigate U.S. allegations that Argentina's quota on footwear violated free trade rules.

Brazil went a step further on Monday when it postponed talks on automobile trade and industrial policy.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella called the trade row a test of Mercosur. "Commerce is like this, at times things go well, other times they don't go so well," Di Tella told TeleNoticias/CBS. "I think we'll overcome this tension."

ANALYSIS

## Afraid and outraged, Serbs and Albanians in standoff in split city

By Peter Dejong

**KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia (AP)** — The bridge over the Ibar River has been dubbed "Pont D'Austerlitz" by French peacekeeping troops after the stately bridge in Paris.

But for the people of this mining town in Kosovo, it's more akin to the Austerlitz battlefield of Napoleon's day.

Serbs hold one side, sitting in chairs outside the Dolce Vita bar listening to Italian pop songs blaring from loudspeakers. Young ethnic Albanians mill around on the other end. Each group keeps a wary eye on the other.

The French marines must escort Albanians to their homes in the Serb sector of town and Serbs who want to go to the Albanian side of town.

The two sides say they can never live together again, and troubles are frequent.

A change in the music at the Dolce Vita to Serb nationalist songs evokes cheers and applause on one side, howls from

the other.

When a crowd of Albanians starts across the bridge taunting their foes with curses in Serbian, the peacekeepers of the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment out of Frejus, France, rush to keep the two groups separated. The crowds are pushed back, and the troops withdraw, to await the next flare-up.

In this bitter stew of grievances and fear, both sides accuse the French of doing nothing to calm the town.

"They say NATO will do everything, but they do nothing. The French are the most guilty," said Besart Bajraktari, an 18-year-old Albanian.

Most of the town's Albanians believe Serb paramilitary forces guilty of atrocities have taken refuge in the Serb quarter.

On a recent Saturday, around 200 French marines with armored personnel carriers and jeeps were needed to escort a bus carrying 50 or so Serbs to the Albanian quarter so they could attend a Serbian Ortho-

dox service at their church and visit the cemetery.

On the same day, a handful of peacekeepers was jeered while escorting two Albanian women to their apartment in the Serb quarter.

When they arrived, none of the building's Serb residents were willing to produce a key to the entrance.

In another incident, 76-year-old Milovan Mirkovic, a Serb living in the Albanian quarter, was kicked in the back by Albanian youths in the town's pedestrian district. Mirkovic lost his balance and fell, suffering a broken nose and cuts and bruises on his head. No bystander tried to help.

Lt. Col. Philippe Tanguy, a spokesman for the peacekeepers, said the marines' aim is to prevent violence before undertaking the delicate task of trying to help people cross to the other side.

"We are determined to carry out our mission, but step by step," Tanguy said.

us make our children be proud of that their fathers are Immigration officers. For the meantime, personal feelings must be put aside now. Let's all be professional. The court had spoken. Justice was rendered. It's time to unite again. Band together, but please, for a good cause.

AT A recent court hearing,

## Strike that ...

Continued from page 6  
testimonies, exchange sexual jokes while at the workplace. Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams is right when he reminded DOLI personnel that (Immigration) supposedly is a very honorable profession. Let

a witness testified that the gun-wielding suspect approached and apologized to his father. The witness said the suspect then hugged his father. A defense lawyer asked the witness how could he describe the hug. The witness paused for a while before he answered: "Do you have a girlfriend?"

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# PREL to benefit Pohnpei

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE DIRECTOR of Education in Pohnpei has expressed optimism that the on-going 16th Annual Pacific Educational Conference (PEC) at the Marianas High School will benefit their own school system.

Pohnpei's director of education, the series of workshops hosted by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning will give Pohnpei teachers some new knowledge and skills in classroom teaching.  
"I think PEC '99 will help the school system in Pohnpei tremendously because we have a lot of

experienced teachers coming into this conference from all over the region bringing wealth of experience and long years of good practices that they have done in the classrooms. My teachers that are attending the workshop will go back with a lot of new skills and will be able to help the instruction in Pohnpei," Sohl said in an inter-

view.  
A total of 70 teachers from Pohnpei are presently attending the PREL conference.  
Sohl said half of the Pohnpei teachers attending the conference are from its Public School System while half of it are from its headstart program.  
The education director admit-

ted that Pohnpei is also having some difficulties in its financial situation just like other nations in the Pacific region.  
"But the encouraging aspect is, there are some people who are willing to continue to strive and provide instruction and make students learn in spite of this financial challenges," he added.



Carmen Gaskins (right) sells NMI crafts at MHS as part of the PEC '99 sidelights yesterday. Photo by Louie C. Alonso



WSR Principal Paz Younis (4th from left), Fr. Gary Bradley (center), and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos (right) watch the presentations at Minachom Atdao last Tuesday night as part of PEC '99. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## JTPA now on Capitol Hill

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff  
TO MAKE way for the construction of the 80-megawatt power plant project of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) office has recently been relocated to Capitol Hill, near the Department of Commerce.

JTPA was scheduled to move out of its lower base office since last year but according to JTPA executive director Felix Nogis, the reason for the delay was because they saw no prospective sites for transfer.

"When they sent us the second copy of the letter, telling us that it is imminent that we move because once they award the contract, our space will be taken over by the project—we started packing up," stated Nogis.

"We are just fortunate that we were allowed by region IX to use our lapse fund from the last program for the renovation. So this relocation did not involve any local funds for the renovation costs," he added.

Luckily, JTPA was able to secure a building at one of the government's quarters on Capitol Hill, where they occupy space free from rental fees.

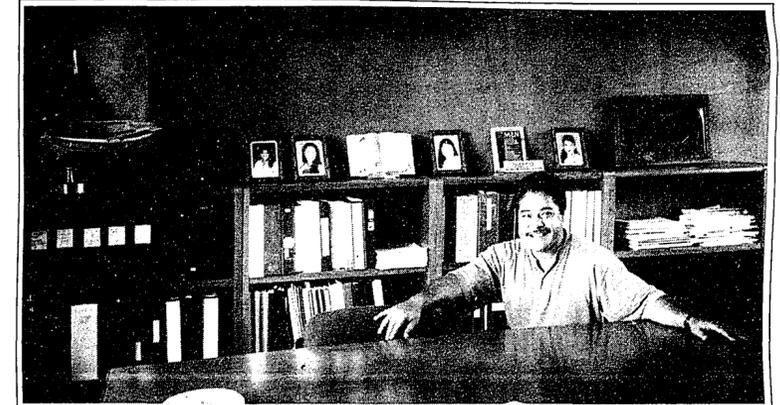
"I am grateful to the governor and the administration for providing us a building," Nogis said. Meanwhile, the former JTPA lower base office was apparently already in a dilapidated state.

Nogis considers JTPA's moving timely for all concerned.  
"CUC had to use the space. At the same time, we had to get out of there because of the building's sorry state.

"When it rained, the floors flooded with water, not to mention, the building was termite-infested," remarked Nogis.

Attempts to renovate the place have been tried before.  
"We even used federal funds for that one. But it did not work out," Nogis said.

According to Nogis, the timing was just perfect.



JTPA Executive Director Felix Nogis inside his new office on Capitol Hill, where the agency has relocated. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## CUC elects new officers

AT THE annual meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Tuesday, a new slate of officers was elected, and two new members vowed to serve their community utility by operating it in public's best interest, and by providing reliable services at the least possible costs.

Retired educator Rosario Elameto won a sealed-ballot election for chair of the powerful government agency.

This is the second time she has been chosen to chair the board of directors. Just after joining the utility in 1994, she was first elected to the one-year post.

In 1997, she returned to the officer's slate as board secretary and assumed chairmanship of the utility's personnel committee.

Saipan business executive Jesus T. Guerrero was voted by acclamation as the board's vice chairman. He will also assume chairmanship of the newly formed cable TV and Telecommunications Committee.

The utility's former Vice Chair, Ms. Luara Manglona, was unanimously selected as Board Secretary. Ms. Manglona who represents the island of Rota, lead utility crucial Operation's Committee since 1996.

Both Manglona and Elameto were recently re-appointed by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio to the utility board and confirmed by the Eleventh Commonwealth Senate along with two new board members.

Ed Sablan, a retired tax and revenue expert, who now operates a private computer software consulting firm, joined the board Tuesday, assuming the post as Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee.

Frank "Sonny" Flores, a retired utility executive was also sworn in, and assigned to handle the operation's Committee.

Benjamin A. Sablan, who has served on the board since 1996, and was twice elected chairman, Tuesday agreed to accept control of the utility's Personnel Com-

mittee, Mr. Sablan vowed to continue his work on the utility's Steering Committee for Desalination—an ad hoc task force working to improve the immediate water concerns for central Saipan.

Former Chairman Juan S. Dela Cruz from Saipan, and Edwin M. Hofschneider of Tinian recently retired from the board. They were both honored with resolutions of commendation Tuesday.

Governor Electric Rate Adjustment Approved  
The Board of Directors Tuesday reconfirmed its commitment to readjust the electric rate of the CNMI government from 20-cents per kilowatt hour to 16 cents—the

same rate charged any other non-residential customer.  
The Board originally agreed to readjust the rate after learning that the inflated government rate was artificially imposed to offset or clear a debt that the utility once owed the government.

With the utility now under sound financial management, government subsidies are not required.

The Board of Directors indicated that government agencies should instead use the \$1 point five million savings for more urgently needed supplies. However, the Board emphasized that it wasn't "lowering the government rate" or residential rates.

## Customs seeks site for kennel facility

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff  
CUSTOMS is set to build a new 10-storage kennel facility and is currently awaiting the Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) word on the designated land where the structure is to be erected, it was learned.

The kennel facility will be utilized to house two of Customs' drug-detector dogs or K9s.

Aside from the pair of K9s that Custom has at present, plans on acquiring a few more are underway after they send more K9 handlers off-island to properly train for the task.

K9s, which can detect illegal drugs and ammunitions from cargoes and passengers, is one of the major components of Customs' operations.

Earlier, Customs received some \$40,000 worth of federal grants to acquire and train additional K9.

## WSR announces end of registration

THE WILLIAM S. Reyes Elementary School will be closing its registration tomorrow. Registration will resume on August 12,

Principal Paz Younis announced. For more information please call the main office at telephone number: 234-6170 or 234-9692.

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# Land use plan remains in limbo

Variety News Staff  
**HAGATNA** — The implementation of the controversial I Tano'-ta Land Use Plan, which was already postponed due to

the outcry raised by various sectors of the community, will again be delayed, according to Guam Chamber of Commerce Chairman Dan Webb.

Webb, who represents the Chamber in the I Tano'-ta Land Use Plan task force, reported yesterday that the task force has decided to ask for more time to study the complex and voluminous plan.

"The recommendation to be submitted to [Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez] and the Legislature will be to suspend the implementation of the plan and to give the task force an extension

of 12 more months to allow the task force to go through the whole 700-page I Tano'-ta Land Use Plan," Webb said.

Earlier, representatives of the private sector opposed the implementation of I Tano'-ta due to the presence of many gray areas in the new zoning law.

Bankers and real estate appraisers were especially vocal in opposing the new zoning law's stringent requirements.

Webb said the I Tano'-ta task force has been meeting and trying its best to address these issues.

"But during the most recent

meeting, it was decided that the problems in the legislation are significant enough that more time is needed to address them," Webb said.

He added that some members of the task force were even pushing for the scrapping of the plan altogether and starting from scratch to draw up a new land use plan.

Fortunately, Webb said the co-chairs of the task force have decided on a more realistic approach and decided to work with the existing plan.

"But this will take time," Webb stressed.

The Chamber itself, in a position paper, pushed for a delay in the implementation of the new zoning law pending the completion of a risk and cost assessment and the performance standards and agency regulations outlined in the plan.

According to the Chamber, the submission of a risk and cost assessment is necessary to provide the public with the government's evaluation of the risk to human health, public safety, and the environment for each regulation and performance standard contained in the I Tano'-ta Land Use Plan.

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## GameWorks tax perks opposed

Variety News Staff  
**HAGATNA** — A Board member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce is urging it to oppose the granting of Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) qualifying certificates (QC) to GameWorks Guam and UnderWater World Guam.

Peter Ada, the president of Ada's Trust & Investment and the immediate past chairman of the Chamber, said QC applications should not be processed and accepted after a business has opened.

He added that QC application approval or disapproval should

not be done after a company has already invested and built the business being applied for.

"Like any business, the owners and operators of UnderWater World and GameWorks studied the potential to make their business venture profitable before they made their investment.

"Apparently they concluded that Guam is a viable destination for their business and made the commitment to invest and develop," Ada stated in a letter to Chamber Chairman Dan Webb.

"It is fundamentally wrong that they or future applicants be

granted a QC after they have built and opened their operations.

"They should pay their taxes like all other businesses who have the privilege to do business on Guam," Ada added.

According to Ada, there are many tax paying businesses and residents who have taken risks and provided services, without tax concessions, to make the island a successful tourist destination.

With the current revenue downturn, Ada said GovGuam cannot afford to exempt businesses from paying their fair share of taxes.

## Air Force colonel: Increase in military spending to boost Guam economy

Variety News Staff  
**HAGATNA** — Guam can expect to get a much needed economic boost in the next few months with the arrival of more deployments and the holding of new military exercises at Andersen Air Force Base, Col.

Mark J.D. Gehri, commander of the 36th Air Base Wing, announced yesterday during the general membership meeting of the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

Gehri said more military personnel will be coming into Andersen over the next few months resulting in an increase in military spending on Guam and more economic activity for the island.

He said there is a plan to deploy 6B-2 bombers at Andersen this January as part of the "Bold Spirit" exercise as well as an Army Group that is looking to drop 700 paratroopers on Andersen as part of an exercise coming up this September.

In addition, the carrier air wing of the USS Kitty Hawk is also planning to bring in most of its Atsugi naval air station personnel to Guam for training and liberty.

"That's about 2,000 personnel and about 70 aircraft to be deployed here in April next year," Gehri said.

Local contractors are also expected to benefit from several infrastructure improvement projects at Andersen.

According to Gehri, the base is building a new \$44 million elementary and middle school to replace the temporary school facilities that the base has now.

"This school will house approximately 1525 students and is expected to be operation by 2001," Gehri said.

He added that the US government is investing a lot in fuel storage infrastructure at Andersen with some 17 miles of old pipelines torn up and over a million dollars per mile of pipeline budgeted to bury the pipeline and replace it with new ones.

Gehri said Guam can always expect to see a lot of training exercises at Andersen because of the island's strategic location.

"We have virtually unrestricted training air space here, not like in Japan, Korea, or other places," Gehri pointed out.

He said Andersen is also a preferred training base because of the availability of runways, the abundance of fuel, and the availability of water.

"The main factor that brings aircraft and military forces to Andersen is location.

"We are the westernmost base in American territory that the US has," Gehri stressed.

"Things are changing in Korea, Japan, and other places where the US has bases.

"But Guam is America and we have a huge capability here. The US does nothing in the Pacific to project power without Andersen Air Force Base," he added.

## In Australia

# Illegal aliens riot at detention center

**PERTH, Australia (AP)** — Inmates at an immigration detention center in the Australian Outback rioted and attempted two mass breakouts after being refused cigarettes and videotapes, authorities said Tuesday.

Three escapees were still on the run late Tuesday after 26 Chinese illegal immigrants escaped from the Port Hedland

center on Western Australia state's north coast Monday night, overpowering two guards and scaling a 6-foot (1.8 meter) fence.

The breakout followed the escape of four other detainees just after midnight Monday.

All of the first group and 23 of the second group of escapees had been recaptured by

mid-afternoon Tuesday, police said.

The Immigration Department promised an investigation into the escapes, which followed a riot at the center on Saturday.

An Immigration Department spokeswoman said, on condition of anonymity, that all of the escapees were Chinese

who had arrived illegally on two separate boats in May and June this year.

She said the riot and the breakouts were believed to have stemmed from a number of demands from detainees.

"My understanding is the detainees made a number of demands — things like more cigarettes and more recre-

ational facilities such as video," she said.

The federal opposition, the West Australian government and union representatives called on the federal government to boost resources at the Port Hedland facility, which has been almost full after a recent spate of illegal boat arrivals.

## Addicts given place to shoot up

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** — Australia's first legal heroin shooting gallery will open in Sydney's Kings Cross district next year to try to get addicts off the streets, officials said Tuesday.

The scheme is part of a radical revamp of New South Wales state drug laws, which also includes a cannabis cautioning system and regional trials of a compulsory treatment program for small-time users of heroin, speed, LSD and Ecstasy.

Most other state leaders greeted the announcement with skepticism, saying they did not believe a safe injecting room trial was the answer to the nation's drug problem.

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr denied he was soft on drugs, saying he had to look at new ways of getting drug users into treatment.

He said his government had

rejected proposals to both completely decriminalize cannabis and to scrap the offense of self-administration of a prohibited drug.

Catholic order the Sisters of Charity and St. Vincent's Hospital will trial a medically-supervised injecting room for 18 months in Kings Cross, Sydney's nightclub district and a heroin sale and use point.

"The point about this is to get heroin use off the streets, out of the laneways (and to) prevent the continuing degradation of the environment of Kings Cross," Carr said.

"To get people into an environment where treatment is part of it ... and yes, on the way through we might save a few lives."

The head of St. Vincent's Hospital alcohol and drug service, Alex Wodak, said the injecting room would have 50,000 visits

a year and prevent up to 40 overdose deaths.

He said similar facilities in Europe had not experienced a single overdose death.

The room will open seven hours a day, seven days a week and its location will be decided after consultation with the local community.

New South Wales opposition leader Kerry Chikarovski said the shooting gallery sent the wrong message to young people.

"Today's decision is a great disappointment to me and all those parents who had hoped the Premier would stand firm and reject any move to soften our approach to illicit drugs," she said.

Prime Minister John Howard has said previously he is opposed to heroin injecting rooms, but the issue falls within state jurisdiction.

## Child gets HIV from Red Cross blood

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — An inquiry was launched Tuesday into blood donation procedures in Australia after a child contracted HIV from tainted blood from the Australian Red Cross.

The Victorian state government announced the investigation after it was confirmed that the girl, whose identity and age have not been released, tested positive to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, one week ago after undergoing surgery at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital.

It is the first case of HIV transmission in Australia since screening all blood donations for the virus started in May 1985, officials said.

The infected blood was donated by a woman, a longtime donor to the Red Cross Blood Bank apparently before she knew she was HIV positive, the Red Cross Blood Service said.

Dr. Patrick Coghlan, the service's director in Victoria state, said no other patient had been given contaminated blood taken from the donor.

The case is the first contamination in almost 14 million donations, but no absolute guarantee could be given that any blood product was free of infection, he said.

"This tragic event for the donor and recipient reinforces the fact

that blood is a human tissue and that 100 percent safety cannot be guaranteed irrespective of use of the most sophisticated testing," Coghlan said.

"There was no fault in any of the procedures carried out by the blood bank or the hospital. All appropriate infection control measures were observed."

Victoria's Health Minister Rob Knowles said he had ordered an independent audit of blood donation procedures.

A spokesman for federal Health Minister Michael Wooldridge said consideration would be given to the introduction of more stringent blood testing procedures when all state and territory health ministers meet next week.

Ministers are expected to consider the introduction of a test which would show up antibodies present in such extremely low concentrations that they are undetectable by the tests now in use in Australia.

The girl's father, a doctor, said he or his wife had wanted to donate blood for their daughter, but the Red Cross had not allowed it.

"We knew that she needed some surgery; we knew that she required transfusion; being medically trained we knew that there is the risk of donated blood and we explored quite vigorously the possibility of using a directed transfusion," he told a Melbourne radio station.

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# US to resume military ties with Fiji

WASHINGTON (Pacnews) — The United States Ambassador-designate to Fiji has told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the Clinton Administration has notified Congress of its intent to resume military training for Fiji's armed forces, which was suspended after the 1987 coups.

Appearing before the Committee, Osman Siddique said the United States strongly supports Fiji's democratic renaissance and this move was "a tangible sign of that support".

"This is an exciting and important time for Fiji. Free and fair elections took place in May, marking the restoration of full democracy following the military coups

in 1987, and subsequent political tension between the ethnic Fijians and ethnic Indian citizens of Fiji," he said.

Siddique noted the elections resulted in the selection of the first Indo-Fijian Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, who named several ethnic Fijians to his Cabinet and made clear his intentions to serve the interests of all Fijian citizens regardless of their ethnicity. He said if confirmed as Ambassador, he would strive to further strengthen Fiji's democratic institutions.

Siddique, a Bangladeshi-born businessman living in Virginia, said the United States' bilateral relationship with Fiji is more impor-

tant to US national interests than Fiji's small size would suggest.

"First, the United States and Fiji share the bedrock values of freedom and democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and support for a free market economy. Our countries work together in regional organizations such as the South Pacific Forum and the Pacific Community to advance those values," he said.

"Secondly, Fiji has sought to play an important role in world affairs. It has contributed troops to several multi-lateral peacekeeping missions including those in Lebanon, Sinai, Bougainville and Kuwait, and has sent police personnel to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Thirdly, Fiji is strategically situated at the crossroads of air and sea-routes linking Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands with the US. US naval vessels call regularly in Fiji's port, and our military aircraft often make refuelling stops at its airport."

"Finally there is economic potential in Fiji for US firms. As an English-speaking independent member of the British Commonwealth, Fiji offers the perfect location for facilitating the often-neglected small and medium sized business in entering the Asian marketplace."

He said in addition to its location and language advantages, assets are secured and the Fijian

Government welcomes foreign investment.

"As your Ambassador, I shall work to achieve significant increases of sales of US goods and services, cultural and education exchange between our people, and in the promotion of tourism-related investment," he told the Committee.

The Ambassador-designate also spoke about US interests in Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu - the three other countries he will serve from the Suva-based Embassy.

"Tonga serves as a port of call for our naval vessels, receives some military training assistance, and has participated in regional peacekeeping operations."

# Air Fiji denies ill-fated flight was overloaded

SUVA (Pacnews) - Chief Executive of domestic carrier Air Fiji, Ken MacDonald has rubbished claims the ill-fated flight PC121 which crashed at the weekend was overloaded.

However, the Daily Post reports the flight's certification papers allegedly showed the flight carried 106kg in excess weight.

The takeoff weight was allegedly pencilled in at 5806kg as against the revised takeoff weight,

which was 5700kg.

"The certification that the aircraft is correctly loaded in accordance with the Fiji ANRs (air navigation regulations) was signed by a traffic officer and by the Captain and Co-pilot," MacDonald said.

"The flight was definitely not overweight."

"The Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji Islands (CAAFI) has got the same sheet and other paper-

work."

The Bandeirante aircraft crashed in the interior of the main island of Viti Levu, minutes after taking off from Nausori Airport at 5.25am on Saturday. Seventeen people, including the two pilots, died in the crash.

Meanwhile, the Fiji Times reports the Nadi International Airport control tower raised the alarm on the ill-fated flight almost 90 minutes after it had crashed.

# Melanesian group to take part in military exercise

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Pacific Island observers to the Papua New Guinea Defence (PNGDF) sponsored Paradise '99 naval exercise have requested that only members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) be involved in the next exercise.

The suggestion came from representatives of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Palau. Fiji was represented by Lt Bradley Bower, Solomon Islands by Lt Commander Eddie Tokuru and Palau by Lt Ian Telvet.

The trio said involving only MSG countries in the next training exercise would help the island nations because most of them have the same boundaries and operational settings.

Their responses showed the defence forces in the MSG countries had better understanding of their weaknesses and strengths.

Apart from that, they have the same class of patrol boats. Lt Telvet of Palau said he benefited from the exercise and would bring a naval ship in the future.

# \$150M deal for Marcos victims blocked

MANILA (Reuters) — A Philippine anti-graft court on Tuesday blocked a compromise deal calling for payment by late dictator Ferdinand Marcos's family of \$150 million to nearly 10,000 victims of human rights abuses during his rule.

Under the deal, the money was to be drawn from Marcos deposits in Switzerland worth about \$590 million, which the government also claims on grounds they were part of assets Marcos illegally amassed while in office.

The government had agreed to waive its claim to part of the Swiss accounts so the human rights victims could be compensated, and

petitioned the court to approve the deal.

But the anti-graft court rejected the petition, saying payment for the victims should come from the Marcoses' own pockets and not from the Swiss deposits, held in escrow by a Manila bank.

"It is obvious today that none of the Marcoses are living in any demonstrable degree of poverty. Rather, recent political and social events have shown that the Marcoses are still substantially endowed," the court said.

Flamboyant former first lady Imelda Marcos lives in style in a luxurious apartment overlooking Manila's financial centre.

Last month, she celebrated her 70th birthday with an extravagant party lasting until early morning in two ballrooms of a posh Manila hotel attended by foreign guests.

In 1994, a U.S. federal jury in a class action suit in Hawaii awarded nearly \$2 billion to the victims after finding the Marcos estate liable for the torture, murder and disappearances of Filipinos during Marcos's rule. Marcos was ousted in a popular uprising in 1986 and died three years later in Hawaii.

The claimants agreed to a \$150 million settlement, saying it would take years to collect the full amount. Judicial approval of the deal was

needed because of a pending case filed by the government before the anti-graft court asking that the Swiss deposits be forfeited to the state.

Under the deal, which would have capped a 13-year legal battle, the victims agreed to renounce "forever" all further civil claims against the Marcoses in exchange for the money from the Swiss accounts.

The court found this objectionable.

"The Republic cannot compensate its own citizens for grave injury done to them and then release from any liability the one or the ones responsible for that grave injury," the court said.

It said releasing the Marcoses

from further liability "removes a powerful tool to ferret out that Marcos wealth."

There has been no official estimate of the size of the Marcos fortune but Imelda Marcos said last year her family could be worth over 500 billion pesos (\$12.6 billion).

She said Marcos amassed his wealth by trading in gold after World War Two.

Victim Etta Rosales deplored the ruling and said: "We will have to appeal to the Supreme Court." Rosales, now a congresswoman, was among those jailed by Marcos and said she was severely tortured while in prison.

# RP stocks fall to 3-mo. low

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine stocks fell to a three-month low Tuesday on heavy selling set off by fears about political stability at home. The U.S. dollar slipped against the peso.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index of 30 selected companies fell 113 points, or 4.8 percent, closing at 2,263.12, the lowest since the April 16 finish of 2,233.64. The index now has fallen 12 percent since July 19, including Monday's 71.44-point, or 3-percent, loss.

Tuesday's decline was the largest on a single trading day since Jan. 9, 1998, when the index fell 137.85 points.

Selling continued since Monday on concerns over higher U.S. interest rates triggered after U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan last week warned that monetary authorities won't hesitate to tighten policies to curb inflationary, Paribas Asia Equity Securities senior analyst Edgar Bancod said.

Jose Ricardo Garcia, executive vice president of Diversified Securities, said foreign investors, who had pushed up the market last week, turned to selling amid continuing dispute between President Joseph Estrada and media critical to his administration.

"There's a lot of foreign selling now as the stability of the government is in question," Garcia said.

Growing political controversy over Estrada's proposed amendment to the country's constitution, aimed mostly at political and economic reforms, also discouraged investors.

In currency dealings, the dollar slipped against the peso on weak commercial demand for dollars and the greenback's weakness against the Japanese yen, traders said.

The dollar closed at 38.250 pesos on the Philippine Dealing System, down from Monday's finish of 38.300 pesos. The U.S. currency ranged from 38.255 pesos to 38.290 pesos Tuesday.



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At ASEAN conference

# Albright defends NATO action in Kosovo

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright defended NATO's actions in Yugoslavia on Tuesday against criticism by China of countries that bypass the United Nations to "bully" others in the name of human rights.

"If the reference is to the action of NATO and the United States in Kosovo, you need to ask the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars who have in fact been subjected to a bully that has massacred people and committed unspeakable crimes against humanity," Albright told reporters just before leaving an Asian security conference for Kosovo.

She left the way open for similar actions in the future.

"When the U.N. cannot act because it is blocked by those who are

not supporting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (and when there is) a necessity to try to bring justice when crimes against humanity are committed," Albright said, "then the United Nations ... leaves itself out of an essential action."

"I am very proud of the action the United States and NATO took to allow those people to return to their homes and build a decent life for themselves," she said.

Albright was among top diplomats from 20 countries who listened to Tang's remarks in a meeting sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Appearing to refer to the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia to halt the killings and expulsions of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, Tang criticized the viola-



Makeleine Albright

tion of smaller nations' sovereignty by larger powers.

"The claims such as 'the su-

premacy of human rights over sovereignty' and 'there is no national boundary in safeguarding human rights' are in essence excuses for strong countries to bully weak ones," Tang said, according to a copy of his statement distributed to the press.

"To bypass the U.N. and its Security Council so as to have one's own way will definitely weaken the pillar for the international security system and bring chaos into the international order," Tang said.

The ASEAN meeting was attended by its key international partners, including the United States, Japan, Russia, Canada, Australia and the European Union.

Albright lunched with Tang on Sunday. She described that meeting, their first since NATO's May 7 bombing of the Chinese Em-

bassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, as an "easing of tensions" and "the restoration of communication."

However, Tang said China remained unsatisfied with U.S. explanations that the bombing was an accident.

They also differed over Taiwan's recent insistence on "state-to-state" relations with China. Tang refused to rule out force in unifying with Taiwan, which China considers a renegade province, and warned the United States not to "fan the flames" of the island's independence.

In his remarks Tuesday, Tang said: "When the reality is marked by a severe lack of equilibrium in the balance of power in the world, upholding the principle of sovereignty has become all the more necessary."

Albright:

## Southeast Asia, US allies against crime, pollution

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Tuesday said the United States and Southeast Asian nations should step up joint efforts to fight sex slavery and trafficking in narcotics, as well as pollution.

These issues "require cooperative actions," Albright told a gathering of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other countries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

"We cannot safeguard our citizens from crime or ensure a healthy environment through unilateral actions alone. We have to work together," she said.

Albright reiterated that the United States has a history of close cooperation with ASEAN countries and the United Nations in fighting international drug trafficking.

"This fight must be waged on all fronts," she said. "And we must secure the full cooperation of every government, because in many ways, we are only as strong as our weakest link."

Albright has been persistent in accusing Myanmar, also known as Burma, of official participation in drug smuggling. The military-led nation is one of 10 ASEAN members.

Albright also said illegal trafficking in women and children was a "growing menace worldwide."

"There is a saying that money can buy everything. I hope we can agree that this saying should never apply to human beings," she said.

# China agrees to sign nuke-free zone treaty

SINGAPORE (AP) — China agreed Tuesday to sign a protocol for a nuclear weapons-free zone in Southeast Asia when the treaty comes into effect, officials said.

India, another nuclear power, also offered Monday to sign the nuclear weapons-free zone protocol.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan made the pledge in a meeting with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said.

Tang also agreed to accede to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, a treaty governing relations in the region, Syed Hamid said.

On Saturday, ASEAN foreign ministers established a commission which is to work to create a Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-

Free Zone under a treaty ratified in 1997.

Adherents to the treaty, which was signed in Bangkok on Dec. 15, 1995, agreed not to develop, manufacture or control nuclear weapons in the zone.

Syed Hamid, who led ASEAN's delegation in the meeting with Tang, spoke highly of Chinese relations with ASEAN, saying that concerns about China's sincerity in helping the region recover from its 2-year-old financial crisis were "baseless."

He expressed appreciation to China for keeping its promise not to devalue its currency. This "contributed significantly to maintaining stability in the region's currencies and assisted ASEAN in its recovery efforts," he said.

"By its actions, China has, indeed, proved to be a real friend of

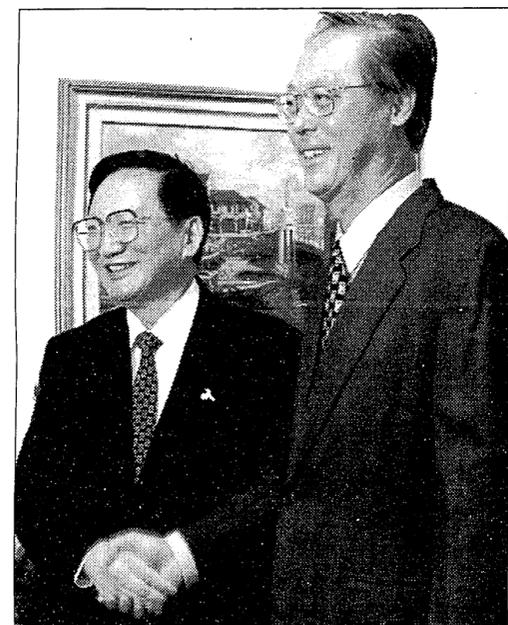
Free Zone in times of need," he said.

One area of tension between China and some ASEAN members involves competing claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

China has opposed moves by ASEAN to discuss the Spratlys, a chain of reefs and islets claimed by four ASEAN countries plus China and Taiwan.

ASEAN, however, is developing a code of conduct aimed at avoiding conflicts among the claimants, and Syed Hamid said China has agreed to consider it.

China says the territorial dispute should be discussed only among the claimants. ASEAN consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.



China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, left, shakes hands with Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, right, during Tang's courtesy call in Singapore.

Thai official:

## ASEAN not paying enough attention to social issues

SINGAPORE (AP) — Southeast Asian countries have not adequately addressed social fallout from the region's economic crisis — and risk political instability as a result — Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said at an international conference in Singapore Tuesday.

Economic turmoil has prompted financial restructuring among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said Surin, who takes over as ASEAN's new chairman this week.

"The social impact of the crisis has, however, not been adequately

addressed," Surin told foreign ministers from ASEAN and 10 other countries, including the United States and Japan.

"Without adequate social safety nets, massive unemployment and widespread poverty can impair the social fabric of peoples in the region," he said.

"The combination of sharp and unexpected pain on one hand, and the lack of relief on the other, is fertile ground for breeding social unrest and, as a consequence, political instability," he added.

ASEAN foreign ministers dis-

cussed an "action plan" on social safety nets during their annual meeting last week in Singapore, Surin said.

But he said the plan "needs to have political commitment and wider support in other areas of social development" in order to make a real difference in peoples' lives.

ASEAN foreign ministers agreed last week to circulate a proposal for a "Joint Declaration for a Socially Cohesive and Caring ASEAN," Surin said Tuesday.

## Ferry boat runs aground

TOKYO (AP) — A 6,472-ton ferry boat ran aground in western Japan on Tuesday after being buffeted by winds from Typhoon Neil, but all 158 passengers and crew were rescued, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

There were no injuries among the 122 passengers and 36 crew of the "Muroto," which ran aground about 200 meters (656 feet) off the coast of Kannoura in

Kochi prefecture (state), said agency spokesman Katsuhiko Segawa.

Segawa said the coast guard rescued all on board with six patrol boats and seven helicopters.

Neil, the fifth typhoon of the year, was located in the East China Sea, about 550 kilometers (330 miles) west of Kannoura when the incident occurred at 4:40 a.m. (1940GMT Monday), Segawa said.

### Doctor suspected of operating abortion clinics arrested

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's health ministry is considering revoking the medical licenses of a doctor and a nurse arrested last week on charges of performing abortions, Thai newspapers reported Tuesday.

The doctor, Praphan Theekavanich, was arrested along with a nurse and a clerk on Saturday in Mae Sai district in Chiang Rai province, 680 kilometers (422 miles) north of Bangkok. All three were granted bail.

Praphan, a senior doctor at a state hospital, was reported to have run his clinic for several years, but had previously escaped charges because of a lack of evidence.

"This time he was caught in the act," a police officer told The Associated Press. "We also arrested two clients on charges of seeking abortions."

The suspects will be tried after police finish their investigation and present the results to the prosecutor, said the policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity.



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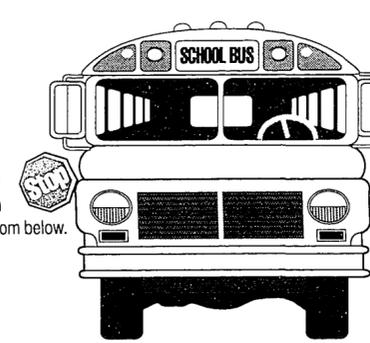
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# Religious violence spreads in Indonesia

**AMBON, Indonesia (AP)** — At least 14 people were killed and one was missing Tuesday as rampaging mobs clashed and set fire to dozens of buildings in fresh sectarian violence in Indonesia's eastern Maluku province, officials and witnesses said.

Riot police initially fired warning shots into the air but failed to disperse hundreds of looters as well as gangs armed with rocks, machetes, lances, arrows and gasoline bombs. Officers were later seen firing directly into the crowds.

At least seven of Tuesday's victims were shot dead, hospital workers said on condition of anonymity.

On Monday, four people died in rioting between rival Muslim and Christian gangs in a town near Ambon, the provincial capital of Maluku, said Lt. Col. Gufron, the local chief of police.

On Tuesday, the violence spread to Ambon itself. Police and witnesses said dozens of shops, houses and a number of

cars were set on fire in three separate locations as Muslims and Christians fought.

"We can see the thick smoke somewhere from here," said a local police officer who refused to identify herself.

Witnesses said hundreds of people took goods from shops and burned them along a main street where more than 40 shops and stalls were already on fire.

Paing Suryaman, an official of Al-Fatah hospital, said nine Muslim bodies were brought to the morgue.

He said 32 people injured in the violence were hospitalized. Most had gunshot wounds.

At least five Christians also were killed in Tuesday's rioting, according to witnesses.

"We can hear occasional explosions amid the gunshots," said a resident contacted by telephone.

Rioting broke out Saturday in Poka, a town across the Ambon bay.

More than 100 houses, shops and small stalls were burned there. Clashes between Muslims

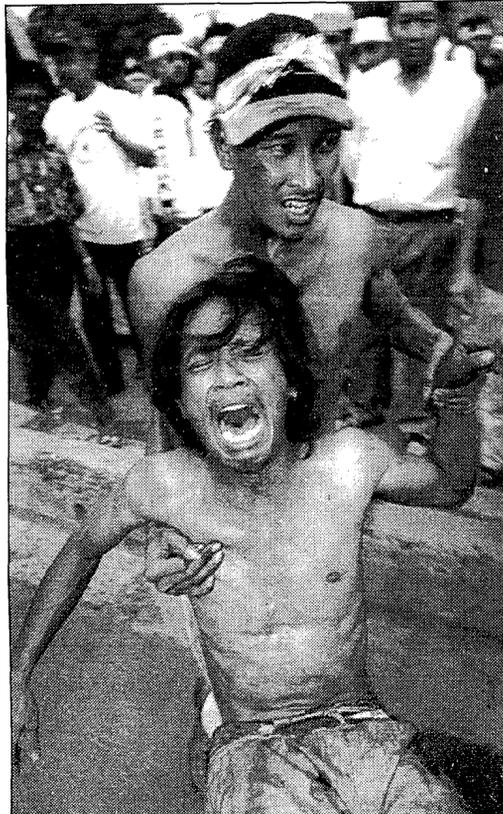
and Christians in recent months have wracked Maluku province, an archipelago known as the Spice Islands during Dutch colonial rule.

More than 300 people died in a previous round of violence in January.

Meanwhile, a police sergeant and his teenage son were killed by unidentified gunmen in Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh, where a secessionist movement is waging an increasingly bloody struggle for independence.

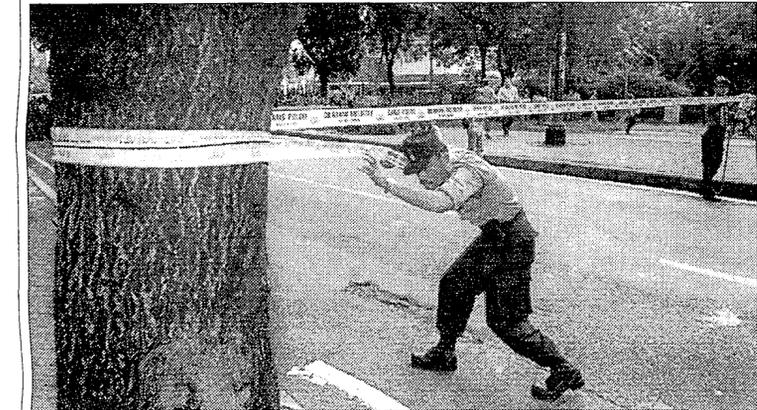
Lt. Col. Aris Sumarman, a local police commander, said the attack occurred in West Aceh, some 200 kilometers (120 miles) southwest of the regional capital of Lhokseumawe, he said.

It comes after the deaths Saturday of up to 41 civilians in a raid by security forces. Police sources claimed the victims were rebels of the Free Aceh Movement, but human rights activists maintain that the troops slaughtered unarmed villagers.



An Indonesian demonstrator covered in fake blood, howls in anguish during a demonstration of solidarity with the people of the troubled province of Aceh. AP

## Indonesia promises poll peace, reform



An Indonesian police officer puts up tape to block the road to the General Election Commission office as protesters demonstrate nearby in Jakarta. (AP)

**PARIS (Reuters)** — Indonesia promised foreign donors on Tuesday that a vote on self rule in East Timor would go ahead peacefully and vowed to pursue political and economic reform in return for aid of up to \$6.0 billion this year.

Finance Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita told delegates from about 30 nations Indonesia was committed to radical political and economic change and was about to pull out of recession this year, but that it needed the cash to fill a budget shortfall.

He also delivered a statement after questions from donors on the poll in East Timor, telling them Jakarta would move police in, and reduce troop levels, to ease tension ahead of the poll on the island territory which it invaded in 1975.

The East Timorese would be asked to vote on autonomy and if they rejected this the government had already promised that it would propose a breakaway,

with the island administered by its former colonial ruler, Portugal, the statement said.

"The consultations will happen, definitely, on August 21 and 22," Ginandjar told a news conference after the first day of a two-day meeting which human rights groups oppose on the grounds that no money should be pledged before the Timor vote.

The United Nations is responsible for organizing a vote in East Timor, although the exact date of the crucial ballot is still up in the air. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who already delayed the vote once because of security concerns, said on Tuesday he will decide on a date shortly.

The World Bank, hosting the Paris meeting, said Indonesia was on the verge of an economic recovery after the turmoil which came hand-in-hand with the demise of strongman president Suharto. It asked both Jakarta and donor countries to "stay the course."

The United States said Jakarta

deserved aid but that failure to see through on East Timor would hurt its chances of more cash later on, even if the holding of national parliament elections in June had improved Indonesia's reputation on democracy.

"It would be tragic if the international goodwill and enhanced stature that Indonesia now enjoys because of its successful parliamentary elections were jeopardized by a failure to deliver on its responsibilities in East Timor," it said.

"This could complicate the ability of the United States to provide assistance flows necessary to economic recovery," said a U.S. statement - released to reporters by the Indonesians. Ginandjar said he did not interpret this as a threat, but as a statement of "concern which is valid."

Despite fresh unrest and bloodshed in parts of the country, Ginandjar gave an upbeat appraisal of his government's work.

## UN sends refugee staff to East, West Timor

**GENEVA (AP)** — As violence in East Timor threatens to displace growing numbers of people, the United Nations refugee agency is sending staff to both the east and west of the island, an official said Tuesday.

An emergency program, initially involving four officials, will run for six months, said Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. It will address shortages of food, health care and shelter.

The UNHCR deployment to help look after up to 60,000 people displaced inside East Timor and 10,000 opponents of the territory's independence who have fled to the west follows a request by the Indonesian government and the local U.N. mission.

A U.N.-supervised ballot planned for August will decide whether the 800,000 people in East Timor want to have wide-ranging autonomy within Indonesia or move toward full independence.

But violence has escalated in the half-island territory since Indonesia — in a surprise policy reversal — announced in January that it would put the Timorese on the road to independence if they reject autonomy.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it the following year. Threats and attacks by pro-integration militia groups against U.N. staff and East Timorese civilians in recent weeks have slowed registration for the August ballot.

# Decision to proceed with E. Timor vote welcomed

**SINGAPORE (AP)** — Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas welcomed Tuesday a decision by the United Nations to continue with preparations for a referendum on independence for East Timor, despite violence in the Indonesian-controlled territory.

"We had always said that we hoped there would be no more

delays," Alatas said. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has refused to set a final date for the balloting, saying security conditions are still inadequate.

But he agreed that voter registration can proceed. "I haven't seen the decision yet, but if it is true, then, of course, we

are happy that we will proceed," Alatas told reporters at a meeting in Singapore of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and foreign ministers of the Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe.

The United Nations is operating 200 registration centers across East Timor for the vote, in which East Timorese are to choose be-

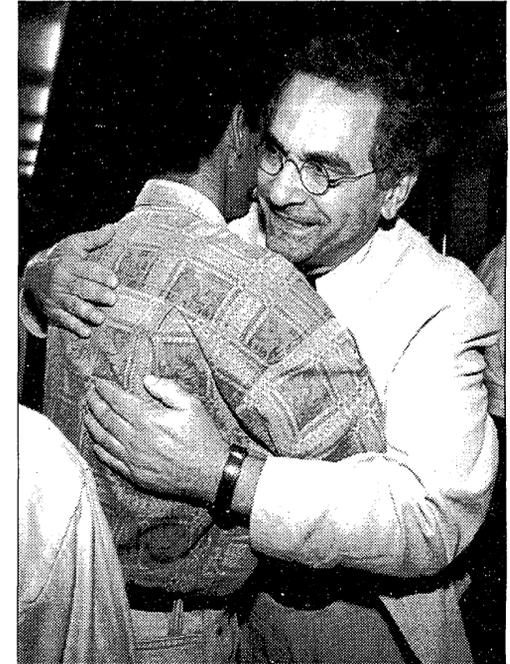
tween full independence and remaining part of Indonesia as an autonomous region.

The date of the vote, originally set for Aug. 8, was postponed to Aug. 21 or 22. That has not been finalized.

East Timor has been wracked by unrest, guerrilla warfare and human rights abuses since Indo-

nesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

Independence activists claim the vast majority of East Timor's 800,000 people want to break away from Indonesia. The activists, the United Nations and others accuse militia groups of using violence and intimidation to derail the ballot.



East Timor leader Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, right, embraces an unidentified East Timorese, left, as a sign of peace during a mass at the Don Bosco parish in suburban Makati, the Philippines. AP

## Ramos-Horta: 'Timor bloodbath if vote thwarted'

**MANILA (Reuters)** — East Timorese independence leader Jose Ramos-Horta on Tuesday warned of a bloodbath if attempts to hold a ballot on self rule for the territory were thwarted.

The Nobel peace laureate said another delay in the U.N.-supervised vote, now scheduled for late August, would be an indictment on Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975.

"What would be tragic and would cause a lot of violence is if the United Nations finally gives up, packs up and leaves the territory. Then there will be a major bloodbath," Ramos-Horta told Reuters in Manila.

Ramos-Horta is visiting the Philippines to campaign for support for East Timor's struggle for independence after 23 years of often brutal Indonesian rule.

The territory's vote, which would allow East Timorese to choose between independence or enhanced autonomy within Indonesia, had been originally scheduled for August 8 but was postponed to August 21 or 22 because of security concerns.

In the East Timorese capital of

Dili, U.N. officials pressed ahead on Tuesday, signing up voters, but they held off setting a final date for the ballot because of persistent unrest.

"If the U.N. Secretary-General (Kofi Annan) decides to postpone it, it is yet another embarrassment, indictment of the Indonesian government," Ramos-Horta said.

"The international community must react more forcefully to put pressure on the Indonesian government so that the ballot takes place." Annan said late on Monday in New York that voter registration could proceed but the territory must be made safer and the refugee problem addressed for the voting process to go forward.

Annan said security had improved but not enough. Ramos-Horta said security conditions had improved slightly but there was still a long way to go to ensure a genuine vote.

"The U.N. should not, will not be dragged into taking part in a fraud - and fraud (it) will be if security conditions continue as they are today," Ramos-Horta said.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

July 12, 1999

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), propose to issue capital improvement bonds to fund a variety of public purpose infrastructure projects throughout the Commonwealth. CDA is an autonomous agency that has the statutory authority under the CNMI public law, to issue bonds to fund capital improvement projects of the CNMI.

CDA is requesting proposals from qualified firms to serve as its bond underwriter for the proposed financing. Proposals shall be submitted to the:

Commonwealth Development Authority  
P.O. Box 2149  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Email Address: [CDA@itecnmi.com](mailto:CDA@itecnmi.com)

no later than 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 1999. Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from CDA at Wakin's Building in Gualo Rai. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. MaryLou S. Ada, Executive Director, at telephone no. 234-7145/7146/6245. The Commonwealth Development Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interests of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Juan S. Tenorio  
Chairman, Board of Directors



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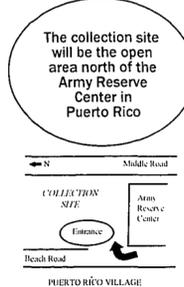
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Saturday, July 31 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sunday, August 1 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

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Paints/varnishes/stains/liners/removers/degreasers	5 gallons
Expired pesticides	1 gallon
Acids (muriatic, hydrochloric)	2 gallons
Automobile batteries	5 pieces
Marine batteries	2 pieces
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# Pakistan calls again for talks with India

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday repeated his call for direct talks with India to resolve the lingering dispute over divided Kashmir, saying the issue is "burning and bleeding."  
"The talks must be without any precondition and be result-oriented if India is sincere about resolving the Kashmir issue," Sharif told reporters at the National Assembly. "The ball is now in India's court and they must respond."  
He appealed for direct talks two

weeks ago during a nationally televised address to explain his decision to urge Islamic militants to pull out of Kashmir, where they had occupied positions overlooking India's sole supply route.  
India has said no talks will take place before the last fighter withdraws. It claims Pakistan has supplied troops and other support for the insurgents, which Islamabad has denied.  
The pullout has largely been completed, but militant Islamic groups have protested against Sharif, demanding his resignation,



Nawaz Sharif

and claim they will keep fighting.  
The Al Badar group issued a statement Tuesday claiming its fighters had killed 17 Indian soldiers and injured 13 others in two attacks in recent days, including five killed by a hand grenade.  
It also said Al Badar leader Bakht Zameen Khan had just returned from Kargil and addressed thousands of fighters 60 kilometers (35 miles) north of Islamabad.  
"We are giving a tough time to the world's third big power," he was quoted as saying. "De-

spite heavy snow and cold, our courage is as high as the mountains. By the grace of God, we are still in our trenches and fighting with the Indians."  
Sharif was quoted by domestic news agencies as saying that fighting in Kashmir is too expensive to continue for two countries that are suffering economically.  
"New Delhi is keeping a huge army of over 600,000 in Kashmir," Sharif said. "Spending a huge amount on it is hampering the country's development activities."

## In Afghanistan

# Flights diverted after rockets slam into Kabul's airport

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Three rockets slammed into Kabul's airport early Tuesday, forcing diversion and cancellation of the few international flights into Afghanistan's capital.

The rockets, fired from mountaintop positions held by the northern-based opposition alliance that controls about 10 percent of the country, hit around 9 a.m. (0430 GMT).  
One struck just as a United Nations flight was making its final approach to land, the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported.  
The U.N., the Red Cross and the private Pactec group, which transports air workers in and out of the country, diverted or canceled flights that normally

land between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (0400-0600 GMT).  
The opposition and the Taliban militia that controls 90 percent of the country recently have accused each other of preparing for an all-out offensive. The opposition claimed Sunday that thousands of Pakistani militants and Arab extremists are joining Taliban forces.  
Two days of peace talks in neighboring Uzbekistan failed to yield an agreement last week, and fighting has intensified since then.  
The opposition fighters are holed up in the mountains north of Kabul from where they regularly use rockets to pound the city, controlled by the Taliban.  
Two rockets exploded in

land on Friday evening as U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was appealing to the Taliban to reopen the negotiations. They responded that further talks are unlikely.  
"They have denied they are preparing for a major offensive," Brahimi said Saturday of the Taliban. But "There are plenty of indications that both sides are building up. This is nothing new."  
Another three rockets hit the capital on Saturday. The Taliban are Sunni Muslims and mostly Pashtun — the majority ethnic group of Afghanistan — and follow a harsh version of Islam. The opposition alliance comprises ethnic and religious minorities.  
Two rockets exploded in

# Arafat, Barak get down to business

JERUSALEM (AP) — The time has come for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to get down to business.  
In their first working meeting Tuesday evening at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the two leaders will not only tackle the fate of the Wye River peace agreement, but also set the tone for their future relationship.

Arafat expects Barak to give him a detailed timetable for two Israeli troop pullbacks in the West Bank and the release of hundreds of Palestinian security prisoners, saying this is the minimum Israel must deliver to restore the trust eroded during three years of rule by Barak's hard-line predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu.  
Barak hopes to persuade Arafat to forego the second Wye pullback. The Israeli prime minister, a former armed forces chief of staff, wants to avoid any withdrawal that would turn a number of Jewish settlements into isolated enclaves surrounded by Palestinian-controlled areas.  
Barak argues that such settlements could become targets for attack by Palestinian militants. He has warned in the past that terror attacks would stop the peace talks and is trying to make Arafat see that it is also in the Palestinian interest to avoid creating such flashpoints.  
Barak is also reluctant to

give back land now in the eastern part of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert.  
Under the security doctrine held for years by his Labor Party, the Jordan Valley should always remain under Israeli control as a first line of defense against a surprise Arab attack.  
In exchange for Arafat forgoing a second Wye pullback, Barak may offer a more appealing first withdrawal that would turn several scattered Palestinian-controlled areas into larger blocs, said Communications Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who is close to Barak.  
"He's not saying, 'Let's not implement this section concerning the Judean Desert,'" Ben-Eliezer told Israel army radio. "He is saying, 'Let's give you something else instead.'"  
After an initial troop pullback, Barak wants to begin negotiations on a permanent peace agreement, including the final status of the West Bank and Gaza as well as the fate of Jerusalem, the settlements and Palestinian refugees.  
Opposition leader Ariel Sharon said that while Israel was obligated under the Wye accord to withdraw from 13.1 percent of the West Bank, it was entirely up to the Israeli government to decide which areas to hand over.  
The pullback plan to which Barak has objections was proposed by the army, said Sharon, who served as foreign minister under Netanyahu and was involved in negotiating

the Wye accord.  
"If Mr. Barak doesn't like this map, he can draw another one," Sharon told army radio. "The map was never shown to the Palestinians."  
Barak has said he would implement the Wye agreement in full if the Palestinians insist.

The chief Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said Tuesday that Arafat would not settle for anything less than speedy and complete implementation.  
Erekat said Arafat expected to hear details from Barak on how and when he would carry out troop pullbacks and release Palestinians held by Israel on charges of anti-Israeli violence. The Wye agreement also stipulates that Israel open two so-called "safe passage" routes that link the West Bank and Gaza Strip.  
Netanyahu implemented the first phase of Wye, a withdrawal from 2 percent, but then froze the agreement in December. He charged that the Palestinians had reneged on their security commitments, such as disarming Palestinian militants.  
A complete implementation of Wye would leave the Palestinians with full or partial control over 40 percent of the West Bank, up from 27 percent now. Arafat is not expected to give in on this point because he feels he has few bargaining chips heading into the final status talks with Barak as it is.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak smiles to the press as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat walks behind him at the beginning of their joint press conference.

**URGENT!!! URGENT!!! URGENT!!!**

**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1999, HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM. WE WILL PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE NEXT MEETING AT A LATER DATE.**

**/s/PERRY TENORIO**  
**Managing Director**

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**NORTHERN MARIANA HOUSING CORPORATION**

**AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is pleased to inform the public that it will **EXTEND** the **DEADLINE** for accepting applications for the single-family residential houses at the Sugar King Estate Part II Subdivision to **10:00 a.m. on FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1999**. Applications are available at NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan between regular business hours.

Priority will be given to couples or heads of household with dependent(s) who are in dire need of a residential housing unit and who are first-time homeowners.

The house range is size between two-, three-, and four-bedrooms. A family composing of a minimum of one (1) member may purchase a 2-bedroom house; a family composing a minimum of two (2) members may purchase a 3-bedroom house; and a family composing a minimum of three (3) members may purchase a 4-bedroom house. Conveniently located at the central part of Saipan, the Sugar King II Subdivision is only a short drive from many major facilities on the island.

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Interested individuals are urged to contact the NMHC Office at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, for more information.

MARYLOU S. ADA  
Executive Director

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

**Man arranges own funeral, commits suicide**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A middle-aged bachelor committed suicide after arranging his own funeral, including ordering a coffin as well as a tent, chairs and cold drinks for mourners, Sri Lankan police said Tuesday.

Piyasena Kumarapeli, 49, of Meegahawatte, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the capital of Colombo, bought a casket, 50 chairs and 96 bottles of cold drinks just a day before killing himself with a shotgun, said police official A. Sarath.

After ensuring that all arrangements were complete, Kumarapeli went to a pineapple grove he owned and shot himself dead Thursday, Sarath said.

Police were investigating why he committed suicide. It could be linked to a bank loan of 140,000 rupees (\$ 2,000) he had taken out.

Sri Lanka, with a population of 18.5 million, has one of the world's highest suicide rates. Most of the deaths are attributed to disputes and failures in personal relationships.

**Bus bomb kills 8, injures 35**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Eight people were killed and 35 injured Tuesday when a bomb exploded on a bus in Pakistani Kashmir, police and witnesses said.

The bus, traveling from Rawalpindi to the Kashmir area, was destroyed by the blast around 1 p.m. (0800 GMT) near the village of Hajiabad, five kilometers (three miles) from the town of Kotli.

Local police official Sabir Hussain called it an act of terrorism that he claimed had been carried out by Indian agents.

No other details were immediately available.

**Cancer has no cure, but can be prevented.**

**Syria urges US help to revive talks with Israel**

By Issam Hamza  
DAMASCUS (Reuters) — Syria's state-run radio on Tuesday urged the United States to play an active role in reviving Syrian-Israeli peace talks and not to limit its role to talking about the necessity for peace.

The radio also urged Israel to commit itself to what it called a pledge by late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

"Washington is urged to affirm the facts about the peace process and to stress the necessity of Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon and to respect the rights of the Palestinian people," the radio said.

Syria says the Rabin government made a pledge to withdraw fully from the Golan during talks in the U.S. which broke off in February 1996. It says the pledge was deposited with the U.S. as a sponsor of the negotiations.

"Washington could play a constructive and positive role to serve the peace process and push it forward. It is not enough that U.S. officials only express desire to reactivate the peace process. Washington committed itself to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and it should implement that," the radio said.

It said that Israeli statements accepting Damascus' demands that peace talks restart from the point where they left off was not enough and that the Israelis should declare their readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan.

"Although some Israeli officials said the talks with Syria would resume from the point where they left off, they raised doubts about Rabin's pledge of full withdrawal from the Golan to the (pre-war) June 4, 1967 lines," the radio said.

"It is important that the Israelis renew their commitment to the Rabin pledge and the land-for-peace principle because the correct start leads to correct conclusion," the radio added.

**Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ADMINISTRATOR**

**NATURE OF WORK.** The Administrator is appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund. The Administrator is the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund and has full charge and control of the operation and maintenance of the Fund, including its Member Home Loan Program; is the Administrator of the CNMI's Group Health and Life Insurance Program; and is the executive head of the Workers' Compensation Commission.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. The Administrator is the Chief Executive Officer of the Retirement Fund, Workers' Compensation Commission and Group Health and Life Insurance Program. The Administrator is responsible for the proper and efficient administration, enforcement and implementation of all rules and regulations of the Fund and component programs;
2. The Administrator is responsible for keeping the Board advised on the needs of the Fund;
3. The Administrator is responsible for keeping all books, records, files and accounts of the Fund and is responsible for receiving and acting on all applications for annuities, benefits, and refunds;
4. The Administrator is responsible for the preparation of periodic reports relative to the operations of the Fund and for the issuance of the Fund's annual report.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The successful applicant should hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited United States institution in Business Administration, Finance and Accounting, Management, Public Administration, and/or other related fields, and have at least four (4) years of supervisory and management experience. The successful applicant should also have experience in the administration of public health and welfare plans, mortgage, financing, loan servicing, accounting and contract procedures, and working knowledge of modern office management techniques. Preference will be given to an applicant with a Master's Degree or other advanced degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or other related fields or equivalent relevant work experience. Preference will also be given to an applicant who has knowledge of the principles of government budgetary processes, personnel administration, contract procedures, public administration, finance, and investments, and who has working knowledge in the use and operation of computers and other modern office management methods.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE.** The compensation for this position is Seventy Thousand (\$70,000) per annum plus other benefits as mandated by law. The Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees of the CNMI Retirement Fund or otherwise as provided by law.

Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance to the Retirement Fund office on Capitol Hill on or before 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, August 13, 1999**. All submissions must be addressed to Mr. Vicente C. Camacho, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NMI Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 1247, Saipan, MP 96950. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

# Rail company fined \$2.4M for fatal crash

LONDON (AP) — A passenger train company was fined 1.5 million pounds (\$2.4 million) Tuesday after being found guilty of dereliction of duty in a collision which killed seven people.

Justice Scott Baker also criticized Great Western Trains chief executive Richard George or other executives for not appearing in court "to express personally re-

morse ... and to allay any impression of complacency that may have been conveyed to the victims, their families and the public."

Seven people died and 150 people were injured on Sept. 19, 1997, when the high-speed train from Swansea, Wales, hit a freight train near Paddington Station in west London.

Testimony at the three-day hearing indicated the passenger train had gone through a red light, and an automatic warning device in the cab was not working.

Baker said the train, which had a locomotive at each end, should have been turned around before heading to London to insure that the driver had a working warning device "Those who travel on high

speed trains are entitled to expect the highest standard of care from those who run them.

Great Western Trains failed to meet that standard and in my judgment they failed to meet it by a greater extent than they have been prepared to admit," Baker said.

The fine was the largest ever imposed in Britain for violations of the Health and Safety Act.

The company later issued a statement expressing "our extreme regret at the loss of lives and injury in this appalling tragedy.

Whilst working within the rules, we have accepted there was a serious breach of the health and safety laws by failing to do all we reasonably could to avoid risk."

## To reduce prison crowding Russia to release 300,000 inmates

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia plans to release as many as 300,000 inmates over the next 18 months as part of a plan to reduce chronic prison overcrowding, the Justice Minister said Tuesday.

Russia has more than 1 million inmates, giving it one of the largest prison populations in the world. The prisoners are packed into tiny cells and diseases such as tuberculosis spread unchecked.

Justice Minister Pavel Krashenninikov said the releases should range from 200,000 to 300,000 and would be spread over 12 to 18 months.

Parliament approved an amnesty last month that calls for the release of nearly 100,000 inmates, most of them first-time offenders convicted of less serious offenses.

"It is our task to increase the number of prisons and detention centers while reducing the number of convicts in order to create decent living conditions for them," Krashenninikov said.

"When we sentence criminals to imprisonment we should not be sentencing them to be infected with AIDS, TB or other deadly diseases," he said.

## Group backs call for memorial to Roma

BERLIN (AP) — A human rights group has joined calls for Germany to build a memorial to Roma, or gypsies, killed by the Nazis, following parliament's approval of a memorial to Jewish Holocaust victims.

The private, Berlin-based International League for Human Rights said in a statement Monday that Germans should "not repress this part of their history and forget the victims."

Germany's Roma, led by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, have for years urged Germany to remember the some half-million Roma killed in the Holocaust.

Their push intensified after parliament last month voted in favor of building a national Holocaust memorial dedicated to the 6 million "murdered Jews of Europe," despite calls for the inclusion of other victims.

## Ex-Tory finance minister backs Blair on Europe

By Ralph Gowling  
LONDON (Reuters) — Former Conservative finance minister Kenneth Clarke said on Wednesday he would fight alongside Prime Minister Tony Blair to strengthen Britain's role in Europe.

Clarke used an article in the Times to signal the formation of a new pro-European, cross-party alliance in British politics.

His comments came less than 24 hours after Blair announced he would lead a "Britain in Europe" campaign later this year and warned that the opposition Conservatives might take Britain out of the European Union altogether if they won power again.

Clarke has been increasingly at odds with the leadership of the Conservative Party over its anti-euro stance.

The former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who lost to William Hague in a ballot to become Conservative leader after the party lost the 1997 general election, said he was in agreement with Blair's Labour government on the European single currency.

"Tony Blair and I share the view that Britain has gained enormously from its membership of the European Union, and that Britain must maintain a credible option to join the single currency - but only when the economic conditions are met," Clarke said.

In a clear swipe at Hague, he said: "Only fanatical anti-Europeans can argue that we should decide now to close off for ever the option of future membership (of the euro) - even if it is in our national interest."

Clarke, describing himself as a "patriotic" Conservative, said rejection of euro membership could prompt inward investors to rethink their strategies.

# Giuliani ridicules Hillary in her home state

By Ellen Wulforst  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Reuters) — New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani raised money for his U.S. Senate bid in Hillary Rodham Clinton's home state on Tuesday and ridiculed the first lady, his likely opponent, for setting her sights on a political office in New York, where she has never lived.

At a news conference outside the mansion where the Clintons lived when President Clinton was governor, Giuliani declined to answer questions about a local Arkansas issue, saying,

"Right now I'm just here listening," a mocking reference to the first lady's so-called "listening tour" of New York.

"If I become a candidate in Arkansas, that is something I will have a very strong position on," he added.

Clinton, who is considering a run for a U.S. Senate seat opening up in New York, has been conducting her "listening tour" since early July. The tour is designed for her to learn about New York issues rather than make policy statements. It is due to resume Thursday.

Giuliani, who has been quick to note Clinton has never lived or worked in New York, initially tried to paint his trip to Little Rock as just one leg of a three-day fund-raising swing through the South.

"I see it as no different as what I did last year when I went to 20 states," he insisted as he appeared under magnolia trees in sweltering heat with Arkansas Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee and Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller.

Minutes later he conceded the visit was "a combination of fun and serious politics." Asked if his

appearance was meant as a jab at Clinton, he broke into a mischievous grin.

"Oh gosh, I would never do that," said the mayor, who is widely known for his sharp tongue and prickly demeanor. "It's not in my personality to do anything like that."

By the time the news conference was over Giuliani had promised to raise the Arkansas state flag over New York's City Hall, which was accomplished by mid-afternoon.

As he introduced Giuliani, the Arkansas governor left little doubt

where he stood on the possibility that the first lady might run for the U.S. Senate seat in New York.

"He has never been here before. He has never worked here. He's never lived here. Today he will be announcing his candidacy for some major significant political office in Arkansas, or so we're told," Huckabee said in jest.

Giuliani, who is not running for office in Arkansas, raised \$40,000 at a Little Rock event, aides said. The entire five-stop trip was expected to raise \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Aides said the trip was also a

## Animal rights activists vow to dog Gore campaign

By Alan Elsner  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — As if he did not have enough troubles, U.S. Vice President Al Gore has gained a new opponent - animal rights activists who say he is condemning millions of animals to die in cruel and unnecessary tests.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the largest animal rights group in the United States, launched a television campaign against Gore on Tuesday, accusing him of sponsoring a programme to test the toxicity of some 2,000 chemicals on animals.

as well as newspapers in Gore's home state of Tennessee and in New Hampshire, which next February will stage the first primary of the presidential campaign.

It also unveiled a television spot featuring actress Bea Arthur, ridiculing Gore for past missteps and accusing him of condemning millions of innocent creatures to death.

"He actually wants to poison and kill millions of them, just to prove things like turpentine and rat poison are dangerous. Didn't we already know that?" Arthur says in the commercial.

The group also has taken to following Gore around on the campaign trail with an activist dressed up as a six-foot (two metres) tall "Gorey bunny."

Gore spokesman Chris Lehane said Gore was supporting a programme devised by the Environmental Protection Agency that

aimed to discover the effect that some 2,000 different chemicals had on humans, especially children.

"We just don't know how dangerous these chemicals are and we need to find out so that we can protect our citizens and our children," Lehane said.

"We respect the activists for their beliefs but we think we are acting for the greater good," he said.

The PETA campaign is the latest example of how even a relatively small group of activists devoted to a single cause can embarrass political candidates and impact campaigns.

In June Gore's formal speech announcing his presidential candidacy was marred by a small group of heckling AIDS activists who accused him of conspiring with the pharmaceutical industry to deny affordable drugs to South Africans infected with HIV.

## Second Anniversary Mass



We, the family of the late **ALFRED EARL HOCKETT JR.**, would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 2nd Anniversary of passage unto eternal life of our beloved.

Mass will be offered at 6:00 am, Mt. Carmel Church from July 27 to July 31. And on August 1, mass will be at St. Jude Church, 6:00 am. On August 2 to August 4, mass will be at Mt. Carmel, 6:00 am. On the final day, August 4, breakfast will be served behind the church after the mass.

Please join us - The Family

## High-tech donors favor George W.

By Thomas Ferraro  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Though Democratic Vice President Al Gore claims to have helped create the Internet, Republican foe George W. Bush is the one raking in the most money from people in the high tech industry, according to a preliminary review of campaign financial records.

During the first six months of this year, Bush, the Texas governor who is the Republican presidential front-runner, received \$380,200 in donations from individuals in the computer industry, more than double that of Democratic front-runner Gore with \$177,950.

Gore raised only about \$11,000 more from the industry than former Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey, his only challenger for the party nomination. Bradley got \$166,975.

The Centre for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan group that tracks campaign donations, examined contributions to presidential contenders from individuals and political action committees linked to high-tech firms.

Gore and Bradley decline PAC money. Bush accepts it.

Federal law forbids companies from making contributions to candidates. But their political actions committees may do so. Individual contributions are limited to \$1,000. PAC donations may not top \$5,000.

According to reports filed with the Federal Election Commission on July 15, Bush was the top overall fund-raiser for the first half of this year, \$37.3 million. Gore was second, \$19.6 million, followed by Bradley, \$11.7 million.

The centre said it found that Bush's top high-tech donors included members of his newly created Information Technology Advisory Council.

The council, which will advise Bush on technology issues and recruit industry leaders into his campaign, includes executives from Dell Computer Corp., Texas Instruments, Inc., Microsoft Corp. and EMC Corp.

### Death & Funeral Announcement

**Juan McGuiness Seman**  
"Juan Nellie"  
Born on April 15, 1918  
was called to his eternal rest on July 23, 1999  
at the age of 81 years.

**PRE-DECEASED BY:**  
Spouse: Esperanza Taman Seman  
Parents: Vicente Parung Seman  
          Jacoba "Nellie" Igiton - McGuiness Seman  
Brothers: Felipe McGuiness Seman  
          Joaquin McGuiness Seman  
          Odorico McGuiness Seman

**SURVIVED BY:**  
Children: Visitacion T. Olopai (David, Pasqual, Alex, & Peter)  
          Maria T. Seman (Michael, Matthew, Mark, Murphy, & Bonnie)  
          Vicente T. (Miriam) Seman (Miriam, Arnold, Marvin, Jesse, & Leona)  
          Margarita S. Johnson (Makia, Butch, & Hope)  
          Bernadita Seman (Vicente) Villagomez (Keisha, Shawn, Eireng, & Benji)  
          Juanita S. Malone (Reyna, Ponce, Patrick, Samantha & Michael)  
          Anthony T. Seman (Gordon & Elvira)  
          Joseph T. (Susan) Seman (Andrew, John Jacob, Luisa, Nathaniel James)  
          Hope T. Seman

**Sisters & Brother:**  
Lucia Seman Iriarte (Lorenzo)  
Ramona Seman Chong (Jose)  
Jose McGuiness Seman (Margarita)

Additionally survived by numerous Great-Grand, Great-Grand, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins, & Friends.

Nightly rosary is being held at the residence of his son Mr. & Mrs. Vicente T. Seman at Chalan Laulau. **His remains will be taken from CHC Morgue to Kristo Rai Church for final viewing on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 8:00 a.m. Mass will take place at 10:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Burial will follow immediately at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.** The family cordially invites everyone to join them for lunch at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Vicente T. Seman at Middle Rd., Chalan Laulau, behind Chamolinian Mart following the interment.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated

Si Yuus Maase Ginen I Familia

# YAS Signs System

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

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

# Business & Trade

## Thai economy on the rebound

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — Thailand's economic indicators for June should underscore the country's emergence from the Asian crisis, but analysts say external shocks could still deal a blow to recovery.

The Bank of Thailand will release its June economic data Friday and economists forecast a jump up in imports to meet a resurgence in local demand and for re-export.

According to preliminary data from Thailand's Customs Department, imports rose 25.8 percent year-on-year in June. In absolute terms, it was \$ 4.63 billion — a

huge jump on \$ 3.55 billion in May.

Although analysts are waiting for the more official central bank figures for confirmation, they told Dow Jones Newswires that the rise suggests an upturn in economic activity.

"An increase in imports is a healthy sign that domestic demand is on the mend," said Peter Van Der Schaft, a regional economist at ING Barings in Hong Kong.

After two years of deep recession, local demand is beginning to return as shown by growth in new vehicle and retail sales.

The government's stimulus

package, including off-budget spending of 53 billion baht (\$ 1.47 billion) and tax cuts, is trickling down into increased domestic consumption after the worst recession in decades, analysts say.

Most economists now forecast Thailand's economy, as measured by gross domestic product, will grow by at least 2 percent this year, after slumping 9.4 percent in 1998.

The government has yet to raise its official 1 percent growth target.

But a devaluation of China's yuan could throw a spoke in the wheels of economic recovery

by making Thailand's low-end exports less competitive compared to China. Beijing has said it won't devalue, but analysts believe it's a growing possibility.

"Thailand's economy is relatively fragile. Any external shock could put it off track," said Supavud Saicheua, head of economics at Merrill Lynch Phatra Securities in Bangkok.

Finance Minister Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda said last week a devaluation in the yuan would be the only factor likely to cause a weakening of the baht.

The baht is trading this week

at around 37.4 to the U.S. dollar — a level which the government sees as appropriate for export growth if there aren't any external shocks.

Thailand's current account surplus, which stood at \$ 930 million in April, is expected to remain stable in May and decline later this year as imports rise at a faster rate than exports.

Increased foreign direct investment and repayment of overseas debt later this year should counter any downward pressure on the balance of payments, which stood at \$ 528 million in May.

## Ford set to acquire Mazda's credit co.

**TOKYO (AP)** — Ford Motor Co.'s finance subsidiary is in final negotiations to acquire the credit arm of Mazda Motor Corp., a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Ford Motor Credit Co. the world's largest auto finance firm, has reached a "basic agreement" to buy Mazda Credit Corp. and turn the firm into a subsidiary by September, the Nihon Keizai business daily said.

Yuji Kato, a Mazda spokesman, said his company could not comment on the report.

Hiroshima-based Mazda is 33.4 percent owned by Ford of the United States. Ford is the world's second-largest automaker.

The newspaper said Ford Motor Credit plans to set up a full-fledged finance business centered on autos in Japan by acquiring Mazda's finance subsidiary.

Mazda Credit, based in the western city of Osaka, provides financing for purchases of Mazda vehicles. It had 167.1 billion yen (\$1.44 billion) in sales-financing assets as of March 1999, the report said.

## For 3rd straight month Japan vehicle production falls

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's production of cars, trucks and buses in June fell for the third straight month, registering a 2.5 percent decline from a year earlier.

Car production for last month totaled 858,095, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said Tuesday.

In the first six months of the year, output has fallen 3.3 percent on year to 4.93 million units.

For the month of June, production of passenger cars declined 1.2 percent to 265,172 units. Truck output slumped 7.9

percent to 157,261, while that of buses fell 2.5 percent to 4,331.

However, mini-car production soared 59.1 percent to 112,881, reflecting a continuing boom in that sector of the industry.

Japan's automobile output has been falling all year amid poor sales and declining exports.

For the first six months of the year, vehicle demand fell 0.2 percent to 3.04 million, and exports are estimated to have fallen 5 percent, the association said.

Production fell in June at all

of Japan's top five carmakers. Ailing Nissan Motor Co., which this year received a massive capital injection from France's Renault, recorded a particularly steep fall.

Nissan's output dropped 18.3 percent to 112,734 units. Production at Japan's largest automaker, Toyota Motor Corp. fell 3.8 percent to 265,940.

Mitsubishi Motor Co. production fell 8.5 percent to 86,919, while that at Honda Motor Co. dropped 4.3 percent to 106,163. Mazda Motor Corp. output fell 5.0 percent to 68,651.

## Volkswagen 'cautious' on '99 profit

**WOLFSBURG, Germany (AP)** — Volkswagen AG remains cautious for its outlook for 1999, despite a rise in sales and profits for the first half of the year.

The company late Monday announced a sales increase of 13 percent to 74.3 billion marks (\$ 40.5 billion/38 billion euros) for the first six months, compared to 65.9 billion marks (\$ 36 billion/33.7 billion euros) in the same period of 1998.

Profits stood at 845 million marks, up 1.7 percent from 831 million marks (\$ 435 million/426 million euros) last year.

Still, the company gave little hope of continued success for the full year, sticking by its February prediction that it will be difficult to improve on 1998 earnings. At that time, Volkswagen cited worries about its Latin American and Asian markets.

"Despite the good developments in sales and earnings in the first half of the year, we continue to be cautious in our outlook for the full year 1999," Volkswagen said Monday. It did not specify any forecast for the year.

## Russia destroys CDs in piracy fight

**By Adam Tanner KHMETEVO, Russia (Reuters)** — Russian authorities destroyed nearly half a million illegal computer CDs on Tuesday in a rare public display of action against the rampant piracy of computer and music discs.

Yet even as a massive bulldozer crushed pirated copies of popular programmes such as computer software giant Microsoft's Windows 98, a Moscow outdoor market continued to offer pirated CDs for about \$2.

"Of course, this action does not mean that we can eliminate piracy in one day," said Maria Pichakhchi, a Microsoft spokeswoman who watched officials crush and bury discs at a remote

garbage dump about 60 km (37 miles) from central Moscow.

"But it does show that discs seized by the police are indeed being destroyed."

Experts say about 90 percent of Russia's software and music CDs, and about the same amount in video sales, are unauthorised.

Despite years of promises from Russian officials, they appear to have made scant progress in fighting the problem.

Andrei Trofimov, deputy head of the Interior Ministry's new division fighting high-tech crimes, said Tuesday's action was evidence of a better-focused fight against piracy.

"The approach is now different," he said. "We used to handle

this through the department of economic crimes, which looked at not only fake computer software but also toothpaste and soap."

"Now it's easier because we have a narrower focus."

Officials said they were now concentrating on underground factories and distribution points and had seized the pirated discs destroyed on Tuesday during a big operation in mid-June.

Alexei Sidorov, an expert with the Russian Anti-Software Piracy Association, which is funded by software manufacturers, said about 1.5 million fake discs, costing 25 to 45 cents each, were manufactured in the Moscow area every month.

Many contain thousands of dol-

lars' worth of software by offering many different programmes on one CD.

Such rampant piracy translates into millions of dollars in lost sales. Pichakhchi said Microsoft made \$37 million in Russian sales last year, a number which would have been 10 times bigger had all software users paid full price.

Even though Russian officials say they want to stamp out piracy, city-regulated markets continue to feature pirated CDs.

"If you close a market in one place...it will crop up in a different place because there is such a high demand for the product," said Inessa Grikurova, marketing manager for the Business Software Alliance.

## Cadillac debuts new DeVille

**ROCHESTER, Michigan (AP)** — Even as luxury car sales have boomed with a thriving economy, foreign automakers have steadily eroded Cadillac's U.S. market share like rust on a junked Coupe de Ville.

As the luxury division of General Motor Corp. showed off its newest model Tuesday, questions persisted about the No. 1 automaker's ability to restore a nameplate that many affluent driv-

ers still associate with the finned ludo-barges of the '50s and '60s.

"As their market share declines, the task of rebuilding it becomes more and more difficult," said independent analyst Susan Jacobs.

"Cadillac's not accustomed to getting lost in the crowd, which is what it faces in today's luxury car market."

Cadillac's recent efforts to lure crowds of younger buyers to its showrooms have not been success-

ful: Sales of the imported Catera entry-level sedan have been a disappointment, while demand for the larger Seville, redesigned for the '98 model year, was down 23 percent in the first half of this year.

Its late entry in the luxury sport utility vehicle segment, the Escalade, is little more than a gussied-up GMC Denali with a larger price tag. GM executives admit they underestimated the demand for big-ticket SUVs.

## More tourists visiting HK

**HONG KONG (AP)** — A total of 817,070 tourists visited Hong Kong in June, up 7.7 percent from the same month last year, the Hong Kong Tourist Association announced Tuesday.

It was the 12th consecutive month of growth reported by the Hong Kong tourist industry, which was badly hit by the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

# US House supports Clinton on China trade renewal

**By Donna Smith WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — The U.S. House (of Representatives) Tuesday backed President Bill Clinton's decision to renew China's trade privileges for another year despite concerns about human rights and spying allegations.

Lawmakers voted 260-170 to continue for a year what is now called Normal Trade Relations (NTR) and used to be called Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trade status.

Clinton said continued trade with China would help the U.S. economy as well as the economies of Taiwan and Hong Kong and support economic and social reforms in China.

World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Business groups have been telling lawmakers that severing normal trade ties with China would end that process, hurt U.S. interests in Asia, invite retaliation and cut U.S. companies off from the huge Chinese market.

Motorola Chairman and Chief Executive Chris Galvin said the vote sent a strong signal of support for trade with China that could help restart stalled talks on China's WTO bid.

"We think it is quite positive because the vote is largely the same in numbers as it was last year," he told Reuters in an interview.

The House vote showed strong bipartisan support, with Democrats voting 110-98 and Republicans voting 150-71 to back the president and continue NTR. The one independent in the House voted to revoke China's NTR status.

U.S.-Chinese talks have been on hold since NATO bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in May. China has rejected U.S. explanations that the bombing was an accident.

U.S. trade officials hope talks will resume in September. If the two sides reach agreement, the White House has said it will ask Congress

to end the annual renewal process and give China permanent NTR status.

Groups citing Beijing's record on human rights, nuclear technology proliferation and alleged theft of secrets from U.S. nuclear research facilities have urged Congress to revoke NTR.

The coveted trade status gives China the same low tariff access to U.S. markets as nearly every other country.

Exceptions include Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea, Serbia and Montenegro. Other countries, such as Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan, are subject to U.S. trade sanctions.

Representative Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican who sponsored the measure rejected by the House, argued that the House should ignore the pleas of U.S.

## First Amended NOTICE OF EXECUTION SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 26, 1999, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, to satisfy a Judgment and Order of Foreclosure entered August 28, 1998, in favor of Plaintiff, Defendant, less than interest in and to the following real property situated in Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below:

Lot/Tract No. 005 H 11, containing an area of 949 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on and described in DWG No. 005 H 11, Document No. 696, in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

- Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be on Friday, August 6, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at the two-story building situated on subject premises, Susupe Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, near the east boundary of Mt. Carmel.
- Inspection of Property.** The sale property is located in Susupe Village, Saipan. Failure of the bidder to inspect the property will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by the bidder.
- Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.
- Conduct of Sale, a RESERVE.** The sale will be held with a reserve. Disclosure of the reserve price on the property offered will be at the sole discretion of the undersigned.
- BIDS.** Bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed. The highest of such advance bids will be the opening bid for the property. Advance bids may be submitted in writing and delivered to Auctioneer, Pacific Mediation Center, Post Office Box 508CK, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery or error in delivery of bids.
- DISPUTES.** The undersigned may rescind any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
- DEPOSIT.** Immediately after a sale is consummated the successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of RICHARD W. PIERCE, Attorney at Law, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check, if the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and may again offer the property for sale.
- MEMORANDUM OF SALE.** If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the property is struck at auction.
- Court Approval Required.** Every property sale is subject to approval by the Court. The Auctioneer and Plaintiff make no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval shall be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when Court approval is granted.
- Rights and duties of Plaintiff.** Plaintiff will have the following rights and duties: (1) To withdraw any or all of the properties listed in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) To request an adjournment of the sale, without notice, at any time before any specific property is sold; and (3) To offer the property listed in any order it may choose, the exercise of either of which will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.
- Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 24th day of June 1999:

/s/JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer

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**\$16,000**  
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 Call Maria at 288-6471 or Gina 288-1720 for more info.

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 Spacious 2BR Unit Located Across Shell Dandan, 24 hr Water, Newly Renovated Quiet Area, A / C, Furn / Semi - Furn  
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 \$675.00 a month excluding utility  
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## PSS . . .

Continued from page 1

for special education, pre-school, elementary and secondary students of the Commonwealth who reside beyond a reasonable distance from the school they are attending.

Some members of BOE have earlier proposed to charge the students for bus services and payment deposit for the use of books. The proposal is to let the education agency generate some funding if the local government could not give PSS its needed funding for the next school year.

Conception had earlier clarified that students living a distance

greater than 1.5 miles from their school of attendance shall receive free public transportation, as resources permit.

She pointed out that nothing in the board policy shall be construed to prevent students from receiving free transportation if they live than 1.5 miles from their school and the resources are available.

However, PSS will be imposing penalties for students who are found guilty of damaging the PSS transportation facility.

PSS has warned the students who are vandalizing the school buses to refrain from doing so.

Violators are responsible to pay for damages or destruction made to the bus.

## Garment . . .

Continued from page 1

migration documents, including an official entry permits, to wit: the employment contracts of (30 Chinese workers) when they knew or should have known that the documents were false, forged, counterfeit, altered or tampered with."

The prosecutor added that the defendant on the same period illegally deducted the salaries of those workers.

Based on reports, Linadja was employed by the company as an oiler and assistant engineer for its ship.

Linadja is the second Filipino who died in the CNMI less than week. The first victim died when a tire of a heavy equipment blew up and hit him on Rota last Friday. Two other Filipinos were also injured in that accident.

## Body . . .

Continued from page 1

The Variety contacted the victim's employer, but a Capt. James Stort, who is the company's operations manager, said they could not release any information.



# Sanders will retire

PONTIAC, Michigan (AP) — Barry Sanders, one of the top running backs in National Football League history, will retire, his agent told ESPN television.

David Ware said Tuesday that Sanders would issue a statement Wednesday announcing his retirement from the Detroit Lions.

According to ESPN, Sanders told his agents of his retirement plans Monday. The agents were unable to dissuade him, even with the argument that there's a chance he could break the NFL career rushing record this coming season.

ESPN said Sanders would cite his "desire to leave the game ... as

greater than his desire to play." The Lions wouldn't confirm or deny the report, which comes as veterans are scheduled to report to camp Thursday.

There have been reports that Sanders was unhappy with the Lions, but Sanders has not spoken publicly.

The Lions have won only one playoff game in Sanders' 10 seasons in Detroit. They have had two 5-11 seasons sandwiched around a 9-7 record in 1997 that earned a wild-card spot in the playoffs.

Although Sanders hasn't spoken publicly this offseason, oth-

ers have expressed the depth of his frustration.

"He's sick of them (the Lions)," his father, William Sanders, said in May. "He's sick of losing."

Sanders, 31, has 15,269 career rushing yards, trailing the Chicago Bears' Walter Payton by 1,457 yards.

# Diamondbacks duo lift red hot Blue Jays

CHICAGO, (Reuters) - The torrid Toronto Blue Jays used their Diamondbacks connection Monday to beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3 in 11 innings for their ninth victory in 10 games.

Tony Batista homered off Bob Howry with two out in the top of the 11th for the run that made a winner again of reliever John Frascatore (6-0).

ter regular shortstop Alex Gonzalez was lost for the season due to injury. "He's been our All-Star since the trade," said Toronto reliever Paul Quantrill, who yielded the game-tying hit in the eighth.

"There's no one on this team that's as valuable as Tony." Frascatore allowed three hits over two scoreless innings for the win, and outfielder Shawn Green extended his hitting streak to 24 games for Toronto (56-46), which holds a 1-1/2 game lead over Boston in the American League wild card race.

an 12-game lead over the second-place White Sox in the weak American League Central Division.

The Indians, who were swept by the American League-leading Yankees last weekend, held a team meeting before the game.

The amount of the fine will be determined later by a Women's Tennis Association committee.

## Angry Spirlea erupts after loss

PALO ALTO, California (Reuters) — After losing a sloppy 6-4 6-4 first-round match to American Chanda Rubin at the \$500,000 Bank of the West Classic on Monday, temperamental Romanian Irina Spirlea slammed a ball in the crowd, hitting a spectator and possibly earning a \$1,000 fine.

Spirlea stormed off the grounds at Stanford University without talking to the media and was written up by chair umpire Lynn Welch for ball abuse.

The 25-year-old Spirlea - remembered for bumping into Venus Williams at a changeover during their 1997 U.S. Open semifinal - blew her top after squandering a 3-0 lead in the second set of her match against Rubin. Spirlea, who was once ranked number seven, has not won a title in 14 months and has fallen to number 21.

"I can't say I've ever had an opponent do that in a first-round match," said Rubin, an eight-year pro. "I can't say I remember having that happen."

both acquired from Arizona last month in a trade for Dan Plesac. White Sox pitchers had retired 10 consecutive Blue Jays before shortstop Batista belted the first pitch over the left-center field wall, for his 13th homer since coming to Toronto.

In Cleveland, the Cleveland Indians used three RBI from Jim Thome and a strong effort from starter Dave Burba to end a season-high five-game losing streak with a 6-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers.

At Tampa Bay, Bobby Witt (6-6) pitched his second shutout of the season and Fred McGriff hit a pair of homers as the Devil Rays snapped a five-game losing streak with a 7-0 victory over Anaheim, which has lost 11 straight.

## Cougars...

Continued from page 28

Tanapag. And Saturday Tanapag showed the Hoosiers how to stay ahead in the game. Tanapag is currently in third place at 3-1. In fourth and not far behind is the Hoosiers are 2-1.

11 points each. In second quarter Tanapag pulled slightly ahead when they outscored CK 21-15.

But the fiery CK team continued to fight back. In third quarter Tanapag scored 23, CK fought for 23 (points). Not one to give up the CK boys gave their best showing in the fourth when they toe-to-toe with their brothers from Tanapag. And at the end of the final quarter Tanapag added 40 points to their game, CH Hoosiers scored 39, for a final, 104-88 ballgame.

## SSA...

Continued from page 28

"I hope when the new officers come in they can work hand-in-hand with the Sports and Recreation so they can have a better working relation for the usage of the softball field," added Torres.

The Saipan Softball Association remains a viable organization but will elect new officers to steer it into the new millennium.

"We will be calling for an open election. Hopefully there will be a lot of interested people to come in and take over," said Torres.

thing different. I want to see more parents getting involved and I think by creating a Tee-Ball league we will see them. It's time to create something for the very young children," said Torres.

"I've been dealing with the adults for a long time, now, it's time for the kids."

men's softball team brought back fills Torres with pride. But, it also was a frustrating one.

"The players were not even recognized by our local government leaders nor was it recognized by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association," said Torres.

## IVYBL... Continued from page 28

Leading scorers:	Name	Team	GP	Pts.	Ave.
	Gyles Ruloked	Cougars	4	145	36.3
	Xavier Omar	Tanapag	3	89	29.6
	Maynard San Nicolas	Tanapag	3	78	26.0
	Jeremiah Guerrero	Tanapag	3	76	25.3
	Anthony Pangelinan	Hoosiers	3	61	20.3
	Stanly Tuwun	SV Suns	4	75	18.7
	Ray Mafnas	Breeze	4	66	16.5
	Larry Mendoza	Hoosiers	3	45	15.0
	Allison Kaipat	Enforcers	4	58	14.5
	Melvin Manibusan	Hoosiers	3	42	14.0
	Paul Magcalas	SV Suns	4	52	13.0
	Sandy Castro	MTC	2	25	12.5
	Greg Blas	Regulators	3	37	12.3
	Leeroy Kani	Tanapag	3	37	12.3
	Jang Jun Ho	MTC	2	24	12.0

## SEDA... Continued from page 28

Team	Win	Lose	Team	Win	Lose
Q's Virgin Widow	37	23	Figueroa's Yahoos	27	33
RCA Duffers	36	24	Bud's Bunnies	25	35
Figueroa's Ruzkies	34	26	Mixed Doubles-league		
Tomokane's Kamakazi	33	27	Bong & Fina	47	13
MDX Pointers	31	29	Ronnie & Jean	28	17
Bud's Most Wanted	28	32	Jeff & Elvie	35	25
Shooters	27	33	Vidal & Paula	26	19
DAP Pin Throwers	26	34	Trina & Melvin	33	27
Angus Beef Eaters	22	38	Danny & Cristy	27	33
Don's FT Untamed	21	39	Kio & Bret	25	35
D-league			Joanne & Derence	25	35
LL Hse Bull Hitters	39	21	Irvin & Claudine	23	37
Oleai Magic Target	29	31	Jesse & Dawna	11	49

How much will it take to build a new softball field? "A softball field is not expensive. Keeping kids involved and busy with softball is a whole lot cheaper than having to pay the social and property losses they will cause should they take the wrong path," said Torres.

"Right now the only thing lacking at the Dandan site are the light fixtures," added Torres.

According to Torres NMASA needs to do a better job.

"Take a look back to the 1998 Micronesian Games. They still haven't resolved the conflict about the controversial 'sharing of the gold medal' between NMI and Guam," said Torres. "NMASA is suppose to be the sports body for CNMI."

"We have proven that SSA is a well run organization," said Torres.

Advice for the next SSA president, Torres says. "Be open-minded. It's devotion. It takes a lot of time. You don't just go in there and sit down just because you're the President. There's a lot of work a lot of running around. As President you get to do all the 'dirty work,'" adds Torres. "Keep those sponsors, the association cannot survive without them," said Torres. "I am very, very grateful for all the sponsors. There are to many to mention at this time."

Will he ever come back to the head of the association? "Honestly, no. I have to take care of other things," said Torres.

Torres created one of the best softball associations anywhere in the Pacific Region and quite possibly anywhere in the civilized world, his successor's job will be difficult but, not impossible.

"We started from the bottom, from scratch," said Torres.

What got the association to be a success, Torres adds. "Any organization that have members who are able to cooperate and work within the rules will succeed. And we've always tried to be consistent with all our decisions."

"It's time for me to do some-

# Home run race continues

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Kirk Rueter pitched eight strong innings outdueling Kent Bottenfield and overcoming Mark McGwire's 37th homer of the season, as the San Francisco Giants defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 2-1.

In Montreal, Terry Mulholland came within an out of his first complete game in two years and hit a two-run single as the Chicago Cubs stopped a four-game losing streak.

Danny Bautista, a late replacement for Preston Wilson in the lineup, had two hits including a key two-run single in Wolf's disastrous first. Alex Fernandez (5-6) won for the first time in three starts, and the Marlins beat the Phillies for the first time since their first meeting on April 9.

Rueter (9-5), who struck out a career-high 10, allowed one run on three hits Tuesday and his only walk was an intentional pass to McGwire. He did not allow a hit after the third inning and retired the last 16 batters he faced.

Glenallen Hill went 2-for-3 with a homer and two RBIs as the Cubs won for just the fourth time in their last 11 games.

Mulholland (6-6), who needs one more win to reach 100, won his second straight start after going 1-5 in his previous nine.

Wolf (5-2) lost his second straight after winning his first five big league decisions.

The Giants scored twice in the sixth on a run-scoring groundout by Barry Bonds and an RBI infield single by Ellis Burks.

Dustin Hermanson (3-10), who hasn't won in 14 starts since May 8, allowed four runs and six hits in six innings. Montreal has lost 12 of 15.

Pirates 5, Mets 1

In New York, Al Martin hit two solo homers, including one to lead off the game, and Kris Benson made it hold up with his first career complete game.

Bottenfield (14-4), trying to become the first 15-game winner in the NL, allowed two runs on six hits in seven innings. He had won his previous five decisions.

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, the Florida Marlins scored six runs in the first inning off rookie Randy Wolf and ended their six-game losing streak against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Brant Brown also hit a solo homer for the Pirates, who stopped the Mets' season-high six-game winning streak and won for just the fourth time in their last 18 games at Shea Stadium.

## 49ers sign Phillips

STOCKTON, California, (Reuters) — Troubled running back Lawrence Phillips, who rejuvenated his football career in NFL Europe with the Barcelona Dragons, signed a two-year deal with the San Francisco 49ers on Monday. Phillips signed a two-year, \$1.75 million deal.

## Sampras wins easily at Mercedes-Benz Cup

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pete Sampras put on a 54-minute display of power tennis, dispatching 17-year-old rookie Phillip King 6-1, 6-2 in the Mercedes-Benz Cup.

"This is a great opportunity and I don't intend to screw it up," Phillips said at a news conference at the 49ers training camp.

"We're excited about it," 49ers general manager Bill Walsh said. "We're very hopeful it will be a long-term relationship."

Sampras, the No. 2 seed and world's second-ranked player, served six aces and gave up just 10 points on his serve. His biggest serve was a 132 mph (212 kph) ace in the third game of the first set Tuesday.

"I thought he was going to ace me on every point," said King, who was making his ATP Tour debut. "It's like trying to beat up on an iron man. Nothing moves him."

Pirates 5, Mets 1

In New York, Al Martin hit two solo homers, including one to lead off the game, and Kris Benson made it hold up with his first career complete game.

Earlier, the Niners announced the signing of defensive tackle Reggie McGrew, their first-round pick in the 1999 draft, to a seven-year, \$7.4 million contract.

King had his only two break points on Sampras' serve in the final game of the match. After King's backhand winner down the line for the second break point, Sampras responded with a forehand winner behind the teen-ager.

"There wasn't much I could do when he hits a winner," King said. "It didn't really matter that I hit five great shots in the last game."

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, the Florida Marlins scored six runs in the first inning off rookie Randy Wolf and ended their six-game losing streak against the Philadelphia Phillies.

San Francisco, Buffalo and Green Bay were interested in signing Phillips after he set single-season NFL Europe records with 1,021 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns.

Sampras set up his first match point on a leaping smash. His momentum carried him nearly into the umpire's chair before he caught himself.

King had the sellout crowd cheering when he returned a hard forehand at Sampras' feet for the match's second deuce. Sampras smiled and shook his head.

Senators 4, Yankees 3

In New York, Tim Lincecum hit two solo homers, including one to lead off the game, and Kris Benson made it hold up with his first career complete game.

But the 49ers intensified their pursuit when they learned their Pro Bowl running back Garrison Hearst would require ankle surgery and probably be sidelined for the 1999 season.

Then he fired his final ace to close out the first-round victory.

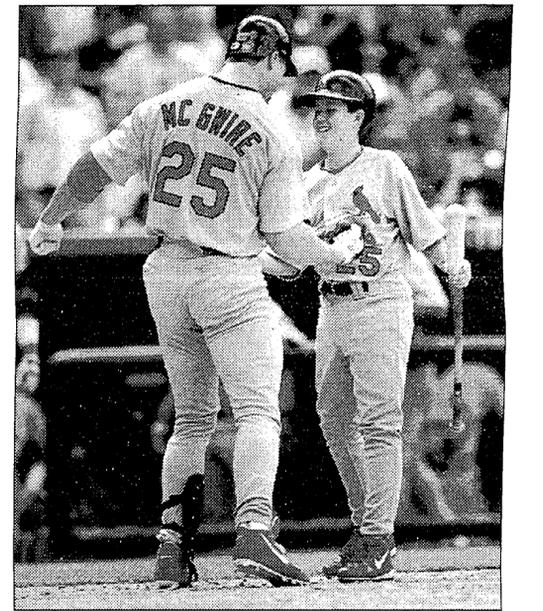
"I thought he handled himself very well and tried very hard," Sampras said of King. "He's got a good game. He's just going to get better and better as he gets bigger and stronger." Top-seeded Andre Agassi took on Jan-Michael Gambill in the late match.

Phillies 2, Marlins 6

In Philadelphia, the Florida Marlins scored six runs in the first inning off rookie Randy Wolf and ended their six-game losing streak against the Philadelphia Phillies.



Tennis greets Andre Agassi (left), Rod Laver and Pete Sampras pause for the photographers after Laver was presented a silver bowl for his tennis career before a benefit tennis match Monday, in the Westwood section of Los Angeles.



Mark McGwire is congratulated by his son, Matt, as McGwire heads back to the dugout after hitting a solo home, in this file photo.

## Senate approves bill to clean up boxing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved legislation aimed at protecting professional boxers from unscrupulous managers and promoters and cleaning up the tarnished image of the sport.

can extend longer than a year, making it more difficult to tie fighters to long-term contracts.

Fighters also would not be required to hire a manager associated with a promoter.

The bill, long sought by Sen. John McCain, was approved without opposition Tuesday. A companion bill is working its way through the House.

The legislation, named after former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, would standardize physical exams that boxers must undergo before each match and make a brain CAT scan every two years a requirement for obtaining a license.

The measure would require promoters and organizers of major boxing events to disclose more financial information and inform state boxing commissions of charges, costs and fees they take out of boxers' purses.

Fight broadcasters would not be allowed to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the boxer's manager or management company.

## Umpires rescind resignations

NEW YORK (AP) — The threatened walkout of major league baseball umpires collapsed when all of the umpires withdrew their resignations.

began to take back their resignations.

However, about one-third of the 68 major league umpires will lose their jobs anyway, because the American and National leagues already have hired 25 replacements from the minor leagues, two high-ranking baseball officials said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They turned their backs on us," said Bruce Froemming, a senior NL umpire who helped hire union head Richie Phillips in 1979.

AL president Gene Budig sent letters to nine AL umpires on Monday accepting their resignations, according to the officials.

Similar letters to as many as 13 NL umpires will be sent by NL president Len Coleman later this week, the officials said.

"Obviously they think they're going to get a better deal somewhere else."

The umpires had escalated their labor battle with baseball on July 14 by voting to resign en masse on Sept. 2. The strategy began to falter when some of the umpires

On Monday, umpires sued the AL and NL in federal court in Philadelphia, seeking a court order that would allow them to withdraw the resignations prior to the Sept. 2 effective date.

"It's not over with yet. Our contract doesn't expire until Dec. 31 so we will go on through the year and then negotiate a new deal," NL umpire Randy Marsh said.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig declined comment, spokesman Rich Levin said.

Phillips issued a statement saying "a group of very fine umpires stand very tall and will hold their heads high forever."

# SPORTS



# SSA: Torres steps down

By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff  
"Mr Softball", Saipan Softball Association President Joe Torres steps down from his post.

Torres decided it was time to relinquish the reigns he has delicately steered the past 11 years.

The Man, many associate with the game of softball itself wants someone else to have the honor of leading the well run association. It won't be easy. With hundreds maybe thousands of players, former players and fans that have taken SSA to heart, the new president will have his or her hands full.

Torres departs the association with but few things on his mind. First, there is a very big need for additional softball fields, second, he will be putting his efforts into creating a Tee-Ball League, and third NMASA needs to do a better job at assisting local sports organizations.

It has been a bittersweet journey.

Years of fighting with local government organizations in his efforts to secure additional softball

facilities have proven unfruitful, empty, a vain attempt.

"The Division of Sports and Recreation is suppose to be co-coordinator in any sports organi-

zation, but, to me It's not working out that way. It seems it (Sports & Rec) has become like an independent organization," said Torres "SSA has no softball fields of

its own," said Torres, "If we can't use the Susupe softball field we can't play. For the past five to six weeks I've been getting a lot of phone calls from people asking when the league will start. I don't want to start a league only to have them (Sports & Rec) telling us we have to 'take a break.' "

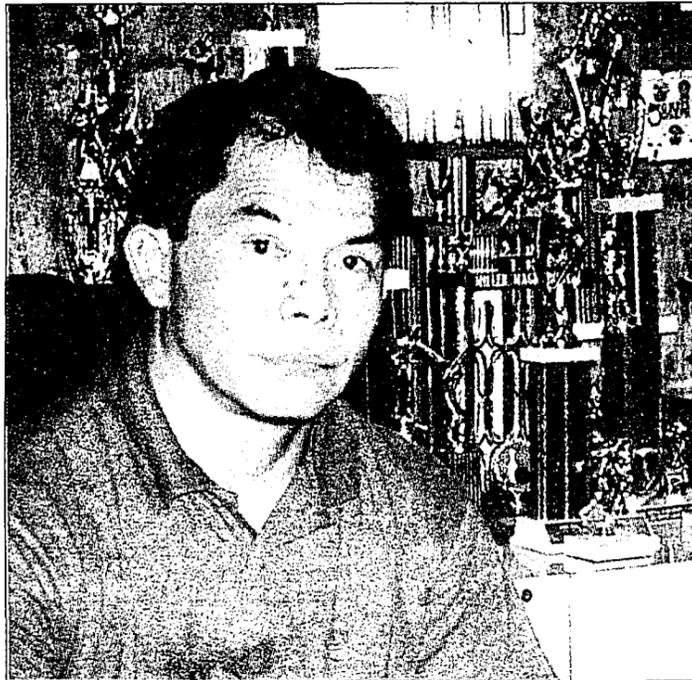
"Softball is the biggest sports organization on island. We use to be involved with the schools. From But we never got the support we needed. There are no softball fields at the schools, their sports facilities are very bad,"

points Torres.

Torres gives an example of the hardship the players face each season. "With 30 teams playing at just one softball field it'll take almost six months, playing six games nightly. And if the use of the field is hampered or temporarily delayed than you're looking at one year.

"But than where does your other programs go. The Co-ed League, Fast-pitch league, women's league. We need more fields," stress Torres.

Continued on page 26



Joe Torres has called it quits after 11 years serving as President of Saipan Softball Association (SSA). Photo by Tony Celis

## Youth Sports Calendar

<b>Islandwide Village Youth Basketball League (IVYBL)</b> Thursday 6:30 p.m. San Antonio MTC vs. Gualo Rai Panthers (Gualo Rai) Friday 6:30 p.m. Tanapag vs. Kagman	(Kagman) Monday 6:30 p.m. C. K. Hoosiers vs. DARE Regulators (Koblerville) <b>Rotary Club Youth Basketball League (RCYBL)</b> Friday 5 p.m. San Antonio Sixers vs.	Lebwel 6 p.m. San Vicente Sunrisers vs. Surf Turf (Ada Gym) Monday 5 p.m. Phenoms vs. Kagman Cougars 6 p.m. Pepsi Hi-5 vs. San Antonio Sixers
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## Cougars, Tanapag win IVYBL make-up games

By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff

**Kagman Cougars 62, Gualo Rai Panthers 46**

THE KAGMAN Cougars continue to stalk San Antonio MTC for the top spot in the Islandwide Village Youth Basketball League (IVYBL) as they (Cougars) won their third in Saturday's make-up games against the Gualo Rai Panthers, 62-46.

Super hot handed Gyles Ruluked nearly outscored the entire Panter squad with a 42 point performance. Averging 36.5 points per game, Ruluked scored 22 points in the first half, twelve in the first quarter.

For the Panthers AJ Taitano continues to improve his game. He scored a team high 13, while Royce Barcinas was one behind at 12 (points). Jerome Catella added eight and DJ Fleming chipped in with seven. George Fleming rounded of the team with six points.

Cougars scored ten points in the second quarter—all coming from Ruluked. The Cougars are now 3-1 while the Panthers are even at 2-2.

**Talaabwog (Tanapag) 104, CK Hoosiers 88**

The CK Hoosiers is a much improved basketball team as compared to their first season together, but, so has the youngsters from

Continued on page 26

## IVYBL team, individual standings

Team	Win	Lose	Pct.
San Antonio MTC	3	0	1.000
Kagman Cougars	3	1	.750
Tanapag	3	1	.750
CK Hoosiers	2	1	.666
Gualo Rai Panthers	2	2	.500
Capitol Hill Breeze	2	2	.500
Dandan Wolves	2	2	.500
San Vicente Suns	1	3	.250
DARE Enforcers	1	3	.250
DARE Regulators	0	4	.000

Continued on page 26

## SEDA league team standings

Team	Win	Lose	White Trash	29	31
A-league			Len's Guzzlers	28	32
Figueroa's Playboys	36	24	Oleai Beach Bums	27	33
Len's Bull Snipers	34	26	Len's Express	23	37
Q's Shooters	34	26	B-league Div.II		
Marpac Bud Boys	34	26	Q's Team Kagman	33	27
Don's Dart Starz	28	32	Mcgyver@mdx.com	33	27
Lite House Bulls Eye	14	46	Figueroa's Stcad Rats	32	28
B-league Div-I			Figueroa's Bad Co.	31	29
Q's Killer Bees	39	21	Lite House Hat Tricks	26	34
Round 2 FT Match Up	33	27	Don's Rookies	25	35
Enviro-Safe D'Goblins	31	29	C-league		
Lt. Hse. Diamond Stars	30	30			

Continued on page 26



Gualo Rai Panthers pose for a photo before their ballgame last week against C.K. Hoosiers. Photo by Tony Celis

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