



# Marianas Variety

News  
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## Saipan-Palau-Manila flights eyed

# NMI officials head to Manila meeting

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

REACTIVATION of the Saipan-Palau-Manila route abandoned two years ago may begin as early as December, as CNMI legislators and Aviation Task Force members are set to meet with Air Nauru and Palau officials in the Philippines next week to map out the much-awaited move, it was disclosed yesterday.

Hopes are high Air Nauru will fly at least twice a week using Boeing 737 aircraft when it starts to operate in the said route formerly serviced by Continental Micronesia, according to Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Board Chairman David Sablan who is also a member of the CNMI Aviation Task Force (ATF).

The meeting in Manila, Philippines will be on Nov. 22.

Air Nauru's move has come at an opportune time, with the urgent need for an airline to transport a growing number of passengers from Saipan and Palau to Manila and vice-versa.

The CNMI contingent for the meeting includes Sablan, ATF Chairman JM Guerrero, Rep. David M. Apatang, Rep. Manny A. Tenorio, and Commonwealth Ports Authority Board Treasurer Roman T. Tudela who will represent CPA Board Chairman Roman S. Palacios, also an ATF member.

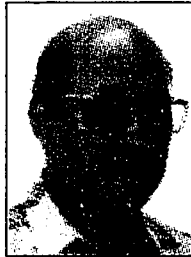
The Manila meeting is a follow-up on the exploratory discussion held here in Saipan in July,

when officials from the CNMI led by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Air Nauru and Palau agreed to push for the reactivation of the said air route.

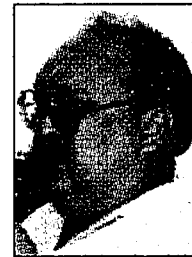
"They may start (their service) at least twice a week. I was told they might start as early as December, but I'll find out (more) when I come back from the Philippines..."

We will be meeting with top executives of Air Nauru and officials from Palau who are dead set in supporting this," Sablan said during yesterday's MVA Board meeting.

CNMI officials may also seize the opportunity to meet with ex-



David Sablan



JM Guerrero

## Teno adviser chides Senate for 'inaction' on admin bills

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

ONE OF Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's special advisers yesterday expressed disappointment that several administration bills, crucial to revitalize the economy, have remained pending at the Senate.



Dan Nielsen

Dan Nielsen, the governor's special assistant for education, cited the Free Trade Zone bill; the proposed measure requiring that only certified public accountants perform auditing services; and the tax certification bill, which provides certain incentives to investors, as among legislation that will help boost revenue collections, if enacted.

"They are still sitting at the Legislature," Nielsen said in an interview with reporters.

Nielsen also lamented that another administration bill, which will allow students to finance studies through a special loan program, may likewise gather dust at the Legislature.

The bill, which is still being drafted, is seen to address mounting problems besetting the education sector as it allows students to avail of loans at government expense, which will then be repaid upon graduation on easy terms.

"The governor hopes the Legislature will pass a Guaranteed Student Loan Program bill, and enact immediately the Board of Accountancy, Tax Certification and Free Trade Zone legislation to generate more revenues."

"This can be used to pay off the (\$80 million) deficit and then we will have... more money to spend on social and other programs," said Nielsen.

Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), in a separate interview also yesterday, said

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## Democrats assured of fair treatment in House

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) has assured that the Republican-dominated 12th Legislature will give the Democratic newcomers fair treatment.

"I think those times when minorities were being treated not equally... have been gone years ago. That's history," said Benavente. He added though that by the Republicans' sheer numbers, the Democrats can not expect



Diego T. Benavente

chairmanships.

"I don't think they expect chairmanships. Certainly they won't do that," said Benavente.

He said the Democrats—four newcomers and two incumbents—will have the "opportunity to speak on the floor and introduce legislation."

House Minority Floorleader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan) said the Democrats will attempt to reintroduce bills that had been shelved by the 11th Legislature.

"I've got bills of my own that were not acted upon, as Speaker of the House. The Vice Speaker has got plenty of bills that were not acted upon on the floor, even the House floorleader (Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo [R-Saipan]), every-

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Former Guam governor Joseph F. Ada (left) hands over souvenirs to German Ambassador to the Philippines Wolfgang Gottelmann at the opening ceremony of the Tiempón Aleman exhibit at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan Wednesday evening.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## Visitor arrivals up 20%; prospects bright for tourism recovery

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

VISITOR arrivals climbed up by almost 20 percent in October, traditionally a slow travel month, and this has been the highest monthly growth since the CNMI tourism industry got hardly hit by the Asian economic crisis.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) yesterday re-

ported a total of 40,941 visitors for October 1999, up by 19.93 percent from last year's 34,137 during the same month.

Charter flights and bigger aircraft used by Japan Airlines, Northwest Airlines and Asiana Airlines, as well as the surge in the strength of Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar fuelled the arrival growth for the first month of fiscal year 2000.

Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director, said arrival forecasts for the months of November and December will surpass the records of last year during the same periods.

MVA Board Chairman David Sablan, however, said the tourism agency should not rest on its laurels.

"All in all the arrivals look very good. It goes to show we are

doing our job properly but it's not enough. We still should concentrate on consistently increasing arrivals... The 20 percent increase (in October) is a good way to start the new fiscal year," said Sablan during yesterday's Bqard meeting.

Japan—CNMI's largest market—posted a 25 percent arrival increase from 24,753 in October 1998 to 31,045 last month. While

October has always been considered a slow travel month, direct flights statistics indicated a strong demand for the destination.

MVA said load factor from Tokyo went up by 36 percent, while the load factor from Osaka climbed by 49 percent. Moreover, 84 percent of the total Japan arrivals came directly from

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**SHOOTOUT.** Police investigators look at the bodies of three of the eight suspected robbers and kidnappers killed during a shootout near a shopping mall in Quezon City yesterday. Nine people, including a policeman, were killed in two shootouts in metropolitan Manila in a bloody start to an anti-crime campaign by the Philippines' newly appointed national police chief Panfilo Lacson.

## Japan OKs curbs to doomsday cult

**TOKYO (Reuters)** - Japan's powerful lower house of parliament Thursday passed a set of bills aimed at curbing activities of the doomsday cult accused of a 1995 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system.

The bills, expected to be enacted next month, were submitted in response to public outcries demanding the government take action against the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) amid fears it was staging a comeback.

The bills do not directly name the cult, but target activities of any group that has engaged in "indiscriminate mass-murder" in the last 10 years.

Key Aum members, including cult guru Shoko Asahara, are on trial and have been convicted in connection with various murders including the Tokyo gas attack, which killed 12 and made more than 5,000 ill.

Under the first bill, a group implicated in serious crimes could be placed under the surveillance of the Public Security Investigation Agency for up to three years and could be forced to report on its activities every three months.

The bill will also allow police and public security officials to inspect such a group's facilities at any time thought necessary. If found to have committed illegal activities, the group can be banned from acquiring land or facilities

for up to six months.

The second bill, which aims to help compensate victims of crimes committed by Aum, allows court-appointed trustees to collect assets of bankrupt groups. Aum was stripped of most of its assets in 1996 when it was liquidated by court order, but has managed to amass large funds through businesses and purchases of property in many parts of the country.

The bills also include a clause which calls for a revision every five years to address concerns that the legislation could be applied to groups other than Aum.

The government hopes to see the bills enacted in time to prevent a senior Aum member from returning to the cult after he leaves prison around late December, Kyodo news agency quoted government sources as saying.

The cult's former charismatic spokesman, Fumihiro Joyu, is currently serving a three-year prison term for perjury.

Aum said in late September it would close its branches, stop recruiting and no longer use its current name, in a move seen aimed at deflecting further opposition.

Investigation sources believe there are still about 2,000 followers of the cult, which refuses to accept responsibility for subway attack or abandon its anti-social teachings of Asahara.

## Ex-PM Sharif handed over to Pakistan police



Nawaz Sharif

**KARACHI (Reuters)** - Ousted Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif was handed over to police Thursday as the military government widened its crackdown on corruption with more middle-of-the-night raids.

Police in the port city of Karachi said they now had Sharif in custody, but would not say when he would appear in court. "He's in our custody now. He was handed over to us early Thursday morning," said a police official who asked not to be identified.

Military sources have said Sharif, who was moved to Karachi from Islamabad, may appear in court on Friday after a complaint accusing him and four others of criminal conspiracy, hijacking, kidnapping and attempted murder was filed last week.

The hijacking charge carries maximum punishment of death. During the last military regime of General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, deposed prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged on a disputed conviction of conspiring to commit a political murder.

About a dozen women from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party marched in Karachi on Thursday, calling for his release.

The protesters blocked a road and chanted "Free Sharif" and "Restore Democracy" before peacefully dispersing.

The charges were connected to an alleged attempt to divert a plane bringing military chief General Pervez Musharraf to Karachi from Sri Lanka. Hours later Musharraf overthrew Sharif.

Sharif was moved to Karachi as the military spread its anti-corruption drive, with newspapers saying another nine people were detained early on Thursday after 21 prominent politicians and business leaders were arrested on Wednesday.

Officials have said 105 people are listed as wanted for arrest, but The News newspaper reported that the National Accountability Bureau wanted to detain more than 350 people and question them on allegations of corruption or loan default.

## In illegal gambling case

# Bellas disqualifies Arriola

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

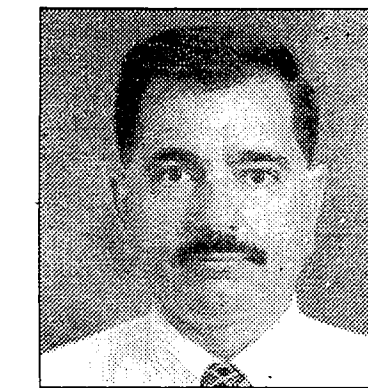
THE SUPERIOR Court yesterday issued a decision disqualifying lawyer Joseph A. Arriola from participating in the alleged illegal gambling case for conflict of interests.

Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas said Arriola is representing private clients, not the CNMI Senate and he has raised an issue on behalf of his private clients which is clearly adverse to the interests of his other client, the CNMI government.

"Therefore, under the facts of this case, the conflict is real and not merely apparent," said Bellas, adding that the court must find that such real conflict disqualifies Arriola from continuing his participation in the case.

Court records showed that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) Investigation Unit operatives and police officers raided the former Abracadabra Dive Shop in Garapan last July 3.

During the operation, businessman Cheung Ping Yin and several other persons were arrested and subsequently charged with illegal gambling activity.



Timothy H. Bellas

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch asked the court to disqualify Arriola from representing Yin and co-defendants for violation of the Government Ethics Act since the lawyer is currently employed as CNMI Senate counsel on a half-time basis.

Lynch also contended that the lawyer should be removed from the case on the basis of his participation as a member of the CNMI

Board of Parole.

Bellas ruled that it appears that the controlling issue is not whether Arriola is conflicted under the Government Ethics Act, but whether a conflict exists based on the fiduciary duties a lawyer owes in situations where the attorney represents an interest adverse to an existing client.

"It is undisputed that defendants' counsel is currently representing the CNMI Senate. It is immaterial to the ethical issues under what contractual terms that representation is occurring," Bellas said.

"It is clear that a relationship of attorney-client exists. Therefore, the next relevant inquiry is: who is Mr. Arriola's client? Is it only the CNMI Senate or the entire CNMI Government?" the judge said.

In keeping with the general purpose of the Act to define when a conflict of interest exists, Bellas explained, it specifies that the "Commonwealth government" includes, among others, the Executive and Legislative branches of the CNMI.



Joseph A. Arriola

Therefore, the judge noted, Arriola's client cannot be the CNMI Senate only, but the entire CNMI government.

Bellas stressed that such analysis does not preclude the attorney from representing the CNMI Senate against any other part of the CNMI government because there is a specific statutory exemption for him to do this.

The judge said that in this case, however, Arriola represents private clients against the CNMI.

"If the court's analysis were to

stop here, there would be a serious impact on the ability of government to function under such a narrow reading of the statute," he said.

Essentially, Bellas said, the court would be adopting the view that a mere apparent conflict is sufficient to disqualify an attorney from the type of representation involved in this case.

"Where there is legal support for this proposition, the court will not adopt such a narrow reading of the statute," he said.

With regard to the BOP issue, Bellas said it appears to the court that to disqualify Arriola on the basis of his participation as a member of the Board is a very broad and inappropriate reading of the Act.

"Of course, this would not be the case if defendants' counsel, as a BOP member, were obviously representing a client who had any business before the BOP," Bellas said.

In dealing with the CNMI government, the judge continued,

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## Heinz prefers Kagman site for a planned 2nd Saipan high school

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) has expressed preference for Kagman as site for Saipan's second high school, citing the need to plan the traffic distribution on the island.

Hofschneider, who heads the House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, said building the high school in Kagman would evenly distribute the flow of traffic in the morning, when students, as well as professionals, rush for work and school.

"We need to break out the traffic distribution. Also, there's a growing population in the south....," said Hofschneider.

The two sites being eyed for



Heinz S. Hofschneider

the second high school are Capitol Hill and Koblerville.

The legislator said the Public School System (PSS) should move away from further building schools down south, since Hopwood Junior High School (HJHS) and Marianas High

School (MHS) are already situated around that area.

Today, the CNMI State Board of Education are expected to decide on the final site for the second high school at a board meeting at the Garapan Elementary School (GES), at 6 p.m.

Hofschneider expressed confidence that the board will be able to come out with a sound decision.

"I'm sure that the board members are looking at each site's advantages and disadvantages and considering them. I know there's a lot of pressure on their part to build the second high school, the urgency is there since they have considered the PSS bonds," said Hofschneider.

Last month, BOE opted to go

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## PSS needs seven new school buses

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff

TWO to three Public School System (PSS) buses experience engine break downs on a daily basis and according to Administrative Services Officer Jess Sanchez, this situation needs immediate attention from higher-ups.

To avoid compromising the kids' safety, Sanchez said that PSS needs to acquire at least seven additional buses.

"Some buses develop mechanical problems and break down on top of the hill, which is very dangerous for all passengers," said Sanchez.

He noted that even school buses on Rota and Tinian also experi-

ence the same engine troubles.

"We also have busing problems there and we try to service them with the two skilled mechanics we have," he said.

There are many factors that contribute to the delay of bus repairs, according to Sanchez.

"One factor that I find to cause delay in getting the buses on the road is the availability of parts. There are only a few vendors on island that carry bus parts and we are only one of several agencies that compete for such parts.

"I am thankful to the Deputy Commissioner of Administration for allowing us to at least have an open account in the amount of \$1,000 for different vendors...to

readily withdraw needed parts so that our two mechanics can provide the buses immediate attention," Sanchez said.

But when it comes to bulk parts, Sanchez is said to say that it takes a little longer to acquire.

"We work with our vendor, and the vendor has to make an off island order because even the vendor doesn't stock that in their warehouse," he said.

Sanchez is optimistic that CNMI leaders would further consider the needs of the PSS busing services.

"I would like to solicit help from the executive branch and the Legislature...to assist and work

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## Federal budget negotiators give CHIP funds to CNMI

**WASHINGTON** - White House on Wednesday informed CNMI Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta that budget negotiators have agreed to continue the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through fiscal year 2004 with increases over this year's funding level.

The White House and Congress have concluded negotiations for budget appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

(Only yesterday, a budget deal was reached by the White House and the Republican-controlled Congress, as per Associated Press reports.)

According to Babauta, the massive bill they are working on contains numerous provisions — such as the CHIP decision — setting spending levels beyond the current fiscal year.

"I was very glad to hear from Mr. Jeffrey L. Farrow of the White House inter-agency group on insular affairs that our efforts in support of CHIP have been successful," says Babauta in a news release.

"And I want to congratulate the president for winning the debate on providing a health care safety net for children."

Babauta said he has for several years worked for increases in the program, which provides health care coverage for uninsured children in the CNMI.

Last year's lobbying produced a one-time increase in funding from \$118,000 to \$469,000.

This year, measures continuing the increase through fiscal year 2007 were introduced in the House and the Senate. The



Juan N. Babauta

president's budget also proposed extending the higher CHIP allotment for the CNMI.

Negotiators have apparently now agreed to accept the president's numbers. The CNMI will be eligible to receive up to \$493,900 in fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and up to \$394,900 in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Congress may vote on the omnibus appropriations bill containing the CHIP provision this week. The bill is the last major item on Congress' agenda for the year.

The CHIP program works as an add-on to Medicaid. When CNMI Medicaid funds are exhausted CNMI may use CHIP funds to continue providing health care to children (up to 19 years old).

After Medicaid and CHIP grants are used up, the CNMI is responsible for providing care to those who cannot otherwise afford it.

Babauta has been lobbying in favor of H.R. 806, introduced by Puerto Rico's Resi-

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# NMHC sells Sugar King units

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Housing Corporation has been successful with its plan to sell 51 of 52 housing units located in Sugar King, according to NMHC executive director MaryLou Ada.

Ada yesterday said that NMHC has numerous applicants that are interested in buying units and in fact the agency had just managed to "close" four houses.

"We've just closed the dead-



MaryLou Ada

line (for submission of applications) a couple or days ago, we have a lot of applicants...we're doing it (screening) by batches, interviewing them and making sure that they've completed their applications as always been our problems," said Ada in an interview.

Of the 52 units, one is not for sale as NMHC reserved it for the

police substation which is currently holding an office there. The agency was reportedly expecting to get \$3 million to \$4 million with the sale.

"It is really time consuming and it is very stressful both on the part of the applicants and on the hous-

ing officers to do all the work..." Ada said.

The four-approved applicants, Ada said, have been picked up through the lottery system.

The four families, however, she said, have not moved into the units yet because there are some reno-

vation to be done considering that the houses have been "abandoned."

"Under our program, we asked the contractor to do an assessment on how much the housing will cost in order to bring in to

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## Court notes law enforcers deviated from procedures

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court noted a significant deviation from procedures established for the seizure of evidence by authorities who conducted the raid at an alleged illegal gambling joint in Garapan.

"While the deviation may be from inexperience with the type of case involved in this matter, rather than a purposeful act of misconduct, it left a gap in the casual connection between the money, the alleged illegal activity that was taking place at the time of the 'raid', and any particular defendant," said Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas.

The Attorney General's Office Investigation Unit and police officers raided the former Abracadabra Dive Shop last July 3. The operatives arrested several persons and seized money

and alleged gambling paraphernalia.

The defendants asked the court to return their money and other items as no inventory of the things seized was made and no receipt of properties taken was issued.

Bellas issued an oral ruling last week ordering the AGO to return the money worth \$26,000 to the defendants.

Bellas in his written order issued yesterday said it is possible that the defendants, by claiming the seized funds as their own, have re-established such connection between the money, the alleged illegal gambling activity, and any defendant.

Bellas said the government has failed to submit any written authority to the court suggesting that the money seized in the case is subject to forfeiture in the event of the conviction of any of the defendants.

The judge said he is unable to find any Commonwealth statutory authority that would permit such a forfeiture based on the alleged underlying criminal activity in the case.

"It would seem that this case is distinguishable from cases in which the item seized is illegal or contraband per se," he said.

Examples of such items, he added, would include counterfeit items, illegal drugs or firearms which may not be registered in the Commonwealth.

In ordering the return of seized money, Bellas said, the government may make any record or notation of the serial numbers or take such other measures that it deems appropriate to preserve the funds as evidence in the case.

Bellas, however, denied to release the other items seized during the raid.

## Ancestral remains on the way home to Saipan, Guam soon

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A Local foundation dedicated to bringing back Chamorro ancestral remains stored in Hawaii has announced that the remains could be returned as soon as the end of this month.

Norbert Perez, Bring Our Ancestors Home Foundation president, said a "a very positive" line of communication has been established between his foundation and the Bishop Museum in Hawaii.

Perez met with Bishop Museum officials earlier this month.

Perez wanted to stage a civil protest outside the museum, but after meeting with museum officials earlier this month, he said the protest action may not be necessary.

Hawaiian attorney Eddie "Halealoha" Ayau, who is also director of the state's largest and most successful indigenous movement for the repatriation of Hawaiian ancestral remains and artifacts, helped pull the parties together for what Perez described as a meeting to "clear the air."

Perez said Ayau suggested that the Bishop Museum could and may relinquish custody of the remains to a private party or descendant. Tension has grown over the past months regarding the issue because the Govern-

ment of Guam is also trying to get the remains released after a local businessman donated a burial plot overlooking Fena Valley as a final resting spot.

Parks and Recreation Director Sonny Shelton, who is leading GovGuam's attempts to retrieve the remains, believes that Perez's attempts are futile.

But Perez said there is no law that says a government entity must be the party to take possession of the ancestral remains.

He said he is qualified and committed to get the job done.

Perez told Variety that he does not trust GovGuam to carry through on its promise to bring the remains back.

There are currently over 90 boxes at the museum with ancestral remains from both Guam and the CNMI.

Perez said he has contacted the CNMI's Historic Preservation Office, and has worked out a verbal memorandum of understanding regarding the remains that belong to the Northern Marianas.

Perez said he has also asked the U.S. military to assist in transporting the remains back to Guam because, he added, it was the federal government that allowed the desecration of ancestral gravesites in the 1920s.

He said the military's assistance would bring "atonement and closure" to the issue.

## 'Confused on public purpose'

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

SENATE Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) is drafting a proposed measure amending the law defining the extent to which the Legislature can use public funds because, he said, most lawmakers are still at a quandary on the matter.

"We are still having problems with the Department of Finance on definitions of public purposes," said Reyes, lamenting that a request to give \$100 to a CNMI athlete going to Guam for a sports competition was denied because Finance allegedly said sending the person there is "not a significant part of the community."

"We are undecided as to what

we should be doing. The (Finance) secretary has been monitoring our expenses. I guess she (Finance Secretary Lucy DLG. Nielsen) feels she is liable for our funds. So maybe we need to... make it clear in the law that she is the one who is going to be liable not us," said Reyes.

Nielsen is off-island and is not available for comment.

Under Reyes' proposal, a presiding officer will also be appointed for the House of Representatives and the Senate who will then submit travel and similar requests to the director of the Legislative Bureau. The LB head will screen the request before transmitting it to Finance.

"Once we send it to Finance

with a certification that it is for public purpose, all she (Nielsen) has to do is approve it," said Reyes. He argued that defining what is a public purpose and what is not goes beyond Nielsen's responsibility.

"That is not her job. That is the job of the Legislature," he said.

The Legislature and Finance have been at odds in the past several months over travel requests that were being turned down by Nielsen for lack of documentation and failure to settle old accounts among other reasons.

Attempting to address the problem, the Legislature set off an initiative cutting off Finance's fiscal powers over the lawmakers.

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## Reyes: Not much business sector representation in 12th legislature

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE BUSINESS sector may be up for hard times lobbying at the Legislature as the incoming one does not have enough members representing their interests, said House Ways and Means Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan).

Reyes, who worked with the private sector before he became a government official, said the 12th Legislature will have more members at the House of Representatives who used to be government employees themselves.

"The Legislature is going to be composed of a lot more of government people, people who used to work for government like educators," said Reyes.

He said only former speaker, and Representative-elect Benigno R. Fitial (R-Saipan) has business backgrounds.

"I don't know if there is any for the business sector. There is no-

body representing business interest other than Ben Fitial who came from the private sector," said Reyes.

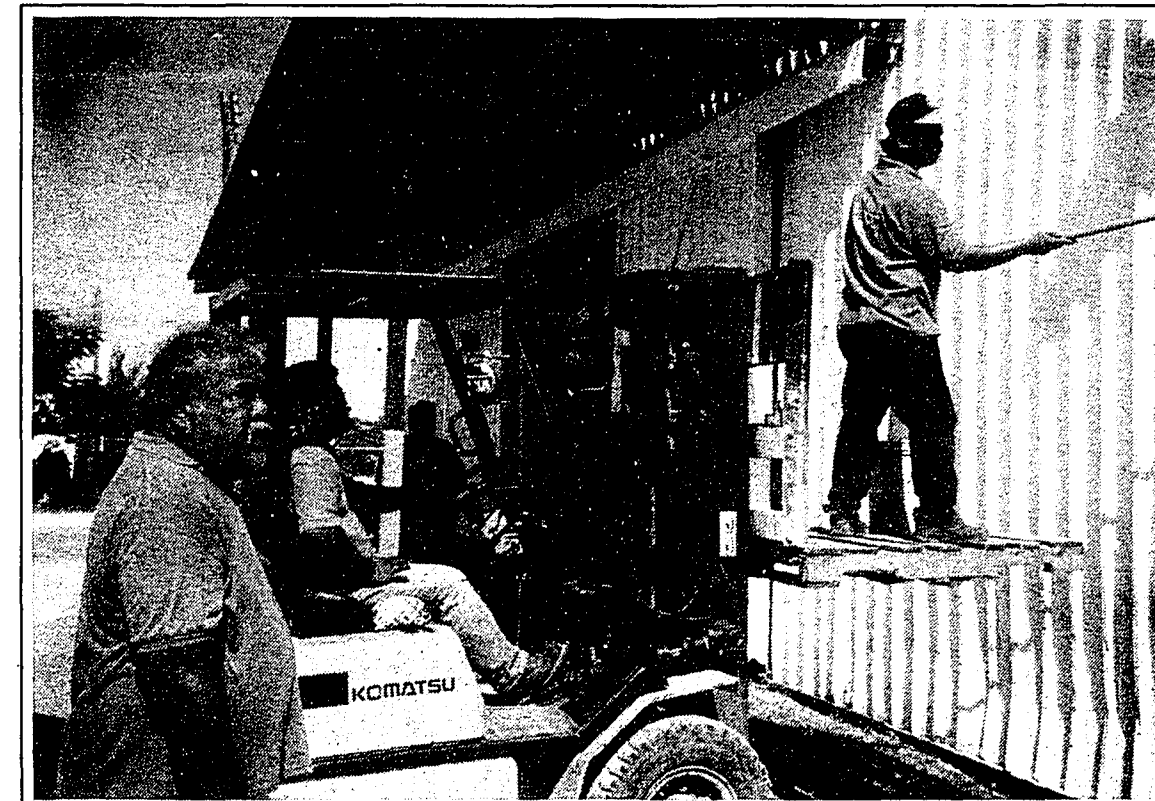
He said the "entire newcomers" are former educators, which could mean more attention will finally be given to the education sector. There is also none among incumbents who won in the elections that has a business background.

And because of this, said Reyes, "The business sector is again going to take the back seat."

Reyes lost in the elections because, he said, some members of the electorate still has the "wrong notion" about the Legislature.

Reyes said several people solicited money and goods from him during the campaign months in exchange for their vote.

He said it may still take some time before the voters may finally reach maturity.



PSS bus drivers spend the remainder of the morning painting the PSS main office in Lower Base yesterday. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## PSS building gets facelift

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff

BETWEEN dropping and picking up students, Public School System (PSS) bus drivers are making good use of their spare time—trying to improve the state of the PSS Main Building in Lower Base.

Administrative Services Officer Jess Sanchez yesterday said it's about time the almost half a century-old building got repainted and fixed.

The said building houses PSS buses and transportation office, the PSS serve mart for procurement and supply, media equipment, mechanics, and maintenance.

"We are doing this all on our own," said Sanchez.

"There are some few friends that I ran into who gave us a pail and also, of course, the assistance of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner...they granted us funds to purchase three buckets," he added.

The three buckets of paint, however, is not sufficient to cover one huge building, said Sanchez.

"The other day, I ran into former Commissioner William S. Torres who has pledged to give us 10 pails...and I want to make sure that I knock on his door and ask for those 10 pails of paint," Sanchez said.

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# FORUM

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## EDITORIAL

### Let land payments start

FINALLY, the lines are drawn on the issue of compensation for the many landowners whose properties were affected by right-of-way and yet have remained uncompensated over the years.

The ruling this week by Judge Edward Manibusan on the Leon Taisacan case is really good news for those who have suffered long and hard in their struggle to get what is rightfully theirs under the eminent domain provision of the Constitution.

The rule is clear: once the government acquires a portion of a person's property and builds a public road or part of a road over it, then government should provide that person just compensation, either through land exchange or monetary payment.

How such a simple rule gets set aside is puzzling and unacceptable for the many landowners who have painstakingly gave their properties up for the sake of the community.

One must remember, it is bad enough for any person to be losing part of his cherished property to public purpose. That can't be helped as that is what the law says.

Government upon determination can take hold of land if it deems necessary for the overall benefit of the entire islands.

But what makes that totally unbearable is when landowners are not paid enough for the acquisition, or worse, get promised but end up not being paid at all.

It's a pity how claims for compensation have not been acted on by government over the years and through several changes in administration. The obligation has long been neglected due to various reasons like declining government resources, land exchange problems, encumbrances and/or other issues, like the issue of prior compensation by the Micronesian Claims Commission.

That some landowners have already received compensation from the Micronesian Claims Commission covering the indefinite use of their land appears to have become an "overused" excuse by government to get around its obligations to landowners.

The Manibusan ruling merely validates and underscores the need for government to live up to its obligations, but such a determination could go a long way in compelling proactive action from concerned agencies.

While money is tight and government is facing an \$80 million deficit, it should at least more seriously consider options, like the proposal recently aired by Rep. Karl T. Reyes for a bond issue which can be secured with money held in trust by the Marianas Public Land Trust.

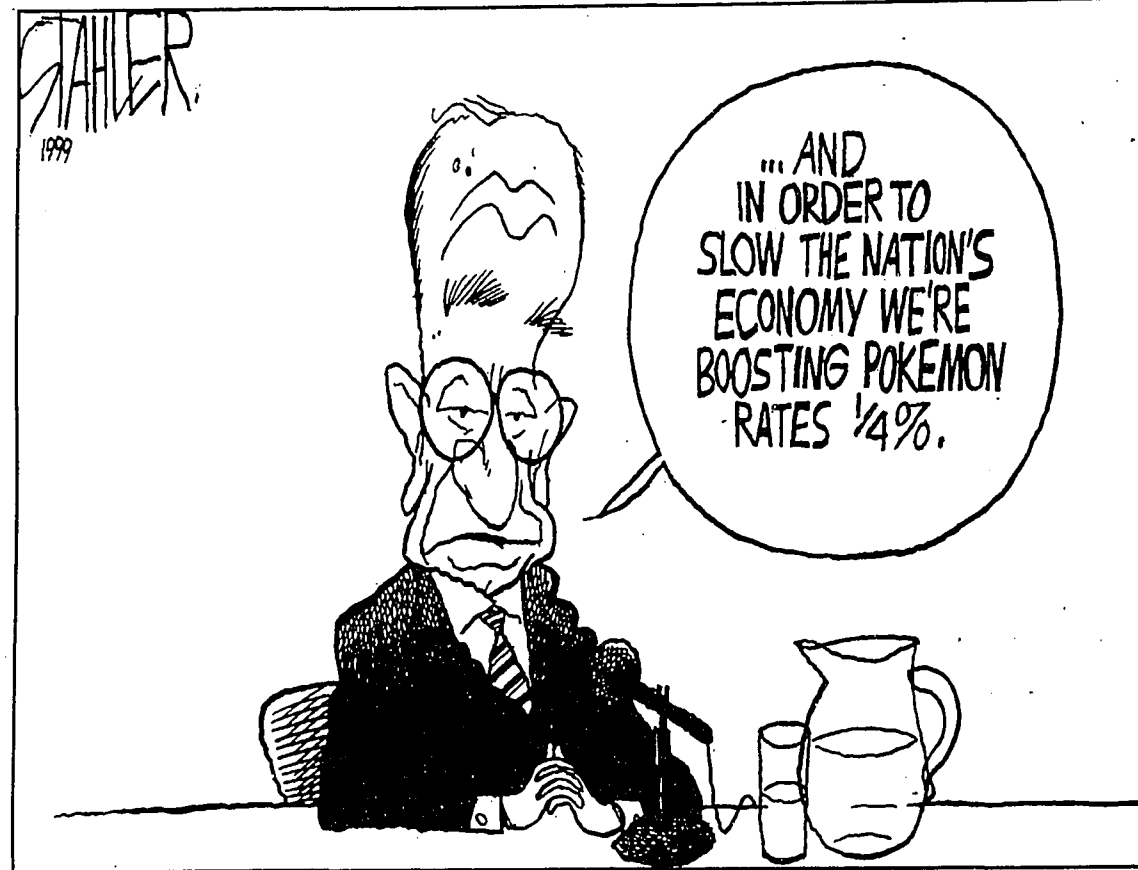
The important thing is that the groundwork should be laid for the eventual disbursement of money to pay the aggrieved property owners.

As Gov. Pete P. Tenorio himself admits, payment for the affected landowners is long overdue.

It is incumbent that such an admission be coupled with the political will and determination to see to it that the money is identified and prioritized for the purpose.

These people have waited enough. It's a pity that some of them did not even live long enough.

Let's start paying them what is rightfully theirs.



Zaldy Dandan

### • Variations

#### Post-mortem (2)

ONE OF the CNMI's better lawmakers, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes, is right.

Most CNMI voters expect their elected officials to be Santa Claus all year long. Which is why, Mr. Reyes told the Variety, he failed to win a third term. He said he wasn't as generous with giving out tents and tables as the other legislators were. As chair of the committee that handles taxes and government appropriations, Mr. Reyes is also considered "responsible" for the scrapping of certain government dole-out programs, specifically the Earned Income Credit (EIC). Because the administration and the Legislature are unwilling to impose new taxes—let alone layoff 300 government employees—there is, of course, no money for the EIC. In addition, several former government employees are still waiting for the benefits promised to them by a law enacted years back. As with the EIC, there is no money for it, but voters believe that they elect lawmakers precisely to find funding for such programs.

So voters are to blame for this "give-me-give-me philosophy" that Mr. Reyes says he does not believe in? Perhaps.

But most of the blame should go to the elected officials who compensated for their lack of ideas by acting like Santa Claus. It is, indeed, far easier to pay a constituent's utilities bill than to draft legislation that would create more attractive private sector employment opportunities for local residents. It is less taxing for one's intellect to hand out tents and tables than to pinpoint why those who used to be self-sufficient and industrious farmers, fishermen and artisans are now content with twiddling their thumbs in a government office.

And while we're at it, who was it that enacted and implemented these dole-out programs and created sinecure government jobs? Who, in other words, campaigned like Santa Claus?

In the U.S., perceptive political analysts have

long noted what this, well, "Santa Clausism" eventually leads to—an enervating dependency on government for security. Thus they caution the government to be careful in coming up with generous, yet costly, programs lest these become "entitlements" and "rights." Over time, those who are supposed to benefit from these programs are turned into timid and fearful people who are addicted to Santa Claus politicians. More and more mainland Americans are realizing that this "soft, kindly meant" style of governance ultimately corrupts the people.

CNMI politicians, like their counterparts on the mainland U.S., know this: The local people, descendants of men and women who defied the Pacific Ocean by sailing across its unapacific vastness aboard frail, wooden boats, instinctively know this. But during elections, all they hear are politicians shouting each other in proposing freebies and doleouts.

No wonder local voters are "clannish." If all the candidates are saying the same things why shouldn't voters choose someone they really trust—i.e., their relatives? (This is true everywhere in the world. I'm surprised that some commentators consider this "trait" as a local invention.)

The CNMI needs real leaders. Happily, they are out there, somewhere. Some are even in the government already. Most of them are unheard and unnoticed, but they exist. They know that leadership is an educative force, as the late Philippine Professor Renato Constantino once said to a nation that is also in need of this type of leaders. Genuine leadership, he said, means "discovering the wishes of the people, working with the people to reshape their desires if these are not truly their long-interest, blazing new paths...expos[ing] false assumptions [and revealing] new lines of thought."

Men and women of all races can take only so much, well, crap from their political leaders. Therein lies the CNMI's and this planet's hope.



## Letters to the editor

LETTERS to the editor must carry the full name of the writer and signature, with a telephone number (in case of faxed or mailed letters) for verification. Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld and unsigned letters will not see print.

### 'Goodbye'

TOMORROW will be a sad day for me. It will be my last day at the Commonwealth Health Center.

We were planning to stay much longer than the five short years we have been here, but an ailing grandmother has required that we cut short our stay in the Northern Marianas.

It has not been all that easy to work at CHC. I remember the sleepless nights, struggles with very sick children, and the tears I shared with distressed families when I had to deliver bad news. I also remember the challenge of trying to understand the different

Micronesian cultures I encountered in my work.

However, one of the things that has kept me going has been the pleasure of working with so many people from so many parts of the Pacific and the world. Also, the thank yous from children and their appreciative parents have made it all worthwhile.

Now, it is my turn to say *thank you* for being *you* and for all I have learned from living and working in this most interesting part of our tiny world. I would like to be able to say good-bye individually to all of my patients and their

families, but I know that is not possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to heap praise on individual staff members at CHC who should be recognized for their hard work and dedication: Joe Santos, Marcie Cepeda, Thelma Tarkong, Denise Calderwood, Carol Paez, Chris Hemphill, Chailang Palacios and all of the hospital operators.

I would hold them up as models for all CNMI government employees to emulate.

DR. DANIELE LONCHAMP  
Capitol Hill, Saipan

### RP labor official defends \$65 fee

THE VARIETY seems to be a reliable and trustworthy source of information until I read in your Nov. 5 issue about the "mandatory \$65 (P2,600!) life insurance fee imposed on contract workers."

You even urged "Pinoy contract workers in the CNMI who consider this fee as nothing less than government robbery should complain directly, through letters, to our legislators and other national leaders, as well as to national newspapers."

There's nothing wrong with criticisms provided these are intended to correct or put things in proper perspective. Such could have been done if facts were checked before coming up with such strong words or accusation. For the benefit of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the CNMI who might not possess a library of knowledge or the time to research, allow me to set the records right.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) collects \$4 for the overseas employment certificate while the welfare officer issues receipts for the annual Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) membership fee of \$25 and Medicare premium of \$36.

OWWA, an agency attached to the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), is mandated to look after the welfare and promote the interest of OFWs all over the world. This agency does not get any appropriation from the Philippine Congress to implement the projects and programs benefiting thousands of OFWs all over the world. The funds of OWWA primarily come from the con-

tributions of employers who would like to hire OFWs and workers already at the jobsites who voluntarily elect to become members in good standing.

Aside from medical, scholarship or financial assistance, OWWA provides to its clients and members expanded livelihood program, Kabuhayan 2000, family assistance loan, repatriation of worker, airport assistance, pre-departure seminars, skills-for-employment program, refresher course program, community reach-out program and reintegration preparedness.

The Medicare program for OFWs and their dependents is an innovative approach to address serious concerns of OFWs or their dependents who become sick or injured. It is created by the Philippine president's Executive Order No. 195 dated Aug. 13, 1994. The program provides medical assistance and hospitalization benefits to OFWs and their dependents. It would be a great disservice to OFWs and their dependents who are not as lucky compared with a few Filipinos in the CNMI if this program would be discontinued. Many OFWs, even in the CNMI, still prefer that they have Medicare even if only their dependents in the Philippines might benefit from it. Of course, no gargantuan program such as Medicare would ever succeed if there were no money to back up its implementation. Thus, for only \$36, an ordinary OFW could sleep well, secure in the thought that his dependents in the Philippines are assured of medical assistance and hospitalization benefits if and when those exigencies arise.

There are other services and programs that have been long implemented and are still given to OFWs. The so-called insurance coverage is just one of the many benefits that OFWs and/or dependents are entitled to as members/beneficiaries of OWWA.

Unfortunately, critics seem to harp on the insurance aspect of OWWA despite the fact that thousands upon thousands of OFWs and or their heirs have benefited from it.

FEDERICO F. BIOLENA  
Welfare Officer  
Philippine Overseas  
Labor Office

*The Variety replies:*

*Anyone among the estimated 20,000 Filipino workers in the CNMI who was informed by OWWA/DOLE regarding the existence of these programs, please raise your hand. Anyone willing to pay \$65 (P2,600!!!) just to return to one's home country where the eight-hour minimum wage is over \$4, please raise your hand. Anyone who wants to know the names and e-mail addresses of key Philippine senators and congressmen who should be informed about this burden of a fee, please contact the Variety.*

*Incidentally, why should OFWs and their immediate relatives who already have insurance coverage pay for a Medicare program administered by a government whose thievery and incompetence over the past three decades have only impoverished the nation and forced millions of Filipinos to seek employment abroad?—eds.*

### Satisfied unsuccessful candidate

ALTHOUGH Canice Kaipat Taitano was unsuccessful in winning a seat in the Sixth Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, as the chairman of his campaign committee and speaking on his behalf, I can safely state that we are satisfied with the results.

From the beginning, Mr. Taitano and myself knew that he would have to go against the odds to win a seat. Mr. Taitano did not affiliate himself with any of the three parties. He chose to remain No. 5 on the ballot. He refused to actively campaign.

I must admit that Mr. Taitano's decision not to take sides this past election, and his refusal to be present at any of the three parties' pocket meetings and campaign, not to mention his decision not to actively campaign, really irked me.

Moreover, as many may recall, there were five original candidates vying for the three council seats. One of the five decided to withdraw from the race and

Mr. Taitano was given the option to move up on the ballot. However, he decided to remain at No. 5.

Nevertheless, I respect the man's decision. All we can say right now is that we are truly grateful for the vote of confidence given to Mr. Taitano by our people and that we are indeed satisfied with the results.

In fact, considering the odds, we were overwhelmed and shocked by the results.

Mr. Taitano would like to congratulate all the winners of this past election, especially to the three council members-elect. Mr. Taitano would also like to extend a special *si'yu's ma'ase* to Vic Pangelinan, MaryAnn Calvo, Joe Sanchez, Maria Rosario, Jennifer Rosario, Jack Augon Sr., Juan Rasiang, Jess Agulto and to all his family, friends and supporters for their time, support and vote of confidence.

KIMO M. ROSARIO  
Koblerville, Saipan

### On the government's promotion system

THIS is regarding the recent news article on the Senate's quest to pursue a desk audit of government employees, and on the promotion system of law enforcement agencies.

It is commendable that the Senate wants the placement of employees in the correct classification standards. However, if the Senate's desire is to compare job to job, not job to standard and to reward performance on seniority with an upward reallocation, such an action is not proper personnel management. Seniority is already rewarded by annual within-grade increase. Those reaching the maximum step in their grade should aim toward qualifying for a position at a higher grade with increased job requirements and responsibilities.

Now before the Senate develops strategies for an audit, sena-

tors should familiarize themselves with the report on the status of efforts to upgrade the selection, training and promotion standards for the Department of Public Safety (DPS), which was submitted to the Office of the Governor in Oct. 1997. Among other things, the so-called, "progressive promotion" standard was approved by the then governor and subsequently implemented. However, the current administration sacked this standard when it appointed heads of division within DPS in 1998.

This standard should be enacted through legislation to do away with nepotism and politics in law enforcement agencies.

Politics does not belong in law enforcement agencies!

LUIS S. CAMACHO  
Precinct 3, Saipan

### A word of advice

I WOULD like to congratulate all the winning candidates. I hope that once you have been sworn in, you will put aside party affiliation and work together for the betterment of our people and our islands.

A word of advice to the Republican majority. Do not underestimate your constituents. Don't think that they will vote for you again, two years from now, if you do not listen to their outcry. Take a look at your soon-to-be former colleagues in Precinct 1. They made too many promises and they did not keep them. I was one of their die-hard supporters, among the many who were disgruntled, disappointed and dissatisfied with

their broken promises. They lost big time.

Meanwhile, our Marianas High School (MHS) students want to know when their gymnasium is going to be finished.

That gym is over five years overdue. Many of our young voters who graduated from MHS never got to see the inside of that gym.

Please see to it that our current MHS students can use it before they graduate. They could be your adversaries for reelection. Those are quite a lot of voters.

So make them happy or else.

PETE DLG. PANGELINAN  
As Lito, Saipan

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# Park mulled to replace PR dump

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

OFFICIALS are now preparing a plan to convert the 10-hectare Puerto Rico dump into a public park once the plan is approved.

Although the plan is seen to be implemented years ahead, Division of Solid Waste Management Project Manager John Harder said they have been developing it over the past months.

The Puerto Rico public park will be a hilly, but beautifully-landscaped park that will be situated on the site of garbage overlooking the ocean.

Harder said an annual tradition of bagging a dump site across the

plan was patterned after former dump sites in other US states, specifically the park in Kakaako, in Hawaii.

According to Harder, the park in Kakaako, located in between Honolulu and Ala Moana, was once a waste disposal site before Hawaiian officials decided to close and develop it into a park six years ago.

The public park is now a picnic area and a good launching site for Hawaiian surfers.

"Old ones back then used to walk across the trash and dive into the ocean, but now they have covered it with a landscape, and moved its side with big rocks and

it's a nice park," Harder said.

Kakaako's park, he said, was far more difficult to develop compared to the island's dump site since it is situated in an ocean, whereas the Puerto Rico dump is just bounded by a lagoon.

Some other former dump sites in Hawaii which are located in cane plantations have also been

converted and now are part of golf courses, he added.

Developing Puerto Rico dump into a park was part of the closure plan-officials are considering once construction of the landfill in Marpi is finished.

Harder said workers will bulldoze the slope and sides of the military-built dump site to make

it appear a little bit more than just a mountain of garbage before landscaping it.

Harder said it is a lot more difficult to completely shut down the trash site than build the park, since the closure involves a very complicated process. The trash would be capped with sand, plastic, rocks, and soil.

## Hillblom Foundation donates \$3M to UCSF medical program

THE LARRY Hillblom Foundation, Inc. has donated \$3 million endowment to the University of California San Francisco's Center for Craniofacial Anomalies.

The Center will establish a distinguished professorship with \$2.5 million of the endowment, allowing the internationally-renown program to enhance its research on such defects as cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial syndromes, the UCSF press release said.

The remaining money will be used to support the development of professional training exchanges and direct patient care for residents of the CNMI and throughout Micronesia.

"This endowment will elevate the standard of knowledge in the field of craniofacial malformations worldwide," said Karin Vargervik, director of the UCSF Center for Craniofacial Anomalies.

"I'm pleased that we are fulfilling my brother's desire to leave a legacy of funding medical research and treat-

ment to world-class facilities like UCSF's Center," said Terry Hillblom, board member of the Foundation.

In addition to contributing to research efforts and improved patient care, the endowment will allow practitioners in Micronesia to receive training at UCSF in the treatment of craniofacial deformities.

Hillblom Foundation chairman Peter Donnici said the program is delighted to help a project that will provide for improved patient care for those residents of the CNMI needing craniofacial surgery.

Hillblom founded DHL Worldwide Express in 1969 while attending UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. He later relocated to Saipan.

After being injured in a plane crash in 1993, Hillblom was treated by UCSF's Ousterhout at the Ralph K. Davies Medical Center in San Francisco where he received reconstructive surgery for multiple facial injuries.

## Guam Chamber elects board of directors 2000

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA The Guam Chamber of Commerce elected board directors for the 2000 Chamber year during its Annual General Membership meeting yesterday.

The eight voting directors elected to serve a two-year term are: Herman Ehrlich, general manager, Hilton Guam; Jerrold C. Johnson, president, Hawaiian Rock Products; Mark Tsuda, executive assistant manager, Ladera Tower Co., Ltd.; Frank S.N. Shimizu, president, Ambros, Inc.; Phillip J. Flores, chairman and CEO, Barik Pacific; Lou Sanchez, sales and marketing manager, Continental Airlines; Joseph A. Stoll Jr., vice president and senior financial consultant, Merrill Lynch; and Jerold W. Filush, partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Frank J. Campillo, administrator, Multicover Health Plan, Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, Inc., was elected to serve a one-year voting seat.

The two alternate directors elected were James L. Adkins, president, East West Rental Center and Joseph L. Cruz, president, Cabras Marine Corp.

Herman J. Ehrlich was the highest vote-getter and will automatically serve on the Chamber's executive committee.

Joseph A. Stoll Jr. will be the small business representative on the 2000 Chamber board.

The 11 directors elected yesterday will join eight holdovers and comprise the 2000 Chamber Board.

# DPL chief welcomes bill on BPL

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Lands Director Bertha DLG. Guerrero welcomed a bill filed by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) which draws the line between her and the Board of Public Lands.

Guerrero said the bill "is something we definitely need."

"If the intent is to clarify the line between the board and the division or the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, then it is something that we definitely need," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said she would be relieved if the bill would excuse her against any liability just in case one will arise in the future as a result of the board's decision or action for which the division is not involved.

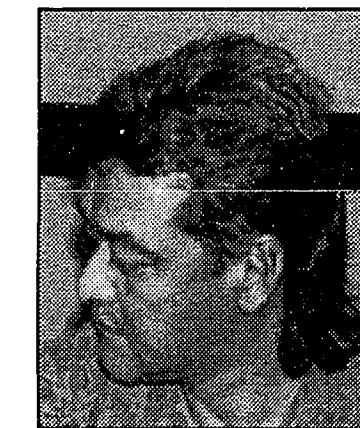
The director admitted that Public Law 10-57, the statute which created the DPL has a lot of ambiguities, and it is now time to make changes.

The law has specifically stated that the land agency will carry out its primary task which is the efficient distribution of lands upon the approval of members of the board.

However, there had been some instances wherein the division has made recommen-



Bertha DLG. Guerrero



Thomas P. Villagomez

dations to the board, but which were not concurred or agreed upon by the board.

Guerrero was specifically concerned regarding future lawsuits which may be brought against her and the board arising from the latter's action.

She cited a recent case wherein she was among those that were included in the suit.

The DPL director said it is not hard on her part if her name appeared on a suit as long as the division was a privy to the action which created it, but she said this is not usually the case, since the decision belongs to the board.

Guerrero said this is the reason why she sometimes stood out when she feels there is a need to.

"The law says the board has the final decision and if the

board has the final decision, then just as along as I submit my position and they acted against what the division recommended, then that's their decision. I just want to make sure that if litigation happens, I don't get personally liable," she said.

"I always remind the board of the fiduciary involved and I always make it clear that if they want to be liable with their decision, that's fine with me as long as my liability is protected," Guerrero said.

DPL, she said always think of disposing lands to the interest of the people and the government.

## Consulate seeks father whose son died in RP

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate is searching for a Filipino national, reportedly missing in the Northern Marianas for a year, to inform him that his son back home has died.

Hamilcar Fajutag Sr.'s 40-year old son in Sucat, Paranaque, has already been interned back in Sucat, Paranaque.

Hamilcar Jr., according to consulate Acting Officer in Charge Vice Consul Ronell B. Santos, has died more than three weeks now and the family is seeking the possibility of sending his father in time for the 40th-day mourning rites.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs informed the Consulate about the older Fajutag's case after his wife, Evelyn, sought help to locate him.

The Consulate, however, does not have records on the older Fajutag who last visited the foreign office in Feb. 1998.

Fajutag, according to Santos, went to work on Saipan, but filed a labor complaint Feb. last year.

Santos added that members of the Fajutag family has reported losing communication with their father since last year. His son reportedly died last Oct. 29.

## Worker appeals to high court

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A THAI worker who has been ordered deported for overstaying since 1988 brought his case to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Jennarong Phumme argued that the Attorney General's Office and the Division of Immigration Services failed to show a basis for his deportation.

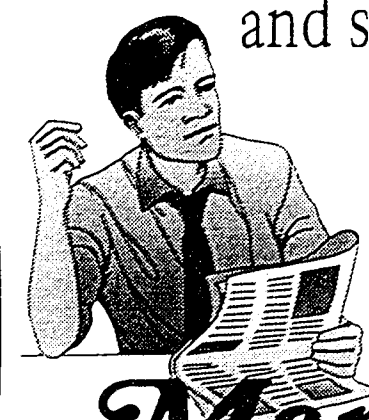
Phumme denied allegations that he worked illegally in violation of the conditions of his entry permit.

The worker argued that he has not overstayed his entry permit because at present his 1988 labor case before the Department of Labor and Immigration is pending.

The Superior Court found that Phumme remained in the Commonwealth beyond Sept. 20, 1988 expiration of his employment entry permit.

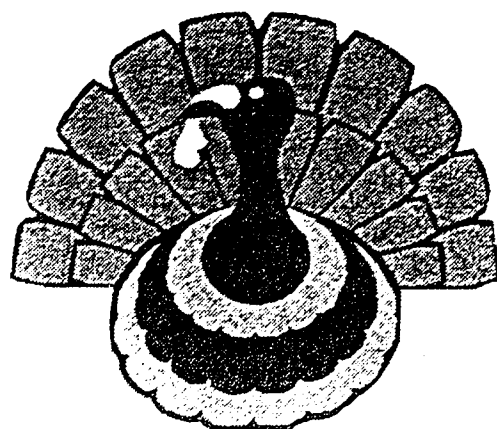
The court last Oct. 14 issued an order finding that the Thai worker remained in the Commonwealth without lawful authority and is subject to deportation.

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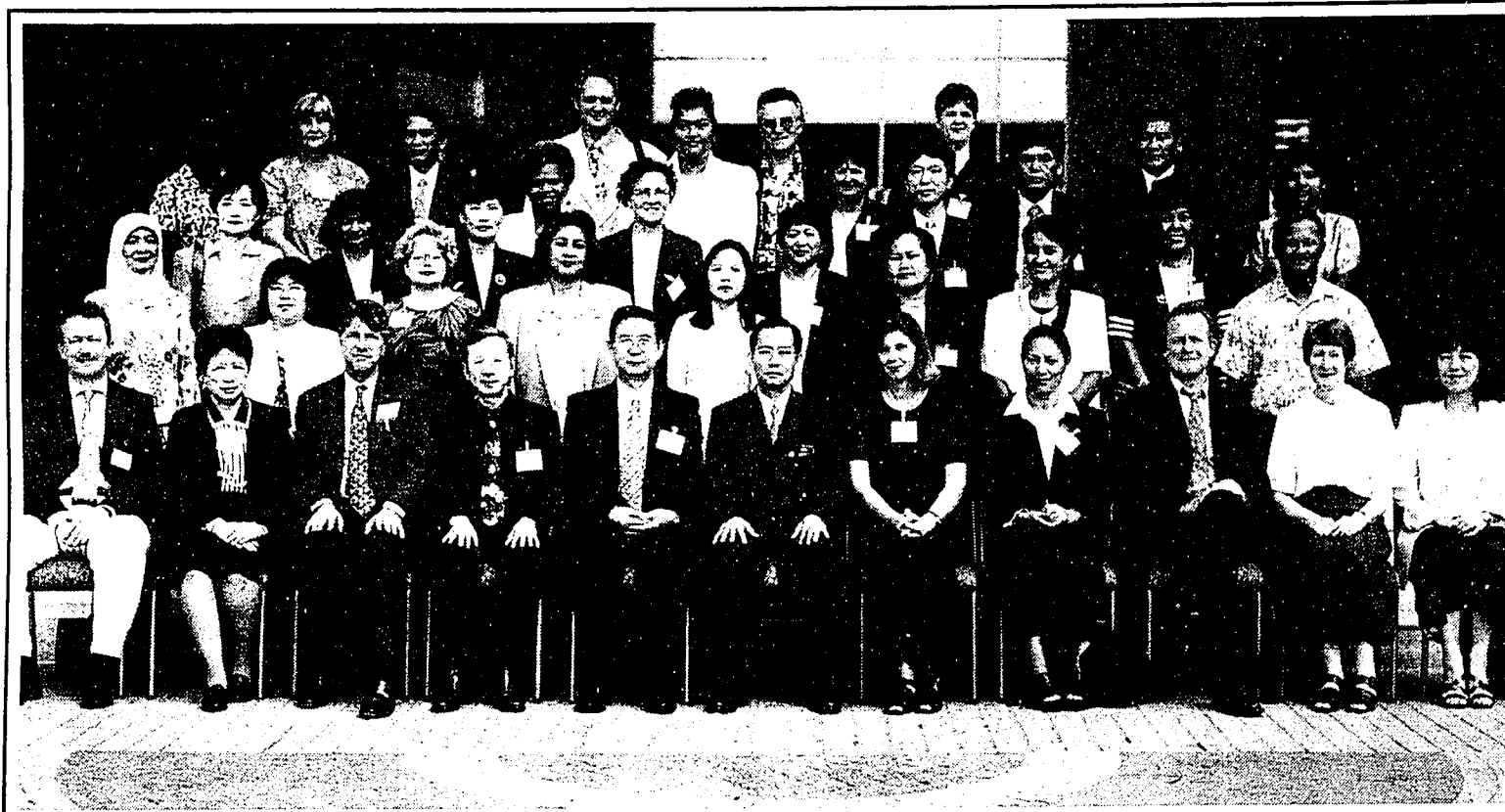


## OFFER VALID MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

Special valid for CNMI residents with ID only.  
Persons under 18 years old must be accompanied by  
at least one paying adult for waterpark passes.  
Offer valid with other special promotions  
For more information call 234-7976 ext. 5104



# NMI takes part in WHO meet



CNMI Food and Nutrition Council Chairperson Pamela Mathis (third from left, second row, standing) joins participants to the World Health Organization's workshop on National Plans of Action for Nutrition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last month. Contributed Photo

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI Food and Nutrition Council's (FNC) subcommittee structure which has made its goals implemented and succeed became the focus of the CNMI's presentation of its own 10-year national plan of action for nutrition (NPAN) at the recently-held World Health Organization (WHO) conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pamela Mathis, CNMI FNC chairperson, was chosen to present a paper based on the Council's organizational structure and its plan of action for nutrition during the workshop sponsored by WHO last month.

"It is my belief that through the fusion or experience of the committee and community representatives, we not only learn how to implement our goals; we also succeed based on committee assignments," said Mathis.

The CNMI is one of the 29 states, countries, unions and islands worldwide which has created NPANs out of the original 159 which pledged to prepare or revise NPANs in 1992.

Aside from the presentations of various countries or states during the conference, group sessions also paved the way for exchange of information and experience of NPANs among the participants.

Some of the ideas also tossed out during the five-day conference were weight loss competition among politicians/popular people, more work with Customs on the importation and labelling of food, nutrition presentations at Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and other regional forum, and work with environmental groups.

The final report of all 24 Western Pacific countries/islands is expected to come out shortly.

## 'My brother is okay now'

By René P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

THE SISTER of a crash victim yesterday said her brother is on the road to recovery at a hospital in Hawaii where he has been confined following a recent car accident in Marpi.

Merced Limes, 26, said her brother, Felipe Litulumar, may be going home in the middle of next month after he had recovered, although not fully, from a pelvis dislocation, which he sustained during the accident.

Limes, however, said her brother still needs further medication.

Litulumar, had his right pelvis dislocated when the red Ford truck he was driving rammed into a pine tree weeks ago.

His sister clarified that he did not break his spinal cord nor his hip as earlier told by organizers scheduled to hold a benefit concert to raise the additional money he needs.

Litulumar, it was learned, overshoot his \$25,000 insurance coverage.

## MVA x'mas candlelight parade set

THE Marianas Visitors Authority has announced it will be sponsoring the 1999 Children's Christmas Candlelight Parade on December 18, Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The parade will start at the Bank of Guam parking lot and will head north towards the American Memorial Park. All public and private elementary schools from grades K - 6 (5 - 11 years old) are welcome to participate.

Prize winning categories for this year's event will include; 1) Best Costume, 2) Best Singing, and 3) Best Christmas Spirit. Also included in this year's event will be a Float competition.

Prizes for this year's event will include \$1,000 for first place in the float competition, \$800 for 2nd place and \$700 for 3rd place.

Other prizes will include \$500 for best costume, \$500 for best Christmas spirit and \$500.00 for best song. A prize of \$600 will be given for best overall, which is the group who accumulates the highest points in all three categories.

The overall winner will be required to participate in Christmas Caroling at hotels or at the Garapan Street Market upon the request by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

All registered participants are required to submit the parental consent form and must be submitted to MVA office along with the school's registration form.

The deadline to register for the float competition is December 1, 1999 and the deadline for the children's parade is on Friday, December 3, 1999.

For further information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3200 and ask for Ed Diaz.

## Continental to carry AEDs

Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Airlines has announced it will soon begin equipping its entire fleet of 361 jet aircraft with automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and training its in-flight cabin crews on how to use these devices.

Installation of the Agilent Technologies Heartstream AEDs will begin in the second quarter 2000 and is expected to be completed by mid-year.

An AED is a device that is used to resuscitate a victim of sudden cardiac arrest.

The portable device, about the size of a laptop computer, delivers an electrical shock to restore a normal heartbeat.

The machine uses voice prompts to guide the user through the process, and the machine determines whether the person needs the use of the device.

"We believe defibrillators will be valuable tools to have on board.

## Customs: Seized medicines up

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

WITH STRICTER Customs confiscation procedures, the volume of banned over-the-counter and prescription drugs seized from passengers disembarking from the Saipan International Airport went up by 114 pounds in just a one-month period.

Customs Services yesterday disclosed that from a total of 395 pounds seized in September, the figure climbed up to 509 pounds last month.

Lt. Patrick Tenorio, Customs-Airport Enforcement of-

ficer, said the bulk of the confiscated medicine came from citizens of mainland China, while the rest originated from Korea and the Philippines.

The Customs official said there might not be an actual increase in the volume of medicine coming in, but the stricter confiscation procedures at the airport resulted in the greater volume of seized items from passengers.

"Even if we are stricter than ever, they still bring in these medicine," said Tenorio in an interview.

Owners or consignees of

the prohibited medicine are given the option of destroying the items here using incinerator or send them back to the place of origin at their own expense.

Customs said Chinese nationals tend to choose having the items destroyed here rather than send them back to China due to the cost it will entail, and some of these medicine are also banned in their country.

Customs has been confiscating foreign medicine in line with the provisions of the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Im-

portation, Storage, Sales and Distribution of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Products."

Under the said regulations, any medicine with non-English labels will be confiscated at any CNMI point of entry. Imported prescription drugs are also banned from the CNMI, unless they are accompanied by registered doctor's prescription, are consumable within 90 days and are intended only for personal use.

The law also prohibits the entry of over-the-counter drugs from foreign countries other than the U.S. mainland.

## PRE-X MAS STOREWIDE SALE!

### JVC VIDEO CD SYSTEM w/ Digital Echo for Karaoke

MX-V508T **\$469.00**  
MX-V608T **\$499.00**  
MX-J585V Super VCD **\$599.00**



### TOSHIBA M-455 4-HEAD VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER

Year 2000 Compliance • Universal Remote Control **\$159.00**



### JVC BOOMBLASTER POWERED WOOPER CD SYSTEM

RV-B55 700W **\$269.00**  
RV-B90 1000W **\$369.00**



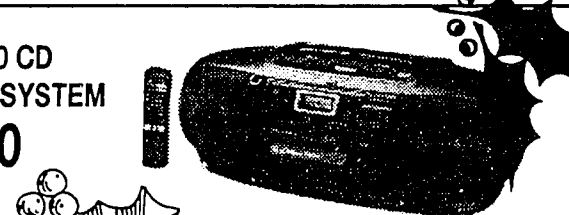
### TOSHIBA RICE COOKERS

RC-126 6 cups **\$55.95**  
RC-186 20 cups **\$59.95**  
RC-276 15-cups **\$69.95**



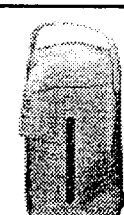
### JVC RCX740 CD PORTABLE SYSTEM

**\$199.00**



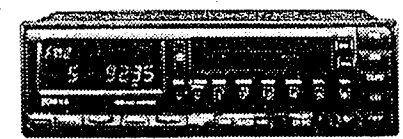
### TOSHIBA PLK-GF26 2.6 lt ELECTRIC HOT POT

Full Boil 100 C. Rotary Base • Double Safety Device **\$79.95**



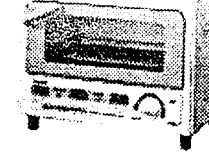
### JVC KS-RX177 CAR CASSETTE RECEIVER

HIGH POWER 88W-22Wx4 **\$99.00**



### TOSHIBA HTR-970 Toaster/Oven

Quick Browning • Large Capacity • Safety Thermostat **\$49.00**

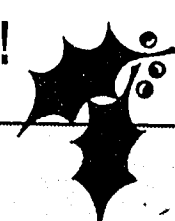


### JVC COMPACT VHS CAMCORDER

CR-AXM510 with built in light **\$699.00**  
CR-AXM210 **\$599.00**



## TOSHIBA AIR CONDITIONERS NOW AVAILABLE!



Exclusive Distributor of **BOSE/PEAVEY**

YOUR ONE-STOP  
ELECTRONIC SHOP FOR  
QUALITY CHOICES!

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QUALITY AUDIO/VIDEO  
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# Holiday Getaway!

For every 3 caps of ITO-EN pet bottle drinks, you'll receive a **FREE T-SHIRT** and an entry form to qualify for the **Ito-En Holiday Getaway**.

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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TERMS: \_\_\_\_\_

## WIN!

a round-trip ticket to Hawaii with 4 day hotel accommodation

AVAILABLE AT:  
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• KL MARKET • GARAPAN MARKET • BLANCO VEN DE • DOLPHIN WHOLESALE • DANDAN MARKET

\* T-Shirts are available to the first 300 customers.

## Join Now!

JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER, SUSUPE • HAFADA SHOPPING CENTER • DANDAN SHOPPING CENTER • CHALAN PIAO PLAZA



# NMC administers GRE general test

THE Northern Marianas College Counseling Department will administer the Graduate Record Examination Test (GRE General Test) at the Northern Marianas College, Saipan Campus, tomorrow, November 20, 1999 at 8 a.m. in Building A, Room A-5.

This will be the only time that

the test will be administered between now and the year 2000. The test will be paper-based instead of computer-based, NMC said in a press release.

Please review the Supplemental Bulletin inserted in the GRE 1999-2000 Informational and Registration Bulletin. If you do not have the Supplemental Bulletin,

you can get a copy at the NMC Counseling Office.

As stated in the Supplemental Bulletin, there is no preregistration for the paper-based general test. However, applicants will be given a registration form on the day of the test and will be asked to complete it.

The test fee is \$125 payable to

ETS/GRE. Acceptable forms of payment are: personal check, money order, cashier's check, and credit cards. Cash is not acceptable.

Applicants are required to bring an identification document (ID), preferably a valid passport or driver's license and No. 2 pencils with erasers. Test procedures will

be the same as the ones stated in the bulletin, except for the on-site registration and payment of fees on the day of the test.

For questions, please call the NMC Counseling Center at 234-3690, extension 1341 and ask for Romana Wong, or visit the Counseling Center in Building I, NMC Saipan campus.

## CLOSE OUT SALE

**Kelvinator Appliances**

November 19, 20, 21, 1999

**50% OFF** on Washers and Stoves

**C-mART**

- Cash/carry (credit card okay)
- Limited to stock on hand
- 90 days warranty

located 1st floor - Carmen's Baby News Bldg.  
We're open Monday-Friday 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Sunday 10:00am-6:00pm



**HAKUBOTAN**  
Clearance

**Sale!**  
UP TO  
**50%**

From November 5 to November 30, 1999  
Time: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

## GES Students of the Week



Kristine Ladra, kindergarten student from Mrs. Jebeh's A.M. class, demonstrates great respect to her classmates and teacher. She comes to school everyday and loves to read books.



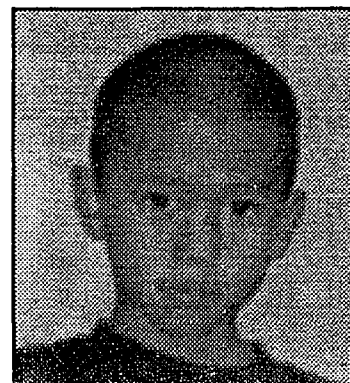
Michael Mesubed, fifth grade from Mr. Pinkerton's class is one of the literary stars of his class. His imagination and writing ability surpasses his age.



Anniev Cruz, sixth grade from Mrs. Herrera's class is a conscientious learner with a vigor to do her personal best in her academics.



Bernadine Montague, fourth grade from Ms. Dela Cruz's class is a wonderful student to have. She comes to school prepared with a spirit that shows she is ready to be challenged.



Gerard Chargualaf, first grade from Mrs. Camacho-Castro's class has great character. He is a very positive, kind, generous, cheerful, and a very loving student.



Holly Camacho, kindergarten student from Mrs. Jebeh's P.M. class, always comes to school with great interest in learning new things. She participates in all classroom activities.



Joyce Bombon, third grade from Mrs. Thorpe's class has a great sense of humor and enjoys reading. She performs well in everything that she undertakes.

**WEEKEND SPECIAL** **HAPPY MARKET**

**We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities**  
ALL PRICES EFFECTIVE NOV. 19-26, 1999  
*Or While Supplies Last !!!*  
(WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS) GARAPAN • TEL: 233-4989

"EVERYDAY LOW PRICE, FRIENDLY SERVICE..."

<b>Chicken Fryers</b> 30 lbs <b>\$17.50</b> Limit 2 c/s	<b>Chicken Leg Quarter</b> (33 lbs) <b>\$13.95</b> c/s	<b>Pork Spare Ribs</b> 20 lbs <b>\$12.95</b> c/s	<b>Kikkoman Soy Sauce</b> Limit 2 (1.6 fl) <b>\$3.50</b>	<b>SPAM</b> <b>\$1.69</b>	<b>Real Fresh Milk</b> (32 oz) <b>\$12.95</b>
<b>GAIN</b> (85 load) <b>\$11.95</b>	<b>Charmin</b> 12 Roll <b>\$4.95</b>	<b>NESTEA Iced Tea Mix</b> (53 oz) <b>\$3.45</b>	<b>Folgers Coffee</b> (39oz) <b>\$7.95</b>	<b>US X-Large Eggs</b> (doz) <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>CALROSE Rice</b> (50 lbs.) <b>\$16.95</b>
<b>MILLER'S Hog Casing Beef Flanks</b> <b>\$15.95</b>	<b>Chicken Noodle Soup</b> (10.5 oz) <b>79¢</b>	<b>Bounty Paper Towel</b> <b>\$1.39</b>	<b>BAR-S Original Jumbo Franks Hotdog</b> <b>89¢</b>	<b>Tiger Shrimps</b> 16/20 1 lb <b>\$6.95</b>	<b>Pork Chop</b> (family bag) <b>\$13.95</b>
<b>Sugar 4.4lbs</b> <b>\$1.19</b>	<b>Gold Medal Flour</b> (5 lbs) <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Beach Cliff Sardines</b> (3.25 oz) <b>.69¢</b>	<b>Flank Steak</b> bag <b>\$18.95</b>	<b>SANKA Instant Coffee</b> (8 oz) <b>\$5.95</b>	<b>Beef Shortribs</b> (family bag) <b>\$17.95</b>
<b>Golden State Vinegar</b> (1 gal) <b>\$2.39</b>	<b>Ox &amp; Palm Corned Beef</b> <b>\$1.59</b>	<b>Tree Diamond Tuna</b> <b>89¢</b>	<b>DEL MONTE Whole Corn</b> <b>.69¢</b>	<b>Beef Stew</b> bag <b>\$12.95</b>	<b>Ribeye</b> (family bag) <b>\$17.95</b>
<b>Armour Vienna Sausage</b> (9.25 oz) <b>\$1.29¢</b>	<b>MORTON Salt</b> <b>59¢</b>	<b>Foam Plate</b> (50 cts.) <b>\$2.29</b>	<b>WESSON Oil</b> (1 GAL) <b>\$5.95</b>	<b>SALAD OIL</b> (5 gal) <b>\$17.95</b>	<b>Portuguese Sausage</b> <b>\$1.95</b>
<b>MACKEREL</b> lb <b>89¢</b>	<b>Imitation Crab Meat</b> (1 lb) <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Ajinomoto</b> (1 lb) <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>Ground Beef</b> (10 lbs.) <b>\$14.95</b>	<b>Best Foods Mayonnaise</b> (32 oz) <b>\$3.69</b>	<b>BAR-S Bacon</b> <b>\$1.79</b>
				<b>Bar-S Chopped Ham</b> (10 lbs) <b>\$14.95</b>	



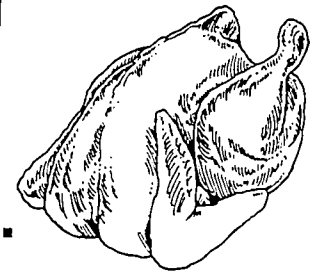
# DOWNTOWN MARKET

Garapan & San Jose

## Weekend Sale!

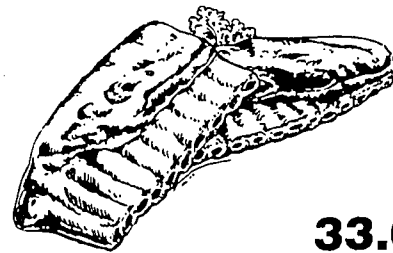
**WHOLE CHICKEN**  
**\$18.99**

30 LBS.  
LIMIT 2 CS.



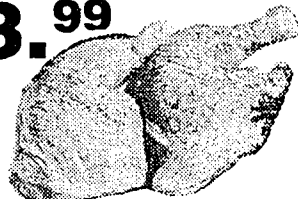
**SPARERIBS**  
**\$12.99**

20 LBS.  
LIMIT 2 CS.



**CHICKEN LEG QUARTER**  
**\$13.99**

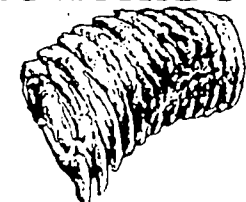
33.07 LBS.



**PORK CHOP**  
**\$14.99**  
FAMILY BAG



**BEEF SHORTRIBS**  
**\$19.99**  
FAMILY BAG



**BEEF RIBEYE STEAK**  
**\$19.99**  
FAMILY BAG



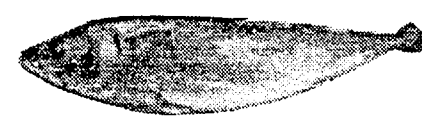
**BEEF STEW**  
**\$13.99**  
FAMILY BAG



**PORK SPARERIBS**  
**\$7.99**  
FAMILY BAG



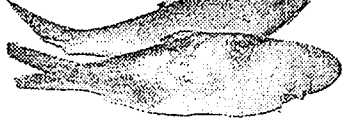
**MACKEREL**  
**\$6.99**  
FAMILY BAG



**TILAPIA**  
**\$1.29/LB.**



**MILK FISH**  
**\$1.49/LB.**



**BEACH CLIFF SARDINES**  
**.79¢**



**THREE DIAMOND TUNA**  
**.99¢**



**SUNFLOWER MACKEREL**  
**\$1.49**



**ICHIBAN**  
**\$6.99/CS.**



**GARDEN MAID VEG. OIL**  
**\$5.99 / 1 GAL.**



**PAUL'S MILK**  
**\$10.99 /CS.**



**CALROSE RICE**  
**\$16.99 /50 LBS.**



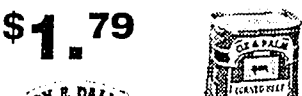
**SPAM**  
**\$1.79**



**KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE**  
**1.6 L. \$3.99**



**OX & PALM CORNED BEEF**  
**\$1.79**



**FOLGERS COFFEE**  
**39 OZ. \$7.99**



**GAIN**  
**85 LOAD \$14.99**



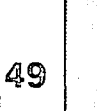
**NESTEA**  
**53 OZ. \$3.99**



**MASTER A-1 TUNA**  
**.89¢**



**GOLDEN STATE VINEGAR**  
**1 GALLON \$2.49**



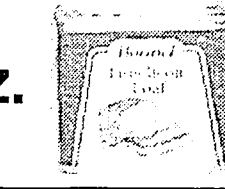
**CLOROX**  
**1 GALLON \$2.49**



**US EGGS EXTRA LARGE**  
**\$1.29/DOZ**



**LUNCHEON LOAF**  
**12 OZ. \$1.49**



**BOUNTY PAPER TOWEL**  
**\$1.49**



**TIDE/LIQUID DETERGENT**  
**50 OZ. \$4.99**



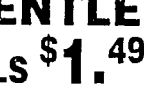
**SUGAR**  
**\$1.39**



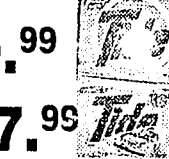
**GOLD MEDAL FLOUR**  
**5 LB. \$1.99**



**SOFT & GENTLE TISSUE 4 ROLLS**  
**\$1.49**



**TIDE**  
**42 LOAD \$9.99**



Effective AUG. 1<sup>st</sup> Garapan will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 12 midnight

TEL. 233-7001 (GARAPAN) • 235-3131 (SAN JOSE) • WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

## Guam villagers fear toxic waste

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Mongmong residents fear that land used by the former U.S. Navy Power Plant in the area may present another imminent danger to public health.

Residents are concerned that beginning in 1949, when the power plant first began operation, dangerous amount of toxic waste has flowed through the residential area to the Agana Swamp and into the Agana River before emptying into the ocean.

Last Tuesday evening, dozens of concerned citizens confronted U.S. Navy engineers demanding that answers be given to basic questions regarding their family's safety.

The Navy is in receipt of a letter signed by area residents asking if the consumption of fish caught in the river and food grown and consumed in the soil poses a risk to their health.

Last July, World War II training canisters containing such deadly toxic chemicals as mustard gas and phosgene were found on private property in MongMong.

At almost the same time, high levels of polychlorinated biphenyl's or PCB's were likewise found in the same area.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Studies, exposure to PCBs can cause weakness in the body, numbness of the limbs, respiratory symptoms and damage to the body's cleansing organ, the

liver.

A long time area resident, Rudy Aguon Paco, said he has received a letter from the U.S. Navy dated Nov. 1, 1999 which says, "the Navy would like to meet with you to discuss possible earthwork on your property in Mongmong in order to address environmental concerns caused by the Agana Power Plant."

The letter further states that the Navy will cover all costs associated with the earthwork.

But Paco said he feels that a "cover-up" is happening.

He wants assurances from the federal government that his and fellow residents' health safety is assured.

Paco cites a 1992 criminal case wherein another Mongmong resident, Eduardo Suarez, was fined \$25,000 for backfilling portions of his property, which edged on wetlands.

Paco wants to know why "all of a sudden" the federal government is trying to do the same dirt removal without the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval.

Area residents said Tuesday evening that they are tired of hearing the same old "words without actions."

All are demanding that a health risk assessment be conducted prior to any clean-up which many now believe could be an EPA clean-up project.

Navy officials were not available for comment as of press time.

## New Guam phone book gets ready for delivery

Variety News Staff  
REPRESENTATIVES from Holmes Management Co. (doing business as Yellow Pages Ink) yesterday presented an advance copy of the 2000 Guam Phone Book to Lt. Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Yellow Pages Ink has a successful track record in delivering its phone books before the Christmas holidays and this year, deliveries will begin before the Thanksgiving holiday.

The 2000 Guam Phone Book will be ready for distribution to residences, businesses, government offices, and hotels on Nov. 23 when the first container of 90,000 phone books arrives from the company's printers.

The 2000 Guam Phone Book has recently been named as the Guam Telephone Authority's (GTA) official telephone directory.

GTA General Manager Vince Arriola cited Holmes Management Company's "history of service to Guam

and its people" in his message designating GTA's official endorsement of the 2000 Guam Phone Book.

Over the years, Holmes Management Co. has maintained its relationship with GTA and purchased residential and business phone listings from GTA. Each year, the company hires part-time employees to verify accuracy and make corrections.

"We are pleased that GTA has recognized our efforts to produce a reliable and accurate phone book," said Ernie Galito, Yellow Pages Ink project manager.

"We are also proud to have the 2000 Guam Phone Book ready for distribution before Thanksgiving," he added.

According to Galito, GTA named the 2000 Guam Phone Book as its official directory because of its accurate listings and wide distribution reach.

Copies of the 2000 Guam Phone Book will be available for new subscribers at all GTA offices.

## C-mart Beddings Super Sale

November 19, 20, 21, 1999

**Twin Set**  
Reg. 209.00

**Sale \$185**

**Double (Full) Set**  
Reg. 309.00

**Sale \$279**

**Queen Set**  
Reg. 359.00

**Sale \$340**

**King Set**  
Reg. 435.00

**Sale \$395**

- Frames extra
- Cash/Carry (credit card okay)
- Limited to stock on hand

**C-mart**

located 1st floor - Carmen's Baby News Bldg.  
We're open Monday-Friday 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Sunday 10:00am-6:00pm

DIGITAL CELLULAR



LOWEST CELLULAR RATES  
ROAMING  
CALLER ID  
LONGER BATTERY LIFE  
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## Fisheries panel wants restrictions retained

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
For the Variety  
KOROR (Palau Horizon)—The Committee for the Research and Development of a National Fisheries Management Plan has recommended that bilateral and multilateral fisheries agreements with Japan and the United States, which prohibit purse seiners from fishing both within 12 and 50 nautical miles from all coastal baselines and radius of Malakal Harbor in Koror, respectively be retained.

The committee also wants to retain the existing provision contained in the current locally-based foreign fishing agreements that tuna longliners be restricted from fishing within 12 nautical miles from coastal baselines.

These recommendations, which are incorporated in the National Tuna Fisheries Management Plan, were made, after learning that foreign-based longline fishing fleets tend to fish relatively far offshore throughout Palau's extended fishing zones.

The committee was formed on

June 25 this year by President Nakamura to formulate a national tuna fisheries management plan aimed at establishing consistent tuna fisheries management policies and procedures.

Palau's tuna resources are currently fished by a substantial number of vessel, which included: local commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishermen; locally-based foreign longline fleet operated by Kuniyoshi Fishing Co., Palau International Traders Inc. and Palau Marine Industries Corp.; and distant water fishing nations such as the U.S., Japan and eventually Korea.

The committee also noted that there is no current scientific rationale at this time to support gear separation closures between sports fishing interests and commercial longline vessels.

While majority of sports fishing activities are conducted relatively near the land, the committee stressed that restricted fishing zones are relatively difficult and costly to enforce.

## Palau to impose provisional visa requirement for workers

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
For the Variety  
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Before the end of 1999, the Labor Division will start requiring all non-resident workers to fulfill all their medical requirements on Palau before they are issued working permits.

Acting Labor Chief Russell Masayos told Palau Horizon that no working permit will be issued to a non-resident worker prior to his or her arrival to Palau. Instead a Provisional Non-Resident Worker's Labor Visa and Identification Certificate will be given.

Only after this provisional visa shall have been issued and all medical requirements have been met, will a working permit be given to the worker.

"A worker can come to Palau without the permit, but with the provisional visa. It's the same process, but we will issue the provisional visa to the point of hire. When they're already here and have met all the requirements, then that's the time we will issue

a working permit," Masayos said. At the same time, the labor office will be requiring non-resident workers to have a round-trip ticket in case they fail in their health examination. "If they fail to fulfill all the requirements, especially health requirement, we will repatriate them," the acting chief labor said.

This process would be beneficial for the workers since they can start from the date as stated in the permit whereas in the present set up, many days would be wasted if the permit is issued before the workers could come in to the island, he said.

"This will also stop all those workers who come with communicable diseases," Masayos pointed out.

The non-resident worker must present his/her ticket for transportation between Palau and the point of hire to an immigration officer upon arrival in the republic. The ticket will be returned when the provisional visa is surrendered.

## Movements in Palau Senate committees

By Malou L. Sayson  
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The Senate has expanded its committees to 12 each chaired by the Senate members and changed as well the chairmanship of two committees following the implementation of the Code of Ethics last Nov. 2 to protect the image and integrity of the body.

Senate President Seit Andres told Palau Horizon over the phone that there had been some major movements in the senate with the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Financial Institutions (SCBIFI) and Capital Infrastructure Projects (SCCIP) and Land Matters having new chairmen.

Except for the Senate Committee on Transportation and Communication (SCTC), chaired by Sen. Sam Masang (2nd District, Koror), the SCBIFI and the SCCIP have new leadership with the former assigned to newly-elected Sen. Alexander Mep (2nd District, Koror) and the latter assigned to Senator Harry Fritz (2nd District, Koror).

Fritz earlier told Palau Horizon that he is willing to relinquish his chairmanship of the SCBIFI as called for by the senate leadership. It would be noted that Fritz is the director and the vice president for public relations of the Pacific Savings Bank.

The other major change is the split made to the effect that a new committee was formed out of the old Committee on CIP and Land Matters formerly handled by Laurentino Ulechong (1st District, Babeldaob/Kayangel). It would also be noted that Ulechong won the contract for the site preparation and water tank installation under Phase I of the \$36.37 million Melekeok capital relocation project. Ulechong now handles the new Committee on Land Matters.

The Senate has agreed to retain Masang's chairmanship of the TC Committee since, according to the senate president, it does not run in conflict with the provisions of the Code of Ethics. Masang is one of the three major shareholders of the Belau Air, Inc. and is also connected with the Motorolla.

Should there be matters that would bring about conflicts of interest, Andres said the SCTC chairman could recuse himself and allow the committee be handled by his vice chair.

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# Key Cabinet men may fall

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

MAJURO — A major political upset is in progress in Majuro, with the Marshall Islands government's two most important cabinet ministers on the verge of defeat by opposition candidates in the national election.

Foreign Minister Phillip Muller and Finance Minister Tony deBrum — both 16 year veterans of the Nitijela (parliament) — were in seventh and eighth place, respectively, in a five seat race with approximately 60 percent of Majuro's ballots counted on Tuesday.

If the Majuro voting trend continues, the balance of power in the nation's capital will switch from a pre-election three-to-two majority for the ruling government party, to a four-to-one edge for the opposition United Democratic Party which campaigned on a strong anti-corruption platform that targeted both Muller and deBrum.

The two cabinet ministers are the architects of the Marshalls recent Taiwan recognition, and have been the main strategists for the government party. Muller is the Marshalls chief negotiator in talks with the U.S. on extending long-term economic aid provisions of a Compact of Free Association.

With heavy voter turnout in Majuro, voting didn't end until close to midnight on Monday although the polls closed at 7 p.m. Many people waited four hours or more in long lines to cast their votes for the 33 senators.

The government's radio station, which normally switches off at 11:30 p.m., continued throughout the night, broadcasting ward-by-ward election results for Majuro. Majuro residents were glued to their radios and few slept as the dramatic results were aired. "Nobody slept last night," said government radio station news editor Antari Elbon.

Electoral administrator Joseph Jorlang said the hand-count halted at 5 a.m. due to the exhaustion of the more than 100 tabulators, and was re-started at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Four years ago, when deBrum was a leader of the opposition, he was the second-leading vote getter in Majuro. But, after more than a year as President Imata Kabua's chief spokesman, he has been all but eliminated in the preliminary count.

With several hundred off-island absentee ballots yet to be tabulated, Muller could still mount a comeback to claim the fifth spot.

Both Muller and deBrum conducted a high-profile campaign — through newspaper advertising, banners, t-shirts and caps — as part of a three-way team with traditional chief and vice speaker Jurelang Zedkaia. But while Zedkaia, the dominant traditional landowner for Majuro, was comfortably in third place, Muller and deBrum did not share his success.

Witten Philippo, a former chief justice of the high court and first term opposition senator, was top vote-getter in the preliminary count with three wards still to be tabu-

lated.

Wilfred Kendall, a former ambassador to Washington, was second, Brenson Wase, a long time senator from Arno Atoll and former cabinet minister who switched to Majuro for this election, was in control of the fourth spot, while former Jaluit senator Alik J. Alik was fighting with UDP colleague Jack Jorban for the final seat for the nation's capital.

The Marshalls election involves vote counts in 24 isolated atolls. Complicating the count are the large number of absentee ballots cast for each island both from other islands within the Marshalls as well as from Marshall Islanders living abroad.

An unofficial vote count for the entire country is not anticipated before Friday. But the final outcome for close races will not be known until after November 29, the two week period required by Marshall Islands law for receipt of off-island absentee ballots.



Marshall Islands electoral officials separate absentee ballots cast for the 24 voting districts in the country during tabulations last Tuesday in Majuro. Tabulating is expected to continue through the end of the week. Photo by Giff Johnson

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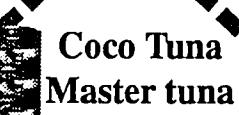






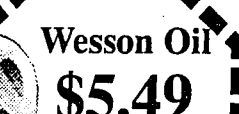




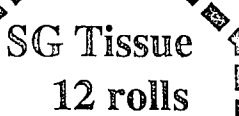


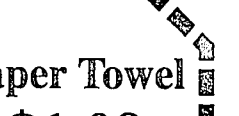

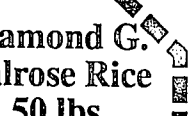

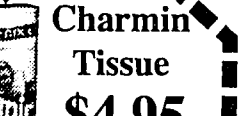
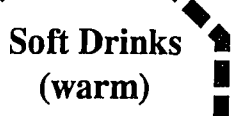




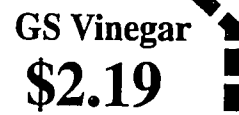



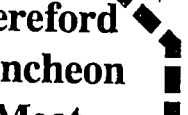
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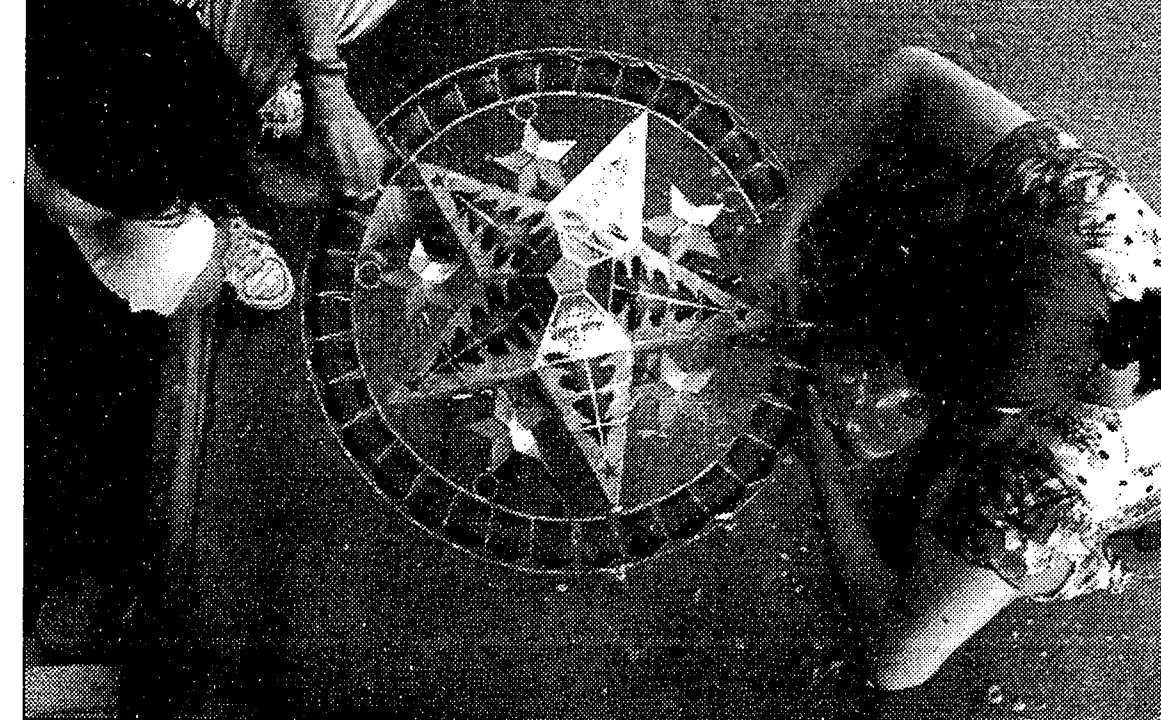
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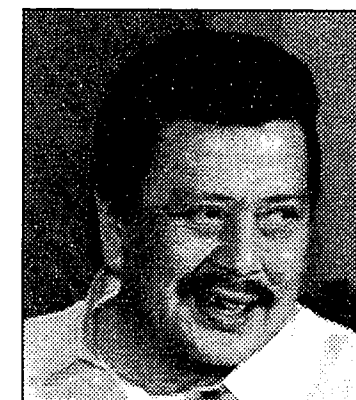
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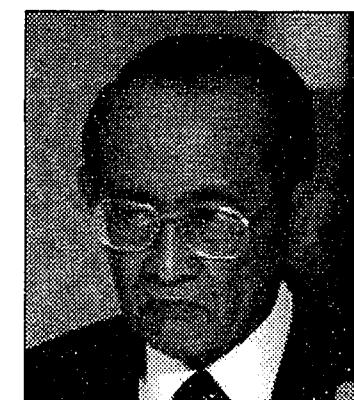


A couple makes a Christmas lantern under a bridge at suburban Makati city on Wednesday. The predominantly Catholic Filipinos boast of being the earliest to prepare for the greatest season on earth and this early, Christmas carols are being played on radios and Christmas decors adorn homes and streets and buildings.

## Estrada alleges Ramos group seeks to oust him



Joseph Estrada



Fidel Ramos

MANILA, (Reuters) - Philippine President Joseph Estrada said on Wednesday that people apparently linked to the previous administration of Fidel Ramos were seeking to bring down his government.

Estrada, speaking in a radio interview, did not identify the group but said his information was "very reliable". "We have information that they are not just holding frequent meetings but they also have funding to sow intrigue and their aim is to bring down and destabilize my administration," Estrada said, speaking in Filipino.

Estrada gave no details and offered no evidence to back up his accusation. But asked whether the group was linked to Ramos' administration, he said: "That's how it looks." Estrada said he had discussed the matter with his advisers, including the armed forces chief, and that they told him not to worry about it.

"(They) said we are running the government well and the economy is slowly picking up so we should not worry," Estrada said.

Ramos, a former army general before he became president and who now runs a private think-tank, could not be reached for comment but he has criticised Estrada for indecisiveness.

Speaking to reporters last week-

end, Ramos stressed, however, he wanted the Estrada administration to succeed. "We are interested in construction, not demolition," Ramos said. Ramos was president from 1992 until 1998.

Barred from seeking re-election by constitutional decree limiting a president to one six-year term, Ramos endorsed former House of Representatives Speaker Jose de Venecia as his candidate in last year's election but Estrada won by a near-landslide.

Estrada's popularity has dived in recent months in the wake of an increase in the prices of basic commodities, rising fuel prices and perceived squabbling among his cabinet ministers.

However, the country's leading pollster said Estrada still had a 56 percent popularity rating in September, albeit down from 78 percent in June.

Estrada's controversial call for amendments to the constitution to remove provisions which he said are discouraging foreign investments has fuelled opposition to his administration. Opponents accused him of planning to remove the cap on the presidential term but Estrada said his only aim was to attract investors to the country and pledged to step down when his term runs out in 2004.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine Airlines plane carrying the company president and top aviation officials safely completed a flight aimed at testing the carrier's readiness for the millennium computer bug, PAL said Wednesday.

The test of an Airbus 320 aircraft was carried out by PAL last Friday between Manila and the Clark Special Economic Zone, an airport and industrial complex about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the capital, the airline said.

Airline technicians advanced the clocks of its date-dependent computer systems to simulate a flight that would be airborne during the critical transition from Dec. 31 to Jan. 1, 2000, a moment some fear could result in aviation accidents.

"It was a successful demonstration. All systems functioned normally and no safety-related concerns arose," said Capt. Manuel Antonio Tamayo, the plane's main pilot.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta, Air Transport chief Jacinto Ortega Jr., and other officials joined the flight, which

was monitored by air transport personnel from takeoff to landing.

Zapanta said the successful test showed PAL is fully prepared for the millennium computer bug and ensured that the flag carrier's flights at the turn of the century will proceed safely.

In a statement earlier this month, PAL said it "is confident planes will not be falling from the skies ... there's no way Y2K will jeopardize safety on board."

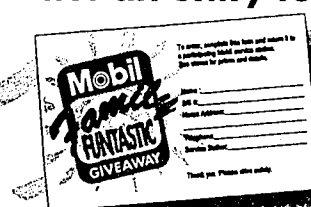
While PAL will have flights on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2000, the airline said it will not fly any plane at midnight because of slack passenger demand and the usual presence of thick haze over Philippine airports caused by firecracker explosions on New Year's Eve.

PAL Y2K project head Roberto Diaz De Rivera said the airline began work on becoming Y2K compliant in 1996, and has spent some 880 million pesos (\$ 22 million) on the project.

However, the airline failed to meet an end-September deadline set by the government's Y2K commission for all Philippine companies to be Y2K compliant.

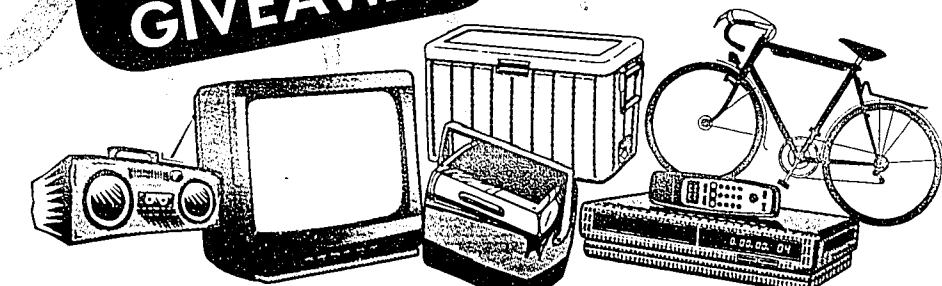
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## Cook Islands PM quits before confidence vote

**RAROTONGA (Pacnews)** — The Cook Islands Prime Minister, Joe Williams, has resigned just hours before he would have faced a no confidence vote in Parliament.

Yesterday morning Williams was still reluctant to resign opting instead to face the no confidence vote.

However, a meeting between the Prime Minister, his Deputy Tupou Faureka, Terepai Moate, the Leader of the Coalition Democratic Alliance Party (DAP) and New Alliance Party (NAP), and Norman George, the NAP leader, in Rarotonga later yesterday afternoon resolved that Williams would tender his resignation to avoid the no confidence vote against his Government.

Williams handed his resignation to the Queens Representative, Sir Apenera Short, at the Prime Minister's Office.

Parliament resumed in the afternoon when Opposition Leader, Dr Terepai Moate was expected to be announced as the new Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. His Deputy will be Norman George who severed ties with the ruling Cook Islands Party (CIP) last month after he and another DAP Minister were sacked by Williams.

There was no doubt that Williams Government would have lost the no confidence vote if it had gone ahead.

The Opposition coalition has the support of 14 Parliamentarians in the 25-seat House.

Moate and George will be sworn in by the Queens Representative later today.

Moate will announce his Cabinet team later this afternoon.

## Kiribati, Japan forge spaceport agreement

**TARAWA (Pacnews)** — The Kiribati Government and Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA) have finally agreed on the proposed multi-million dollar spaceport for Japanese rockets on Kirimati (Christmas) Island, located about 3218 kilometres (2,000 miles) east of the capital, Tarawa.

A report in the Kiribati Government Bulletin said the two parties agreed to proceed with the multi-million dollar project during their recent final round of negotiations in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Kiribati Government and NASDA agreed that the spaceport will cover 80 acres of the

sparingly populated part of Christmas Island.

NASDA will lease the area for 20 years.

During this period there will be three separate reviews on the lease agreement.

The space agency is also required to build a new jetty for Kirimati Island and improve and maintain roads and the two airports on the island.

Under the agreement Kiribati will receive \$AUS1.3 million (\$US0.84 million) as an annual service fee from NASDA, but this will be paid at the eighth year of the project.

NASDA will also pay for any

environmental damage to the area as well as allocate \$AUS20,000 (\$US12,882) towards an environmental impact assessment study before the project begins.

The space project, which is officially called HOPE-X PROJECT, will be the biggest high-tech project of its kind in Kiribati.

The spaceport on Kirimati Island will be used as a return and landing base for Japanese rockets launched into space from Japan or other parts of the world.

The rockets will be in the form of self-piloted shuttles and will be used to transport communications satellites into space.

## UNICEF: PNG failed on rights commitment

**PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)** — Papua New Guinea (PNG) has failed to meet obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child 10 years after signing the Convention.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said there is an urgent need for PNG to act on incidences of widespread abuse of children in the country.

UNICEF said PNG lags behind in meeting obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which it ratified in 1993 and is yet to submit to the UN an initial report on the status of the children in the country.

According to the UN organisation the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child depends very much on the input by the state and the various non-

governmental organisations that lobby for the rights of the children.

It said drugs and alcohol is found to lead to various crimes, and with the limited data and statistics the problems cannot be contained at executive levels. UNICEF said expressions of indecent sexual behaviours have become common in PNG and made an urgent call on the state to act fast.

This Friday marks the 10th anniversary since PNG obtained the UN Convention and UNICEF is concerned about its delay in submitting initial reports on the state of its children.

Celebrations to mark the occasion in Port Moresby will include representatives from the United Nations who will present the Status of the First County Report to the Government.

## Solomons Parliament sitting today

**HONIARA (Pacnews)** — The Solomon Islands national Parliament resumed its session today after a break.

The House session according to the national broadcaster, SIBC, will only last a few days.

By yesterday afternoon, the Parliament office had received only four Government bills. Among the Bills is the Supplementary Appropriation Bill of 1999.

However, Clerk to Parliament, Elizabeth Anderson is confident another eight or nine Government bills are expected in the next few days.

The main business of parliament during this session of Parliament will be the announcement of the 2000 national budget.

Meanwhile, in today's order paper two Bills have been set down for their First Reading.

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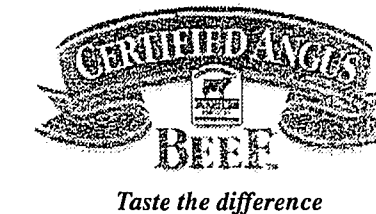


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# Bradley stands pat on Medicaid plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Up against a daily assault by Al Gore, Bill Bradley stood by his plan to eliminate Medicaid and accused the vice president Wednesday of playing politics with a broken system that stigmatizes the poor and minorities.

"He's wrong," Bradley said. In sober tones, the former basketball star described his presidential race as "the ultimate game" and issued his sharpest and most detailed defense of his \$65 billion health care plan.

Bradley, in an interview with The Associated Press, also eyed corporate tax loopholes as ripe for closing. "There are quite a lot there," he noted, and said politicians must start evaluating them each year "like any other spending program."

He also said he opposes sports betting "because I don't think athletes should be roulette chips."

But Bradley, who represented New Jersey and its Atlantic City casinos during 18 years in the Senate, declined to condemn all gambling. "I buy a lottery ticket every now and then," he chuckled. His reading glasses propped low on his nose, Bradley responded to Gore's escalating charges that Latinos, blacks and AIDS patients would be devastated by the loss of Medicaid.

"He's wrong. He's defending something that needs to be improved," said Bradley, who would give low-income Americans subsidies to buy health insurance in the private market or from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

This week alone, Gore gave an interview on Spanish-language radio, conducted an Internet chat with women and placed ads on black radio stations to spread the word that minorities and other groups



Democratic Presidential hopeful Bill Bradley ponders a question during an interview with The Associated Press in Washington Wednesday. Up against a daily assault by Al Gore, Bradley stands by his \$65 billion plan to eliminate Medicaid, saying "he's wrong, he's defending something that needs to be improved." AP

who disproportionately rely on Medicaid might not be able to buy insurance with the capped amount of subsidy in Bradley's plan.

"What you're seeing is constituency politics on the other side," Bradley said. "I mean you know, just go down this group, that group, that group, that group - try to get that group against this group and this group against that - not looking at the whole."

And the whole is that people would be better off if those who were uninsured had a chance to be a part of the federal system," Bradley spoke to AP reporters and editors from his aides' typed page of "talking points," on which he had jammed the margins with his own tight scrawl.

He reeled off policy minutiae with mastery. "Medicaid stigmatizes and says, if you're poor, you just got that. You can't join this other system. You've got to have this sepa-

rate thing," Bradley said.

Medicaid covers a small fraction of the poor and patients often don't have primary care physicians, but are forced to rely on hospital emergency rooms, he noted. Bradley suggested that his rival's critique hurt most because it denigrated Bradley's "deep and long-standing commitment" to helping minorities and the poor.

"It's sad that (Gore) would not respect that," Bradley said. In reply, Gore spokesman Chris Lehane ticked down a list: minorities, the poor, the disabled, senior citizens and those who are HIV-positive. "Each one of those groups would be disproportionately impacted and left out in the cold if Senator Bradley's health care plan was ever enacted," Lehane said.

Before racing to Atlanta's predominantly black Morehouse Medical School for a discussion of his health and poverty initiatives, Bradley also made these points: - His use of corporate jets is "completely legal, acceptable and fully reported" and not incompatible with his call to eliminate the political influence of big-money special interests. - He gave a tentative thumbs-up to the Clinton administration's deal to support China's membership in the World Trade Organization, despite fierce opposition from organized labor.

"From what I read in the newspaper, it sounds like something I would support." - He "stays in touch" with the Teamsters and United Auto Workers, two unions who opted out of the AFL-CIO's endorsement of Gore last month, to "encourage them to remain neutral" in the Democratic primaries.

- Defense spending should be restructured, rather than increased, to get rid of Cold War relics, such as heavy tanks. - After years of playing down his basketball feats, Bradley recruited fellow NBA stars for a \$1.5 million campaign fundraiser last weekend because, "When you're in the ultimate game, the ultimate competition, you want your friends with you."

- Asked about potential Reform Party candidate Donald Trump and his criticism of Bradley's record on tax reform, Bradley said the casino magnate's "animus" might be motivated by the pair's differences on legalized sports betting. At the prospect of debating Trump during next year's general election, Bradley folded his hands as if in prayer and aimed a smiling glance skyward.

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# Hillary campaign to move

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Seeking to quiet speculation that Hillary Rodham Clinton may be having second thoughts about running for the U.S. Senate, her spokesman said Wednesday that "this campaign is moving full-steam ahead."

"Hillary Clinton has made a commitment to the people of New York and when she makes a commitment, she keeps it," said Howard Wolfson, spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's political committee. Asked whether that meant the first lady was definitely in next year's Senate race, Wolfson replied, "That's what I've got for you."

Wolfson's statement came after a top supporter of Mrs. Clinton's expected Senate bid said she must quickly announce her candidacy, establish residency in New York and hire a full-time campaign manager to end speculation that she may not run.

"All three of those things ought to happen simultaneously and as quickly as possible, like tomorrow," state Comptroller H. Carl McCall said Wednesday in an interview.

"There's a very strong consensus among her supporters that that needs to be done," McCall added. Wolfson said,

"We appreciate his advice." Mrs. Clinton, like her expected Republican opponent, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, has been raising money and campaigning across New York for months, although neither has formally announced their candidacies.

Dueling TV ads also have begun across upstate New York. Speculation has increased in recent weeks that, as Mrs. Clinton's polls numbers have dropped and she has encountered problems on the campaign trail, she might abandon the race.

But McCall, the state's highest ranking Democrat, said she must "rethink the timetable." "That's what you have to do in a campaign, you have to make adjustments based on what's coming at you, and right now there's a lot of negative stuff coming," he said.

Pressure for Mrs. Clinton to devote herself to the campaign mounted after her official visit to the Middle East last week. Mrs. Clinton sat silently as the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat launched a verbal attack on Israeli security forces.

Mrs. Clinton objected to the remarks only hours later, and after Giuliani had begun criticizing her. The resulting furor prompted New York Democratic Chairwoman Judith Hope, a major booster of Mrs. Clinton, to suggest Monday that it might be time for the first lady "to give up her day job" and concentrate on the campaign.

Even so, Hope said she had no doubt of Mrs. Clinton's intention to run or her ability to win. But a new statewide poll showed Wednesday, as have others, that Mrs. Clinton's support in the state continues to slip.

The Siena College Research

Institute poll had Giuliani ahead of Mrs. Clinton, 48 percent to 36 percent. A September poll by Siena College had the mayor ahead, 43 percent to 40 percent, a statistical dead heat.

The telephone poll of 563 New Yorkers over age 18 was conducted Nov. 8-11 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Meanwhile, advisers to Mrs. Clinton have said they don't think she can announce her candidacy until she has moved into the house she and the president recently purchased in Chappaqua, which would satisfy the New York residency



U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton (center) sits among Turkish women in a classroom during a visit to a women's literacy center in the suburbs of the Turkish capital Ankara Monday. AP

requirement for a Senate run.

The move-in date, according to her aides, hinges on when the Secret Service completes security work on the property.

Wolfson said Wednesday he did not know when the work would be finished. The hiring of a campaign manager, however, may come sooner.

Although Wolfson declined to comment, veteran New York political operative Bill DiBlasio, who ran President Clinton's New York re-election effort in 1996, has been mentioned as possible hire.

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# Bush mulls policy issues

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When George W. Bush prepped at Andover, he set up a stickball league and dubbed himself "high commissioner." At Yale, he was a fraternity president and member of the secret Skull and Bones Society.

At Harvard Business School, one image stands out in the yearbook: the two-term Texas governor and would-be Republican presidential nominee, sitting in the back of class, blowing a bubble. On the campaign trail, Bush's carefree demeanor and natural affability win him rave reviews and rock star-like adulation.

But his record as a school socialite, his recent fumbling over the names of world leaders and slip-ups such as calling Greeks "Grecians" have raised a question: Does Bush have the intellectual heft to be leader of the free world? Left unanswered, it can be politically damaging, as former Vice President Dan Quayle found.

To quiet the speculation, Bush has been attending policy school

with a verve unseen during his high school and college years. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an observer on political issues and rhetoric, said the schooling shows that Bush is running a smart campaign. "You'd like the campaign to help prepare people to govern, and this is a thing that helps people to govern - and it helps them survive the debates," said Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

The first classes for Bush convened last spring at the governor's mansion, a white Greek Revival home with porch columns that lend a university air. The instructors included a variety of experts in foreign affairs, economics and social and domestic issues.

At the core are fellows at Stanford's conservative Hoover Institution, notably George Shultz, who was former President Reagan's secretary of state, and Condoleezza Rice, who worked for Bush's father, former President Bush, at the



George W. Bush

National Security Council. She is now the governor's chief foreign policy adviser.

The cram sessions continue, anchored by outsiders such as Lawrence Lindsey, a former Federal Reserve System governor who advises Bush on economic matters, and Al Hubbard, an Indianapolis businessman with a bent for domestic policy. Bush also has built an in-house policy team, led by Josh Bolten. One way he helps

Bush is by distilling material into single-volume binders, one labeled "Airplane Reading" that the governor carries while traveling.

Having taught law at Stanford, been general counsel for U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and served as trade counsel for the Senate Finance Committee, Bolten has seen his share of deep thinkers. To his eyes, Bush measures up. "I think he's got the heft. What he does not have is the veneer of an intellectual," said Bolten.

"That's what gives people the impression he lacks the heft." Bush's tutors have some common impressions: He asks as well as he listens, he can delve into the minutiae as well as frame the big picture, and he isn't embarrassed to admit what he doesn't know.

"He's not afraid to say, 'Explain that again,' or, 'Lindsey, give me that in English,'" Lindsey said. Bush, 53, did not want for a top education. He attended prep school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and graduated from Yale

University in 1968.

In 1975, he received a master's in business administration from Harvard University. Critics say Bush has benefited not from smarts but family connections. Admirers say he is a sharp businessman adept at public relations. Bush says he is a leader who knows how to set a tone and, as governor since 1995, to accumulate and spend political capital on a limited agenda. Hubbard said Bush is different from when they attended business school together. "He was not a very serious student.

He's changed a lot since then. Not his personality, but his seriousness about what he's doing vocationally," Hubbard said. As Bush attempts to make the move from Austin to Washington, he has been aggressive about bolstering his policy background.

The sessions at the governor's mansion earlier this year were almost entirely in their bearing: Six minutes for opening remarks, 25 minutes for one subject, 30 minutes for another, a 20-minute closing to review the material presented. Topics included health care, social policy, tax reform. "When we have these meetings, it's not just him sitting there," Lindsey said.

"He gets proactive and has an inquiring mind." Domestic issues appear to have come easiest to Bush. He runs the second largest state in the country both in terms of size and population, and he has dealt with microcosms of the challenges facing the nation. Advisers say the bigger challenge has been foreign policy, with all of its nuance.

One resource has been his father. As president, the elder Bush was known for his foreign policy prowess. He was head of the CIA, U.S. ambassador to China and the United Nations, and in 1990 cobbled together a 28-nation coalition against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. Another tutor has been Rice, a former Stanford provost, and former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Today when he's on the stump, Bush takes questions on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (he opposes it) and isn't afraid to say that the United States should treat Russia and China less as strategic partners and more as economic rivals.

Yet he sometimes stumbles when cornered for specifics, such as a recent television interview when he was asked to name the leaders in Taiwan, India, Pakistan and Chechnya. Bush got just one name.

The education of Bush is still a work in progress. In an interview Tuesday, Bush read from a draft of an upcoming speech to say he would take action "if the Russian government attacks innocent women and children in Chechnya."

Asked whether that was now happening, Bush moved the phone away from his mouth and shouted, "They are attacking women and children, aren't they?" Answer in hand, he resumed the interview and said, "Condi Rice is shaking her head in agreement."

# Bush gets donations from 'air polluters'

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush has received 79 percent of the money donated to presidential candidates by employees of oil, electric power and automobile interests during the first nine months of the year, said a report Wednesday by two citizens' groups.

Bush received \$521,714 of the \$658,389 donated by workers of companies belonging to three trade organizations: the American Petroleum Institute; the Edison Electric Institute, which represents electric utilities and power plant owners; and the Alliance of Auto Manufacturers, said the report by the New Hampshire Citizens Alliance and the Iowa Citizen Action Network Foundation, which supports changing campaign finance laws.

The groups attributed support for the two-term Texas governor to his lead in public opinion polls and what they described as his sub-par environmental record.

"He has a record in Texas that most environmental groups would say is not very good," said Tris Newbury, au-

thor of the report, "Political Pollution."

Newbury calculated the totals by examining individual campaign contributions, which require donors to list their employers.

Bush's campaign did not immediately return a telephone call Wednesday for comment. Campaign spokeswoman Mindy Tucker previously has responded to criticism of Bush's environmental record by saying that Texas has seen a 10 percent reduction in industrial pollution and leads the nation in reducing the release and disposal of toxic waste since he became governor.

All major candidates except Republican Steve Forbes took money from these employees. Vice President Al Gore, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, received the second-highest total, \$56,025, about one-tenth of Bush's total.

Republican Arizona Sen. John McCain received \$26,550; Republican Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, \$21,000; Democrat Bill Bradley, \$20,950; and Republican Gary Bauer, \$12,150. Steve Blackledge, program director

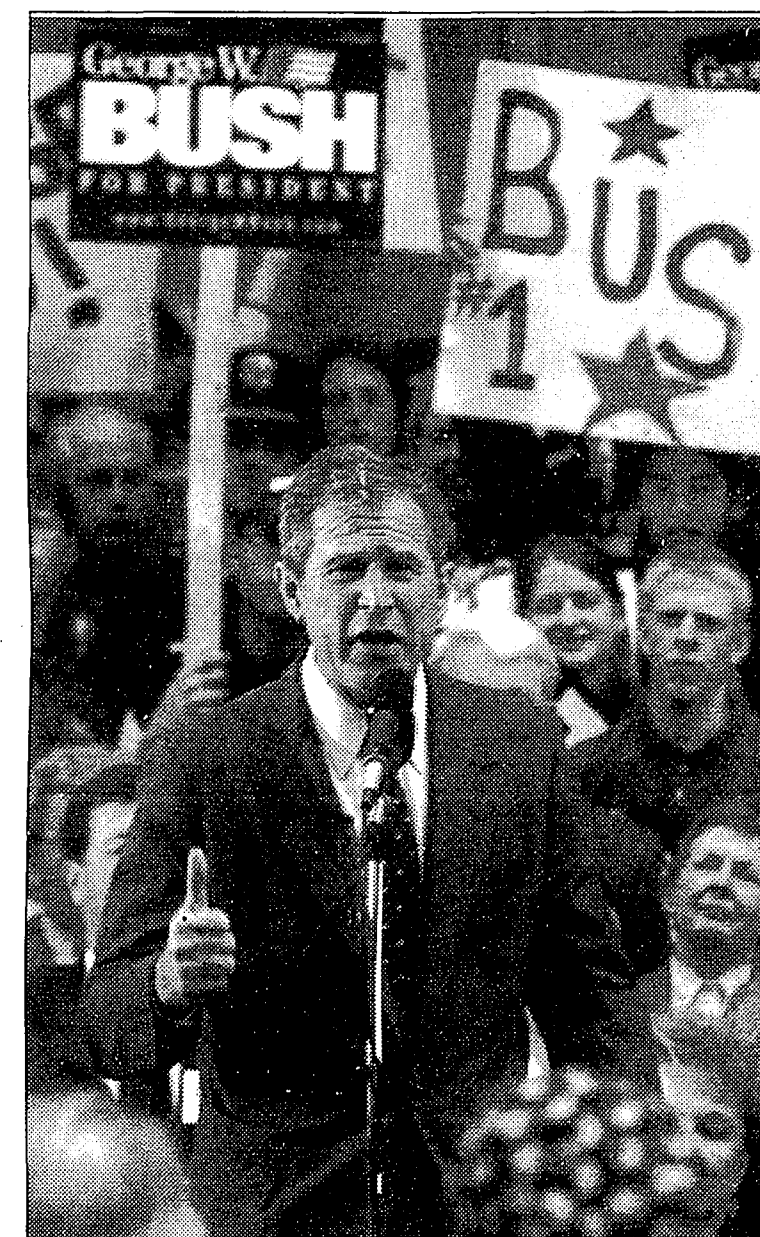
for New Hampshire Public Interest Research Group, said the industries are giving heavily to Bush in hopes that, if elected, he will resist tougher pollution standards being proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"If he is elected, these special interests will have special access to the next president," Blackledge said.

Since Bush became governor in 1995, Houston has surpassed Los Angeles as the country's smoggiest city, according to the 1999 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Toxic Release Inventory Report.

Four other Texas cities are on the verge of violating federal air quality standards. Environmental groups also have criticized Bush's plan to regulate Texas industrial plants that are too old to be covered by the state's 1971 Clean Air Act.

State regulators had been considering mandatory restrictions, but Bush intervened and asked industry leaders to draft their own, voluntary standards.



Republican presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush, of Texas, greets supporters outside the Statehouse in Concord, N.H. last week. Bush addressed the crowd after filing his papers and paying the \$1,000 fee to be on the ballot in the nation's earliest presidential primary Feb. 1, 2000.

AP

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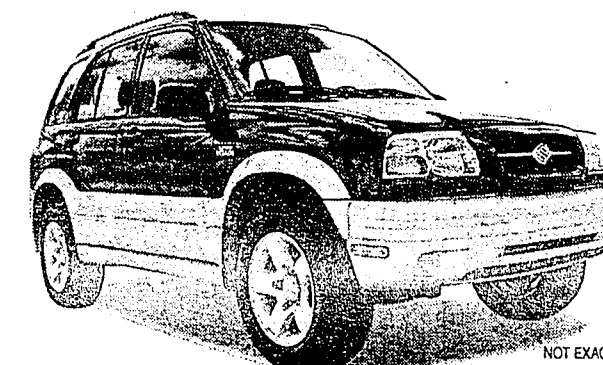
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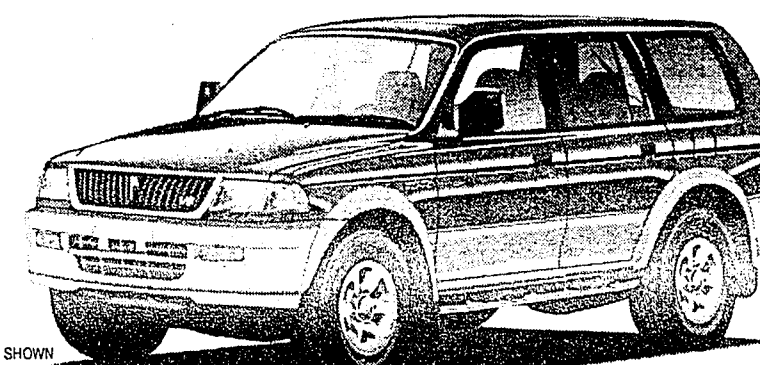
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# US budget deal reached

WASHINGTON (AP) — Caping marathon, year-end budget talks, congressional Republicans and the White House cleared the last known obstacle Wednesday night to agreement on a \$390 billion budget bill with a small across-the-board cut in federal programs.

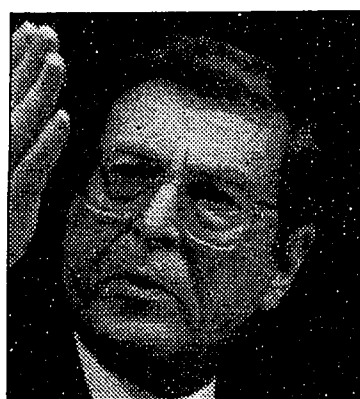
Sen. Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said the deal was sealed after Republicans agreed to White House demands for additional flexibility in the application of the across-the-board cuts.

"Jack Lew (President Clinton's budget director) and I just made the deal," the New Mexico Republican said in the Capitol shortly before midnight.

"... The budget bill has been agreed to." An administration official, Linda Ricci, confirmed that agreement had been reached on the so-called flexibility issue. She added that White House officials were continuing to read the remainder of the massive bill "with a close eye" to make sure earlier agreements funding Clinton's pri-



Jack Lew



Pete Domenici

orities were included accurately. Republicans said they would push the measure to a roll call on Thursday in the House — one of a trio of bills to be voted on in a rush to adjourn for the year.

The budget bill will be expanded to include unrelated legislation restoring billions in Medicare cuts, authorizing State Department programs and approving controversial dairy provisions, GOP officials said.

A second bill would keep government agencies in money for up to five or six days, enough time for congressional leaders to grapple with a threatened filibuster on the budget bill in the Senate.

The third piece of legislation would extend a series of expiring tax breaks, including one that grants credits for research and development. In an interview in the Capitol, Domenici said total cuts will amount to 0.38 percent of overall spending throughout hundreds of government programs, although accounts covering military personnel will be shielded from any reductions.

The administration will be able to cut up to 15 percent from any

individual account — more than the 5 percent envisioned earlier. While steps have been taken to grant Clinton greater flexibility, he said the agreement also includes provisions to make sure that congressional priorities did not bear a disproportionate burden of the cuts.

"I would assume the administration statement will be supporting it," Domenici said. Disputes over federal support programs for dairy farmers pitted Northeasterners against midwestern lawmakers in both houses.

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., had told reporters earlier he thought the bill "probably wouldn't pass the Senate" unless some provision was made to help satellite television viewers in rural states.

And Sen. Robert C. Byrd, a fierce defender of West Virginia's economic interests, sought inclusion of a provision to help mining companies in his state — an amendment that other lawmakers said was detrimental to the environment.

While Byrd's amendment was apparently being omitted from the final bill, the other issues seemed certain to be grafted onto the bud-

get bill, complicating efforts to gain passage.

The emerging budget deal represented a classic political compromise, crafted to allow both sides to claim victory.

The White House could boast of increased spending for teachers and police, the elimination of several environmental riders sought by Republicans, and the release of long-overdue money for the United Nations. Even with the cuts, spending would rise roughly \$32 billion more in fiscal 2000 than last year.

Republicans claimed they crafted a budget that did not dip into the Social Security trust fund, that achieved across-the-board cuts and that won restrictions on funding for overseas abortions.

## Senate nixes food merger moratorium

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate today soundly rejected a proposed 18-month moratorium on mergers of food and agriculture companies that Midwest Democrats argued are squeezing farm income.

"If you want to help farmers, this is not the way to do it," said Sen. Gordon Smith, an Oregon Republican who made millions in the frozen foods business. The Senate voted 71-27 against attaching the moratorium to a bankruptcy reform bill.

Many producers are blaming the shrinking number of food processors and farm suppliers for a severe downturn in the agricultural economy.

"We've got to do something about getting some competition back into the food industry," said Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said companies "are choking the economic life out of the little guy, the little producer."

Why? Because they can." Economists, however, say that worldwide overproduction of grain, not agribusiness consolidation, has driven down commodity prices. The moratorium would have applied to all mergers where one company had net revenue of more than \$100 million and the other had more than \$10 million.

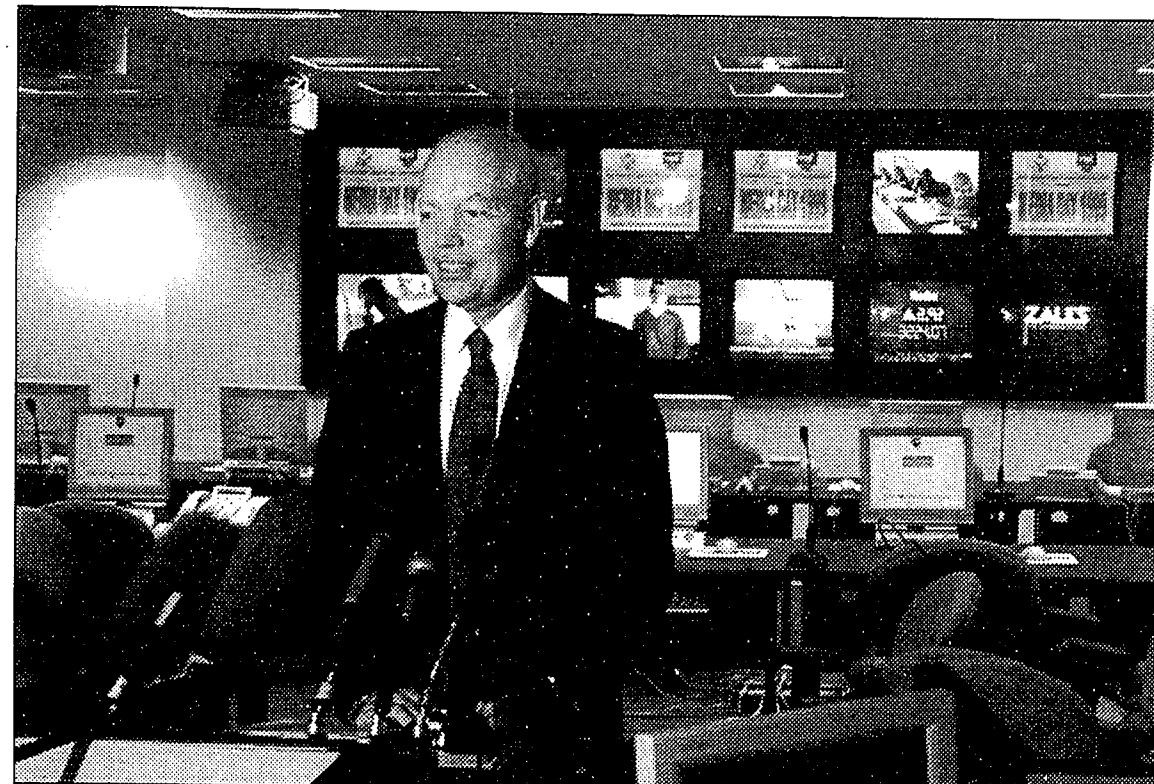
Midwest Democrats say the Justice Department hasn't done enough to curb a recent wave of agribusiness mergers and acquisitions, including the purchase by giant grain trader Cargill Inc. of one of its major competitors.

Justice is currently reviewing another deal in which the nation's largest pork processor, Smithfield Foods Inc., would take over its nearest competitor.

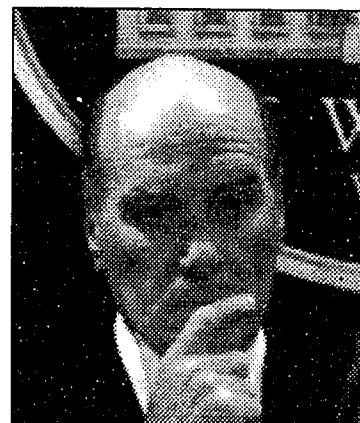
The Monsanto Co., a major supplier of seed and farm chemicals, is reportedly in merger talks with some of its competitors.

Justice Department officials have told Congress that existing antitrust laws are adequate to protect the interests of farmers and consumers.

# US budgets \$100B on Y2K repairs



John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council of Year 2000 Conversion, meets with reporters during a media tour of the White House's Y2K crisis center in Washington Monday. President Clinton's top expert cautions against panic if people discover minor problems during the New Year's weekend.



William Daley

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government pinned a staggering \$100 billion price tag Wednesday on the nation's repair bills for the Year 2000 technology problem, or \$365 for each man, woman and child. For all that, the Commerce Department predicted the impact of Y2K computer failures on the economy would be merely "something like a tangled shoelace for a world-class marathon runner."

In a new report, the government said America's booming economy was sufficiently "stable, large and resilient" that failures — even those overseas — will not seriously affect the nation's \$9 trillion gross domestic product.

"Any glitches that pop up next year should not hurt our economic growth," Commerce Secretary William Daley said.

"I am not going to lose any sleep." The \$100 billion figure for total repairs from 1995 through 2001 was generally in line with other estimates but still is an enormous amount.

Private analysts last month put the figure at \$114 billion. It roughly is the same as the total spent last year by seven of the largest federal agencies and just more than the personal fortune of Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates.

Commerce Undersecretary Robert J. Shapiro said some Y2K precautions — such as companies adjusting inventories to

hedge against possible supply problems — could affect the "pattern and timing" of economic growth.

Those rising expenditures, for example, could add to growth during the last three months of 1999 but likely would slow it during the first months of 2000 to compensate.

Shapiro also said consumers who decide to stockpile food, water or other supplies could drive up prices in the final six weeks of this year.

Another government report, being released Thursday, predicted only a slight risk of "serious or widespread disruptions" in the nation's food supply.

Consumer hoarding and weather-related problems could cause spot shortages, but food companies have made "remarkable progress" in getting their computerized systems ready, the report said. President Clinton's top Y2K expert, John Koskinen, also cautioned Wednesday that "several hundred thousand" smaller companies nationwide have not performed any repairs and apparently intend to fix problems after they occur.

Koskinen warned that business owners will find long waits for technical support and new equipment in the earliest weeks of the new year, and "some of them may lose their customers and go out of business."

"We are getting close to it being too late to start," said Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion.

Daley's generally optimistic remarks mirror statements made during past months by top U.S. financial leaders.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, for example, has warned that stockpiling and inventory hedging against possible failures could cause more trouble than the Y2K glitch itself.

The new report said spending on Y2K repairs climbed from

lion on Y2K repairs.

"The greatest cost to our economy is behind us," said Daley. He acknowledged that

\$100 billion was "absolutely" a lot of money, but added that "the potential cost of not doing anything was far greater."

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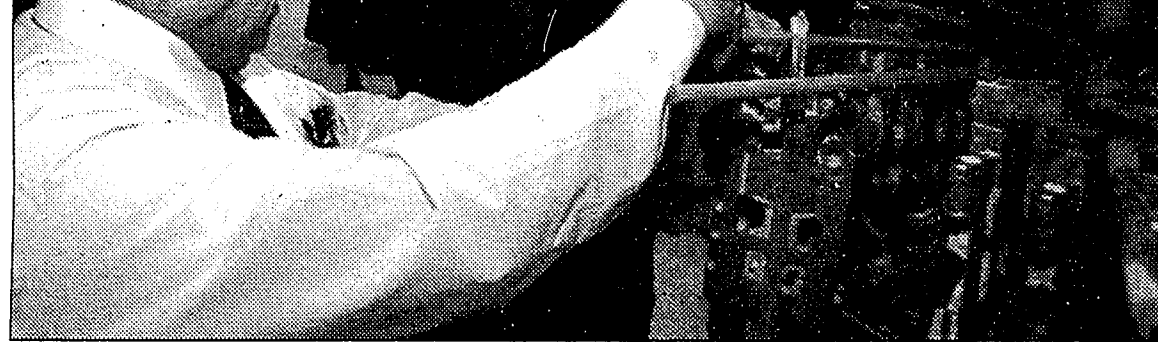
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failed to return from a patrol mission in bad weather Aug. 6, 1942, over the South Pacific island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides. The other seven were soldiers in Vietnam, missing since the early 1970s, the Pentagon said in a statement. Members of the World War II crew were identified as Lt. Maurice S. Smith of Lodi, Calif.; Ensign Edward W. Riepl of Herndon, Kan.; Petty Officers 1st Class Clifford M. Pindell of Washington, D.C., James W. Pearson of Alliance, Neb., and William H. Osborne of Martinsville, Va.; and Petty Officers 2nd Class William R. Pipes of Chickasha, Okla., Merlin J. Rich of Wheeler Township, Mich., and Vernon H. Stolz of Saginaw, Mich.

The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii recovered the remains of the men in 1994 after the U.S. Embassy in

More than 78,000 Americans are still unaccounted for from World War II and 2,047 from Vietnam. In a separate statement Wednesday, the Pentagon said the seven newly identified from Vietnam are Air Force Maj. Thomas H. Amos of Springfield, Mo., Air Force Capt. Mason I. Burnham of Portland, Ore., and Army Sgt. 1st Class William S. Stinson of Georgiana, Ala., as well as four whose names were withheld at the families' request. Amos and Burnham were last heard from April 20, 1972, while flying a night mission near the Vietnam-Laos border, the Pentagon said. Stinson was among crew members aboard a helicopter believed hit by a missile Jan. 8, 1973, over Quang Tri City, South Vietnam, it said.



Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer (right) listens to Joseph Internicola (left) during a tour at the Sturm Ruger and Co. firearms factory Wednesday in Newport, N.H. Bauer is in the state looking for support for his bid for the Republican presidential nomination next year. AP

## Clinton, Congress agree on school tax credits

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - The White House and congressional leaders have agreed to provide needy school districts with another \$800 million in tax-credit

bonds to fix crumbling schools, the chairmen of key House and Senate committees said.

Under a pact reached late Tuesday, negotiators responded to an eleventh-hour push by influential New York Democrat, Representative Charles Rangel, for two more years of funding for his "Qualified Zone Academy Bonds" (QZABs) programme, first enacted by Congress in 1997 at the same two-year level.

Few dollars have been allocated under the programme to date. However, the state of Tennessee is expected to sell roughly \$13.3 million in QZABs to First Tennessee Capital Markets on Thursday in the first QZAB bond pool deal so far, said Hal Canary, senior managing consultant for Public Financial Management in Memphis, which advises the state.

The QZAB plan could get final

approval by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate this week as part of a \$17 billion, 10-year tax-relief package that comes up for final vote before Congress adjourns for the year.

"It would have been unfair to extend tax credits for big business without continuing the public school bonds," Rangel, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, said in a written statement.

"There are children across the country going to better-equipped public schools because of this school bond proposal."

Under the QZAB programme, school districts can borrow up to \$400 million in interest-free funds in each of 2000 and 2001 to improve school facilities, equipment, curriculum and teacher training, Rangel's office said.

## Deal in NY mall racism case

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) - The family of a teen-ager who was killed by a dump truck on her way to her job accepted \$2.55 million Wednesday to settle a lawsuit accusing a shopping mall of racism for not letting certain city buses drop passengers off on its property.

Cynthia N. Wiggins, 17, died in 1995 while crossing a busy seven-lane highway outside the Walden Galleria in suburban Cheektowaga, where she worked at a fast-food restaurant.

The Wiggins family filed a wrongful-death suit against mall owner Pyramid Cos. after it was revealed that the mall did not allow buses from predominantly black neighborhoods to drop passengers at the mall.

The family also sued the regional transit agency - the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority - and the truck driver.

The family, represented by Johnnie Cochran Jr., was seeking \$150 million. On Wednesday, in

the middle of the trial, a settlement was reached under which Pyramid will pay \$2 million, the driver \$250,000 and the transit agency \$300,000.

Ms. Wiggins' 4-year-old son will receive the money. None of the defendants admitted any wrongdoing in the young woman's death.

"You have an attractive 4-year-old sitting here and the jury are going to look at him and think about how he doesn't have a mother," said Robert P. Watkins, a lawyer for Pyramid.

The Wiggins family contended that the highway served as a "moat" to keep black inner-city residents away from the mall.

Pyramid explained it wanted to prevent problems with rowdy young people. The bus company and mall pointed out that Ms. Wiggins could have transferred onto a bus with a stop closer to the mall. They also said she was jaywalking when she was struck.



Bill Richardson

WASHINGTON (AP) - A plan to compensate nuclear weapons workers who became ill through exposure to beryllium was proposed Wednesday by Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, who called the workers "the forgotten soldiers of the Cold War."

"This action is long overdue," Richardson said at a news conference also attended by Democratic members of Congress.

Under the provisions of the bill, people who worked at Energy Department plants between January 1952 and February 1993 and suffered from some beryllium-related illness would be eligible to receive medical benefits, lost wage reimbursement, and optional job retraining or a single lump-sum payment of \$100,000.

Oak Ridge, Tenn., would be the site of a pilot program to determine whether any current and former employees are sick as a result of beryllium exposure there.

The legislation expands on a similar bill introduced in Congress last February to include employees at DOE plants in Paducah, Ky., and Oak Ridge.

The earlier legislation had not included workers at the two plants. Beryllium is a light-weight, strong metal that has been used over the past 50 years in the production of nuclear weapons.

It can cause Chronic Beryllium Disease, an often fatal lung condition that may not appear in those affected until 10 or more years after exposure.

An estimated 20,000 workers may have been exposed to beryllium at various Energy Department sites, though medical experts stress that only a small percentage would develop beryllium-related illnesses.

Richardson said an inter-agency review, led by the National Economic Council, is continuing to examine whether there are different illnesses at other sites, such as the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, that warrant inclusion in the new program.

Richardson said a report on the Piketon plant should be finished by March. Rep. Paul Kanjorski, D-Pa., who introduced the original compensa-

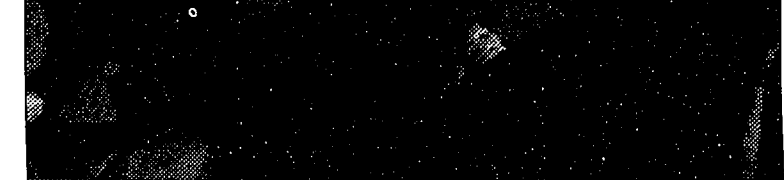
would provide the same benefits to affected workers and contract employees who worked for the Defense Department.

"This is an incredibly good start, but it is just that - a start. It is not the end of the story," said Kaptur.

Richardson said the Justice Department is still looking at

Until recently, the Energy Department had refused to acknowledge that some workers' health problems were linked to work at the weapons plants.

"Hopefully, this action will help redeem defense workers' faith in American government," said Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police riot squad members douse protesters with pepper spray as they try to break through police lines on Parliament Hill Wednesday. About 300 people demanding federal money for low-income housing confronted about 100 RCMPs. AP

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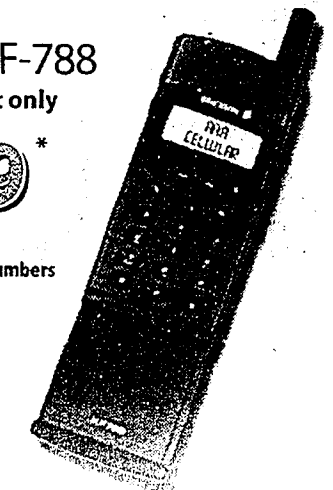


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## TV programs for the blind mulled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chet Avery picks the television shows he tunes into very carefully. Dramatic programs with lots of dialogue are fine. Avery is blind.

That means shows with high-action content and little conversation are difficult for him to follow.

"When you watch television you rely upon the kindness of your wife or members of your family to fill in when there is silence," said Avery, 62, a retired Education Department administrator who lives in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Va.

"I know some blind people that never watch television because of the frustration. Television is not for them."

Federal regulators and advocates for the blind say the time has come to give those with impaired vision access akin to what the deaf have now with closed captioning.

The Federal Communications Commission is expected to offer proposals Thursday on how to mandate video description services, which describe the scene and action not captured in dialogue, for television programming.

It's part of a broader FCC effort to make technology more reachable for people with disabilities. "We must ensure they're full participants in the information age," FCC Chairman Bill Kennard said in an interview.

"If you think of it as an afterthought, it doesn't get done." That's one reason regulators and advocates want to act now so they can set the stage to bring those services along as television makes the transition from analog to digital.

There are 1.6 million blind people in the nation, but as many as 9 million have vision problems such that they could benefit

from television description services, says Corinne Kirchner, director of policy research at the American Foundation for the Blind.

Blind activists say the service will mean one less obstacle they face in daily life.

"If I as a blind person don't have access to what really happened during the presentation of a program, I am not able to communicate with my friends and associates on the same level," said Charlie Crawford, executive director of the American Council of the Blind. Description services will also benefit people who have poor or failing vision and people with learning disabilities, said Margaret Pfanstiel, chairwoman of the National Television Video Access Coalition.

"This is something that's going to affect millions of people," she said. The service works like this: Descriptions of events are squeezed into the natural pauses already in the program.

For example, television audiences could hear that a character in a scene is boarding a plane or decoding a computer program.

This is typically done using a separate audio track that audiences can switch on or off. A secondary soundtrack channel also is commonly used to provide Spanish language dubbing of programming.

Since 1993, all television sets manufactured in the United States have been equipped to receive this secondary audio track, typically at negligible costs to consumers.

The FCC's proposal will ask for comment on such issues as how much programming should include video description and whether certain shows - for example, those during the prime-time slots - should offer the service first.

## Burton calls Cuba a drug trafficker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Dan Burton, chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, expressed outrage Wednesday after hearing administration witnesses testify that Cuba is not a major transit point for illicit drugs bound for the United States.

"When you come and testify before our committee and you tell us this stuff, it just drives me up the wall," said Burton, R-Ind.

He speculated that the administration's position is based on a desire of President Clinton to establish normal relations with Fidel Castro.

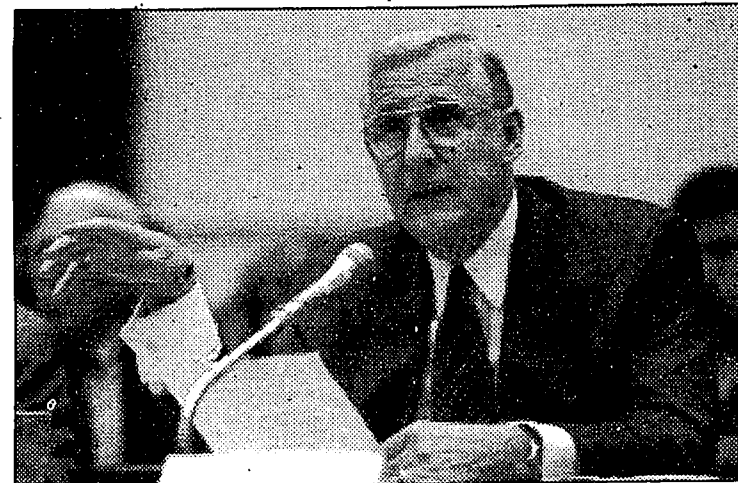
Administration officials insist Clinton has no such intention. Burton, who has been one of Clinton's chief tormentors on Capitol Hill, said the evidence is overwhelming of Cuban government complicity in drug shipments from South America to the United States.

He cited information that Castro once had a friendship with Jorge Cabrera, a Cuban-American drug trafficker who admitted after his arrest by U.S. authorities that he sent "freighter-loads" of cocaine to the United States, using Cuba as a transit point.

Burton also cited the case of a 7.2-ton cocaine seizure by Colombian authorities from a vessel in the port city of Cartagena in December 1998.

He said a months-long investigation by House Republican staff members demonstrated convincingly that the Cuban government was involved.

"For this government and this president to say this (Cuba) is not a major transshipment point for drugs is just unbelievable," he said, glaring at a lineup of administration witnesses from the State



Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., testifies on Capitol Hill Wednesday before the House Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources subcommittee. The subcommittee was holding a hearing on Cuba's alleged links to international drug trafficking. AP

Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration and an interagency task force responsible for monitoring drug trafficking.

Clinton infuriated Burton and other outspoken critics of Castro on Capitol Hill last week when he excluded Cuba from the official list of countries regarded as "major" drug-producing or drug-transit countries.

The list, updated each November, included 26 countries and territories. Cuba was described as a country of "drug-trafficking concern."

Rear Adm. Edward J. Barrett, who directs an interagency drug monitoring operation in Key West, Fla., testified that there is "little indication to suggest that cocaine traffickers use Cuba as a transshipment point for markets in the United States."

"Almost all cocaine headed for this market bypasses Cuba via other routes, typically Mexico, Central America, Haiti and Puerto Rico," he said.

Randy Beers, the State Department's top law enforcement

official, disputed Burton's contention that the cocaine seizure in Colombia 11 months ago should have been enough evidence to earn Cuba a designation as a major trafficker.

Beers said an "all-source interagency assessment" indicated that the cocaine shipment was earmarked for Spain and not the United States.

A country is labeled as a major trafficker only if drug flows have a significant effect on the United States.

Beers added that information exchanges between U.S. and Cuban authorities resulted in significant marijuana seizures by Cuban Border Guard agents on two occasions earlier this year. The two Cuban-born members of the House, Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Diaz-Balart, both Florida Republicans, joined with Burton in accusing Castro of involvement in drug trafficking. Ros-Lehtinen said it was naive to suggest that Castro is oblivious to drug trafficking through Cuba.

## US, China sign postal agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Chinese postal authorities signed an agreement Wednesday aimed at improving the flow of mail between the two countries and sharing ideas for developing new services.

U.S. Postmaster General William J. Henderson and China's leading postal official, Liu Liqing, signed the agreement in ceremonies at a Washington hotel. Liu and other Chinese postal officials have been touring U.S. postal facilities in Washington and New York.

The agreement calls for expansion of cooperation between the two postal services and continuing efforts to improve existing mail delivery and pursue new services. It covers business development, financial management, training and technical cooperation.

## CARIBBEAN

# \$150M for Puerto Rico, Virgin Isles

MIAMI, (Reuters) - Federal officials on Wednesday said they are closing in on a deal that would return approximately \$150 million in additional U.S. rum tax collections to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands over several years.

The federal government levies an excise tax of \$13.50 per proof gallon on rum the United States imports from the two U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

Under a 1993 law governing the return of the tax proceeds to the territories, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico received \$11.30 of the per-gallon tax. That amount,

often referred to as the rum cover over, dropped to the current level of \$10.50 when the law expired in October 1998.

Territory representatives since have been lobbying for a full return of the \$13.50 tax. In a deal struck late Tuesday night, House and Senate lawmakers, along with White House negotiators, agreed to send \$13.25 back to the territories, a spokesman for New York Representative Charles Rangel, the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Ways and Means, told Reuters in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

The proposal is expected to be

tucked in with the omnibus spending package now being readied by Congressional and White House negotiators.

The rum tax measure is expected to be passed by lawmakers, who are eager to wrap up work and adjourn for the year, Jon Sheiner, an attorney for the committee said in a phone interview.

If approved, the new cover over would be retroactive to July 1, 1999, and extend to Dec. 31, 2001, Sheiner said.

The U.S. Virgin Islands stands to gain as much as \$34 million from the change, while Puerto Rico could get about \$125 million, Peter

Hiebert, the Virgin Islands' Washington-based attorney, said by telephone from Washington.

The U.S. Virgin Islands wrapped up fiscal 1999 with a \$98 million deficit and is struggling to cope with nearly \$1 billion in unpaid bills.

The government, which had to take out a loan to meet its payroll in April, just completed a \$300 million bond issue to refinance the payroll loan, generate working capital and pay overdue federal tax returns.

"It guarantees an infusion of new revenues that are urgently needed by the government as it

attempts to cope with its financial restructuring," Hiebert said.

The Virgin Islands' rum tax revenues are pledged to \$541 million in rum tax bonds issued in 1998 and now are roughly equal to reserve requirements on that debt.

Excess revenues generated by the proposed increase will flow into the Virgin Islands' general fund, which could see about \$15 million a year from the increased rum tax cover over, Hiebert said.

"The agreement is well-timed for the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as they cope with Hurricane Lenny."

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2X4	\$4.25	5.25	5.85	6.95	7.80	8.85	9.50
2X6	\$8.95	10.50	10.95	11.95	13.50	14.50	15.50
2X8	\$12.50	14.95			20.45		24.45
2X10	\$17.50	22.95			29.30		38.75
2X12	\$22.50				37.25		46.50
4X4	\$14.95	18.95			23.00		29.00
4X6	\$23.50	28.40			37.50		47.00
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## NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified individuals or firms for the following:

## RFP No. 00-025 Satellite Antenna and Radio Equipment Maintenance

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the specifications/ scope of work at NMC Procurement Office, Building L, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **RFP 00-025 Satellite Antenna and Radio Equipment Maintenance** to Procurement Office, Building "L" no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, November 29, 1999.

The Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the College to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of NMC. For additional information, please call NMC Procurement at 234-6128 extension 2300, 2301, 2302.

/s/ IGNACIA B. VILLALUZ  
Procurement Officer



The CPA Employee Association  
**THANKSGIVING RAFFLE DRAWING**  
on Friday, November 19, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.  
Kilili Beach, Pavilion 2 has been  
**RESCHEDULED** to Saturday, November  
27, 1999 at Kilili Beach Area at 6:30 p.m.  
Winners need not be present to win  
For more information, please contact Angie  
Reyes or Teri Camacho at 664-3500.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293  
Saipan, MP 96950

## PUBLIC NOTICE

November 18, 1999

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, SECTION II, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLÁN, THROUGH THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1999 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, WAKIN'S BUILDING, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

- AGENDA:
- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
    - Roll Call
  - ADOPTION OF AGENDA
  - ADOPTION OF MINUTES
  - REPORTS
    - Fund's Availability Report
    - Chairman's/Executive Director's Report
    - Committee's Report
    - Manager's Report
  - OLD BUSINESS
    - Loan Guaranty Agreement
    - FY '99 Financial Audit
    - SBA Micro Loan Program
  - NEW BUSINESS
    - CPA Loan
  - DCD MATTERS
    - Loan Status
  - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
  - OTHER MATTERS
  - ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

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

# Hurricane Lenny threatens Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Beleaguered residents of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands scrambled to prepare for Hurricane Lenny, a late-season surprise that gathered strength over the normally placid Caribbean and headed for the U.S. territories today. Lenny's sustained winds strengthened to nearly 125 mph today, after the hurricane passed south of heavily populated and vulnerable Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Tuesday, unleashing torrential rains on its unusual west-to-east course.

The hurricane veered northeast in the evening, validating forecasts and sparking a last-minute rush at grocery stores and gas stations throughout the islands in its path. Officials in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands warned that the storm could dump up to 15 inches of rain.

The National Weather Service warned of isolated tornadoes. At a Home Depot near San Juan, nervous shoppers consulted a large wooden map where employees posted stickers tracking Lenny's relentless advance.

"We're taking no chances," said Gadiel Rivera, a 30-year-old accountant buying plywood to board up the windows of his home. "Everyone remembers Georges, who gave Puerto Rico a real beating."

Hurricane Georges, which hit in September 1998, steamrolled the island and killed more than 500 people throughout the Caribbean.

To many islanders who considered even last month's relatively weak storm Jose a late-season wonder, Lenny offered a glum reminder that hurricane season truly extends to the end of November — a time when rain-soaked terrain increases the likelihood of floods and mudslides, which pose the greatest danger.

The combination of the late date and easterly path left even experienced observers agape. "It's unheard of," said veteran meteorologist John Tewey on San Juan's WOSO-AM radio. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event."

Outer bands of the storm already created torrential rain and danger-



A man walks his dog in the Condado neighborhood of San Juan, Puerto Rico, as rain from Hurricane Lenny falls Wednesday. Lenny is a Category 4 hurricane and its center was located about 70 miles southwest of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands as of Wednesday. AP

ous, battering waves off Puerto Rico's southeast coast, the Weather Service said.

There were also high seas and damaged boats as far south as Aruba, just off the South American coastline.

Farther east, the storm hurt the endeavors of a Kentucky lawyer attempting to become the first American and the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic.

Tori Murden has rowed more than 2,500 miles since she left the Canary Islands in mid-September and is within 400 miles of her destination, the French islands of Guadeloupe. But waves stirred up by the storm have been pushing her back.

The storm was expected to reach southeastern Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by midmorning.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Charles Turnbull declared a state of emergency and a curfew after 9 p.m. to prevent looting, and the U.S. National Guard was placed on alert. Tourists crowded at airline ticket counters in an increasingly vain effort to leave.

The St. Croix airport closed, and the St. Thomas airport was scheduled to close. "We're trying to get to Miami," said Stephanie Lewis of New York City.

"I'm amazed that they didn't schedule more flights." In the nearby British Virgin Islands, schools, government offices and airports closed Tuesday afternoon. Only nurses, doctors, police and essential workers remained.

In Puerto Rico, there were concerns about a group of protesters camping out on a U.S. Navy bombing range on the outlying island of Vieques.

The protesters, who are opposed to live-fire training on the island, planned to ride out the storm inside an abandoned army tank used for target practice by the military. The government said it would open 328 hurricane shelters in schools Tuesday afternoon, and Gov. Pedro Rossello issued a ban on liquor sales at 6 p.m.

A supermarket shelf holding canned food has been nearly picked clean as shoppers prepare for the possible arrival of Hurricane Lenny in San Juan, Puerto Rico Tuesday. AP

# Rebels attack in Colombia



Colombian troops arrive to the police station in Prado, Colombia, a small town where rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, destroyed a police station and church, killing some six police officers Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1999. Eight police officers were killed in attacks by leftist rebels in rural states around Colombia, officials said Wednesday. AP

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Attacks by leftist rebels in five rural states have killed at least eight police officers and leveled barracks, authorities said Wednesday.

The fighting, which began Tuesday night and was still raging Wednesday afternoon in a remote state capital, was the first broad guerrilla action since a nationwide offensive in July left hundreds of soldiers and rebel fighters dead.

The national police operations chief, Gen. Alfredo Salgado, characterized the onslaught, two days after the rebels rejected a government end-of-year truce offer, as "the guerrillas' response to the Colombian people's clamor for peace."

In the heaviest confirmed casualties thus far, six police officers were killed and four were missing

in Prado, a town in central Tolima state, Salgado said.

"That's the information we have from peasants in the region, because the police barracks was totally destroyed and we haven't been able to get there yet," Salgado said.

In another town in the same state, Dolores, the church was reportedly destroyed.

Salgado said units of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's largest guerrilla force, carried out the attacks in four states: Tolima, Huila, Norte de Santander and Arauca.

Combat continued Wednesday afternoon in Inirida, the capital of Guainia State in eastern plains along the border with Venezuela.

Four marines were slightly wounded, and reinforcements were

## Ecuador volcanoes' energy building up

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Two volcanoes that have been menacing Ecuador for months could erupt violently if they continue accumulating energy that is not released through steam and ash, the nation's Geophysical Institute warned Tuesday.

Both the Pichincha volcano near this capital city, and the Tungurahua volcano, in Ecuador's central Andes, have been in an active eruptive process for weeks, scientists say.

But they now are in stages of "relative calm," Geophysical Institute director Hugo Yopez told The Associated Press.

The experts have forecast major eruptions at different times in the last two months, but so far their predictions have not materialized. Pichincha had two large eruptions of ash the first week of October.

The volcano faces away from Quito and is not considered a direct threat to its 1.4 million residents.

Tungurahua volcano, 80 miles south of Quito, "is giving off a light, but permanent column of steam and smoke," Yopez said.

told The Associated Press.

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## Argentina leader leaves hospital

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — President-elect Fernando de la Rúa left the hospital Wednesday, five days after undergoing lung surgery, and said he was ready to take office Dec. 10.

"I feel strong, fully recovered and ready to continue working," said de la Rúa, pale but smiling as he walked out of the clinic and saluted well-wishers before being driven away.

De la Rúa, 62, was diagnosed with pneumothorax, a condition caused when air escapes from a lung and becomes trapped in the chest cavity. If untreated, it can cause partial or complete collapse of the lung.

During the surgical procedure, doctors cut a tiny hole in de la Rúa's right lung and inserted a small tube to release the accumulated air.

being airlifted to the riverfront town of roughly 5,000 residents, Armed Services chief Gen. Fernando Tapias told Radionet radio in what he called a preliminary report.

"This is a terrorist escalation," Tapias said.

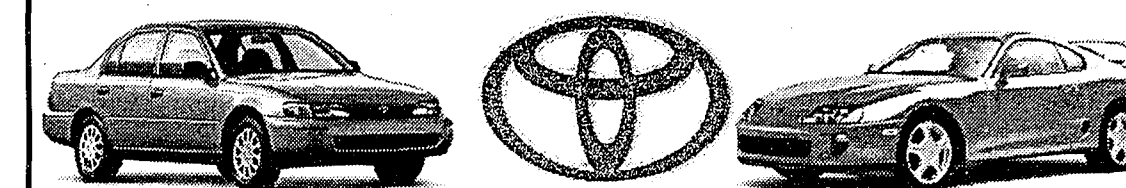
The rebels often overrun remote police and army posts, killing their

outmanned occupants and dragging off survivors as prisoners.

On Monday, the top rebel group known by its Spanish initials FARC, said it was rejecting a Christmas and New Year's truce unless the government offers quick solutions to poverty and unemployment and halts extraditions of drug

suspects to the United States.

The statement was considered to effectively quash hopes for the truce proposed by President Andres Pastrana's, who is trying to advance in peace talks with the FARC. Both sides have agreed to continue the negotiations without a cease-fire.



## USED CARS SALE

STOCK #	CARS	MODEL	PRICE	SELL
C98-004	1991	BUICK CENTURY	ABA-217	1995
U99-069	1991	BUICK REGAL	AAT-097	2995
U99-075	1991	FORD CROWN VICTORIA	AAV-213	2795
C99-002	1989	BMW	ABO-853	3795
U99-171	1995	TAURUS WAGON	ABC-366	6995
U99-264	1996	CADILLAC FLEETWOOD	ABF-878	12995
TOYOTA SEDANS				
C99-016	1997	CAMRY	ABL-095	13995
U99-191	1996	CAMRY	ABU-852	13995
U99-270	1996	CAMRY XLE	ABV-122	15495
U98-231	1995	CAMRY XLE	ABA-877	12995
U99-268	1994	CAMRY XLE	AAH-869	11495
U99-234	1992	CAMRY XLE	ABO-173	6995
U98-269	1991	CAMRY LE	AAZ-411	2595
U99-100	1990	CAMRY	TAXI-756	3495
U99-155	1990	CAMRY	TAXI-639	3995
C98-036	1991	CAMRY	AAW-175	2995
U99-163	1996	CELICA GT L/B	ABF-248	13495
U99-175	1994	CELICA GT L/B	ABO-002	11995
C99-001	1996	COROLLA	ACA-232	9995
U99-208	1995	COROLLA	ABU-921	6995
OTHER SEDANS				
U99-192	1991	NISSAN 240SX 2DR COUPE	AAZ-392	6995
U99-150	1996	ACCORD EX	ABD-747	12995
U99-030	1995	HONDA CIVIC	TAXI-642	5995
U98-270	1990	HONDA ACCORD	ABD-992	3995
U98-205	1992	DIAMANTE	AAH-706	4595
U99-265	1992	DIAMANTE	AAW-358	8495
U99-205	1991	PRELUDE	ABW-502	6995
U99-204	1996	INTREPID	ABW-502	10995
PICK-UP TRUCKS				
C99-015	1993	4x2 EX-CAB	ABH-917	4995
U99-202	1991	4x4 EX-CAB	AAS-327	4995
U99-156	1997	T100 4x2	ABC-490	13995
U98-016	1995	T100 4x4 EX-CAB	ABU-872	10995
U99-254	1995	TACOMA PUP	ABD-864	8495
U99-261	1991	MAZDA B2200 CAB PLUS	AAT-723	3495
SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES				
U99-269	1996	RAV4	ABV-911	12995
U99-266	1996	RAV4	ABZ-781	11995
U98-094	1990	4-RUNNER	AAM-139	7495
U9-034	1991	4-RUNNER	AAV-815	7495
C98-003	1991	4-RUNNER	AAX-125	7495
U99-133	1992	4-RUNNER	ABH-811	7995
U99-223	1994	4-RUNNER	ABA-306	12995
U99-153	1994	4-RUNNER	ABO-382	12495
U98-081	1995	4-RUNNER	ABD-668	13995
U99-090	1994	LANDCRUISER	ABS-471	23495
U99-130	1991	LANDCRUISER	AAL-118	12995
U98-074	1989	PATFINDER	AAS-291	2495
U98-054	1991	MAZDA MPV	AAV-795	3995
U99-255	1991	MONTERO (AS IS)	AAV-226	3995
U99-062	1996	CHEVROKKEE	ABK-150	9495
U99-162	1995	JEEP CHEROKEE	AAX-899	10495
U98-199	1990	JEEP LAREDO	ABL-013	5595
U99-181	1992	TROOPER	ABE-766	9495
U99-093	1992	TROOPER	AAV-690	8995
U99-093	1995	ISUZU RODEO	ABW-161	11495

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Saipan, MP 96950

email address for this position: hans@cellularsaipan.com or ccalugay@guamcell.net

Deadline to submit application/resume is November 26, 1999

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### To all MIFICPA Members & Filipino Accountants

- **WHAT** General Membership Assembly  
US-CPA Review/Examination Symposium
- **WHEN** November 20, 1999, Saturday  
1:00PM - 5:00PM
- **WHERE** Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan
- **AGENDA** Election of MIFICPA Officers for year 2000  
Orientation & Overview of US-CPA Review/Examination
- **RESOURCE SPEAKER** MR. RICHARD WALDO, CPA, MBA
  - U.S. Certified Public Accountant
  - Master of Business Administration, UCLA-USA
  - Experienced College/University Instructor
  - Experienced U.S. & Guam CPA Reviewer
  - Owned & Operated Lambers CPA Review
  - Founder- Richard Waldo Video CPA Review
- **REGISTRATION FEE** \$10.00 for MIFICPA members  
\$15.00 for non-members
- **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION** November 19, 1999
- **FOR REGISTRATION/INFORMATION**, please contact any of the following:
 

Maro dela Torre 234-5262	Nestor Alegre 234-9797
Adie Tabamo 234-5273	Val Cruz 234-0692
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Or pick up an application from our office. We are located on As Lito Road in As Lito just south of Lucky Market and Valley Inn.



Policemen detain members of the Falun Gong sect as they protest in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Tuesday. Members of the banned sect Falun Gong have appealed to visiting United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to organize a U.N. team to make an independent study of the group. AP

## Banned China sect members protest

**BEIJING (AP)**—Gathering furtively before police could catch them, several members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement staged a brief protest today in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

In the latest act of defiance against the government's four-month campaign to vanquish the group, four women, a man and a young child performed slow meditation exercises on the vast square's pavement.

Plainclothes and uniformed police quickly hustled them into a van and drove them away. "We appeal to international society and to kind people who uphold justice to support Falun Gong believers who have been persecuted ruthlessly," a member of the movement who watched but did not take part in the demonstration said in a written appeal handed to a foreign reporter.

Chinese media and a human rights group reported that 16 Falun Gong adherents in cities across the country had been formally arrested on various charges, including disclosing state secrets, incitement to create disorder, organizing illegal gatherings and sales of illegal publications.

Since banning the popular group in July as a threat to society and the regime, the communist government has ordered millions of believers to renounce their be-

liefs or face arrest.

But followers have converged on the capital to appeal, arguing that Falun Gong is not a threat and improves health and morality.

The written appeal by the Falun Gong member, who did not give his name, said fellow adherents were leaving their homes and jobs, sometimes walking or bicycling from distant cities, in their quest to defend the movement.

It said members were living in an "environment of absolute terror." Five suspected Falun Gong members in the northeastern city of Changchun were arrested in the past two weeks, the state-run newspaper Science and Technology Daily reported today.

Those arrested included Xu Yanquan, who it said headed the movement in Changchun, the hometown of Falun Gong founder Li Hongzhi and a stronghold for the group.

Three others - Zhang Guoliang, Deng Jin and Lu Yuzhong - were accused of selling Falun Gong publications, the newspaper said.

A Hong Kong-based human rights group reported that 11 other Falun Gong members were facing trial in cities across the country.

Authorities in Suining county in the eastern province of Jiangsu charged Ding Deze and Ma Jie with "using an evil cult to violate the law," the Information Cen-

ter of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

In the northeastern city of Shenyang, Miao Qisheng was facing trial for allegedly organizing a "second line of resistance" by Falun Gong against the government's campaign, the group said.

In Hebei province, adjacent to Beijing, five Falun Gong members were charged with disclosing state secrets. The center identified them as Zhang He, Song Yunsuo, Fan Huaqin, Liu Zesheng and Huo Yinkuang.

Other arrests were reported in Yinchuan city, in remote northwestern Ningxia province, and in Qiqihar, in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, it said.

Falun Gong, an offshoot of traditional schools of slow-motion exercise, was practiced openly in public parks and parking lots before the ban.

It blends ideas from Buddhism and Taoism with those of its founder, who now lives in the United States.

Stung by its inability to wipe out Falun Gong, Chinese leaders intensified their crackdown last month - ordering new arrests, branding the group "an evil cult" and having the Communist Party-dominated legislature revise a law on sects to provide harsher penalties.

## Report: 4 held in killing of lensman

**SHANGHAI, China (AP)** — Four people have been arrested in the killing of a freelance Hong Kong photographer in southern China, the state Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday.

Wong Chak-bong, in his 40s, was stabbed during a robbery Nov. 11 in the border city of Shenzhen near Hong Kong and

died later at a hospital, according to Hong Kong press reports.

Three men and a woman confessed to the killing after being detained in the eastern city of Hangzhou near Shanghai when one was found to have a false identification document during a routine police inspection of taxis and their passengers,

Xinhua said.

Arrested were Yang Zuohui, Liu Qingchao, Zhang Aidong and Chen Lijun, the report said. It didn't give any details about them or say what charges they would face.

Wong, a freelancer, had worked for the Sing Tao Daily News and Hong Kong magazines.

# China faces new rules

**BEIJING (AP)** — U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators ended months of hard bargaining with a breakthrough agreement to stop China's runaway piracy of movies and software.

Fifteen months later, the negotiators had to redraft the accord to close loopholes China exploited.

With its landmark deal this week to open markets to U.S. business and the promise of entry to the World Trade Organization to follow, Beijing faces new globally enforced rules. And the question for China's trading partners is: Will the future be any different? "This country has been ruled by consensus for thousands of years.

You cannot change it overnight," said Shawn Xu, an economist with the investment house China International Capital Corp. "The international community is going to have to give China some time." If past is prologue, China's membership in the global trading club could be tarred by broken or hedged promises.

Take the international treaty banning trade in endangered animals, which is spotily enforced, or the 1995 intellectual property protections with the United States, which had to be renegotiated in 1996. But there are encouraging signs.

China's communist leaders have expended much political capital to overcome domestic op-

position to joining the capitalist WTO.

They see WTO with its free markets and fair-play rules as a way to prod long-protected state industries to reform or face unifying foreign competition.

It would also help build a more western-style legal system better suited to running the dynamic economy than the current mix of central fiat and imperial bureaucracy.

Since Monday's market-opening deal with the United States, Chinese leaders have devoted the entirely state-controlled media to selling WTO to a nationalistic public and skeptical business interests.

"Under the agreement, China will have to do things according to international rules," People's Daily today quoted China's chief WTO negotiator, Long Yongtu, as saying.

"This cannot be called a concession. Following the rules is the duty of every responsible nation." The same protections that WTO membership affords other countries will also protect Chinese exports, ventures and markets abroad, Long argued.

Although U.S. trade negotiators called the agreement "comprehensive," China still can slow inroads by foreign companies.

Financial and telecommunications firms given greater leeway



A visitor speaks to an exhibitor from a U.S. company Texas Instruments at China International Education Facilities Fair '99 on Wednesday in Shanghai. The U.S.-China trade deal signed Monday will obligate Beijing to cut tariffs an average 23 percent and promises greater access to China's market. AP

under the accord will still need government-issued licenses. Capital controls and the inconvertibility of the yuan will dampen foreign bankers' interests.

"In the end of the day, they have a million ways to write rules to frustrate an agreement," said Gordon Chang, a Beijing-based lawyer with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison.

"China will find itself in perpetual litigation in WTO dispute panels." Pressures to delay living

up to WTO terms will grow if recalcitrant state factories go under in dizzying numbers and unemployment soars, Chang said.

But China, as negotiator Long noted, is in need of foreign capital and has to play by the rules to attract it.

Investors' fervor for China cooled further after the trading arm of a wealthy provincial government collapsed. Foreign lenders to GITIC are still trying to recover \$3 billion in debt. "The

Chinese learned a hard lesson: If you don't comply with international practices and international laws, you will get punished," said China International Capital's Xu. "There'll be no more lending from foreign banks." Even if China ends up with a mixed record in WTO, the People's Republic would hardly be alone.

Japan joined the world trade system 45 years ago and still has disputes with the United States and other trading partners.

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Saturday, 6:00PM November 20, 1999

Join us as we turn on over a million lights to kick off the holiday season!

6:30 - 6:45 GTC Elementary Choir Performance  
6:45 - 7:30 Performance by the GLB Dancers  
7:30 - 8:30 The Ferdinand's Band Performances

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La Fiesta San Roque  
Saipan



## Japan rocket may have leaked fuel

**TOKYO (AP)** — This week's loss of a \$94 million satellite just minutes after launch may have been caused by fuel leaking from a rocket booster, Japanese space officials said Wednesday.

The failed launch of the MTSAT satellite on Monday was the second this year caused by problems with the H-2 rocket, the key to Japan's space program. The program is competing with Europe and the United States for a share of the commercial satellite-launching market.

Officials at the National Space Development Agency ordered the rocket destroyed after launch Monday when engine trouble developed and they feared the rocket might veer out of control.

Liquid hydrogen fuel flowing from cracked pipes probably caused the engine trouble,

NASDA spokeswoman Makiko Nishihara said.

A video of the launch showed abnormal jets of gas shooting from the rocket's main engine shortly after takeoff. This, along with flight data transmitted during the launch, provided clues about why the rocket malfunctioned, Nishihara said.

She said the agency was still investigating what might have caused the cracks in the pipes.

The failed launch was a major setback for Japan's government-run program.

"This doesn't just reflect poorly on the National Space Development Agency, it leaves serious doubts for Japan about the future of space as a business," said an editorial in the Nihon Keizai newspaper, Japan's main business daily.

## Thai province tries to shake off dog meat tag

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — A Thai province notorious for canine cuisine is stepping up a campaign to shake off its reputation as the place in Thailand to eat man's best friend.

The local government in Sakon Nakhon province in Thailand's poor northeast is trying to clamp down on the many vendors in its famous dog meat market and persuade people that eating dog noodle soup and other dishes is bad for your health.

Vuttichai Sithi-art, an official at the provincial administration office, said Wednesday that police, veterinarians, public health and factory standards staff were joining forces to help end the

trade, though it is legal.

Health officials would explain to people that since the meat mostly comes from strays, it is riddled with parasitic worms, Vuttichai said.

Traders, who also sell the skins for leather, will face more stringent monitoring of how they transport dogs and slaughter them for sale in the sprawling market, which local people say originated with Vietnamese settlers.

The provincial governor, anxious to dispel Sakon Nakhon's reputation as Thailand's dog meat capital, is urging the Interior Ministry to issue a regulation prohibiting sale of the meat.

"Everyone in Thailand knows

Sakon Nakhon for its dog meat market," said Vuttichai. "This is very bad for the province's reputation, and we are trying to change it."

Unlike in some other Asian cultures, such as Korea where dog is regarded as a delicacy, it is less prized in Thailand for its taste than its cheapness.

Dog meat sells for 50 baht (\$ 1.30) per kilogram (2.2 pounds), compared with 80 baht (\$ 2.05) for a kilogram of pork.

Devious butchers looking to save money travel 540 kilometers (335 miles) to the province from Bangkok to buy dog meat in bulk and mix it with other kinds of meat they sell in the Thai capital, Vuttichai said.



Myanmar migrants carry their belongings as they make their way on the bank of the Moel River, bordering Thailand and Myanmar, after being deported for entering and working illegally in Thailand's Mae Sot town. AP

# Malaysian poll body sued

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)** — An outspoken economist allied with Malaysia's opposition sued the country's Election Commission today, seeking to halt elections later this month because nearly 700,000 new voters were not being allowed to participate.

The Election Commission has claimed it cannot complete a new voter registration roll until January - too late for the Nov. 29 poll called recently by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The civil lawsuit was filed on behalf of economist Jomo Sundaram, one of the potential voters who will not be able to participate in the election. No date was set for a hearing. The petition was filed by Karpal Singh, a lawyer and opposition member of Parliament with the Democratic Action Party.

In the petition, Jomo argues that barring him from voting was a violation of his constitutional rights. "If the judiciary is concerned about the democratic pro-

cess and upholds the constitution, I believe I will be successful," Jomo told reporters.

About 680,000 citizens, mostly young people who turned 21 recently, signed up during Malaysia's voter registration drive in April.

But the Election Commission has maintained that only the 9.7 million people already on the list for the 1995 polls could vote.

The opposition alleges that the delay was a ploy to keep out young voters, many of whom are believed to have turned against Mahathir over the ouster and arrest last year of his popular deputy, Anwar Ibrahim.

"The Election Commission, in having to comply with the wishes of the prime minister not to allow the 680,000 new voters to vote in the 10th general election, has brought shame and infamy to Malaysia," said the Democratic Action Party's leader, Lim Kit Siang. Mahathir's ruling coal-

tion, the National Front, has held power since the Southeast Asian nation became independent in 1957.

Since the prime minister fired Anwar in September 1998, however, Malaysians have protested openly against the government and opposition parties have

banded together to challenge Mahathir. Anwar is serving a six-year sentence for corruption and is currently on trial for sodomy, a crime in this predominantly Muslim nation.

Anwar denies the charges, saying they are part of a plot to quash his political challenge to Mahathir.

The Election Commission denies that its position has anything to do with politics. Wan Ahmad Wan Omar, the commission's secretary, said today that he is confident no laws had been broken. He said the commission's legal adviser would respond to the lawsuit.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

## INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW00-IFB-006

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works and the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, are soliciting sealed bids for the construction of Kagman Watershed Waterway D and Sediment Basin No. 2, on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available on or after Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of two hundred fifty dollars (US\$250.00) is required for each set; payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 30, 1999 at the DPW Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. Attendance at the Pre-bid Conference is strongly encouraged for all prospective bidders. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to the Director of DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan or fax (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 a.m., on the date of the Pre-Bid Conference.

An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

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

The responsible bidder, as determined by the government, submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government. Such bidder will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Payment and Performance Bonds must be executed by a U.S. Treasury approved surety. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred eighty (180) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed one hundred fifty dollars (US\$150.00) per calendar day for each day that the project is delayed beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) with matching funds provided by the Saipan & Northern Islands, Soil & Water Conservation District through the Department of Natural Resources. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from USDA-NRCS.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JOSEPH P. ROSARIO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ DR. JOAQUIN TENORIO  
Secretary of Lands & Nat. Resources

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

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP 00-004 November 3, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms with power plant operation and maintenance experience with MAN/Mitsubishi Diesel Engines 18V40/54A and 18V52/55B and Auxiliaries, capable of providing on-site engineering consultation services to:

- Plan, implement and monitor a rigorous preventative maintenance program for MAN Mitsubishi Diesel Engines 18V40/54A and 18V52/55B and auxiliaries;

- Plan and supervise repair of engines and auxiliaries;

- Survey CUC Power Generation parts inventory and prepare and implement plans for refurbishing, maintaining, procuring and disposing of parts, tools and equipment;

- Conduct on-the-job training and skills upgrade in conjunction with CUC Apprenticeship Program for Power Plant Mechanics.

Interested firms may pick up the Scope of Work and Proposal Requirements at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., Room 4, or have the documents faxed to them by calling telephone number (670) 235-7025, ext. 129.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of: Price- (40 points), Qualifications and experience of the personnel to be assigned as the on-site consultant(s) with MAN/Mitsubishi Diesel Engines 18V40/54A and 18V52/55B and auxiliaries - (40 points), and Firm experience in power plant operation and maintenance (20 points)

Six (6) sets of the Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-RFP-00-004 to the Procurement & Supply Office, P.O. Box 501220, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., Saipan, MP 96950-1220, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Friday, December 3, 1999. Late submissions will not be considered.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Timothy P. Villagomez, CUC Executive Director, at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 32, ext. 106.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Executive Director

## Foreign firms seek China telecom deals

**BEIJING, (Reuters)** - A WTO pact between China and the United States has given foreign firms a new weapon in their battle with China Unicom over \$1.4 billion in frozen investments in telecommunications networks, executives said on Wednesday.

"WTO will give us more ammunition against claims that our contract is irregular," said a Western telecom executive whose company invested in a China Unicom mobile phone network.

"I think it's going to make it fairly difficult for Unicom to negotiate from now on," he said. China's number two telecom firm has been fighting for more than a year to nullify joint ventures with two dozen foreign companies following a declaration by industry regulators that the projects were "irregular."

Since the mid-1990s, the foreign firms had used Chinese middlemen to skirt a ban on overseas participation in the sector and pour a total of \$1.4 billion into Unicom's networks. Cash-starved Unicom initially welcomed the capital but is now trying to buy out foreign partners to pave the way for a multi-billion dollar overseas stock listing in April.

Most foreign companies have rebuffed Unicom.

"GRANDFATHER" CLAUSE SEEN THE KEY Now the companies are turning to a key pact signed between the United States and China on Monday, which would require China to gradually open telecom firms to 50 percent foreign ownership as a term of entry into the World Trade Organisation.

Equally important, China has agreed under the accord to

"grandfather" - or seal in place - all existing operations in service sectors. "China will grandfather all existing current market access and activities in all services sectors," the pact said.

"This will protect existing American distribution services, financial services, professional and other service providers in China, including those operating under contractual or shareholder agreements or a licence, from restrictions as Chinese commitments phase in," the document said.

Europe will probably seek a similar clause in any WTO pact it negotiates with China, executives said. Several foreign companies said they would seek to use the grandfather clause to maintain a stake in their joint ventures with Unicom.

"I think the WTO signing will upset the momentum of the current negotiations," the Western company executive said.

"We're going to re-look our strategy from the bottom up." BUT WILL UNICOM ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT? It is far from clear whether China Unicom or industry regulators would entertain protection under WTO.

"If you were to ask Unicom, I think they would give you an answer that it doesn't change anything," said one source familiar with the issue.

"It's to their advantage to get the foreigners out for a cheap price and then go do a public offering," he said.

China Unicom declined immediate response on the issue. Still, a second Western executive with a stake in the issue said Unicom might see advantage in maintaining its partnerships.

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Minimum Bid Required, Please call Bank of Hawaii at Tel. 322-4220 extension 262  
The Bank reserve the rights to refuse any and all Bids  
Closing date will be on 11/19/99 at 5:00PM

## PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB00-0012

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Director of Procurement and Supply, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to provide water testing:

- 1) of a stormwater drainage;
- 2) and of effluent in a constructed wetland

The scope of work for the project may be obtained at the Division of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base, Saipan during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Bids must be submitted (one (1) original and six (6) copies for each bid) to the Division of Procurement and Supply in a sealed envelope marked ITB00-0012. The opening will be on December 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Any bids will become the property of the Division of Environmental Quality.

All inquiries should be directed to Fran Castro or Clarissa Tanaka of the Division of Environmental Quality at telephone number (670) 664-8500/01, or e-mail: fran.castro@saipan.com or clarissa.tanaka@saipan.com.

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

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## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For a High-Speed Runway Vacuum Sweeper for the Saipan International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement of one (1) high-speed runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed sweeper must be equivalent or more advanced than the following:

1. MAIN ENGINE
  - a. Diesel 6-cylinder engine
  - b. 80 or more horsepower
  - c. 12-Volt DC System
  - d. Automatic transmission
  - e. Power Steering
2. AUXILIARY ENGINE (Vacuum Sweeper Section)
  - a. Diesel 6-cylinder engine
  - b. 80 or more horsepower
  - c. Hopper: 4 or more cubic yard capacity
  - d. Minimum 200 gallon water tank

PRICE MUST BE CIF SAIPAN

Interested proposer should submit proposals no later than 4:30 p.m., December 10, 1999. Late proposals will not be entertained.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Carlos H. Salas  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 1055  
Saipan, MP 96950

/s/ ROMAN S. PALACIOS  
Contracting Officer/Board Chairman



# Pakistan enacts anti-graft law

## ISLAMABAD, Pakistan(AP)

— Pakistan's military government enacted a stiffer anti-corruption law today that disqualifies politicians found guilty of corruption or defaulting on loans from holding office for 21 years.

The law took effect shortly after a midnight deadline expired for those with outstanding bank loans to repay their debts or face criminal charges.

The new law also imposes a jail term of up to 14 years. Previously, those found guilty of corruption in Pakistan faced a maximum five-year jail term and were kept out of politics for seven years.

According to newspaper reports, the equivalent of \$100 million was recovered when the deadline expired.

Deposed Premier Nawaz Sharif's family repaid the

equivalent of nearly \$6 million. One of the first major promises of Army Chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf, after throwing out Sharif's increasingly unpopular government in a bloodless coup on Oct. 12, was to clean up the country's deeply corrupt political system and revive the economy.

It's estimated that the equivalent of as much as \$4 billion is owed to banks by defaulters,

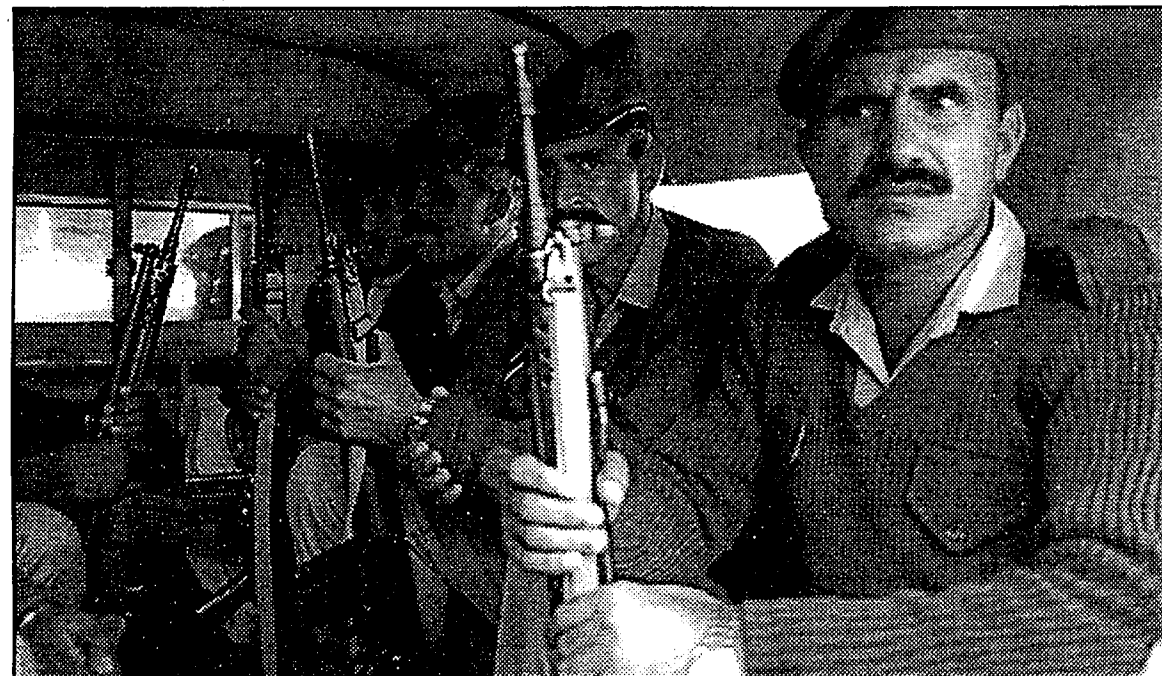
most of whom are among Pakistan's wealthy elite, government officials said.

Banks, which were taken over by the government in the 1970s, were coerced into giving loans to the powerful, who rarely provided sufficient collateral.

The new law gives the government the power to confiscate property owned by loan defaulters.

It also bars anyone found guilty of corruption from taking out another loan for 10 years, according to the state-run news agency, The Associated Press of Pakistan, which published the new law.

Musharraf, who took power in the coup last month, already has established a National Accountability Bureau, headed by an army general, to investigate the corrupt.



Former lawmaker Nawaz Khokar (left at the rear end of a back of the truck) sits with Pakistani army soldiers after his arrest, Wednesday in Islamabad. Pakistan army started crackdown operations as the deadline ended for loan defaulters. Khokar was lawmaker and minister in prime minister Benazir Bhutto's regime. AP

## Report: What is a few thousand deaths in India? asks Prince Philip

**NEW DELHI, India (AP)** — Prince Philip reportedly told India's prime minister that a few thousand deaths in a super cyclone last month should not matter in a country of nearly 1 billion people, a respected Indian newspaper said.

The Duke of Edinburgh's comment embarrassed Queen Elizabeth at her meeting with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Durban, South Africa, The Hindu newspaper reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted unidentified officials of the Indian foreign ministry as saying they were debating whether to raise the issue with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Philip, the paper said, intervened during a conversation when the queen expressed sympathy to Vajpayee over the death and devastation in Orissa, where nearly 10,000 people have been killed, according to preliminary counts.

The Hindu, a respected newspaper, said the queen was stunned by her husband's remark and did not respond. Vajpayee just smiled, the paper said.

In August, Philip, 78, said during a tour of an electronics factory run by Rascal-MESL in Edinburgh, Scotland that an unsophisticated fuse box with cables reaching up to the ceiling looked "as if it was put in by an Indian."

Racial equality groups in

Britain expressed anger and, in an unusual move, Philip apologized.

In 1997, while on a visit to the northern Indian city of Amritsar, he surprised his hosts by disputing historical accounts of a massacre by British soldiers.

The reports of the 1919 massacre said 300 Indians were killed and more than 1,000 were injured when British Gen. Reginald Dyer ordered his soldiers to fire on unarmed civilians listening to Indian leaders campaigning for independence in a courtyard that had only one gate.

Philip told an official showing him around the memorial that Dyer's son had told him that the figure was much lower and he had no reason to disbelieve him.

## New Tunisia prime minister named

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali on Wednesday named his former international cooperation minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, as the North African nation's new prime minister.

Ghannouchi, 58, whose previous post included the task of seeking foreign investment, replaces Hamed Karoui, who had served as premier for ten years.

Ben Ali, who came to power in 1987 in a bloodless coup, won Oct. 24 presidential elections with more than 99 percent of the vote. Ghannouchi announced his new

post after a meeting with the president. Among other government changes, the number of women in ministerial posts will double to four and, for the first time, there will be a minister in charge of human rights - Dali Jazi.

A new defense minister, Mohamed Jegham, and new foreign minister, Habib Ben Ahia, were also named.

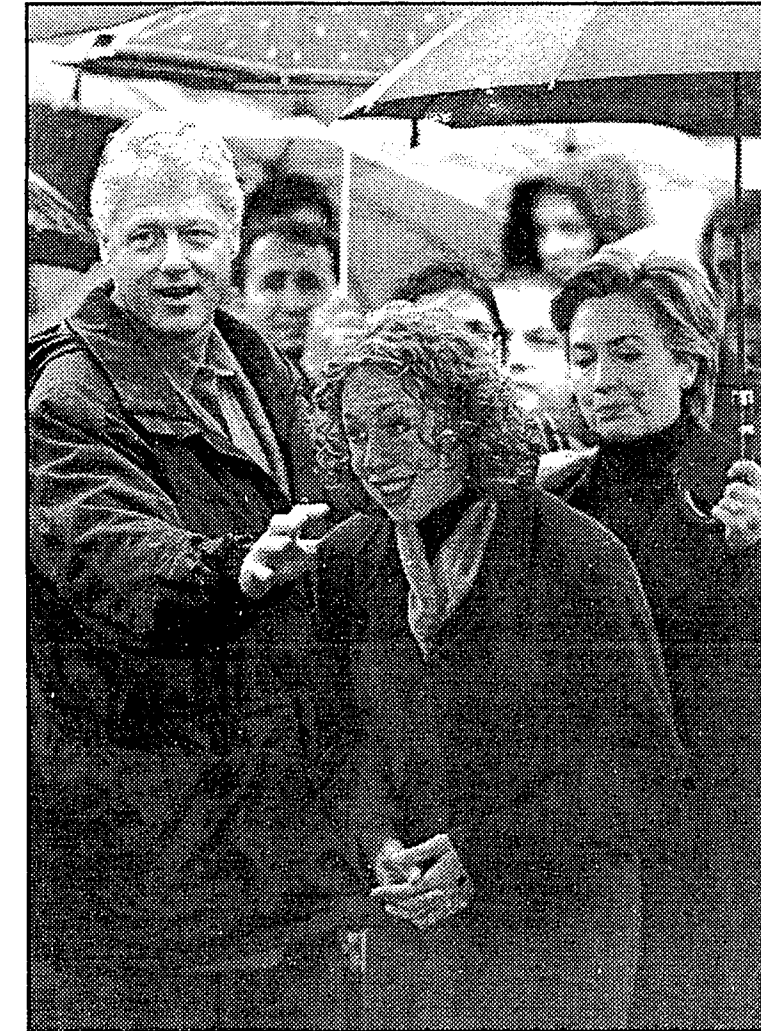
Ben Ali's Democratic Constitutional Rally party has ruled Tunisia under different names since the small Muslim nation on the Mediterranean gained independence from France in 1956.

Ben Ali was a former interior minister in 1987 when he toppled President Habib Bourguiba, the nation's founder.

After being sworn in for his third term on Nov. 15, he responded to critics who attacked the government's human rights record, accusing them of "smear campaigns."

During the election campaign, several French newspapers and human rights groups criticized the Tunisian government for its tight control of the media, and for other abuses from harassment to torture of political prisoners.

# Quake relief boosts Turkey



Chelsea Clinton approaches a group of Turkish children who lost their homes during an earthquake in last August, during a visit to a tent city for quake survivors near Izmit, Turkey with her parents, President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. AP

**ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)** — Moments after an earthquake shook western Turkey, military helicopters rushed to the region, ferrying injured survivors to hospitals while rescue teams began assembling for deployment.

The prompt relief efforts after the deadly quake on Friday have strengthened the Turkish government just months after outraged citizens were questioning not only the future of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, but also the central role of a military that is revered in society.

Turkey's government is recouping some of the prestige it lost after the previous quake on Aug. 17, when rescue efforts were so poorly organized that one relief team had to stop and ask a reporter if she knew where the team was needed.

"This time, no mistakes," the Milliyet newspaper boasted in a headline. Hurriyet newspaper commented: "The state made it this time."

After the August quake tore through northwestern Turkey, the military appeared to be in shock at the scope of a quake that demolished tens of thousands of buildings and sent parts of a key naval base sliding into the sea, killing scores of top officers.

The military's slow response stunned citizens who have always regarded the army as the most efficient organization in the country.

During the election campaign, several French newspapers and human rights groups criticized the Tunisian government for its tight control of the media, and for other abuses from harassment to torture of political prisoners.

Ben Ali's Democratic Constitutional Rally party has ruled Tunisia under different names since the small Muslim nation on the Mediterranean gained independence from France in 1956.

that they are not calcified and that they were flexible enough to learn the lessons from the first quake," Alan Makovsky of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said in a telephone interview Tuesday from the U.S. capital.

This time, when the strong quake struck on Friday, the government moved quickly and took pains to show its citizens that it was coping with the disaster. Soldiers rushed to Duzce, Bolu and other hard-hit towns while a crisis center quickly dispatched foreign and Turkish teams to the area.

Ecevit immediately addressed the press and later headed out to the scene of the disaster. "We reached the point that had taken us one week to reach (during the first quake) in just one day," Labor Minister Yasar Okuyan said two days into the latest quake disaster.

"We were suffering from a lack of experience, but now there is a rescue team working on every single collapsed building."

Rescue workers caution that while the government is basking in public praise, the latest quake caused only a fraction of the destruction of the first temblor and some members of rescue teams that rushed here found themselves with little to do.

While the August quake killed at least 17,000 people and devastated tens of thousands of buildings, the temblor on Friday killed 600 people and destroyed hundreds of buildings. "This time most of the buildings that collapsed were already damaged in the last quake and so many were empty anyway," said Nasuh Mahruki, head of AKUT, Turkey's civilian search and res-

cue group.

"The magnitude was on a much smaller scale." Turkey also had rescue equipment on hand that was donated after the earlier

quake, and many of the rescue teams had the experience of having worked together in Turkey in August.

"It gives people confidence

that at least Turkey has become aware of the need to prepare for disasters and it knows better how to respond to them," Makovsky said.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW00-RFP-004

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works and the Public School System, are soliciting sealed proposals from Architectural/Engineering firms for the Construction Management of the Marianas High School Gymnasium Completion on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after Monday, November 8, 1999 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan. The period allotted for the construction Contractor to complete the project is 320 calendar days. As such, the services of the construction manager shall be for 320 calendar days.

A Pre-proposal Conference meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 22, 1999 at the DPW Main Office Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan. Any questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. to the Director, Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan on the date of the Pre-proposal Conference.

The evaluation factors for proposals, with their relative importance, will be as follows:

1. Current workload of firm - 10%
2. Ability to commit staff to the project - 10%
3. Qualifications of key personnel/staff - 30%
4. Past experience on similar construction management work - 30%
5. Price - 20%

One original and three copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed package no later than 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 29, 1999 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Award of a contract is contingent upon funding approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSEPH P. ROSARIO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ RITA H. INOS, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

## Employment Opportunity

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Saipan is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work in the following positions:

**Officer in Charge (OIC), Customer Service/New Accounts  
Credit Administration Assistant  
Executive Assistant  
Customer Service Representative**

The individuals we seek are likely to have a combination of the following qualifications:

- Experience managing and driving a successful sales team (OIC)
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Able to use a PC to create memos and spreadsheets (very comfortable using Word & Excel)
- Able to work under pressure
- A team player
- University degree and/or 5 years banking experience (OIC)

HSBC offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience as well as an extensive benefits package. If you are one of the highly motivated individuals we are seeking, please complete an application and submit your resume to HSBC Branch, Garapan, Saipan.

**Resumes/Applications will be accepted 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday, 22 November - Wednesday, 24 November 1999 only. No phone calls please.**

As a condition of employment HSBC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI (RESIDENT WORKERS ONLY), drug testing, police and court clearance, a credit check and ability testing. HSBC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations with major personal, commercial, corporate and investment banking and insurance businesses operating in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. We employ some 140,000 people in 79 countries, and territories and at 30 June 1999, recorded assets of USD497 billion.

**HSBC**



# Clinton, Barak meet in Istanbul

EPHESUS, Turkey (AP) — On a sightseeing break from official duties, President Clinton strolled today through the marble ruins of this ancient city, one of antiquity's best-preserved settlements in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Traversing white stone pathways with his wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea, the president paused to admire the grassy Upper Agora, once a marketplace and public square; and the Trajan Fountain, which dates to 102 and was dedicated to Emperor Trajan. A colossal statue of the emperor stands in the center of the structure.

With armed security officers in the rocky hills overlooking Ephesus, the first family walked and gawked with guide Cengiz Icten, an archaeologist who escorted Mrs. Clinton when she visited the classical city in 1996.

Clinton flew here this morning from Istanbul, where he is to attend a meeting of the leaders of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe starting Thursday. He returned to Istanbul in the afternoon and met for 35 minutes at his hotel with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. On Thursday Clinton expects to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to discuss several issues including U.S. objections to the Russian military offensive in Chechnya.

After the Barak meeting, Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, told reporters that Clinton raised the current

standoff between Israel and the Palestinians over whether Israel has the sole right to determine from which West Bank areas it will withdraw its troops. Berger gave few details of the discussion but said Barak "expressed some hope that that would be resolved soon."

Clinton met with Barak earlier this month in Oslo, where they and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat discussed trying to establish by February the framework for reaching a Middle East peace settlement.

Ephesus, known as the third city of the Roman Empire, was originally settled by Ionian Greeks in the 10th century B.C. In 550 B.C., the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was erected here.

By the 6th century B.C. the city had developed into one of the Aegean Sea's major trading ports. At its peak, it had a population of 200,000 to 250,000. Today, the sea is about three miles away, and much of the ruins now visible are from the first and second centuries.

After admiring the two-story Library of Celsus, built in 117, the Clintons' guide pointed out "graffiti" carved into the stone pathway that was meant to signal directions to the House of Love, a former brothel. The graffiti was a carving of a left foot beside the likeness of a woman with a crown on her head, indicating that the brothel was located to the left.



President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton laugh with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and his wife, Nava, as they pose for pictures before a meeting at the Conrad Hotel in Istanbul Wednesday. AP

"Interesting," the president was heard to remark, "that the third toe is longer than the first toe."

The Clintons stopped to read translations of Latin and Greek writings on stone tablets, and they

toured sections of a first century villa, complete with clay water ducts, frescoed walls and layers of mosaic floors.

Later, the Clintons drove to a hilltop chapel made of brown

stone that stands on what is believed to be the site of the last home of the Virgin Mary. It is located in a national park on the top of Mount Bulbul, above Ephesus.

## Syria eases travel restrictions

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The government has eased restrictions on Syrians traveling abroad, including abolishing exit visas for some categories of people, an official newspaper reported Wednesday.

Syrians will now be allowed to obtain passports valid for six years and exit visas valid for

multiple journeys during a one-year period, Tishreen daily quoted Interior Minister Mohammed Harba as saying.

Until now, Syrians have had to obtain several government approvals to get an exit visa valid for a single journey during a one-month period. Passports for most Syrians are valid for six months to

two years. The new measures exempt Syrians who live outside the country and those who are over 50 years old from obtaining exit visas.

The easing of restrictions will help hundreds of thousands of Syrians who work in Gulf Arab nations.

## Pope to visit the Holy Land

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II will visit the Holy Land in March, a Vatican official said today in the first confirmation of the long-awaited trip.

The trip will take place during the last 10 days of March, and probably include stops in Jerusalem and Nazareth, Archbishop Crescenzo Sepe said at a news conference on Vatican plans for the millennium celebrations.

John Paul was invited by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities, and will be expected to visit Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

But the proposed stop in Nazareth was put in doubt recently by Vatican complaints over plans there to build a mosque near a Christian shrine.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry

welcomed the Vatican's announcement. "We all hope that this visit is going to reinvigorate and support the spirit of peace and reconciliation between religions and the peoples of the Middle East," said Effie Ben-Matityahu, a ministry spokesman.

Pope Paul VI visited the Holy Land in 1964, before Israel took over the entire city of Jerusalem in the 1967 war with the Arabs.

The pope also was considering a stop in Iraq during his planned millennium tour of Biblical sites.

But the Vatican has not yet confirmed that visit. An advance Vatican team was to leave Saturday for Iraq to plan for a visit in late January, the Vatican missionary news agency Fides said today, quoting church officials in Baghdad.

## UN's refugee chief meets with Russians

MOSCOW (AP) — With Russia's military offensive in Chechnya coming under increased international criticism, the top U.N. refugee advocate met today with Russian leaders to discuss the humanitarian crisis growing out of the war.

As the diplomats conferred in Moscow, Russian aircraft and artillery kept up their pounding of Chechen settlements.

Military spokesman Igor Kaverin said early today that planes had unleashed airstrikes on 17 rebel targets over the past 24 hours.

Sadako Ogata, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, met Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and said afterward she had come to Russia "to convey the secretary-general's concern and understanding, his appreciation of the difficulty in controlling and tackling terrorism, the importance of caring for the civilian population."

Ogata also met Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu, who tried to assure her that "there is no humanitarian catastrophe here."

"We are in a position to cope with the situation ourselves," he said. Chechen authorities claim more than 4,100 civilians have been killed in Russian air and artillery strikes on the separatist republic, and human rights groups have accused the Russian military of indiscriminate attacks that have killed far more civilians than Chechen fighters.

More than 211,600 refugees have streamed out of Chechnya into neighboring Russian republics, the Interfax news agency reported today, citing the Federal Migration Service. While many have found shelter with local families, thousands are living in makeshift refugee camps and face shortages of water, heating fuel and food, refugees and human rights advocates have said.

Ogata is scheduled to travel Thursday to Ingushetia, the region that has taken in the most

refugees, and to the northern part of Chechnya, which is under control of Russian forces. Ivanov said the visit should help correct what Russian officials contend are Western misconceptions of the situation in and around Chechnya, which present "terrorists, who are up to their elbows in blood, as victims."

"We aren't hiding anything. We're prepared to completely inform the U.N. secretary general and world community of how things really stand," Ivanov said.

Russian leaders from President Boris Yeltsin on down have angrily rejected international criticism of the Chechen campaign, and have warned that Chechnya should not be a major topic of discussion at the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which opens Thursday in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Russian government, meanwhile, has ordered more work on organizing temporary housing, food, schools and medical care for Chechen refugees in Ingushetia, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported today.

Ogata said the United Nations was preparing a plan to aid refugees from Chechnya over the next three months, the depths of the Russian winter. She said the Russian government had provided security guarantees for U.N. workers in the Caucasus region.

The United Nations had previously pulled most of its international staff from the area because of the threat of kidnappings and violent attacks, and it withdrew all its workers from Chechnya on Nov. 13, after two local U.N. workers were killed when Russian airplanes bombed a convoy of refugees.

Russian troops continued pressing toward the Chechen capital, Grozny, though commanders have stressed that they will rely on air and artillery strikes rather than storming to conquer Chechnya's towns.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh make their way in procession through the Royal Gallery to the Chamber at the Palace of Westminster, London Wednesday. The Queen delivered an address to both Houses of Parliament to mark the State Opening of Parliament. AP

## Jordan, France sign debt accord

PARIS (AP) — King Abdullah II of Jordan won both economic and symbolic support from France on Tuesday as the two countries signed deals to lighten Jordan's debt and honored the memory of the king's late father.

The four-day trip to France had personal meaning for Abdullah, on his first official visit here. The 37-year-old ruler attended the renaming of a Paris street for his father, who died of cancer last February.

The new "Avenue King Hussein I of Jordan" is near the Eiffel Tower. The visit also brought about concrete economic results on Tuesday, the second day of the trip, with both countries signing an accord to

cancel \$11 million worth of Jordan's \$7 billion foreign debt. The money will be used instead for social and environmental projects.

A further \$20 million worth of debt will be converted into investment. This brings Jordan's total percentage of convertible debt to 30 percent from 20 percent, after a debt restructuring agreement in 1996 already converted \$43 million.

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, who met Abdullah earlier on Tuesday, said the debt accord "showed our very strong will to aid as best we can the ambitious reform and development projects" in which Jordan is engaged.

The king lunched with business leaders Tuesday, citing "the

importance of private French investment in Jordan" and hoping to attract more business to Jordan. Abdullah also sat in on a session of the National Assembly, where lawmakers stood to applaud him.

The Middle East peace process was a key part of Abdullah's agenda during his visit, and he thanked France for its support in the search for a lasting solution to the region's conflicts. In the past month, France has hosted a series of leaders from the Middle East, including Israeli leader Ehud Barak, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. During Abdullah's visit, France also is expected to woo Jordan as a customer for Airbus planes.

### SAIPAN AIKIDO ASSOCIATION

#### 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

#### 2ND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Date : December 3 to 5, 1999

Place : 5th Floor Nauru Building, Susupe

#### PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

(Free of Charge)

December 4, (Saturday)

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.



#### SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

#### Magic Dinner Show

By: Hank Rice

Nightly Performer at Guam Hotel Nikko

Diamond Hotel • December 4, 1999

5:00 ~ 7:00 p.m. • \$15.00

MUTSUKO MINEGISHI, President/Chief Instructor

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### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



#### PUBLIC NOTICE

November 17, 1999

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lieutenant Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that the regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at the CDA Conference Room in Gualo Rai, Saipan. The agenda follows, and the public is welcome to attend. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special assistance or accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Adoption of Agenda
  - C. Adoption of Minutes: October 20, 1999
- II. COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTANTS' REPORTS
- III. MANAGER'S & DIVISION REPORTS
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects
  - B. Resident Advisory Board
  - C. Mortgage Insurance Proposals\*
  - D. Tinian Section 8 Building Maintenance Bids\*
  - E. Full Resource Bulk Loan Agreement
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Garapan Street Market
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION\*
- VII. OTHER MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: PL 8-41 allows Executive Sessions to discuss item(s) noted in the above Agenda

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO

Chairman of the Board

\*NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

## IN LOVING MEMORY



Mary Margaret Hanley  
January 6, 1926 - November 17, 1999

Joins Husband: Joseph R. Delafied

Son: John T. Delafied

Daughter: Mary Carol Delafied

Survived By Children: David Lee Delafied, Kathryn J. Delafied and Garry Lee Evilsizer

Former Husband and Spouse: David D. Delafied; and Marianna C. Delafied

Grandchildren: Joshua and Becky Delafied, Jesse Delafied, David Lee Delafied, John S. Delafied, Leigh Delafied, and Rebecca Delafied

Adopted Family: Merced V. and Rafael M. Reyes and family Antonio V. Reyes (Jeannae and Joseph) Roman V. and Frances M. Reyes (Kisha Tamara, Rocco)

Angel V. and Margaret F. Reyes (Angel, Sedonia, Eugenio and Katelynn)

Cynthia R. and Rick D.L.C. Camacho (Dionne, Ricki) Jerome M. Reyes and Tricia D. Diaz,

Patrick V. Reyes, LeVonne V. Reyes

Nightly rosary is said at 8:00 pm at the residence of Roman V. Reyes in Chalan Kiya.

Mass to be announced at a later date.



# Astronomers scan skies for meteors

(AP) — Around the world, astronomers and amateur stargazers headed for fields, beaches, deserts and mountaintops Wednesday to watch what could be the most spectacular meteor shower since 1966 and for decades to come.

The annual Leonid meteor shower was expected to reach its peak overnight Wednesday. However, predicting timing and intensity is an inexact science, and the quarter moon, the lights of civilization and cloud cover could obscure the view.

"It could be spectacular, or it could be a dud," said Williams College astronomer Jay Pasachoff, who picked a beach outside Valencia, Spain, for his viewing spot.

The best American viewing of the shooting-star show was expected on the East Coast in the wee hours Thursday morning.

The National Weather Service forecast thickening clouds across

much of the Northeast, but mostly clear skies southward. However, astronomical calculations put the best spectacle in the Middle East and Europe.

Up to 20,000 shooting stars per hour were predicted during the meteor shower, which occurs when dust and ice shed by the comet Tempel-Tuttle streak into the Earth's atmosphere at 40 miles a second and burn up.

Since the orbiting comet dumps extra debris every 33 years when it races past the sun, the chances for a meteor storm rise every 33 years.

The last great storm was 1966, with a peak of 144,000 shooting stars per hour. A typical year might yield just 20 per hour.

A NASA network of observing stations tallied the Leonid meteor count at 20 to 40 per hour early Wednesday, according to staffer Steve Roy, at the Marshall Space Flight Center

in Huntsville, Ala.

The number of shooting stars and fireballs was expected to swell during the night. On Tuesday night, fireballs streaked across the sky and stirred panicky calls to police across the Midwest. Some feared plane crashes or UFOs.

Blazing meteors also streaked across the sky above

the Mediterranean Sea. Roy said the reports could well have been the vanguard of the Leonid shower.

NASA is studying the composition of the Leonids with special equipment aboard two airplanes, hoping for clues to how organic chemicals were first brought to Earth. But astronomy teacher David Howell

at Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, Mass., said that even most professionals, like amateur stargazers, were mainly chasing "the thrill of it."

The shooting stars and fireballs can dart anywhere overhead, but all appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo, which gives the shower its name.



Montgomery, Ala., photographer and avid stargazer Jay Sailors aims his camera toward the constellation Leo in the eastern sky in an effort to capture images of the Leonid meteor shower early Thursday. Clear skies were abundant across the South making it much easier for those interested in astronomy and star gazing to view the annual event. AP

## MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION



We, the Husband, Children and Grandchildren of the late,

**INOCENCIA  
TUDELA-KHAN**  
better known as  
"Encha"

would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation and thank-you to all our friends and relatives who had join us in prayers for our beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother's funeral.

From Kimberly, Derick & Family

## TV tops kids' media list

NEW YORK (AP) — The typical child between the ages of 2 and 18 consumes an average of 5.5 hours of media daily outside school, with television the clear favorite ahead of computers, video games, music and reading, according to a study released Wednesday. The Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health care philanthropy, examined media usage by 3,000 children across the country between November 1998 and last April. The study breaks the 5.5-hour

total down as follows: 2 hours, 46 minutes of television; 49 minutes of computer games and other computer uses; 48 minutes of recorded music; 44 minutes of reading; and 39 minutes of radio.

"Computers may be the wave of the future, but today TV predominates," said Vicky Rideout, who oversaw the study.

Nearly seven in 10 youngsters have a computer at home, and nearly half have Internet access, the study said.

Among kids 8 to 18, media use

age swells to an average of 6 hours, 45 minutes. The study also identified "heavy" media users — the 16 percent of kids between 8 and 18 who consume more than 10 1/2 hours a day.

The numbers should remind parents to monitor what their children are watching, Ms. Rideout said.

"For parents and guardians as well as for society as a whole, it underscores the importance of understanding the message the media are conveying to kids," she said.

## Madonna buys London home

LONDON (AP) — Pop superstar Madonna is paying 5 million pound (\$ 8 million) for a house in a fashionable London neighborhood, The Times reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said the star is buying a four-storey mansion in the elegant South Kensington district, where neighbors include singer David Bowie and Tom Ford, creative director of Gucci.

The Times said Madonna bought the five-bedroom home directly from the seller, bypassing real estate agents. The seller was not identified.

The newspaper said British realtors had made the star's life "a misery" during the 18 months she had been looking for a London home.

The sale represented "sweet revenge," robbing realtors of their standard 2 percent commission, which in this case would have been around 100,000 pounds (\$ 160,000), The Times said.

## Hollywood movie review

# Ford back in 'Random Hearts'

By Lucette Bentley  
For the Variety

WHEN AN airplane carrying Dutch's wife Peyton and Kay's husband Cullen crashes into the Chesapeake Bay, leaving no survivors, its marks just the beginning of a mystery that will not only lead Dutch and Kay to disturbing and shocking information about their spouses, but bring these strangers together in an unlikely romance.

Dutch Van Den Broeck, a sergeant in the internal Affairs Division of the Washington, D.C. police department, and Kay Chandler, a New Hampshire congresswoman running for re-election, know about trust.

Their careers depend on it. Their marriages are found on it. Or so they thought.

In the aftermath of the crash, pieces of startling information come to light—Cullen and Peyton were sitting side by side on the plane, traveling on "Mr. and Mrs."

Tickets and carrying identical keys in their pockets.

Grief-stricken spouses Dutch and Kay a pair of opposites form widely dissimilar backgrounds and with very contradictory temperaments—are now thrown together, bonded by this mutual betrayal, to unlock the truth behind the secret that threatens to destroy them.

Dutch, a policeman to the core, investigates.

Kay, left with a teenage daughter to protect and a campaign to run, doesn't want to know any more than she absolutely has to.

As clues lead from the gritty streets of D.C. to the romance of Miami's beaches, both the cop and the congresswoman are caught in an upheaval of misplaced lust and rage, laying bare not only the details of their spouses' clandestine affair, but their own awkward and painful feelings.

Out of the ruins of their shattered marriages, this pair of random hearts forms a violate new union.

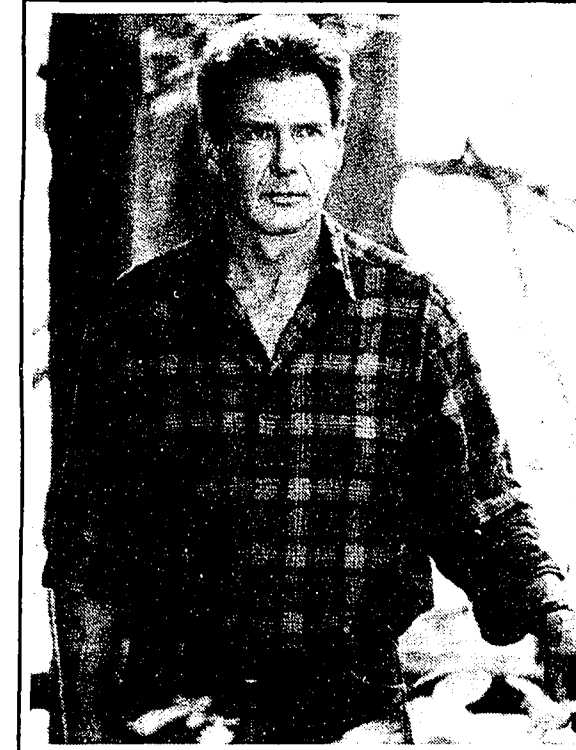
"Random Hearts," is directed by Sydney Pollack, loosely based on Warren Adler's 1984 novel.

Over the years, several screenplays were written, but none made it into production.

Pollack had seen an early screen play of the film in the 80's and had discussed the project with Harrison Ford in 1995, but the two men at that time began filming Pollack's 1995 romantic comedy "Sabrina."

After six months of refining the screenplay, it was sent to Harrison Ford.

Ford says, "I was not only won over by the project, but I was particularly attracted to the character of Dutch because he had depth—and imperfections."



Harrison Ford plays Dutch Van Den Broeck (left photo), a sergeant in the Internal Affairs Division of the Washington, D.C. police department. Kristin Scott Thomas (right) plays Kay Chandler, a New Hampshire congresswoman running for re-election in the Columbia Pictures presentation Random Hearts.

Photo by David James

"What I like to do is see people overcome daunting circumstances, and whether they come out whole or diminished by the experience," he added, "I like stories that are not necessarily about heroes."

We can hardly call Dutch a hero, except he's certainly a survivor.

"He's not a perfect policeman."

As he begins to develop a degree of paranoia resulting from the discovery of his wife's infidelity, he begins to lose track of the very thing that he made him a good policeman.

not necessarily about heroes.

We can hardly call Dutch a hero, except he's certainly a survivor.

"He's not a perfect policeman. As he begins to develop a degree

of paranoia resulting from the discovery of his wife's infidelity, he begins to lose track of the very thing that made him a good policeman."

Ford Dutch, a person whose very career revolves around catching people telling lies, the fact that he is unable to detect his own wife's deception is devastating.

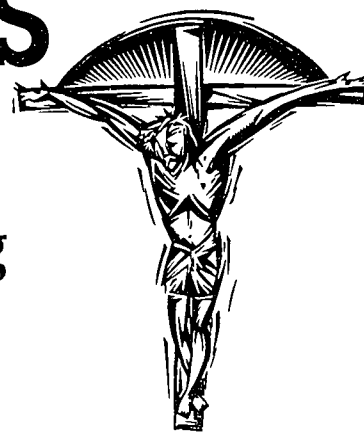
## IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE



## JUAN REYES SABLAN

Also known as John Tang

was called home by our Heavenly Father on Wednesday, November 10, 1999, at the age of 49, in Concord, California.



In his new life, John now joins his:

Parents: Vicente Pangelinan Sablan and Josefa Diaz Reyes

Fathers-in-law: Edward A. Flores and Herman M. Kintol

Brothers-in-law: Sylvio C. Ada and Manuel D. Muna and Robert Kintol

Reared Sister: Maria (Marlene) R. Crisostomo

Sponsor Family (San Francisco)

Homer and Patricia Thiele and children

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Loving memories of John will live on in the hearts of his:

Wife: Angeline Marie Flores Sablan

Children: Jon Eric, Vinson Edward, Jennifer and Margaret Josefa

Reared Sons: Manuel J. Villagomez, Jeffery A. Villagomez, Sol Dalusong

Mother-in-law: Margarita Pangelinan Flores Kintol

Sisters/Brothers and Spouses: Mariana S. and Thomas C. Aldan; Emilian S. Ada; Antonio R. and Maria A. Sablan; Lucia S. and Edward T. Duenas

Reared Sisters & Spouses: Elphidia R. Muna; Bernadita R. and Domingo B. Mercado; Joaquin Crisostomo

Brothers and Sisters-in-law & Spouses:

Donald G. and Cecilia U. Flores

Edward, Jr. & Guadalupe A. Flores

Erica K. and Edward Cruz

James P. and Daria M. Kintol

Elizabeth K. and Juan S. Tenorio

Jerome P. and Cristy N. Kintol

Joseph and Yoko Kintol

Godparents: Soledad Reyes Concepcion and Godofredo A. Sanchez

Mass intentions for John are offered daily at 6:00 a.m., at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. John's body will arrive from California on Friday, November 19, 1999 at 2:45 p.m., and will be taken to the CHC Morgue. Last respect for John will be on Saturday, November 20, 1999 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass for Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral and interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery follows immediately thereafter.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICES 235-6516

## SECOND YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**ROSARIO  
SABLAN  
SANTOS**  
(GEAN)

We would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the second year anniversary of her passage unto eternal life. The Daily masses will be offered on the following schedule:

Nov. 22	Monday	6:00PM	San Vicente
Nov. 23	Tuesday	6:00PM	San Vicente
Nov. 24	Wednesday	6:00PM	St. Jude
Nov. 25	Thursday	6:00PM	St. Jude
Nov. 26	Friday	6:00PM	San Vicente
Nov. 27	Saturday	6:00PM	San Vicente
Nov. 28	Sunday	6:00AM	St. Jude
Nov. 29	Monday	6:00PM	San Vicente
Nov. 30	Tuesday	5:00PM	St. Jude

On the last day, Tuesday, November 30, we would like you to join us for dinner immediately after the mass at Larry A. & Frances S. Delgado Guerrero's residence in Kobleville.

Your presence and prayers are very much appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

## JOINT ANNIVERSARY MASS

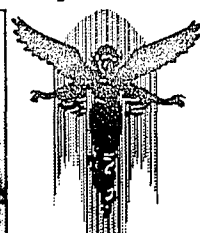
In Loving Memory

10th Anniversary 35th Anniversary



**Guillermo Villagomez  
Benavente**

November 28, 1989



**Carmen Manahane  
Benavente**

November 28, 1964

We, the family, invite our relatives and friends to join us for the Joint Anniversary Daily Mass of our beloved parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Masses will be offered daily on the following schedules:

November 20	Saturday	Mt. Carmel	6:00 am
November 21	Sunday	Saint Jude	6:00 am
November 22	Monday	Mt. Carmel	6:00 am
November 23	Tuesday	Mt. Carmel	6:00 am
November 24	Wednesday	Saint Jude	6:00 pm
November 25	Thursday	Saint Jude	6:00 am
November 26	Friday	Mt. Carmel	6:00 am
November 27	Saturday	Mt. Carmel	6:00 am

On the final day, Sunday, November 28, 1999, mass will be at 6:00am at Saint Jude Church in Kobleville.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!  
The Family



# Cosmic Patriot

THE FIFTH essay in the late great G. H. Chesterton's, "Orthodoxy" is called "The Flag of the World." In this essay Chesterton takes on the bipolar concepts of Pessimism and Optimism. In the process of unpacking, unraveling, reforming and thoroughly transforming these concepts, Chesterton comes up with a wonderful point of view which is signified by the notion of Cosmic Patriotism.

Lets first take a look at Pessimism, one of Saturn's dark moods. From the Latin, 'pessimus', meaning 'the worst', Pessimism has had many distinguished adherents, from the ancient Greeks to the postmodern denizens of the Nietzsche Night.

Sophocles said it long ago: "Never to be born is far the best; yet if a man lives, the next best thing is for him to return as quickly as possible to the place from which he came." Probably the greatest Pessimist of the West is the inimical Arthur Schopenhauer. He looks at the sum total of existence and comes up with a negative result, confirming with masterful prose the gloomy mathematics of Sophocles.

Optimism, from the Latin 'optimus' is the opposite of Pessi-

mism. The Pessimist thinks that everything is wrong in the worst of all possible worlds, whereas the Optimist thinks that everything is right in the best of all possible worlds. Gottfried Leibniz is the philosopher of Optimism, and Voltaire's Candide his eternal critic.

Chesterton maintains that both notions, Pessimism and Optimism are "raving nonsense." He notes that the best definition of the terms was given by a child when she said, "An optimist is a man who looks after your eyes, and a pessimist is a man who looks after your feet."

Both notions, according to Chesterton are based on an invalid presumption. Namely, they assume that we are free to look upon the world as if we were house hunting, choosing what we like or don't like. But, a person, "...belongs to his world before he begins to ask if it is nice to belong to it...The world is not a lodging-house at Brighton, which we are to leave because it is miserable...the point is not that this world is too sad to love or too glad not to love; the point is that when you do love a thing, its gladness is a reason for loving it,

and its sadness is a reason for loving it more."

Our original orientation to the world is one of allegiance and "primary loyalty." We must love it "for better or worse," or like the parent who loves her (or his) child regardless of the circumstances. And if we feel that something is a mess, that is all wrong and not as it should be, then that is all the more reason to love it more, because it needs our love. For Chesterton, what is given to us is "not a world but the material for a world." If we love it, are loyal to our belongingness to world, then can change it, re-form it.

This point of view is called Cosmic Patriotism, which is the point of view of love and compassion. It is able to encompass the data of both Pessimism and Optimism, and to use that data as a basis for further development. The Pessimist is lost in Saturn's fog, and the Optimist blinded by the brightness of the sun. But both conditions are symptoms of dull denial and narrow mindedness. Both extremes are balanced and dissolved in the heartfelt compassion of the Cosmic Patriot.

We may apply Chesterton's



analysis to local concerns. Compassion begins where you are, in your own backyard. Over the deepest part of the ocean there is a small land mass which per square mile has probably suffered more horror, injustice, and change than any place else on the planet. At the same time there is a collision of many cultures, interests and points of view.

But what if all the people of that island became Cosmic Patriots? They may realize that all the agony and joy they experience is based on their compassion for life. A new campaign was started, based on the slogan, I LOVE SAIPAN. Bumper stickers, T-shirts, media, all embraced the new slogan, and slowly things began to change. Problems were not denied but confronted with compassion, and solutions found where none were thought possible. Then this microcosm adrift in the Pacific became a point of light for all human kind.

It's possible.

## Puzzles

1. Given the hint that you are

one, can you find digits to match the letters such that (SAVE)(UUU) = SESESE?

2. If you found the last problem too difficult, try this one. Find two digits to match the letters, such that (AA)(BB) = B(ABA).

3. When I asked the boy how old he was, he replied as follows: My sister is twice my age, and my older brother is one and one-half times her age. However, in ten years, it will be my older brother who is twice my age, and my sister who will be one and one-half times my age. So how old are the siblings?

## Answers To Last Week's Puzzles

1. Believe it or not, the cliff-hanging person will have a probability of 1/2 of falling over the cliff.

2. Let T = 6, A = 0, C = 1, H = 2. Then 6006000600 = 5(120120120). That is TAA-TAA = (T - 1)(CHA-CHA-CHA).

3. It is mathematically impossible to connect the lines in such a way that no lines will cross.

## Confused . . .

Continued from page 5

Senate Legislative Initiative 11-4 was rejected in the recently-concluded mid-term polls.

Reyes said it is only under the present administration that lawmakers face problems dealing with the finance department.

He said the matter was among matters discussed during a meet-

ing between key legislators and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Tuesday.

"We never had this kind of problem in the past. I did say to the governor and the... people present that it is only... under this administration that members of the Legislature are having problems with the Department of Finance," said Reyes.

The statute — Public Law 11-84 — was enacted in July 21.

## NMHC . . .

Continued from page 4

standard condition. And so not only do we give them the purchase price to buy the house but also by giving them based on

their ability to pay a little bit of money to renovate it and make it a pleasant place to stay," she said.

By the end of the month, the executor director said, more applications are expected to be completed and approved.

**Belated Happy 3rd Birthday**

**NASSYA TECHUR**

Mom, Dad and the Family

**Happy Birthday**

To Our Dear Friend

**"Sarah Jin F. Abdullah"**

And Many More Birthday To Come...

Fr: Your Friends At Marianas Variety

NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

The wise reader buys only one newspaper and saves

because;

**Marianas Variety**

has it all!

DON'T CUT SHORT A CHILD'S LEARNING... DRIVE SAFELY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice to **Shanhua Li** employed as Assistant Manager at Yang Hong Development Co., Ltd. left the company since Nov. 15. Any whereabouts, please come back to work or apply an 'application for leave' to the company within seven days after this notice.

Yang Hong Development Co., Ltd.

**Happy Birthday!**

**Steve Woodruff**

Senate Legal Counsel

Nov. 19, 1999

From your friends

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

**VESTCOR VILLAGE CAPITOL HILL**

**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT**

For more information Contact Tel. #322-3797/ 3798

**LA LUZ SAIPAN CONDOMINIUM**

Now offering Affordable Rates!

- Fully furnished spacious studio-type and 2-bedroom units
- Security guard and housekeeping services
- 24-hour back-up generator, coin-operated laundry facilities
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- Accepts long term rental w/ full maintenance
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Location: Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

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**TWO (2) BEDROOM APARTMENT FULLY FURNISHED**

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**BUILDING FOR LEASE**

Apartment - 15 Units

Store - 3 Units

Down payment - \$30,000.00

Monthly - \$2,750.00

Location: Koblerville Call 288-9430 (Evening) 287-9430

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Three (3) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool Tennis Court

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235-5686 (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Weekdays) 235-9620, 234-5849 (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Everyday including Sat. & Sun.)

**SPECTACULAR VIEWS**

House Lots for Lease • 1,500 sq. m. lots •

**Mt. Tapuchao • View Managaha Islands •**

Road Access • Electricity • Water

• Payment Accepted • 54.95 year lease

Please call Lisa at Tel. 234-5684

**APARTMENT/HOUSE FOR RENT**

**FLAME TREE TERRACE - LOWER CAPITOL HILL**

**2-3 & 4 BEDROOM HOUSE**

**1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: TEL. # 322-3366/5558 FAX: 322-3888

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

MARIA QUICHOCHO CRUZ

Plaintiff,

vs.

SI HYOUN JO,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 99-0656A

## SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

FROM: The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

TO: The above-named Defendants

You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty (20) days after final publication of this Summons and completion of posting, and defend in the above-captioned action in the above entitled Court, and answer the Complaint of plaintiff, Maria Quichocho Cruz. You shall serve a copy of your answer upon the Plaintiff's attorney, The Law Offices of Robert C. Naraia, PC, P.O. Box 1960, Saipan, MP 96950. If you still fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you according to the reliefs demanded in the Complaint which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court.

/s/ JOVITA C. FLORES

Clerk of Court

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAXIMA TAIACAN MANGLONA, Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 99-085D

## NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Julie Ullao-Heath, has filed with the Clerk of the Court, a Petition for Letters of Administration for the Estate of Maxima Taisacan Manglona, deceased. The hearing on the Petition is set for 1:30 P.M. on December 28, 1999 in the Superior Court, Guma Huestica, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein or contact counsel for the Petitioner, Kenneth L. Govendo, P.O. Box 502377, Saipan, MP 96950-2377, Tel. (670) 234-6057.

Creditors of the decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claim will be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of November, 1999.

JOVITA C. FLORES

Clerk of Court

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

MARIA QUICHOCHO CRUZ

Plaintiff,

vs.

SI HYOUN JO,

Defendant.

FROM: The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

TO: The above-named Defendants

You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty (20) days after final publication of this Summons and completion of posting, and defend in the above-captioned action in the above entitled Court, and answer the Complaint of plaintiff, Maria Quichocho Cruz. You shall serve a copy of your answer upon the Plaintiff's attorney, The Law Offices of Robert C. Naraia, PC, P.O. Box 1960, Saipan, MP 96950. If you still fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you according to the reliefs demanded in the Complaint which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court.

## FOR SALE

Generator, Honda

Commercial 1500 Watt with

pull cart 120/240V

\$1,100.00

Ph. 322-3412

## YARD SALE

NEW never used large gas range

Bunk bed frame (blue)

Baby beds w/ mattress

Coin operated washing machine have motor problem, good body, have spare parts

Corner Shelf Oak w/ carving

Cabinets, Clothes, Toys, Bags, Baskets, Pots, Pans, Kids clothes

Many many more

Nov. 20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun) at 9:00 a.m. till noon in San Vicente back of Mik Market in Dan Dan

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

MARIA H. REYES

Plaintiff,

VICENTE AGUON REYES

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-0361

## SUMMONS

TO: VICENTE AGUON REYES

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court, any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. Thereafter, you are required to serve a copy of your filed Answer upon the Law Offices of Timothy H. Skinner, whose address is Post Office Box 5588 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 20th day of August, 1998.

/s/ JOVITA C. FLORES

Clerk of Court

**FOR RENT**

**Restaurant/Mini Mart**

**Apartment**

CALL: 233-4378

**FOR RENT**

**Nightclub/Restaurant/Barracks**

Located along Beach Road,

Chalan Kanoa Tel. 234-5520

(8:00 A.M. - 5:00)

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

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Joquin Q. Castro and Margarita A. Castro,

Defendants.

## AMENDED SECOND NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1999, the Commonwealth Superior Court issued a Writ of Execution, ordering the Director of Police, Department of Public Safety of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to sell, in the manner provided by law, all of the rights, titles, and interests of Defendants to that certain real properties, described as follows:

Lot No. 042 E 08, situated at 1-Denni, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing No. 042 E 03 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-1411 on April 23, 1999, a fee simple mortgage, first and second mortgage.

Lot No. 042 E 010, situated at 1-Denni, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing No. 042 E 03 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-1411 on April 23, 1993, a fee simple mortgage, first mortgage.

Lot No. 042 E 12, containing 2,500 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on DLS Check No. 042 E 04, a parcel split of 042 E 09, which was recorded as File No. 93-3461, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Lot No. 042 E 13, containing 2,500 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on DLS Check No. 042 E 04, a parcel split of 042 E 09, which was recorded as File No. 93-3461, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

NOW THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, November 24, 1999, at 10:00 A.M., at his office, the Director of Police, Department of Public Safety of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will sell, at public auction, all the rights, titles, and interest of Defendants in and to the aforementioned real properties.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the terms and conditions of the sale will be as follows:

- The right is reserved to establish minimum bids for the above-described real property. Such minimum bids is set at Five Hundred Forty-Three Thousand U.S. Dollars, and NO/100 U.S. Dollars (\$543,000.00). However, the Commonwealth Development Authority reserves the right to reject any oral bids, for any reason.
- It will be required that a deposit of 10% of the purchase price be paid on the day of the auction. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the aforementioned property will revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

DATED, this 22nd day of October, 1999.

/s/ VICENTE T. SEMAN,

Director of Police,

Department of Public Safety

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF ANTHONY REYES HOFSCHEIDER A Minor Child,

By: BERNARD V. HODSCHNEIDER and GUADALUPE R. HOFSCHEIDER

Petitioners.

FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 99-0422

## AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Bernard V. Hofschneider and Guadalupe R. Hofschneider have filed a verified petition for the adoption of a minor child in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and The Law Office of Perry B. Inos, Suite 2-C, Sablan Building, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above entitled matter will be held on December 09, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 18th day of November, 1999.

JOVITA C. FLORES

Clerk of Court

By:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**Didn't get your papertoday?**

On Saipan call. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797 • Fax: (670) 234-9271

E-mail: younis@gfepacific.net • mvariety@gfepacific.net



# Marianas Variety

## Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

### Employment Wanted



### Job Vacancy Announcement

### PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangolinan at Tel. 664-2078.

02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ALICIA E. ABUEME dba AE Professional Services/Vitalco/Miggy's Home Made Cuisine Tel. 233-1296/(11/26)F33471

45 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05  
02 INSPECTOR (QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
04 PRESSER, MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$18.00 per hour  
02 MARKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
02 CUTTER, MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: NEO FASHION INC. Tel. 234-9642/(11/26)F33464

05 ATTENDANT, ARCADE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: LUIS P. & MARIA S. CRISOSTOMO Tel. 235-5847/(11/19)F33368

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
02 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
02 GROUNDS GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: MICRONESIA SYSTEMS, INC. dba Plumeria Resort Tel. 322-6201/(11/19)F33369

03 SUPERVISOR (AVIATION REFUELLER)-Salary: \$3.05-6.50 per hour  
Experienced & trained w/ hazardous materials, waste operation & emergency response.  
Contact: MOBIL OIL MARIANA ISLANDS, INC. Tel. 234-7796/(11/19)F33366

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour  
Contact: M.S. VILLAGOMEZ INCORPORATED Tel. 234-6108/(11/19)F81484

02 SECURITY GUARDS-Salary: \$3.05-3.45 per hour  
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
Contact: DIAMOND HOTEL CO., LTD. dba Saipan Diamond Hotel Tel. 234-5900/(11/19)F81475

01 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour  
Contact: LUIS TAIMANAO CAMACHO FEED STORE CORP. dba L.T. Camacho Feed Store Corp. Tel. 234-7497/(11/19)F33356

01 OPERATIONS, ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.30 per hour  
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-9555/(11/19)F33360

03 COOK-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
02 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
12 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MARIANA CORP. INC. dba Beach Garden Rest. Tel. 236-4021/(11/19)F33354

01 SUPERVISOR, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: EASTERN HOPE CORPORATION dba Keeraku & Rakuen Rest. Tel. 233-4242/(11/19)F33359

03 MACHINE OPERATOR (CONTINUOUS FORM)-Salary: \$3.20 per hour  
Contact: ASG CORP. dba Elite Printing Tel. 233-6564/(11/19)F33358

01 WAREHOUSEWORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ALPEX CORPORATION dba Alpe Market Tel. 235-1444/(11/26)F33458

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$9.50 per hour  
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$13.00 per hour  
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$10.50 per hour  
Contact: W&K CONSULTING ENGINEERS dba Winkler & Kelly Consulting Engineers Tel. 234-0483/(11/26)F33460

03 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$800-2,400.00 per month  
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA TOURS, INC. Tel. 234-3913/(11/23)T81521

01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC MANAGEMENT, INC. dba Mariana Restaurant Tel. 322-3324/(11/26)F81594

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION Tel. 234-6549/(11/26)F81596

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MR. & MRS. FELIPE SN. CAMACHO dba Benny's Place Tel. 322-1417/(11/26)F33457

17 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 MAINTENANCE (CLEANER)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 SHIPPING AND RECEIVING CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
02 CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
03 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JIN APPAREL, INC. Tel. 234-3252/(11/26)F33461

01 MERCHANDISING (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour  
01 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
Contact: YANG JIN COMPANY dba Yang Jin Buying & Trade Information Service Company(11/26)F33463

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$10.50 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. Tel. 322-6469/(12/3)F81743

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$634.40 per month  
Contact: PRINCESS CORPORATION Tel. 234-5759/(12/3)F33562

01 COMPTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
01 (ELECTRICAL) REPAIRER, MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$4.30 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: BASIC CONST. SUPPLY CORP. Tel. 234-8779/(12/3)F81739

01 CONSTRUCTION LABORER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Golden Lobster Restaurant Tel. 234-8779/(12/3)F81740

02 CLEANER (HOUSEKEEPING)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JAC, INC. dba Tropical Cleaning Services Tel. 235-2679/(12/3)F33561

02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: KANNAT GARDENS, INC. Tel. 234-5684/(12/3)F81726

01 TAX PREPARER-Salary: \$16.11 per hour  
Contact: DELOITTE & TOUCHE Tel. 322-7337/(12/3)F81724

01 DRAFTER, ARCHITECTURAL-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
02 MASSEUSE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DIAMOND HOTEL CO., LTD. dba Saipan Diamond Hotel Tel. 234-5900/(12/3)F81725

01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: CONRAD SABLAN/C&V ENTERPRISES TEL. 234-0831/(12/3)F33552

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-8.00 per hour  
Contact: MARIANAS BAPTIST CHURCH dba Marianas Baptist Academy Tel. 234-6508/(12/3)F33557

04 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: RDA ENTERPRISES INC. dba Mary's Bakery, SBAR & Rest. Tel. 234-6694/(12/3)F33555

01 AIRCON TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: GLOBAL TRADERS, INC. Tel. 234-7415/(12/3)F33556

02 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 AIRCON TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT INC. dba Saipan Oceanview Hotel Tel. 234-8900

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ZION CORPORATION dba Sign Arts Tel. 235-3366/(12/3)F33570

01 N/C WAITRESS (SUP)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JAIME G. AGLIPAY dba Cocktail Bar/Karaoke Tel. 234-1118/(12/3)F33564

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$4.50 per hour  
Contact: GOLDEN BIRD CORPORATION TEL. 235-3335/(12/3)F33563

01 STOCK CONTROL CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: LUEN TAI ENTERPRISES INC. Tel. 234-9770/(12/3)F33565

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC SECURITY ALARM, INC. Tel. 234-5626/(12/3)F33567

01 CORRUGATED MACHINE COMBINING OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: UNITED PACIFIC INVESTMENT, INC. Tel. 234-3311/(12/3)F33569

01 DISCK JOCKEY-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MAKI CORPORATION dba Life House Bar & Grill Tel. 235-1964/(12/3)F33573

### NEEDED

STOCK CLERK/DELIVERY  
Local or IR  
Contact: 235-4771

### LOST PASSPORT

Name: Zheng Zhipeng  
DOB: June 1, 1978  
Chinese National  
Contact: 235-8990

### HOUSE FOR RENT (Dandan)

2-Story House (Duplex); 3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Furnished includes: washer, dryer, A/C, 24 hrs. water. Quiet area and great ocean view available Dec. 15th at \$900.00/mo. for information call: 234-5667 leave your name & contact number

### FOR RENT

2 bedrooms furnished apartment  
Garapan close to Beach Road  
Call 233-0510 or 234-7119

### TUTORIAL SERVICES

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• Windows 95 & 98  
• Quick Book  
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For more information call: 288-3293 page 236-2392

### DIESEL ENGINE/GENERATOR MECHANIC LOCAL HIRE ONLY

Must have a minimum of 5 years proven. Experience Maintaining & Repairing Diesel Engines and Generators. You will be tested. Caterpillar Experience Preferred. Must have a complete set of tools & a Volt/Frequency Meter. Salary Range \$6.00 to \$12.00 per hour Depending on experience. Pick-up an application in person at PACIFIC MACHINERY in As Lito Phone # 288-6902

### REDUCED TO SELL!!

STATESIDE-STYLE HOME w/ fenced yard; 4Bdrm/2Bath, 2-Car Enclosed Garage, Central A/C with all major appliances, Gas stove/water heater, 2000 gallon rainwater reserve, Best water pressure on Saipan! Oceanview and Breeze, Quiet, Friendly Neighborhood, Owner Financing, Available December \$175,000 USD  
Pls. call 233-3990 for appointment.

### FOR RENT

APARTMENT & COMMERCIAL SPACE  
Location: Garapan near DFS/ Hard Rock Cafe  
: San Vicente Area  
2-Bedroom fully furnished  
Split type A/C on all bedroom  
including dining, living & kitchen  
Laundry facilities, Spacious parking  
"MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE"  
Phone: 235-7171/7272 Cell: 287-6789

### AVON PRODUCTS

Presently seeking Independent SALES REPRESENTATIVES  
Flexible hours.  
Earn up to 50% commission.  
Will Train... No experience necessary. To inquire call or fax (671) 653-1910.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

Lower Capital Hill Area  
Three houses B.C.D. Completely furnished, large water tank piped to kitchen sink. All the room have aircon, some ceiling fans, double lock doors, iron bar windows, automatic outside light, space for two cars.  
B house \$700, C house \$550, D house \$900  
Please call 322-9257 Kubo

### LOST PASSPORT

Name: Lin, Xue Quan  
Chinese National  
Date of Birth: Nov. 27, 1967  
Contact: 235-4418

### LOST PASSPORT

Name: Ai Chang Chun  
Nationality: Chinese  
DOB: 4/15/69  
Contact: 234-1336; 233-5682

### FOR SALE

20' STEEL CONTAINERS  
\$1,500.00  
Tel. #234-6329 or 234-6331 ask for Ratly

### LOCATION! LOCATION!

2 SELECT COMMERCIAL SPACES FOR RENT  
ON BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN.  
First Floor, 1,050 sq. ft. space and Second floor, 1,100 sq. ft. space at \$1.10 per sq. ft. Large parking area on site. Call: 233-1837 or 233-0456 for information.

### LONG TERM LEASE

4 bedroom, 2 Bathroom  
Steel Construction  
8,000 gallons Water Catchment  
PAPAGO AREA  
\$160,000.00  
256-7080

### HOUSES FOR RENT

FIVE (5) BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS WITH GARAGE AND FOUR (4) BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS WITH GARAGE, LARGE YARD CLOSE TO THE OCEAN AT LOWER AS TEO ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT.  
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AT TELEPHONE NO. 235-1839

### LAND FOR LEASE-55 Years

Adjacent to San Vicente Post Office  
Fronting Highway - 1,430 sq. m.

### HOTEL FOR LEASE

Contact Rose:  
Tel: (670) 233-2031  
Fax: (670) 233-2037

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APARTMENT  
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Area: 2200 sq. ft. and 5000 sq. ft.

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Area: 1000 sq. ft.

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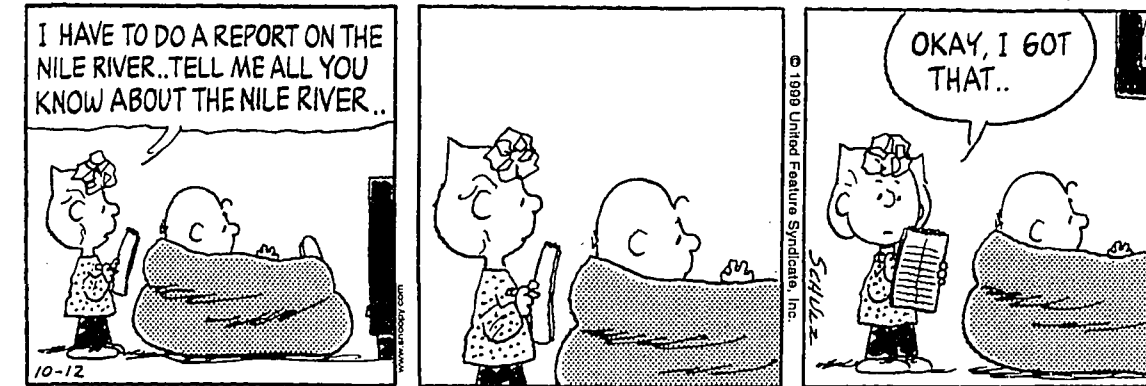
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## EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



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## STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

BORN today, you are full of surprises. You use this to your advantage in every endeavor, whether you are pursuing social interests or professional success and advancement. You are likely to be the type who shows off a great deal of diverse talents when you are young, but that is no guarantee that you will develop any of those more prominent skills and turn it into a lucrative career. On the contrary, your greatest successes are likely to come from those things that are most "last-minute" and spontaneous in nature. For you, planning is only so valuable. You like to improvise a lot!

You can be rather tough and inflexible on the outside, but inside you are quite sensitive and generous with friend and foe alike. You are fair in all your dealings, even when your back is against the wall. You're not the type to break the rules just to gain the advantage.

Also born on this date are: Jodie Foster, actress and director; Meg Ryan, actress; Dick Cavett, talk-show host; Calvin Klein, designer; Indira Gandhi, leader of India; Larry King, interviewer and TV personality.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — For the time being, our willingness to do whatever you are told today will serve you and others well. Soon, you'll want to call the shots.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Give yourself the credit you do indeed deserve. Others will surely follow your lead, and recognize that you are worth a good deal of praise.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Social opportunities are increasing today, and you'll certainly want to be ready to take advantage of a chance encounter.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Someone you're working with is likely to show you his or her "true colors" today, making it impossible to continue the partnership much longer.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Something new is likely to pique your interest today. You may want to follow a new course as a result of this new and growing fascination.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Though you may be the one in the spotlight today, you're going to have to rely on someone you trust to see

you through it all.  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You'd better be prepared to spend more time accomplishing a routine task today than you had planned upon, particularly later in the day.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You'll have a good deal to be proud of today, but you'll want to avoid being boastful. This is especially true during the evening, when others are watching you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — It's time for you to take control of your own emotions today. Failure to do so will only result in a loss you cannot currently afford.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Look at the big picture today and you may discover that a recent decision was precisely the wrong one. It's time to change your mind.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Spend time studying that which is most familiar today and you'll be more prepared tomorrow to face the unusual and bizarre.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — You won't want to miss out on an opportunity to express yourself more freely and honestly today. It will be yours come nightfall.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

1 Mixes  
6 Former Yankees catcher and manager  
11 — for a loop  
13 Little Bighorn victim  
14 Battery type  
15 Comedian  
16 Sid's family  
17 Hosp. section  
18 Nickname for actress Henderson  
20 Silly  
21 Flying saucer (abbr.)  
22 Unyielding  
24 Insect egg  
25 Once again  
26 Declare openly  
28 Much bigger  
30 "Whose Life Anyway?"  
32 It sailed with the Pinta and

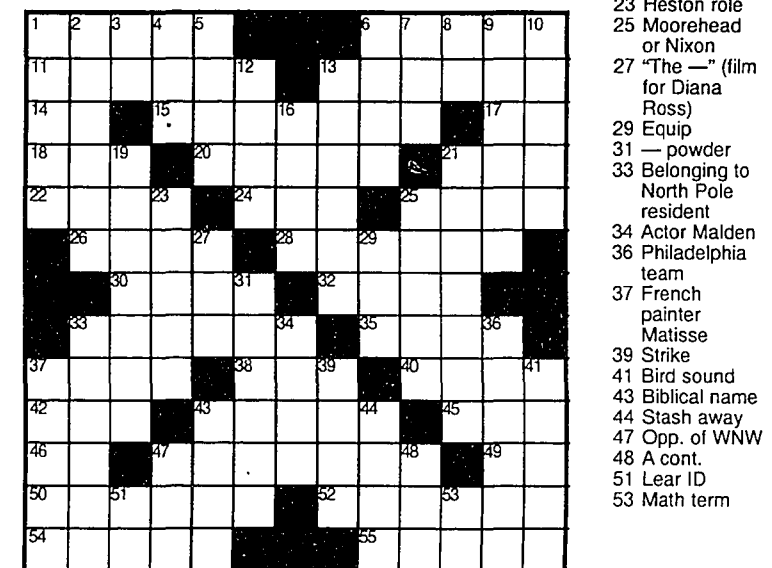
### Answer to Previous Puzzle

LOS ADAGE FGH  
ARM GLARE LIT  
GRADE AIRBAGS  
RALE MJO  
FITTEST EASES  
LL ESTEE STAN  
OLE SENSE ATE  
SAND RETAILER  
STARE TORRENT  
UNO CLAM  
PIGMENT INAPT  
ARE RINSE TOO  
LET OTTER EDY

2-11 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate

### DOWN

1 Office personnel  
2 Muse of  
3 Negative prefix  
4 Mythical bird  
5 Booty  
6 Inter  
7 Curved letter  
8 Football pos.  
9 Jacket!



## KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN "DRAWING "B." THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "A." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

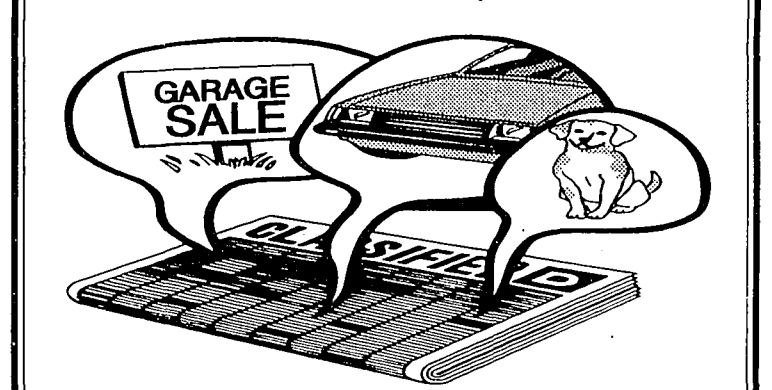


"If your apple has a worm in it, may I have it?"

ANSWERS: CLOUD, BIRDS, Lighthouse STRIPES, BAIT CAN, SAILBOAT, APPLE, STARFISH.

## Marianas Variety

"You Can Get What You Want"



TIRED OF A GUY PICKING YOUR POCKET? PICK A NEW ONE WITH A CLASSIFIED AD!



# Davenport, Venus advance



Lindsay Davenport of Newport Beach, Calif., reaches to return a shot to Amelie Mauresmo of France, during their first round match in the Chase Championships Wednesday at Madison Square Garden in New York. AP

**NEW YORK (AP)** — By the width of one of the beads in her hair, third-seeded Venus Williams narrowly escaped with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over the wily Conchita Martinez on Wednesday night in the final first-round match at the Chase Championships.

The Spaniard changed spins, direction, placement and pace, anything to throw off the timing of Williams, one of the favorites to capture this season-ending tournament at Madison Square Garden.

It nearly worked. In the night's first match, second-seeded Lindsay Davenport also needed three sets to advance to the quarterfinals, downing Amelie Mauresmo of France 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Earlier in the day, the

tournament's first upset saw Germany's Anke Huber oust No. 8 Julie Halard-Decugis of France 6-1, 6-2.

The Williams-Martinez match was a battle of tactics as well as strokes, the power of Williams against the heady play of Martinez.

Af deuce in the eighth game of the final set, Martinez hit a sharply angled backhand volley, then began to pump her fist in triumph. Instead, the ball was called wide — just — giving Williams the advantage. Williams won the next point to break serve for a 5-4 lead, then held her own service to gain a berth in the quarterfinals.

"She hits a lot of balls back," Williams said. "She was definitely hitting the ball better than what

she usually hits in other matches."

Williams began the match as if she would be able to relax and watch the 10 o'clock news. Instead, she struggled for 2 hours, 10 minutes as both players probed for weaknesses, testing each other's resolve.

"She hit a lot of floaters, never really produced so much power," Williams said. "Plus she hits a lot of short balls, but they are not the kind of short balls that sit right there. They are so short they are below the net and you have to kind of lift it up."

It was a masterful display of tennis. But it couldn't overcome the quickness, the speed, the range and the power of Williams.

"I was happy with the way I played," said Martinez, who had her left thigh wrapped during the match and twice received treatment on the court. "It felt like the old me. I was hitting my forehand the way I used to."

She was aided by a shaky Williams when things got close. Serving at 5-5, 40-love in the second set, Williams double-faulted to begin a string where she lost six of seven points and her serve. When Martinez held at 15 in the next game, the match was even at one set apiece.

"I didn't expect such a tough match," Williams said. "I haven't gone three sets in a long time. Usually when I get in a tough second set, I'm able to pull it out. I find a way to get back in it. But this time I just failed."

growth in arrivals from Korea in October was attributed to a continued confidence in the country's economic recovery, and from the five charter flights from Korea by Asiana Airlines.

"This continued growth is influenced by the daily service between Seoul and Saipan that (started) on Sept. 13, 1999," said MVA.

As per island statistics, arrivals to Saipan jumped by 24 percent due to gains in both Japan and Korean markets. Rota and Tinian received a combined total of only 1,071 visitors due to losses from

Japan and US markets.

Guam arrivals also posted a seven percent growth, while other markets, including U.S., Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines and China experienced another slowdown in monthly arrivals.

In the past months, arrival increase ranged only from two percent to 13.08 percent, thus making October's 19.93 percent the greatest growth.

CNMI arrivals saw its first recovery in March this year after almost 20 months of deep slump due to the economic crisis.

whether Air Nauru will become the regional airline legislators in the Pacific have been clamoring for or not, Sablan said Air Nauru's contribution will boost transportation as well as tourism in the areas involved.

"For the time being, we just call that as the primary airline that will serve us," said Sablan.

Palau's Olikong said earlier that Air Nauru may qualify as the regional airline being pushed for by Pacific Island leaders, particularly through the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) and the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU). He said Air Nauru will also complement Continental Micronesia's services.

"It only tells us that we cannot rely on only one airline... We cannot go on for the next 10 to 15 years depending on an airline that suddenly goes away when the problem comes up..." the Palau

senator earlier told Variety during the first exploratory discussion between officials of Air Nauru, Palau and the CNMI.

A special committee consists of representatives from CNMI, Palau, Philippines and Air Nauru is also set to be formed to spearhead the actual servicing of the said route. A technical group will also be formed to get the U.S. Department of Transportation's nod on the said undertaking.

The CNMI ATF said passengers, especially patients who need to be referred for medical purposes, can no longer afford to wait for 10 to 12 hours in Guam before they can reach the Philippines.

These passengers also tend to save more in fare once Air Nauru starts servicing the area, instead of pinning their transportation needs on an airline which has the monopoly of air fares, said ATF.

## 1999 Youth Thanksgiving tournament Game Schedule (Nov. 24)

1st Game: Angels vs. Mighty T (7:00 p.m.)  
2nd Game: Islanders vs. Jokers (8:00 p.m.)  
Organizers:  
-Advisors: Mr. Joseph T. San. Nicolas  
-Coordinators: Ms. Prince C. Monkeya  
-Coaches: Ms. Digma Enano & Ms. Sylvia Biz  
-Coaches: Mr. James San Nicolas & Mr. Ian Cruz  
-Statistician: Ms. Norma B Carayonan  
-Technical Assistance: Mr. Frank Dela Cruz, jr.  
-Tournament Sponsor: Community and Cultural Affairs & 1999 Government Softball Association

## Tiger...

Continued from page 52

because of rain.

O'Meara, the 1998 U.S. Masters and British Open winner, said it was fun watching Woods hit.

"I just hope I can hold up my end," O'Meara said. "And if not I hope he still will send me a Christmas card."

James said Woods "definitely has taken this game to a new level, somebody who can hit the ball that far and control his shots."

Woods had won four straight tournaments, and eight of 11, before slipping to sixth last weekend in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Taiwan.

"For some reason, I didn't hit the ball well and I didn't putt well," he said.

Of his place in golf history, Woods said: "I have a long way to go. There is room for improvement in every facet of my game."

But, he added, "I don't think you can measure a year strictly by wins. In order to win, you have to have a few lucky breaks. I've had it happen."

Woods said neither fatigue nor heat would trouble him during this event. On Monday, he relaxed and didn't even touch a club.

"I've won twice in Thailand, where a couple of days were over 100 with 85 percent humidity," he said.

Still, he felt the heat. "The sweat came right off my nose and hit the golf ball," he said, recalling one putt. "So I knew my eyes were right over the ball."

## Democrats... Continued from page 1

body," said Benavente.

He said Jones' pronouncements "do not warrant anything."

"If you have bills that the committee feels deserve to be entertained, so be it," said Benavente.

Among the bills Jones is seeking to file again is his proposed measure reducing the present number of House members by half.

Benavente said he supports moves to reduce House seats, but not by eight.

Five key Republican members of the House did not make it in the recently-concluded midterm elections, four of them defeated by the Democrats in Precinct One.

Benavente said Precinct One has always been the Democrats' bailiwick.

## Teno...

Continued from page 1

that while the accountancy board bill can help generate revenue, it will however hurt local companies, which could eventually close down once the measure is enacted.

"The bill is going to kill... local accounting offices in the process," said Reyes.

"But that did not happen in Guam, and it won't happen here," said Nielsen, referring to the same measure that was enacted by the neighboring island's government in 1991.

"It will just mean that people who were doing things that they are not qualified to do... have to stop doing it. They can continue being accountants and bookkeepers but they cannot do services that require CPAs," explained Nielsen, adding that the measure is being practiced everywhere but here.

Nielsen said that as a result of the Senate's alleged inaction, the CNMI is losing millions of dollars to Guam, which collects fees for accommodating aspiring CPAs and conducting tests.

He said people seeking to take CPA tests in Guam for certification are usually from several Asian countries whose application for entry into the US mainland are given more attention by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) once they pass the Board examination.

By Nielsen's estimates, the CNMI government could earn \$3 million a year for accommodating CPA Board examinees, and another \$850,000 in immediate cash from test fees. Airline companies servicing the Northern Marianas could earn \$2.6 million bringing in and flying back examinees from points of origin, while business establishments and service providers in the CNMI could bring in \$2 million.

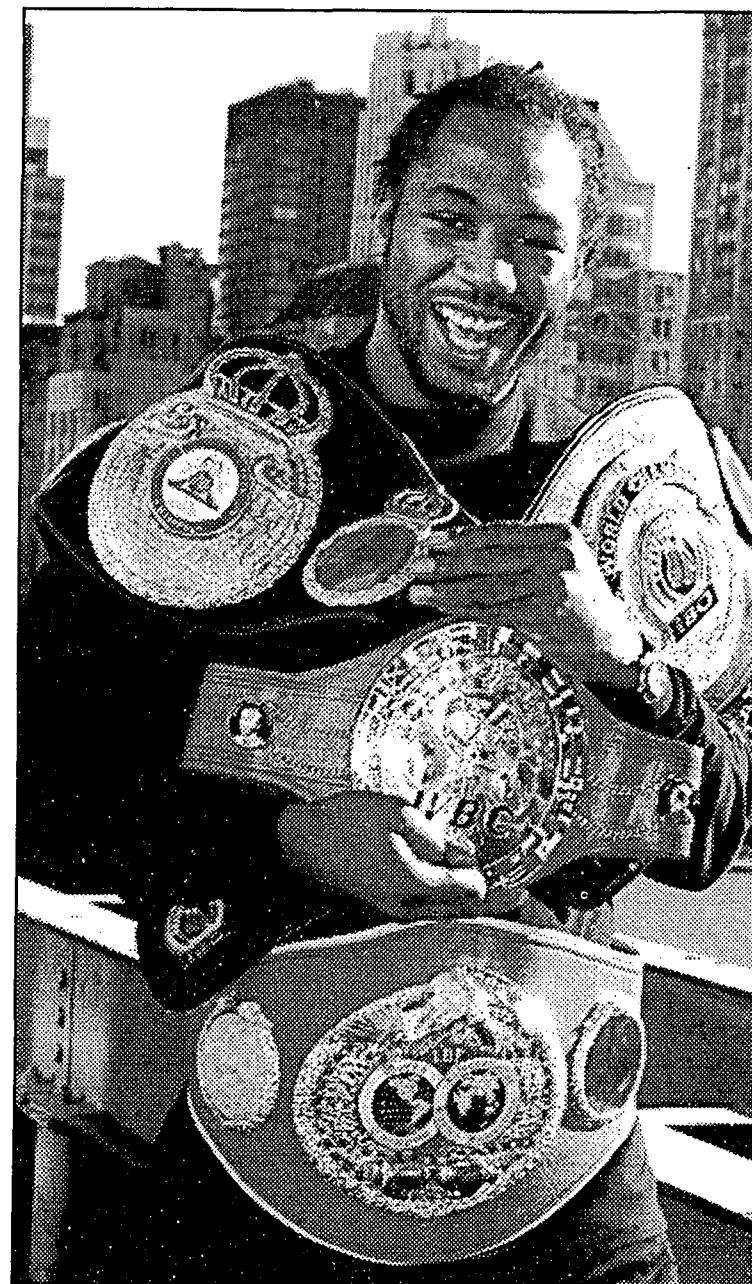
"Why are we letting Guam have that business?" he raised.

Having a Board of Accountancy, Nielsen added, would also protect consumers.

The Free Trade Zone bill has remained at the Senate due to concerns by some lawmakers on the proposed measure's impact on local US citizens who could still end up jobless despite promises of employment FTZ investors bring.

Similar protectionist concerns are also being raised on the Tax Certification bill.

# Lewis wants Tyson next



Lennox Lewis, the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion, shows off his four belts in New York City Wednesday afternoon. Lewis defeated Evander Holyfield last week and now reportedly eyes Mike Tyson next. AP

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Lennox Lewis is eager to defend his undisputed heavyweight title against Mike Tyson because "it is the most exciting fight out there."

"He has that drawing ability," Lewis said Wednesday.

A Lewis-Tyson fight is far from imminent, though, according to Lou DiBella, who heads boxing for HBO. "The end of next year at the earliest," he said.

Would Lewis be willing to wait 18 months to fight the former heavyweight champion, even if it meant Tyson's skills would be further diminished?

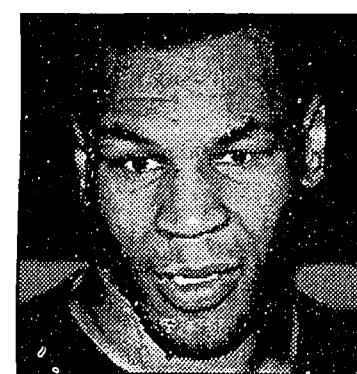
"Yes, and they will be," the British fighter said.

Lewis said he respected Tyson and was sympathetic toward the troubled fighter because of what Tyson has been through, including three years in prison on a rape conviction and jail time for assaulting two motorists after a minor accident.

"He is a man who used to be great trying to get his life in order," said Lewis. "He's gone through some bad times, but he's married now, and he has gotten away from people like Don King."

Sociology aside, Lewis said a fight with Tyson would sell because it presented questions the champion believed fight fans would pay to see answered.

"Is he the man he used to be? How would he cope with



Mike Tyson

Lewis? How would Lewis cope with him?" Lewis said. "He had the right moves before his trials and tribulations."

Tyson's camp seemed delighted when told of Lewis' comments.

"At the right time, the fight will happen," said Shelly Finkel, Tyson's manager.

Lewis is under contract to HBO and Tyson to Showtime, but that cable TV conflict would present no problem that couldn't be solved, according to Seth Abraham of HBO.

"Right," agreed Finkel.

Lewis' 12-round victory over Evander Holyfield on Nov. 13 will be shown on HBO Saturday night before the heavyweight fight between Michael Grant and Andrew Golota.

Lewis will do commentary for his unanimous decision over Holyfield, and then join the announcing team for the Grant-Golota fight.

Lewis may have more than just a passing interest in that

fight. A victory by Grant (30-0) might put him in line for a title shot at Lewis.

"He's big, and he's up and coming" was Lewis' assessment of the unbeaten Grant. "But, he's going to have to knockout out (Golota) in less than 20 seconds to beat me."

Actually, Lewis knocked Golota down twice before stopping him at 1:35 in the first round of their fight in October, 1997.

David Tua of New Zealand was another likely opponent for Lewis according to DiBella.

During the news conference, Lewis finally officially became undisputed heavyweight champion when he was unceremoniously handed his ransomed IBF belt.

Delivery had been held up pending payment of a \$300,000 sanctioning fee.

"We didn't want the money going into a Bob Lee defense fund," said Kathy Duva, the promoter whose Main Events Productions had kept the money in escrow until it could determine which IBF corporation would get the money.

"It finally went to the non-profit IBF of Rhode Island."

Lee, who heads the IBF, has been indicted on federal racketeering charges. The IBF belt was hand-carried from New Jersey in a box and given to Lewis, who spread it out on a table along with belts from the WBC, WBA and lesser known IBO and admired his loot.

# Chipper Jones wins NL MVP award

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Four swings changed Chipper Jones' season into an MVP year — four home runs in a three-game September series against the New York Mets.

"I think those four home runs were huge. I'd like to think my name was already on the map before that, but that kind of jump-started everything," Jones said Wednesday after winning the National League Most Valuable Player Award in a landslide.

Jones, who hit 45 homers and carried Atlanta to an eighth straight division title, received 29 of 32 first-place votes and finished with 432 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He also got two second-place votes and one third.

"It's awfully hard to believe," Jones said. "To have this in your corner, to always be able to say you won an MVP, is a tremendous honor."

Houston first baseman Jeff Bagwell was second with one first and 276 points, followed by Arizona third baseman Matt Williams, who had two firsts and 269 points. They were the only players picked on every ballot.

Cincinnati's Greg Vaughn was fourth with 121 points and St. Louis' Mark McGwire was fifth with 115, followed by the New York Mets' Robin Ventura (113), Mike Piazza (109) and Edgardo Alfonzo (88). Chicago's Sammy Sosa was ninth at 87.

"Matt Williams is one of the guys I try to be like. Just to be in the hunt with him is an honor in itself," Jones said. "I didn't have a real good first half. Baggy put together a full year."

Jones, a 27-year-old third baseman, earned a \$100,000 bonus and became the fifth Brave to win the award, joining Bob Elliott (1947), Hank Aaron (1957), Dale Murphy (1982 and '83) and Terry Pendleton (1991).

Jones hit .319 with 110 RBIs, 116 runs, 25 steals and 126 walks. He finished third in homers behind Mark McGwire (65) and Sammy Sosa (63) and third in walks; fourth in slugging percentage (.633), on-base percentage (.441) and total bases (359); seventh in runs; and 10th in batting.

After June 15, he hit 30 homers and drove in 79 runs.

# Orioles give reliever \$7.75M deal

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — The Baltimore Orioles began the process of revamping their dreadful bullpen Wednesday by signing right-hander Mike Trombley to a \$7.75 million, three-year contract.

Trombley, 32, took over as closer for the Twins after Minnesota traded Rick Aguilera to the Chicago Cubs on May 21. The first free agent to sign with another team this offseason, Trombley converted 24 of 30 save chances in 1999 but will likely serve as a setup man for Mike Timlin.

"I'm looking it as a setup situation, but whenever they need me to pitch, I'll pitch," Trombley said. "I'll do what they say."

Trombley should provide much-needed help for a Baltimore bullpen that last season blew 27 saves, allowed at least one run in 89 of 145 games and finished with a 4.93 ERA.

"He's a proven setup man. We felt as though he would be a perfect match for Mike Timlin," Orioles director of personnel Syd Thrift said. "Timlin is a power pitcher, and Trombley relies on good stuff. It's a nice contrast."

Mike Hargrove, hired as the

Orioles' new manager earlier this month, was not at the press conference and did not return a phone call to his home in Ohio.

Trombley, who made \$1.5 million last season, gets a \$1 million signing bonus, \$2.5 million in 2000 and \$2 million in each of the following two years. The Orioles have a \$3 million option for 2003 with a \$250,000 buyout.

Timlin lost his grip on the closer's role last year during a first half in which he blew eight of 17 save opportunities. He rallied in the second half by converting 18 of 19 chances but finished with a 3-9 record.

Although Trombley was 2-8 with a 4.33 ERA, he converted 13 of 14 save opportunities after June 30. He can serve as insurance policy in case Timlin once again struggles in the stopper's role.

While the Orioles now have two closers to choose from, the Twins have none.

"That certainly puts a hole in the back end of our bullpen, so we're going to have to start making alternative plans," Twins general manager Terry Ryan said Wednesday.

He said the Twins will "try to mix and match" what they already have in the bullpen, as well

as look at possible trades and the free-agent market.

Baltimore relievers were plagued by an excess of walks last season, but Trombley owns an excellent strikeout-to-walk ratio. He struck out 82 and walked 28 in 75 games in 1999, and over his eight-year career has 525 strikeouts compared to just 243 walks.

"He doesn't walk anybody, and he hasn't made an error in the last four years. You have to throw strikes in this league. That's critical," Thrift noted.

Trombley, who was drafted by Minnesota in 1989, entertained offers from the Twins and other teams before deciding upon the Orioles.

"It was a tough decision. I really enjoyed my time with the Twins," Trombley said. "But Baltimore was very good to me (financially). I guess I'll have to prove I deserve it."

Orioles utility infielder Jeff Rebutel, who played in Minnesota with Trombley from 1992 to 1996, is certain Baltimore will get its money's worth.

"Everybody knows what Mike throws and he still has success. That's the sign of a good pitcher," Rebutel said.



## SPORTS



## SSA slowpitch

# Six Pack, Comets remain unbeaten

TEAMSIX Pack and the Ngeaur Comets kept their unbeaten streak alive with come-from-behind victories over their respective opponents in last Wednesday's action at the Saipan Softball men's Slowpitch League.

Team Six Pack picked up five runs in their last trip to the plate in the top of the sixth on Joe Tudela's two-run double and two Rangers' errors to take a 20-18 lead, after trailing 18-15.

They then held off a possible rally by holding the winless Rangers to just one run after that, for Six Pack's third win and the Rangers' fourth setback in as many games.

Nick Castro went 3 for 3 with two homeruns and scored four times to lead Six Pack's charge.

Rayland Towai and Nestor Snyder each hit a homerun and Wise Augon went 3 for 3 as the Warriors stopped winless Toles Gone in the fifth, 25-6.

After each scoring three runs in the first inning, and then coming up empty in the second, the Warriors then took over, outscoring Toles Gone 22-3 for the shut-out.

With the win, the Warriors improved to 3-1, and handed Toles Gone their fourth loss in a row.

In the third game of the night, Sedi Kau improved to 5-1 stopping short their game against Peleliu in the fifth 22-10.

Sedi Kau jumped on top, 18-5, after three innings of play and never looked back the rest of the way.

Jess Pua, Ned Norita, Mario Augon, Jess Taitano, Fuji Suel each hammered one out for Sedi Kau.

Darwin Masaharu, Carney Mobel, and Mabel Ngirngelas each hit one in a losing effort.

In the final game of the night, the Ngeaur Comets rallied for thirteen runs in their last two trips to the plate for a come-from-behind, 14-13 victory over the C.K. Defenders.

The Defenders started strong taking an 11-1 lead after 4 1/2 innings, but the Comets then rallied, scoring five runs in the bottom of the sixth on Guerrero and Chris "Extreme Supreme" Palacios three-run blast.

The victory improved the Comets to 4-0 and dropped the Defenders to 3-1.

## RGA's Annual Turkey Shoot tourney Sunday

THE Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its Annual Turkey Shoot Tournament this coming Sunday, Nov. 21 at LaoLao Bay's West Course.

Show time is 10 a.m. and reservations are available for 24 players.

Members who show up for the tournament will receive membership hats and shirts. There will be turkeys to give

away and lots of prizes for the taking.

There will also be a get-together after the game at Joe Wabol's residence in Kagman. The Turkey Shoot will also count for the December Ace of the Month.

The two-man scramble and the Ace of Aces will be held in December as the final events for the year.

## BANMI referees' clinic

THE Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (BANMI) will conduct a referees' clinic tomorrow, Saturday, at the hour of 1 p.m., at the G.C. Ada Gymnasium Conference Room.

This clinic will be conducted under the authority of the Oceania Basketball Confederation, and all persons who successfully complete the course of instruction will be certified by OBC.

All persons who want to officiate in the forthcoming 1999-2000 Island Wide Basketball League must attend this clinic.

Anyone who is interested in officiating basketball, and who wants to obtain Oceania certification, or just improve their refereeing skills, is welcome to attend this clinic. There is no charge for the clinic.

For further information please contact Mike White at 234-6547.

## Tiger Woods, O'Meara are favored in World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — This week, Tiger Woods has company.

Woods, who has won eight of his last 12 tournaments and nearly \$7 million this season, teams with Mark O'Meara in an attempt to return the World Cup to the United States.

The United States has won 21 of the 44 World Cups, but none since Fred Couples and Davis Love III swept four in a row from 1992-95.

Nick Faldo and David Carter won last year for England, which is represented in the 32-team field this year by Mark James and Peter Baker.

Ireland goes with the pair that won the World Cup in 1997, Paul McGinley and Pdraig Harrington. Scotland features Colin Montgomerie and Dean Robertson.

The winning team will collect \$400,000. Another \$100,000 is at stake for the top individual score in the \$1.5 million tournament.

At Wednesday's pro-am tournament, Wood signed so many autographs between holes his shirt was marked with ink stains. He still managed to shoot three birdies on the front nine. The event was stopped

Continued on page 50

## Malone, Stockton lift Jazz past Knicks

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone scored a season-high 33 points and John Stockton, fighting a respiratory illness, scored 17 as the Utah Jazz beat the New York Knicks 98-90 Wednesday night.

The Jazz made their first 10 shots and 15 of their first 16, building a 34-14 lead after almost nine minutes. Utah cooled off in the second and third quarters but it was enough of a cushion to outlast the Knicks.

Stockton, who had 11 assists, was listed as questionable until tipoff but he showed no signs of the infection, playing 30 minutes.

Latrell Sprewell had 24 points for New York one night after scoring 26 in a 102-95 victory at Denver. Marcus Camby scored 18, Larry Johnson had 14 and Allan Houston added 13 for the Knicks.

Jeff Hornacek and Bryon Russell each had 10 points for the Jazz, who held a 46-33 rebounding advantage. Malone had 11 rebounds, 10 on the defensive end, and Greg Ostertag had eight.

It was New York's fourth loss in five games after the Knicks started the season with three straight wins.

Utah shot 78 percent (15-of-19) in the first quarter, including three misses to end the period. The Jazz led 34-14 on a basket by Howard Eisley with

3:08 to play, their biggest lead of the game.

Utah, which hasn't scored more than 100 points all season, went into a 4-for-15 slump in the second period but still managed to lead 60-42 at halftime. Malone had 20 points and Stockton had 11 at the break.

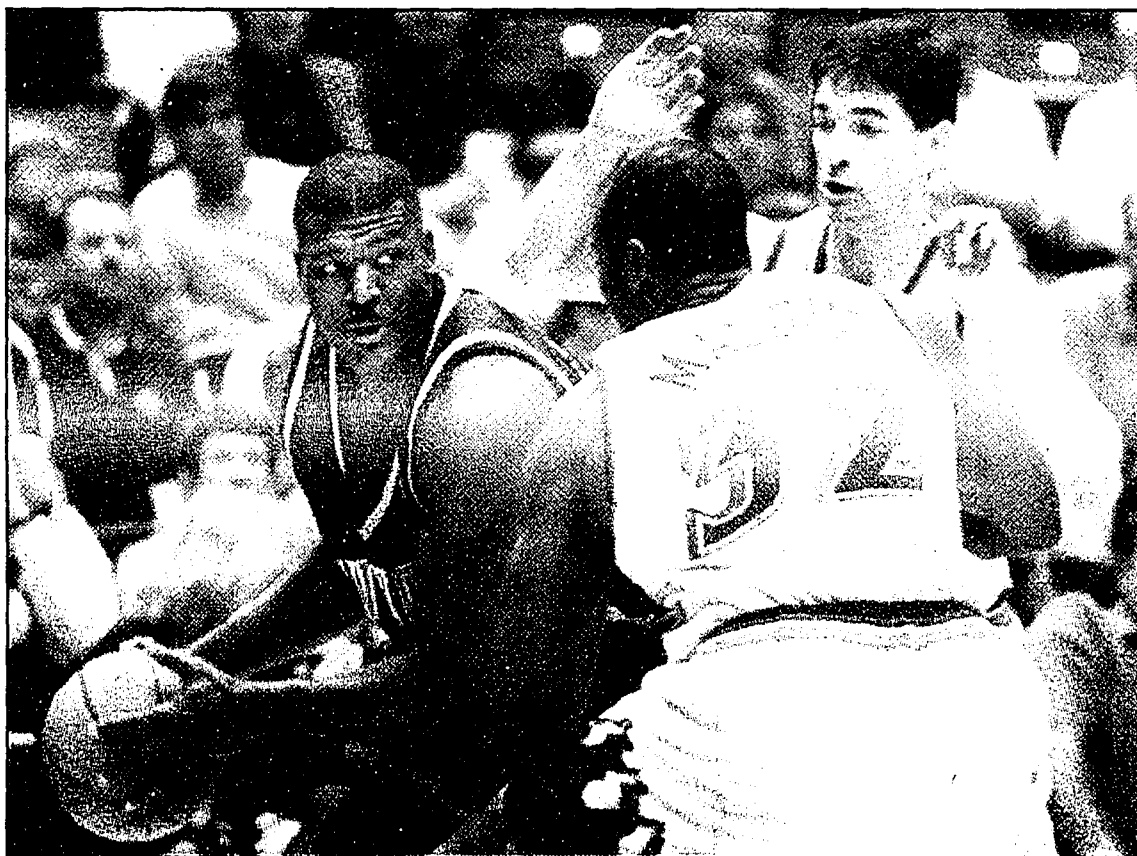
New York pulled within 36-25 on a basket by Houston to open

the second quarter. The Jazz hit 7-of-21 in the second quarter but scored the last six points of the quarter for a 60-42 halftime lead.

Malone had seven of his 20 first-half points in the last 3:12.

The Knicks made it 77-71 after three periods but rookie Scott Padgett and Russell opened the fourth quarter with 3-pointers for the Jazz. The Knicks closed to 93-

86 on a jumper by Houston with 2:30 to play but couldn't get any closer. Notes: Chris Childs needed four stitches to close a cut he opened during a third-quarter collision with Stockton. ... The Jazz have won 10 of their last 12 against the Knicks, who are winless in Salt Lake City since a 97-80 victory on Jan. 27, 1992.



Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone (32) and guard John Stockton double team New York Knicks forward Larry Johnson, forcing him to pass in the first quarter Wednesday in Salt Lake City.

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