

DAILY

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A Note of History. U.S. Congressman George Miller leans through a book on CNMI history presented by BOE Chair Marja Lee Taitano at San Vicente School yesterday. Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta looks on at right.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

Miller 'sees' commitment to reforms

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

VISITING U.S. Congressman George Miller (D-California) yesterday said his "cordial and frank discussions" with the CNMI's leaders reveal a commitment on the part of Commonwealth to pursue local labor and immigration reforms he considers urgent.

But Miller said it is up to the CNMI whether to address his concerns, adding that the meetings were not intended to secure "promises" from the Commonwealth's leaders. (See related story)

"This is a new beginning on these issues, and both my conversations with (Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio) and the (Legislature's leaders) lead me to believe that they are very much interested in

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Stayman: US action still 'non-negotiable'



Stayman: No to 'status quo.'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THERE IS apparently no way the CNMI government can entice the Federal Government to abandon the proposed immigration and minimum wage takeover.

But Office of Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman said the Federal Government is being "a little more flexible" and is willing to conduct discussions with the new CNMI leadership on the provisions stated under the Section 902 of the Covenant.

"What we believe is non-negotiable is that we need Federal legislation," Stayman told Saipan reporters after addressing a meet-

ing of the Rotary Club Saipan yesterday.

He explained that part of the reason why there is a need for Federal legislation is the US government's previous experience over the past couple of years with the CNMI leadership.

"We have reached an agreement with the local government and the local government just changes its mind. We can't be doing that every couple of years. Once we have an agreement, we want to put it in Federal law and that will be the policy," he stressed.

He added that for 14 years, the Federal government has been ask-

ing the local government to deal with its problems "but it did not do well."

He said the Clinton Administration would like to sit in and reach an agreement with the CNMI government in placing the pact in Federal laws "so we will not have to go through this over and over."

"I have talked to the President's negotiator and I told the governor that we are looking forward to the (Section) 902 negotiations," he said.

Reelected CNMI Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio announced in his inauguration speech that he would want

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Mansur: No 'formal' position yet on takeover issue

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

THE U.S. House Resources Committee does not have a "formal" position yet on the proposed federalization of the CNMI's immigration and minimum wage laws, a key congressional official said yesterday.

"Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) has not taken a formal position on the issue of a federal takeover," said Manase Mansur, Committee Adviser on Insular and International Affairs.

"That is why he and other members of the Committee will come here by February to make an assessment of the current state of development," he said.

The benefits of this visit, he added, include the "Committee meeting with a new administration and a new legislature."

Mansur also said that the Committee will "sit down with the new leaders" and find out "what has been done so far."

"We will also look at the new administration's proposals and



Manase Mansur

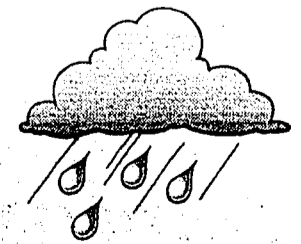
ideas. The Committee will decide afterwards what would be the appropriate thing to do," said Mansur.

Mansur noted that Chairman Young "fosters the view that local governments should be the primary ones to carry out the responsibility of governing for the people".

"What that tends to say is that the CNMI should have the opportunity and the responsibility to fully carry out its duty of

Continued on page 19

WEATHER Outlook



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

RP peso, stocks getting stronger

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine stocks rose for a second day Tuesday, lifted by continued bargain-hunting and gains shown by major stock markets around the region, traders said.

Still, traders remained unconvinced that the rebound could be sustained for long, especially with domestic interest rates continuing to rise.

The 30-share Philippine Stock Exchange Index surged 58.02 points, or 3.8 percent, to 1,590.99, according to preliminary figures. On Monday the index rose 14.97 points.

The peso also gained in morning trading, with ample dollar supplies continuing to spur the Philippine currency.

Dealers said a rise in the central bank's short-term interest rates was also helping underpin the peso.

The central bank raised its overnight lending rate to 16 percent from 15.4 percent, but held its key overnight borrowing rate at 12 percent.

At midday the peso averaged 43.612 pesos per dollar, compared to 44.073 pesos Monday.

A trader with a foreign bank said currency turmoil elsewhere in Asia was not having a strong impact on the peso market.

Indeed, some currency watchers see signs of a possible decoupling of the peso from the regional currency situation.

But traders said the main cause of the peso's advance Tuesday was an adequate supply of dollars in the market.

Last week, the central bank ended a dollar drought by launching a new currency protection system for unhedged corporate dollar borrowers.

Under the so-called non-deliverable forward facility, corporate borrowers can lock into a pre-determined exchange rate.

Traders said the system has substantially reduced demand for dollars from corporate borrowers.



Riot police corps arrive at the Tokyo Stock Exchange Tuesday afternoon after an armed man took a hostage and barricaded himself in the office of the exchange's governor. The assailant is reportedly demanding a meeting with Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka. AP

Hostage standoff at Tokyo stock exchange

By JOJI SAKURAI
TOKYO (AP) - Dozens of riot police ringed the Tokyo Stock Exchange in a standoff Tuesday with an armed intruder holding an exchange official hostage and reportedly demanding a meeting with Japan's finance minister.

Police said the man, thought to be carrying either a pistol or a knife, entered the exchange Tuesday afternoon. Several hours of efforts to persuade him to surrender were unsuccessful as evening fell.

News reports said the intruder claimed to be an ultra-rightist. Police refused to comment.

There were no reports of injuries, but a police officer at the scene, who refused to be further identified, said at least one shot was fired. It was not clear whether the police or the intruder fired the shot.

Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesman Naoto Fujii said the hostage was Masahiro Abe, a Finance Ministry official who is attached to the ministry's oversight office at the TSE.

Japanese television networks, interrupting regular programs to broadcast the hostage situation live, said the assailant demanded the exchange be closed, a meeting with Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka be arranged and all police be withdrawn from the building.

Police said that before the assault, the intruder calmly requested a meeting with the official he took hostage in an executive office on the exchange's 14th floor. Japanese media reported that he was even served tea as he waited.

Japanese gov't reports economy at standstill


TOKYO (AP) - The Japanese economy remains at a standstill, with corporate and individual pessimism cutting into consumption and capital spending, the government said in a report released Tuesday.

The report by the Economic Planning Agency was similar to one issued last month, which showed the economy stalling after two years of struggling to emerge from a long-term slowdown.

Worsening private and corporate sentiment could prevent the economy from recovering in the near future, said Akira Furukawa, director of the EPA research bureau's national economic division.

Japan's economy has been reeling from a series of high-profile business failures and scandals, the Asian financial crisis and a slumping stock market and currency.

Despite the slightly more bearish tone of Tuesday's report, however, Furukawa said the economy is not contracting.



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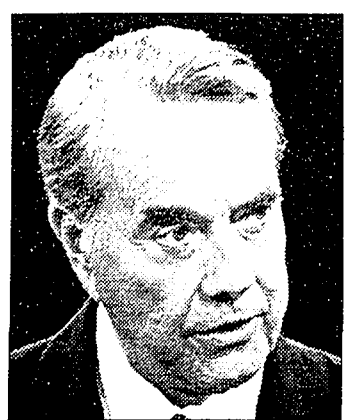
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Dole now a foreign agent for Taiwan



By LARRY MARGASAK
WASHINGTON (AP) - During his losing 1996 presidential campaign, Bob Dole frequently accused President Bill Clinton and the Democrats of being un-

der foreign influence. Now, Dole is a paid agent for the government of Taiwan.

Dole registered with the Justice Department last week and will provide "strategic advice and counseling" to Taiwan, said John A. Merrigan, a partner at Dole's Washington law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand. Additional registration papers filed Monday said Dole "does not intend to engage in any lobbying of members of Congress or the administration."

The contract between the firm and Taiwan calls for payments of \$30,000 a month, Merrigan said.

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Meetings bring hope

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI's top officials yesterday came out from a meeting with visiting U.S. Congressman George Miller (D-California) hopeful that the White House and its allies in Congress would reconsider their "federal takeover" proposal.

In separate interviews, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Senate President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) expressed optimism that the CNMI and Washington, D.C. could work together in addressing federal concerns over local labor and immigration policies.

Tenorio, who was sworn into office Monday, described the meeting with the author of a federal takeover legislation as "cordial," and called Miller an "open minded" person.

The governor said the CNMI government "fully understands" the position of those in favor of a federal takeover, but added that the islands' position should also be considered.

"Our intention is to resolve problems," he said, but preferably within the framework of continued local control over its own immigration and minimum wage policies.

Still, he added, any discussions with the federal government should not reach the point of renegotiating the islands' political status, as proposed by Tenorio's predecessor.

"We're very proud to be part of the U.S., and our people are very happy with their U.S. citizenship," he said.

When told that visiting U.S. Interior Department official Al Stayman has said that the Clinton administration's federal takeover recommendation remains non-negotiable, Tenorio said, "If (that's true) why should he (discuss these issues with us)?"

He added, "I'm sure (they know) that this new administration will work with them on problems they like us to look into."

Tenorio, at the same time, reiterated his campaign pledge to impose a moratorium on the number of garment factories, and a cap on the number of alien workers, which is now estimated to be 30,000—more than half of the CNMI's population.

But Tenorio, who restricted the number of garment factories during his second term in the mid-80s, said his administration will not shut down any existing garment factories.

At the same time, Tenorio said he will call for a "real study" on the local minimum wage that would set a viable rate.

Hocog: Image of Tinian as 'financial burden' will end

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

TINIAN Representative Jose A. Hocog (D-Tinian) Monday said the image of Tinian as a financial burden upon Saipan will end, and Saipan will begin to taste the fruits of its planned economic development.

In his speech during the inauguration of the 11th Legislature, Hocog stressed that Tinian today is on the threshold of significant economic and social advancement.

"The Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is going to open this year. Another ground breaking is at hand," Hocog cited.

As these casinos open, he said, many support industries will develop.

"As a result, Tinian will be infusing large sums of revenues into the Commonwealth General Fund."

Hocog noted that to achieve Tinian's goal, they need to make major investments in the infrastructure, like Saipan did.

"Toward this end, I will be asking for your support as the Commonwealth begins to take advantage of the financial opportunities available on the beautiful island of Tinian," he said.

Hocog emphasized that the economic development of Tinian will also mean a gradual shift in the population of the Commonwealth, and cited that many Saipanese, Rotanese and Guamanians already made speculative investments.

"As we approach the year 2,000 and beyond, the population of Tinian will grow in proportion to Saipan. I am sure that this will raise questions of reappointment," Hocog said.

Hocog assured colleagues in the House that although he considers his primary responsibility in promoting and protecting the interests of the people of Tinian, he also recognizes his overall responsibility in the Commonwealth.

"After all, we do have a collective unity of purpose to promote the controlled economic development of the Commonwealth and the increased prosperity and social advancement of our people," Hocog also said.

Senate President Mangiona, for his part, said Miller's visit opened a "new channel" for the CNMI in its efforts to improve its relations with Washington, D.C.

"The previous governor was telling (our critics in the nation's capital) that there's no problem, we have friends in Congress, we don't have to do anything—so don't bother us, stay out of our commonwealth," he said.

In contrast, he added, the new administration has taken a "positive step" in opening talks with Miller.

"He didn't make any conditions or anything. He still believes that there's no alternative to a federal takeover, but that is not to say that we can't do anything to correct some of the problems," Mangiona said.

Speaker Benavente agrees.

"We (acknowledged) that there are problems, particularly with the Bangladeshi and Chinese workers, but I feel that's something we can change," he said.

The CNMI's job now is to convince Congress and President Clinton that the islands can implement the needed changes without a federal takeover, Benavente said.

"We're not hiding or lying about anything," he added.

"We do have problems here, and so we're glad Mr. Miller's here, and we're looking forward to presenting our position in (the congressional) committee hearing scheduled for February."

Grade schoolers, teachers awed by Miller's visit to SVES

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

U.S. Congressman George Miller (D-California) had students gawking at San Vicente Elementary School when the top ranking democrat paid a visit to the grade school yesterday.

"For his visit at the school, Congressman Miller requested if he could see kids in action in the classroom," said Acting Commissioner of Education Margaret Dela Cruz.

"We scheduled a tour of SVES to give the Congressman an idea

of the federal programs and community projects that the school has undertaken," she said.

"SVES joins other schools in a role model example of a school that has large community involvement and has a diversified range of federal and local programs," she added.

After less than an hour tour, Miller gave a glowing review of the elementary school.

"This is a sound school and it is well run with wonderful students and bright teachers," he said.

The Congressman walked around the school campus and entered a few classrooms to talk to students and teachers.

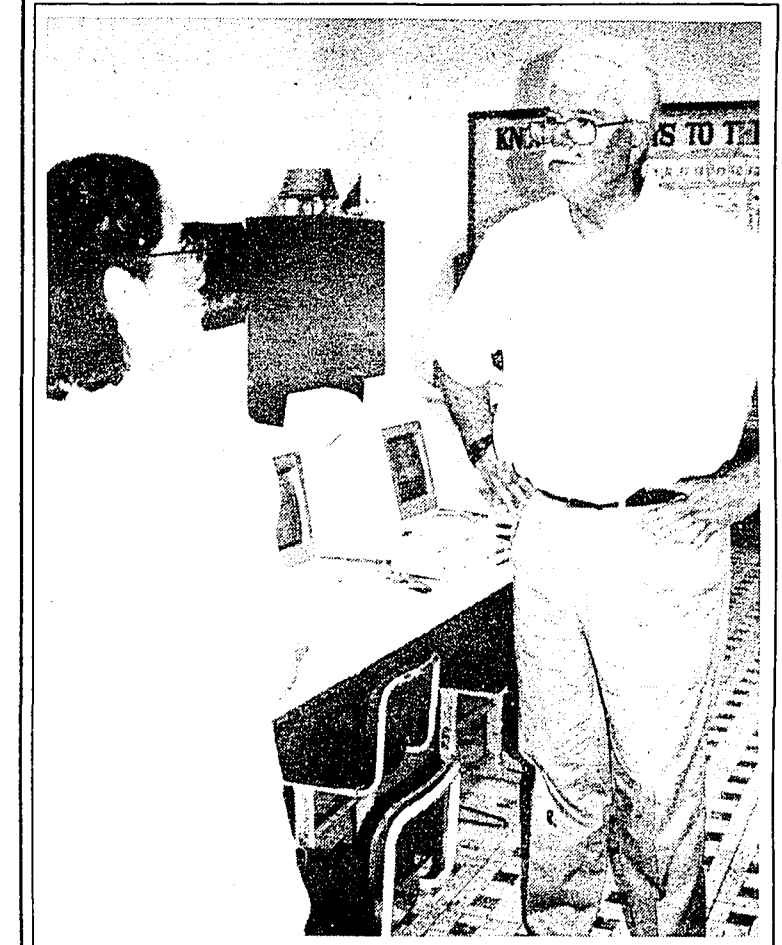
"It is almost like meeting John F. Kennedy!", delighted one 4th grader.

According to PSS Federal Programs Coordinator William Matson, this is the "first time" the Public School System was approached to schedule a school tour for a U.S. Congress member.

Miller was scheduled to take tours of the island's infrastructure, schools and hospitals to get a "whole picture of the CNMI".

According to Dela Cruz, however, Miller can only visit one school because of "his tight schedule".

The Congressman is next scheduled for a tour of the island's garment factories.



U.S. Congressman George Miller listens to SVES Principal Martha Haberman explain the school's computer lab schedule and functions yesterday.



U.S. Congressman George Miller starts a tour of San Vicente Elementary School yesterday with SVES Principal Martha Haberman, Acting COE Margaret Dela Cruz and other school officials.

Photos by Laila C. Younis

Governor's Inaugural Ball



Cheers. A toast is offered for the new Administration of Gov. Pete P. Tenorio (center, with First Lady Sofia) during the Inaugural Ball held at the Diamond Hotel Monday night.



Gov. Pete P. Tenorio (left) and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan pose for a photo with Senate President and Mrs. Paul A. Manglona.



The Government of Guam, represented by Lt. Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, extends its best wishes to the new Administration via a plaque. Watching at right are Mrs. Sofia Tenorio and Mrs. Annie T. Sablan.

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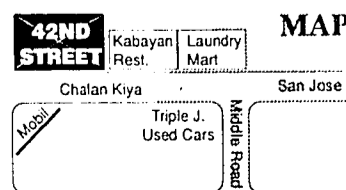
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Tenorio Govt to require drug test for appointees

DRUG abuse will be a key concern of the Teno-Pepero Administration, and the newly-installed government of Pedro P. Tenorio will require its appointees to undergo drug testing.

"We welcome former Governor Froilan C. Tenorio's decision to delay implementation of the new drug policy until after he leaves office," said Jose T. Villagomez, Chairman of the Transition Executive Committee.

"All those who wish to be appointed in the Teno-Pepero Administration must agree to be tested. Anyone who fails the test will be dropped from consideration," Villagomez added.

In addition to those persons required to undergo testing because of their positions in safety-related work

such as policemen, firemen, and hospital staff, it is also Gov. Tenorio's intention to have other key government employees regularly tested, Villagomez said.

The law does not allow mandatory testing of all government employees. The Administration is considering a policy in which certain employees will be asked to voluntarily be tested, the release said.

Illegal drugs like metamphetamines, or "ice," and legal drugs like alcohol are major problems in the Northern Marianas.

"We want the people who voted us into office to know that we are serious about eliminating illegal drugs in the Commonwealth and reducing alcohol abuse and related problems," Villagomez pointed out.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Friday, January 16, 1998, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- C. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. M.D. Group Proposal
 - 2. DEV Change Order #1
 - 3. Meeting with Scott D. Merritt
- D. NEXT MEETING
- E. ADJOURNMENT

Lawyer takes Palmer to court

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER filed yesterday a lawsuit against Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission executive director Paul Palmer for alleged fraud and breach of contract.

Bruce Lee Jorgensen in his complaint asked the Superior Court to order Palmer to pay him damages.

According to the complaint, relying upon Palmer's representations last Dec. 20 Jorgensen agreed to the terms of a contractual agreement.

Pursuant to the agreement, Jorgensen agreed to provide Palmer professional legal services in exchange for payment of a specific fee.

The complaint stated that plaintiff learned last Dec. 26 that Palmer, without previously consulting or notifying him, went to the Philippines.

Three days later, Jorgensen said he learned that the defendant had failed to comply with a subpoena requiring Palmer to appear before the CNMI Senate.

Jorgensen said the US District Court for the CNMI issued an order last Dec. 31 permitting him to withdraw as Palmer's counsel in the federal court proceeding.

"Defendant's conduct constitutes a breach of contract for which defendant is liable to plaintiff," said the complaint.

"Palmer's described oral and written factual assertions were and are false, and constitute misrepresentations of fact," said the lawyer.

The TCGCC executive director has a pending criminal case in the trial court for allegedly beating his wife at their residence in Dandan in Oct. 1997.

The defendant pleaded innocent to the charges.

A 'Flood' of medical info

By William L. Flood, M.D.
For the Variety

Kids & Day Care-'He's sick again!'

HERE in the CNMI, as all over the world, many mother's need to work outside of the home. And this means someone else needs to help take care of the children.

While some families have a full-time caretaker in their homes, perhaps here more than many places in the states, others find that group day care is the only available option.

While their are many important benefits from day care, there are also risks, especially the risk of exposure to many different infections.

The "average" child cared for at home has about 40 "sick days" a year. A little over a month.

Children in small home day care settings had almost 80 sick days, and those in group day care centers had almost 100. That's over 3 months, sick, every year.

What can you do to minimize this number, or to keep infection risk low for your child? When is it safe to allow a sick child to return to school, and when should you keep them home?

Respiratory "flu" or colds are the most common, and most toddlers have 6-9 of these infections a year.

These infections are spread easily by droplets sneezed or coughed into the air. Since infants don't use handkerchiefs or cough politely into their hands, it is pretty much impossible to prevent the rapid spread of these infections in day care. Happily, most of these infections are mild and go away without treatment.

"Stomach flu", most commonly vomiting and diarrhea, is also a special risk in day care.

These infections are spread from the hands to the mouth. Toddlers and infants are still in diapers, and changing a messy diaper can transfer a lot of germs to the caretakers hands.

Hand washing is the single best way to prevent the spread of these diseases. Caretakers and day care workers should be compulsive about hand washing before handling any food, and after wiping noses or changing diapers.

When should a child be kept home?

- 1. Fever. If your child has a rectal temperature greater than 102 degrees.
 - 2. "Sick". If your child acts unusually sick, tired, or uncomfortable.
 - 3. Diarrhea or vomiting. A child with watery bowel movements, or vomiting, should be kept home until you are sure they are not "catchy".
 - 4. Pain. Any child with unusual pain — earaches, belly pain, whatever — should be kept home and be seen by their doctor.
 - 5. Rashes. Children with rashes may have infections and should be kept home until your doctor says it is OK to be out and around.
 - 6. Sore throat or sores in mouth. These infections are often quite catchy and need to be treated. If your child has "strep throat" he should stay home until he is on antibiotics and the fever is gone for 24 hours.
- It is also a good idea to call your day care provider to let them know your child is sick.

This way they can alert other parents to what is going around in the school.

Executor confirmed test shows 4 kids are siblings

But clarifies \$90M settlements are not true

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan yesterday confirmed that DNA test showed that four of Hillblom's eight alleged children proved to be siblings.

BOS, through counsel Eduard Calvo, said lawyers agreed to test the kids against each other to see whether they had a common parent.

"The DNA test showed high level of certainty that the four kids have the same father," Calvo said in a telephone interview from his office in Guam.

Calvo, however, emphasized that pursuant to the settlement agreement the kids will undergo further DNA test to prove that they

are indeed Hillblom's off-springs.

The additional DNA test as contained in the settlement agreement has not occurred yet, said the BOS lawyer.

He identified the four kids as Junior Larry Hillbroom, Jellian Cuartero, Mercedita Feliciano, and Nguyen Be Lory.

Calvo said he has no information whether the other kids—Honeylyn Nonan, Alexandra Nonan, Jeril Nonan, and Vo Min Tan—joined the initial DNA test among themselves.

The lawyer denied the Associated Press report quoting an article of the San Francisco Examiner that the four children have won at least \$90 million each in a settlement of paternity claims.

Aside that the additional

DNA test is not conducted yet, Calvo explained they have not ascertained the actual value of Hillblom's estate.

"We are still engaged in an ongoing marshalling and liquidation process of assets. There are other issues like taxes that will affect the heirs' share," Calvo said.

Under the agreement, if there are three or more qualified kids, the children shall split equally the 60% while 40% goes to Hillblom's Charitable Trust.

Hillblom, co-founder of DHL, died during a seaplane crash of Anatahan waters in May 1995. His body was never recovered.

A probate was opened in the Superior Court to determine on how to distribute his assets which were originally estimated at \$450 million.

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ASVAB Test scheduled

THE US Army Reserve on Saipan is conducting the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB TEST) this Friday, 16th at 8:00 a.m. at the MHS Cafeteria and 6:00 p.m. at the U.S. Army Reserves Center Classroom (Puerto Rico) Examinees are advised to be there at the test site an hour before the time specified.

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*Must be 17 years old with parents consent and not over 35 years of age this year.

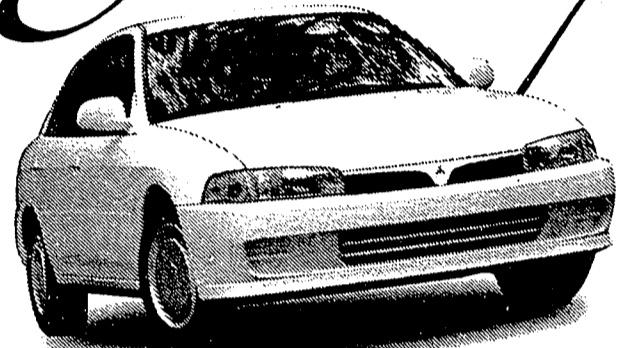
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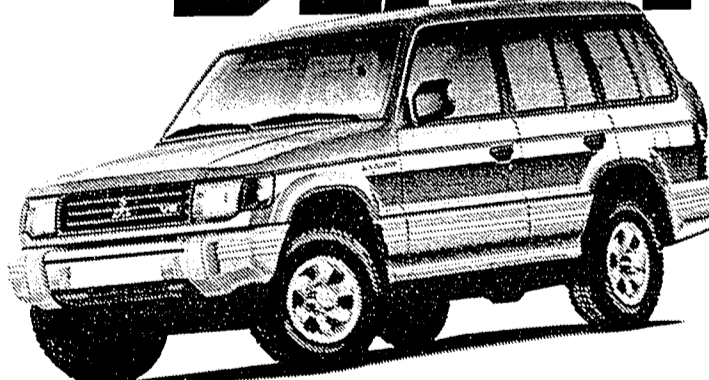


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A larger view

Is it really possible to plan development?

By William H. Stewart,
For the Variety

I HAVE always considered that area planning consisted of two principal elements; a physical component for infrastructure, (roads, schools, parks, power, etc.) and an economic base portion.

The two are closely interlocked. Existing and projected economic indicators such as population characteristics; the various business sectors and their growth potential point the way for future infrastructure investment.

As a particular location on the island experiences growth, it follows that sooner or later existing roads, power, water, sewer and sometimes schools will have to be either provided or improved.

Logically, roads should not be resurfaced and then dug up a short time later to install a sewer or water line.

The line should go in first.

Citing another example, when a road is resurfaced, vehicle speeds increase, the accident rate goes up and some thought must be given to enlarging hospital emergency facilities.

These obvious examples fall within the infrastructure or physical portion of a plan.

It is one thing to create a plan - which by the way - should have broad community support, it is quite another matter to implement it.

Usually, the only implementation tools available are: the budgeting process, various laws such as building codes and directing the use of land.

Looking very briefly at land and just a couple of the many elements to consider, a particular use of land can also be a generator of vehicle traffic since its use can be either an origin or destination of traffic patterns.

To cite another example, when it is known that a new road will one day be necessary, or an exiting roadway realigned at some point in the future, a plan can suggest that the necessary right of way be purchased at today's prices rather than at some future time when the right of way is certain to be more expensive.

Solid waste disposal, underground power lines, schools with concrete roofs to serve as typhoon shelters, these are just a few of the facilities to be addressed in the physical portion of any plan.

The economic portion is quite different from the physical component of a plan.

It is no secret that rigid economic planning is the anathema of private enterprise.

Traditionally, economic planning, per se, has been the hallmark of socialistic and communist countries and we have all seen where that has led in recent years.

Indeed, the United States does not have an economic plan for the

nation and while many states and cities have plans for the physical development of their respective areas, I am not aware that any have extensive plans relative to economic development other than to strive toward establishing a conducive business and investment climate by offering incentives, constructing industrial parks, free trade zones, etc.

Economic development cannot be "legislated" to occur, only the business climate within which the private sector is expected to thrive and prosper can be established by an area's legal environment and even then it is only a welcome mat for potential investors, both local and foreign.

The economic base portion of any plan is an important component since, in the absence of federal grants and programs, it is the economy that generates the tax revenues that will finance the infrastructure of the future and provide for the social programs for society, and it is the economic base that will provide the funds for the maintenance of facilities.

There are many issues that have the potential for influencing the Commonwealth's economic future in both positive and negative ways - all of which are difficult to foresee and measure, many of which are beyond the control of the Commonwealth.

These include: the threat of United States control over immigration and the precipitant imposition of the U. S. minimum wage; a continuation of the benefits afforded by Headnote 3 (a) permitting duty free access to U. S. markets; the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the CNMI's manufactured products of all type; the influx of increasing numbers of unemployed, unskilled youth from the Federated States of Micronesia as that nation's Compact funds become exhausted in a few years.

Should their economy continue to falter, it will stimulate an increase in outward migration to the Marianas.

Still other uncertainties involve the relationship of the dollar to the yen and the continued health of Korea and Japan's export economies; the Philippine Government's ban on certain categories of expatriate workers; budget difficulties; the competitiveness of other tourist destinations around the Pacific; the economic contribution of casino operations on Tinian; the concern of future potential investors over Article XII and the sanctity of land title among other things.

These unknown issues make it difficult to make forecasts for any distance into the future.

Any one of the above can have a major impact on the economy.

Having mentioned some of the difficulties in anticipating the future direction of the economy does not mean that attempts to develop a "best estimate scenario" should not



William H. Stewart

be made.

It should.

Hazardous as forecasting can be it is an improvement over the intuitive method which some would employ without any attempt to measure the many factors involved - but care must be exercised.

To digress a bit, I am reminded of the economists in New York City who, at the beginning of this century, were concerned as to where all of the land would be found to grow the oats for the hundreds of thousands of horses that would be needed for transportation by the year 1950.

Technology has a way of nullifying the best of projections. The advancement of the automobile probably served to negate some enterprising entrepreneur's business plans to process fertilizer collected from New York streets of which, I am told, there was quite a horrendous and dreadful volume.

When this occurred the purchase of stock in a firm manufacturing buggy whips would not have been a wise investment but carpet manufacturing, on the other hand, would have been since people no longer need fear the stench from tracking street soil from the spent fuel of horses into one's home or office.

This is but another historical reference as to how seemingly unrelated events are entwined.

Do I hear you say - only dedicated economists would turn their attention to horse sh—

Returning to the other "other hand" there are events transpiring over the horizon that can effect our economy in the future.

Ever larger cruise ships operating from Asian ports are certain to change the visitors choice of travel to the islands.

The recent program on television "Castles on the Ocean," concerned new cruise ships that are coming on line.

These behemoths are larger than anything previously constructed, larger than the *Titanic* and the *Queen Mary*.

They are truly floating islands, each a virtual community afloat with architecture and interiors that rival the most palatial Las Vegas hotel casinos.

They are lavishly decorated with stage shows, luxurious casinos, opulent shopping galleries and diversions of every imagin-

Continued on page 17

Mayor pleads for 'Rota Six'

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

NEWLY seated Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona of Rota yesterday pleaded for the six Filipino American families squatting on public land and who face eviction through a court order ay time.

Manglona wrote a letter dated yesterday to Board of Public Lands Chair Tomas B. Aldan asking him not to take any immediate action to remove the six families, who are referred to as the Rota Six

or Dadang Six. Dadang is the name of the place. The families cleared what used to be a garbage dump into a habitable area.

A court order for the families' eviction have been secured by the Division of Public Lands, but according to Tim Bruce, legal counsel of the Rota mayor, it has the option whether to serve it.

"They are some of our most honored and respected Filipino-American families on the island. They did us and the

public favor by cleaning up blighted land," Manglona said in his letter.

"They have invested heavily in substantial homes. In all fairness, they must be compensated for this investment before they leave. There are other land cases on Rota of more importance. It looks like we're discriminating," Manglona added.

Manglona was supposed to appear before the board meeting yesterday, but sent instead Bruce.

Bruce told the board to allow the municipality to come



Tomas B. Aldan

up with a plan for the removal of the six families. "We're asking the board to

wait until we come up with a plan. Give us time to come up with a plan," Bruce told the board meeting.

Bruce, who said he was speaking in behalf of the mayor, the Rota legislative delegation and municipal council, said no local people "want them off right now, immediately."

Bruce told the Variety the Filipinos were among the first to settle on Rota back in the 1970s. They eventually married Chamorros and renounced their Philippine citizenship.

Tenorio calls on colleagues to the lead in fight vs drugs



Manuel A. Tenorio

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE

Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan) called on his colleagues in the Legislature Monday to take the lead in the fight against drugs and submit themselves to voluntary drug testing.

In his speech before members of the 11th Legislature, Tenorio said the government must do everything in its power to eradicate the drug abuse at every level of the community.

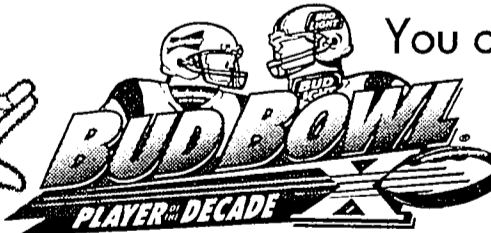
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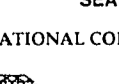
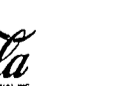
FREE Super Bowl T-shirt for the first 200 people through the door.

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• Includes your choice of Bud Family beers 10am - game end

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BOE Chair Marja Lee Taitano (right) and Acting Commissioner of Education Margaret Dela Cruz with U.S. Congressman George Miller stand in front of a student-made welcoming banner at San Vicente Elementary School yesterday. Photo by Laila C. Younis

US ties, CIP funds top agenda of 11th House

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

WITH THE reported cash-strapped government turned over to the new CNMI administration, the 11th Legislature expressed concerns over economic and CIP funding issues.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente said the new Legislature must exercise caution when it addresses the budget for fiscal year 1998 in succeeding sessions.

Among other things, the 11th Commonwealth Legislature is expected to prioritize economic and financial concerns, as well as those on Federal takeover, on the basis of the new House members' privilege speeches during the inauguration rites yesterday.

The House Speaker said the 11th Legislature will have to do "serious work" with regard to Federal-CNMI govern-



Diego T. Benavente

ments relations.

"We must seriously and thoughtfully address President Clinton's stated intention to impose federal control over wages, immigration and labor," Benavente said.

He said the CNMI and the Federal government have agreed on basic issues, but differ on ways to achieve shared goals.

"We want fair wages and

benefits for all our workers, both local and alien. We want to have effective control over our immigration, and we want labor issues to be handled in an equitable and effective manner," he stressed.

He said the objectives will be better achieved by improved local legislation and enforcement.

"During the 10th Legislature, we worked very hard on comprehensive legislation to reform our labor and immigration system. It will be one of the priorities of the 11th Legislature to continue work on that project," Benavente said.

Benavente, in his speech, said one immediate issue for the 11th Legislature is the need to implement critical infrastructure projects.

These projects would include the construction of more classrooms, improved roads and a new sanitary landfill, according to the House Speaker.

Democrat Rep. Jose Hocog, of Tinian, said he would prioritize infrastructure projects for the island which involve programs on airport and seaport improvements.

"We have to work hard, especially with the opening of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino soon," Hocog said in an interview.

Benavente, at the same time, said the infusion of \$88 million, in Covenant funding, will help in the appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects.

"That is about \$1,500 for every man, woman, and child in the Commonwealth," he added.

He added that the CIPs will benefit the community not only with the provision of improved public facilities but by the direct and immediate stimulation of the local economy.

"In these days of economic uncertainty on the Pacific Rim, the infusion of \$88 million into the economy will be welcome boost to our local business and to our local people," he said.

Benavente said the new Legislature leadership will have to determine the available revenues for appropriation, as well as the "real needs of the government."

He stressed that the appropriations must be scrutinized to create a more efficient government to be able to provide services.



BOE will focus on getting \$15M loan

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

GETTING a \$15 million loan from California Financial Services approved is on top of the new Board of Education's agenda, according to BOE Chair Marja Lee Taitano.

"One of our top priorities will be to have the House and Senate agree on an appropriations bill that will allow us to get the loan," said Taitano.

Rota resort to push through with 210-room hotel project

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE S.N.M. Corp., owner of the Rota Resort & Country Club, told the Board of Public Lands meeting yesterday that it will push through with the 210-room hotel as originally planned.

SNM representative Shigeru Fukuzawa and Rota Resort Sales and Marketing Director Yuki Kano explained to the board that the delay was caused by the downturn in the Japanese economy which has affected "all Japanese investments around the world."

Fukuzawa, in a letter to the board members yesterday, admitted that it has not fulfilled completely its original public land lease agreement with the CNMI agreement.

"SNM Corporation has never lost its sight to construct the main hotel on its project site. In fact, SNM has started the main building," Fukuzawa said in his letter.

Rota Resort opened a 9-hole golf course in 1995, and the following year it became 18-hole.

At present it is operating a 56-room temporary accommodation for tourists and guests.

Because of a slump in tourist arrivals, the average occupancy of all hotel rooms combined on Rota for the last 12 months was only 40 percent, Kano told the board meeting.

Board Chair Tomas B. Aldan wanted to know when the company would start building the hotel, but Fukuzawa said they were not sure.

One of the conditions when the 25-year land lease was signed is that the hotel would be built.

Fukuzawa also cited the reduction of flights by the commuter airline Pacific Island Aviation as another damper to the project.

Kano later told the Variety that there are in fact not enough golfers to enable Rota Resort to break even. "We're still trying to make even," she said.

The resort has built its own power plant and water and wastewater treatment systems.

Fukuzawa said the development of the resort altogether has cost the firm some \$80 million already.

"The deal can not get any better with the 4.6% interest rate and the \$2 million annual loan repayment. CFS is helping us a lot," she said.

"Once we match the loan with the federal funds, we will have a total of \$32 million to build our much needed schools," she added.

"Although the total cost of the school projects is close to \$40 million," she noted.

Taitano explained that within two years of the loan's approval, "multi-track systems in the schools can be ended".

"We need to build the new High school and Jr. High school, and the Dandan Elementary School to accommodate student overcrowding," said Taitano.

"As soon as we get that loan, we

can finish some of these projects and we have then already alleviated majority of the overcrowding problems," she said.

According to Taitano, the previous Board has "worked hard" to see the loan get approved and now, the new Board will "carry it through".


Former BOE Chair Don Farrell in earlier statements said the loan was approved by CFS and was ready to be signed as of last month, but the Senate's "disagreement on the appropriation bill's language" has held it back.

Taitano also said the next on the BOE's list are the 60 Emergency Classrooms.

"We will be recommending to the Department of Public Works to re-bid on the contract," she said.



Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta hands over a plaque of appreciation to outgoing Board of Education Chair Don Farrell at the BOE inaugural ceremony Monday. Photo by Laila C. Younis



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is soliciting sealed proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth, engaged in providing ground maintenance services. Areas to be maintained include common grounds described in Proposals Specifications which are available at the NMHC Office, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received until 10:00 a.m., January 16, 1998 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents shall be signed by the owner or authorized representative of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled "GROUND MAINTENANCE-Saipan". Companies shall be responsible for the proper placement of its firm's name, address, telephone and fax number on the outside of the proposal envelope.

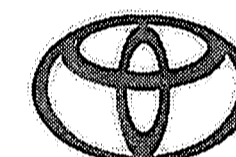
NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling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

Questions or additional information may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at 234-0447/7689/7670.


NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Corporate Director


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Peter on Puerto Rico dump:

No more studies, please'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

CITING the risks it poses to the health of the Northern Marianas people, a legislator on Monday urged the new CNMI government to immediately act on the closure of the Puerto Rico dump site.

Rep. Maria T. Peter, in an interview said he is asking the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to come up with a dump closure decision on the basis of studies undertaken by the previous government.

"Everytime there's a new ad-

ministration there's new studies made so when are we going to finish studying and when are we going to start closing the dump," Peter told the Variety.

Earlier, a North Carolina-based group conducted a preliminary survey of the 20-acre Puerto Rico dump site, in attempts to enhance the disposal of household and industrial wastes.

Based on earlier studies, the government should spend approximately \$60 million to \$90 million over the next 10 years to build incinerators and open a new

landfill. The Division of Environmental Quality previously battled for the immediate establishment of a sanitary landfill even without the incinerators to facilitate the closure of the Puerto Rico dump site.

The DEQ said the next issue to be addressed, if an incinerator is built to dispose of solid waste accumulated in the dump site, is where to dump the ashes.

Aside from this, the emission of incinerators may be pose danger to the people's health since a lot of people catch rainwater to drink.

Peter stressed that it is time for the dump site to get really cleaned up for the Northern Marianas people's health.

"I've been for the closure of the dump even before I got in here (Legislature). We were for the folding of that and we don't know what's keeping it from being closed," she added.

She stressed that the new CNMI



Maria T. Peter

leadership must continue to look into the feasibility of the landfill and see what needs to be improved.

"I hope that they could continue to look into that and see what needs to be improved instead of conducting another study. Just look at what we have now, I think there are two or three studies somewhere in the administration," she added.

Peter said the dump site must be closed down not only because it has an adverse effect on tourism

but it endangers people's lives as well.

The CNMI government has been working to implement an integrated solid waste management plan consisting of the closure of the Puerto Rico dump, the opening of new landfill and the operation of incinerators and transfer stations.

Kalabera, situated at the northern end of Saipan, has been designated as the landfill site. The program would be needing \$16 million and funds must be raised to complete the project.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing the site as to its eligibility under the Formerly Used Defense Sites environmental restoration program.

The closure of the Puerto Rico dump site remains a concern of the US Environmental Protection Agency which issues a Compliance Order to the CNMI government in September 1994.

1,674 Keith and Paka victims receive \$2M

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.

Variety News Staff

A TOTAL OF 1,674 Keith and Paka victims on Saipan, Rota and Tinian received \$2 million worth of temporary housing assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA Public Information Officer said yesterday.

FEMA Public Information Officer Alex A. Newton said 782 checks totaling \$1,993,454 were already mailed to federal disaster applicants.

Figures furnished by FEMA indicate 930 families on Saipan received grants, Tinian, 266; and Rota, 478.

"CNMI officials are urging typhoon victims who have not applied for assistance to register as soon as possible," Newton said.

Newton said aid to the CNMI, local governments and some profit organizations impacted by two recent super typhoons will soon become available.

On the three islands next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Newton said, officials representing government entities and proprietors of non-

profit organizations providing essential services to the public will receive briefings on how to apply for federal reimbursement of costs incurred for the restoration or rebuilding of their damaged facilities.

According to Newton, meetings will help applicants fill out forms to request reimbursement for typhoon damages to the roads, bridges, utilities, public facilities, government buildings and private non-profit organizations.

Newton noted that public assistance may include debris removal, emergency protective measures and restoration of damaged public property.

He said that federal reimbursement for the Public Assistance Program is 75 percent of the assessed costs to repair or replace the entities, while the Commonwealth and its local jurisdictions will fund the remaining 25 percent.

Newton said that anyone seeking further information on eligibility or want to attend briefings may call the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works at 322-9828.

Stayman: DeLay trip 'ill-timed'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

INSULAR Affairs Director Allen Stayman yesterday said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay could have made a wrong move when he planned to visit Saipan with his entourage during the holiday break.

Stayman said DeLay "basically walked in to a very bad situation" when he planned in to Saipan at a time when the Congress "is being embarrassed about junkets."

DeLay (R-Texas), who flew to the NMI with his family and a "bevy" of aides during the holiday break, was the latest addition to the "Congressional Beachboys" hosted by the Northern Marianas.

This cropped up after the influential Capitol Hill newspaper-Roll Call disclosed that a total of 88 Congressional visitors planned in to the Marianas over the past year.

"I imagined there are many people in Congress who think he exercised poor judgment," Stayman said, referring to the House Whip's recent visit to CNMI.

In its January 8 editorial, the Roll Call said there is "no discernible legislative reason why seven members, five spouses, one child (DeLay's),

and 75 aides need to visit a territory thousands of miles away."

"...eventhough there's plenty of reasons why Congress should want information on conditions under which foreign workers are employed there," the newspaper editorial said.

It added that the visits of so many are admitted by island officials to be part of a lobbying campaign designed to prevent Congress from imposing federal labor standards.

The newspapers said visits by members of committees with jurisdiction over the territories make sense, "especially when issues affecting the region's economy and US labor law are pending."

"DeLay should have thought about that before he collected his tickets," it said referring to the film collected by ABC News could be used to brand the Congress as non-serious.

At the same time, Stayman said the whole issue of the former administration's policy of bringing out people and spending millions and millions of dollars for consultation and lobbying is a partisan issue "totally separate from CNMI."

"What the CNMI has done, and I think is unfortunate, is the coming issue in other national debates. And



Whip Tom DeLay

that other national debate is on the propriety of members of Congress and their staff accepting large gifts from units of government," he stressed.

Stayman said, in this case, the unit of government is very closely associated with a special interest "and that special interest is the garments industry."

He added that there has been a whole separate issue now which is a partisan issue.

"In fact, it is more partisan than the original CNMI issue which is what do we think about the labor and immigration policy of the CNMI that was not partisan as we should be promoting large scale trips," he stressed.

Stayman rests the fate of garments sector on Teno



Allen Stayman

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

INSULAR Affairs Director Allen Stayman yesterday expressed optimism the new CNMI administration will take "better" moves on the future of the Commonwealth's garments industry by re-imposing a quota on the island's textile firms.

Stayman said Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio showed "positive signs" when the US government raised its concerns on the garments sector during his previous term.

"When he (Teno) was governor before and these issues were raised, he had a special study (on our concerns)," he said in a brief meeting with reporters yesterday.

He added that the special study commissioned by Tenorio's previous administration confirmed the concerns of the Federal government.

"I don't know what else that study had since that study was never released because it was an internal CNMI study," he stressed.

Stayman said, however, that the result of the study had led to the issuance of an Executive Order or to the coming up with a local legislation which put a cap on the

industry. He said the Federal government is not aware when the cap was lifted "but the fact that this governor was serious enough to have a study that promulgated a regulation to put a limit is already a positive sign."

He said if the limit was lifted during the term of the two previous administrations, Tenorio is no longer responsible to what ever happened to the cap earlier imposed on the garments industry.

During his earlier visit to the CNMI, Stayman branded the Northern Marianas' garments sector as a "dying" multi-million industry.

He has said that it is unfortunate for the CNMI, which has a great potential for growth, is worrying essentially about a dying garment industry that does not offer anything to the community.

He was also quoted as saying that the CNMI's "worries" have been creating a lot of friction with the Federal government.

The US government, in an attempt to protect its own garment industry and help "friendly" countries to develop their own, has imposed a quota to garment-producers.

The garment sector, composed of about 30 small-and-large-scale firms, is CNMI's biggest employer, accounting for 21 percent of the 30,000 foreign workers employed in the Northern Marianas in 1995.

It was the fourth highest economic contributor, accounting for 12.7 percent of the \$2.26 billion business gross revenues reported that year.

11th Legislature won't press officials' pay hike

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

THE ELEVENTH Legislature will not act on any bill that would increase the annual salaries of the CNMI's elected officials.

One of the last acts of then outgoing governor Froilan C. Tenorio was to veto a similar measure, but the Legislature's presiding officers, in separate interviews, yesterday said an override or passing a new bill is not a priority.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said it is doubtful whether the Senate will go for a veto override, the legality of which may even be questioned in court.

Some legislators maintain, however, that the veto can be overridden, but with the pay hike taking effect only after the term of the current legislators ends.

Still, Manglona said, "The sentiment now is to let it go, considering the budget crisis the new administration may be facing."

Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), for his part, said there a similar bill may soon be re-filed in the House of Representatives,

but it will not be considered a priority legislation.

Benavente and then House majority leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan)—who is now the Senate majority leader—were the only legislators who voted against H.B. 10-308.

Tenorio called the "last minute" passage of the bill "cowardly."

He said the legislators should have acted on H.B. 10-308 before the Nov. 1 elections when the voters could have been informed about it.

While the other members of the newly sworn in 11th Legislature refused to comment on Tenorio's veto, Rep. Herman T. Palacios (R-Saipan) lashed out at his former party mate and boss for rejecting the bill.

After failing to win reelection as a Democrat in 1995, Palacios was appointed by Tenorio to serve as Labor and Immigration deputy secretary.

Palacios, however, was asked to resign months later due to his controversial policies involving suspected illegal aliens.

He then switched parties and secured a slot in the GOP's slate of House candidates.

CRM OKs Bird Island project

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

THE Coastal Resources Management issued a permit to the controversial Bird Island Golf Course and Resort project last Jan. 7 but with added conditions to the usual ones.

The permit was the last big project that Joaquin M. Aguon signed before turning over the

directorship to Peter Barlas yesterday.

One of the additional conditions imposed by Aguon is that the permittee should obtain the approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife before undertaking any activities that have the potential to adversely impact the Bird Island Wildlife Conservation Area.

Earlier last month, the DFW

asked the CRM to schedule another public hearing on the permit application of the \$62.6-million project which consists of a 27-hole golf course and practice range, a 300-room hotel, a visitor center, staff housing for over 215 employees, and a horseback-riding area.

DFW acting Director Richard

Continued on page 17



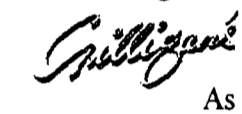
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council will hold its general meeting on Thursday, January 15, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Office of the Aging conference room in Garapan. Interested persons are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/WELCOME
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and Adoption of Minutes from the SRAC's Forth Quarter Meeting of November 20, 1997
- IV. Old Business
 - A. OVR Director's Report
 1. Staff Development Training
 2. OVR's Organization
 3. Annual Report
 - B. Committees
 1. Reports/Organization
 2. Plans of Action
 3. Committee's Meeting Schedules
 4. Quarterly Progress Report
- V. New Business
 - A. Proposed SRAC Budget
 - B. Proposed/Draft SRAC Objectives and Priorities
 - C. SRAC Training (i.e. SRAC member's roles and responsibilities, Robert's Rule of Order)
 - D. Misc./Announcements
- VI. Setting of Next Meeting
- VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TDD). Advance notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/Anna Yamada
Chair



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Elsewhere in the Pacific Vanuatu gov't gives in to riotous bank clients

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Vanuatu's government backed down Tuesday and let savers withdraw their funds from the country's main bank after angry depositors smashed windows and cars at the bank.

Police fired tear gas Monday to break up a crowd of over 500 people at the Vanuatu National Provident Fund building who were demanding to withdraw their savings, New Zealand's National radio reported.

The crowd broke windows and vandalized the offices and cars of senior bank executives, the radio reported.

People insisted on withdrawing their savings after a report by the Vanuatu ombudsman linked the fund to cronyism and corruption by senior politicians in the use of retirement savings funds.

New Zealand's National Radio quoted a local journalist as saying the crowd's frustration

boiled up after they had been told repeatedly in recent weeks to "come back next week" and "come back tomorrow" when they called to withdraw their retirement savings in the wake of the corruption allegations.

Vanuatu's government fired the bank's board of directors Monday night and assured depositors they would be allowed to withdraw funds, the radio said.

Police remain on alert in Port Vila. They have asked people to stay off the streets, and shop fronts have cyclone shutters up.

New Zealand acting High Commissioner Mark Ramsden told the radio Tuesday: "There is an uneasy calm prevailing."

"The prime minister went on air about 9 o'clock last night to announce the decision of the council of ministers — which is the same as the Cabinet — that the National Provident Fund management and board were both out as they couldn't solve

the current problems, and the council had resolved new management was needed."

"We don't at this stage" know if there's enough money to cover the withdrawals if everyone decides to get out, he added.

The ombudsman has for several years released scathing reports detailing corruption in Vanuatu involving almost all the nation's top politicians.

Solomons cancels tuna quota

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands minister for agriculture and fisheries, Doctor Steve Aumanu, has cancelled some tuna quota allocations made to various groups and individuals.

Aumanu confirmed the cancellation saying his action followed the findings of a recent review of the tuna quota system, SIBC reported.

He says the review by his ministry followed six month notices given to quota holders to use their quotas within the six month period stated.

Doctor Aumanu says after the six month notices lapsed, unused quotas were cancelled.

A tuna quota is given to someone or a company to harvest tuna within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Solomon Islands.

Suit filed vs American Samoa's Governor Sunia

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—The American Samoan House of Representatives has filed a lawsuit in the territory's High Court against Governor Tauese Sunia and his brother-in-law, Sotoa Mauasau Savali, over two director positions he holds.

The house is challenging the governor for appointing himself and serving as chief procurement officer and Sotoa for taking up the post of secretary of Samoan Affairs, without

legislative approval. The suit is asking the court for a permanent injunction banning Tauese and Sotoa from acting in these positions.

The suit also seeks to prevent Sotoa from receiving his pay as secretary of Samoan Affairs until the legislature confirms his appointment.

The law suit is in line with a resolution passed by the House of Representatives in September last year.

Ceasefire tops agenda at Bougainville talks

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—New Zealand's foreign minister, Don McKinnon, says formalising a cease-fire on Bougainville will top the agenda at the latest round of peace talks starting in Christchurch, New Zealand, Thursday.

A team of Papua New Guinea officials led by Prime Minister Bill Skate and teams from neighbouring South Pacific nations will meet Bougainville leaders in an effort to find a solution to the nine year civil war.

More than 100 delegates are likely to attend the talks which will be held at Lincoln University near Christchurch.

McKinnon says formalising the existing truce will help lay the foundation for a lasting end for the secessionist conflict.

He said senior ministers from Australia and Solomon Islands and possibly from Vanuatu and Fiji would attend the talks.

Separate bilateral talks between McKinnon and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer are scheduled for January 22 in Christchurch.

McKinnon did NOT know if the president of the Bougainville Interim Government, Francis Ona, would attend the talks but said, that could NOT be allowed to dominate the process.

The international representative of the interim government, Moses Havini, told Pacnews today that all delegates seemed to be in a positive frame of mind leading up to the talks and this augured well for a successful outcome.

Asked if Ona would be attending, he said, "We are keeping our fingers crossed but most probably he won't make it".

Dengue in Fiji: Mosquito spraying futile

SUVA (Pacnews)—An Australian epidemiologist, who's in Fiji to help health authorities control the dengue fever virus, Tony Stewart, says the mosquito spraying campaign in the country is NOT effective.

He says efforts by the Health Ministry and some town councils to control the dengue virus through mosquito spraying programmes may have been a futile exercise, Radio Fiji reported.

Stewart, who is one of two experts in the country to assist the ministry draw up plans to counter the dengue epidemic, says mosquitoes will continue to breed despite the

spraying.

He has advised people NOT to take aspirin IF they are suspected to be infected with the virus. He says aspirin can be quite risky and adds that people should use panadol instead.

Meanwhile, The Daily Post reports that ten children are among the 25 new dengue fever cases, admitted at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva.

Medical Superintendent Doctor Mary Schramm said some of the cases were serious.

Already four people have died in Fiji in the latest outbreak of the disease.

Protest in Samoa set

APIA (Pacnews)—Samoa's coalition of chiefs, Tumua ma Pule ma Aiga (TPA), says it's optimistic that a large number of protestors will join an anti-government march it plans for next week.

This is despite a drop in the size of the marches it organised last March and December.

TPA secretary Fuimaono

Frete Tupua predicts 15 000 will march on January 14.

He says this number will include school children and overseas Samoans visiting for holiday.

Tumua ma Pule ma Aiga's protest marches are aimed at forcing Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana to resign over alleged government corruption and cost of living rises.

Clinton warns Iraq on inspections anew

By Terence Hunt
WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a new challenge from Iraq, President Clinton warned Monday it would be a "clear and serious violation" if Saddam Hussein blocked weapons inspections by an American-led team.

Clinton said he would ask the United Nations Security Council to take "strong and appropriate action" if Iraq carried out its threat to interfere with the U.N. team. The United States again raised the possibility of using force.

"We think it's very important that Saddam Hussein be constrained," said Bill Richardson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "As I've said, we have our forces in the Gulf; we have not ruled that option out."

"Iraq is up to its old tricks," Richardson said in Palm Beach, Fla. "We feel the Security Council should make a strong response."

Speaking with reporters in the Oval Office, Clinton rejected Iraq's complaints that the presence of too many Americans was prolonging the inspections and delaying the lifting of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

"Certainly Saddam Hussein shouldn't be able to pick and choose who does this work," the president said. "That's for the United Nations to decide."

The flareup was the most serious confrontation since November, when Iraq ordered American inspectors out of the country, claiming they were spies. Clinton responded with a big buildup of American ships and warplanes. The crisis was defused by a Russian-brokered deal that allowed the inspectors to return.

The White House complained that Saddam, seven years after the Gulf War, has still not complied with the U.N. "He is getting away with willful violations and harassment of U.N. objectives there," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The inspection team targeted by Iraq is led by Scott Ritter, who was a Marine captain during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Iraq has accused him of being a spy — a charge denied by Ritter and the United States.

While acknowledging a substantial number of Americans are on the team, Clinton said the United States had "nothing whatsoever to do with selecting this team, the people on it or its composition." Iraq said the team included nine Americans, five Britons, a Russian and an Australian.

Clinton said the group was part of a larger team of 43 people from 16 countries who were picked because of their technical expertise in inspections and nonproliferation issues — not because of U.S. influence.

"If they are denied the right to do their job tomorrow, then I expect the United Nations Security Council to take strong and appropriate action," the president



Bill Clinton

said. "If Saddam Hussein does this, it is a clear and serious violation of the United Nations Security Council resolution" requiring unfettered inspections.

The White House adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

"What the government of Iraq says and what it does is very often different," McCurry said.

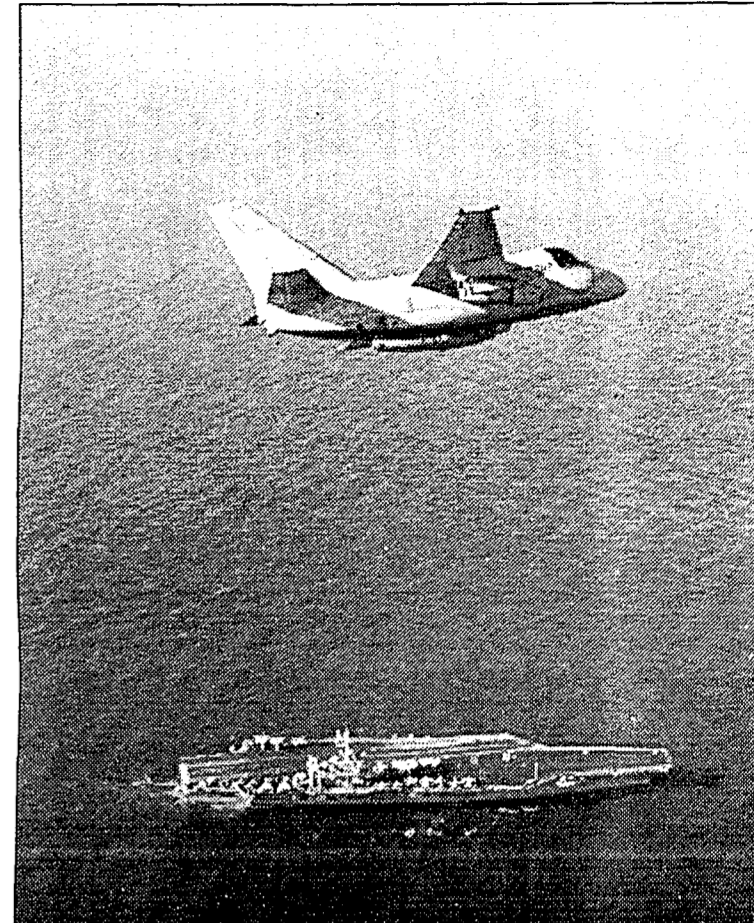
"We have heard provocative statements from the government of Iraq

on the constitution of the U.N. inspection teams over and over again and they have been met with the same resolved response of the international community," McCurry said.

However, some allies — notably Russia, France and Arab nations — have opposed the use of force threatened by the United States.

The administration insisted that Saddam's repeated defiance has not paid off.

"Saddam Hussein has not won this battle," Richardson told the Forum Club, a business and political group in West Palm Beach. "He is worse off. We have more sanctions on him than before. The possibility of those sanctions being lifted is not there. There's been four unanimous Security Council resolutions — Russia, China, the U.S., France, telling him his behavior is unmistakable. We've had some tactical differences on the ultimate way to get him to change his behavior."



An S-3B "Viking" attached to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron Three Two soars through the sky over the aircraft carrier USS George Washington Monday. The George Washington and its air support wing are deployed in the Persian Gulf to support UN sanctions against Iraq. AP

Money supply dips in Tonga

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Tonga's money supply stood at 72.9 million pa'anga (US \$41.4m) at the end of the June quarter, a decline of P2.5 million (US \$830,000) from the March quarter, Radio Tonga reported.

It represented a 9.2 percent year-on-year growth compared to 13.4 percent during the March quarter. Latest figures from the National

Reserve Bank of Tonga indicate that the decline in the money supply during the June quarter was caused by a fall in both the net inflows through the balance of payments and domestic credits.

It followed a large increase in the supply during the March 1997 quarter due to an increase in foreign currency deposits with the domestic banking system.

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Another Algeria massacre

By Rachid Khiari
ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Gangs of men hurled bombs into a mosque and a movie hall in simultaneous attacks south of Algiers, killing up to 120 people, hospital sources said Monday. Survivors said the raiders berated moviegoers for failing to say evening prayers.

As victims streamed from both buildings in panic, the attackers unleashed a blitz of gunfire and backed people to death, survivors said.

The massacres come on the sixth anniversary of the army coup that thwarted the Islamic Salvation Front's rise to power by canceling national elections mid-vote.

Angry militants responded by launching an insurgency that is now blamed for an estimated 75,000 deaths.

Medical sources at hospitals in Algiers and its suburbs said 120 people were killed and another 100 injured in the Sunday night attacks in Sidi Ahmed and nearby Haouche Sahraoui.

Security forces, who have consistently deflated death counts from massacres, put the toll at 103 killed and 70 wounded.

Sunday's carnage took place in the so-called "triangle of death," just south of the capital, the region that has borne the bulk of the increasingly indiscriminate and brutal killings.

Shortly after evening prayers Sunday, scores of attackers stormed the movie theater in Sidi Ahmed, just south of Algiers, hurling homemade bombs into its interior.

"You should be in the mosque for the prayer of the tarawith (evening)," survivors, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted the gangs as saying.

Up to 120 people killed in mosque, movie hall attacks



Villagers who escaped the attack of an armed gang in Sidi Ahmed outside Algiers Sunday show weapons used by members of a gang to kill 120 people in a movie theater and in a mosque. AP

At the same time in nearby Haouche Sahraoui, other gang members tossed a crude bomb into a mosque, using guns to cut down fleeing victims mid-stride.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but suspicion fell on Islamic insurgents trying to bring down the military-backed government. The radical Armed Islamic Group, known as the GIA, has long been entrenched in the region south of Algiers.

"We know the attackers," said Farid, a young man who lost several members of his family in the attack. "It's the GIA. They had

already threatened us. They said, 'We're going to kill you,' and they came."

Farid spoke to The Associated Press on condition he not be further identified.

In a statement carried by the state-run APS news agency, the security forces said government-armed self-defense groups helped push back the attackers at Sidi Ahmed. Two soldiers were injured and two members of the self-defense forces killed, it said.

The level of violence in Algeria has intensified with the Dec. 30 start of the Muslim holy month of

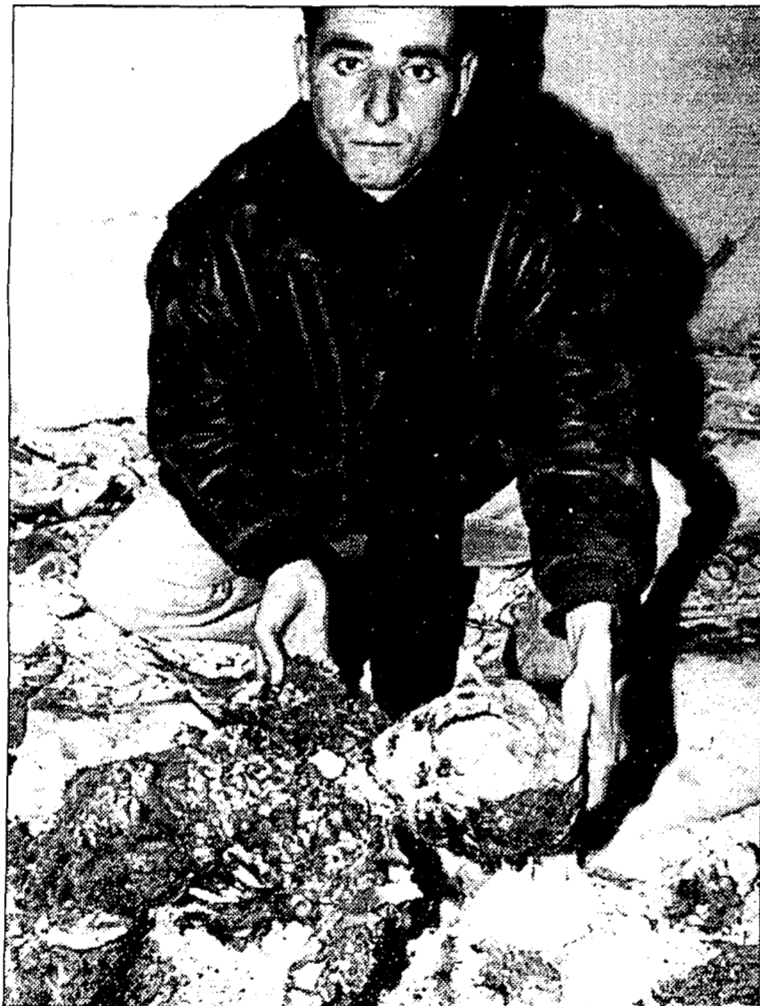
Ramadan. At least 600 people were killed in mountainous hamlets in western Algeria during the first week.

The relentless increase in massacres has awakened the concern of the international community. Algeria has agreed to a European Union delegation visit, but has refused humanitarian aid or an independent inquiry into who is behind the killings.

Some of the killings have occurred within sight of army barracks, giving rise to contentions that the military may be playing a role in the massacres to discredit the rebels.

An Algerian policeman seeking asylum in Britain has claimed that he participated in massacring and torturing defenseless civilians under orders. The Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper quoted the unidentified policeman and a colleague as saying that army special forces, disguised as Islamic fundamentalists with beards and Muslim dress, slaughtered entire families in the middle of the night as recently as October.



A man shows the charred body of an unidentified child, aged less than five, found in a house set afire by an armed gang in Sidi Ahmed outside Algiers Sunday. 120 people were slaughtered in a movie theater and in a mosque. AP

NATO 'spy' dies in jail

KOBLENZ, Germany (AP) — Former U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Lee Conrad, convicted of treason in 1990 for leaking NATO and American secrets to the Soviet bloc, died in the German prison where he was serving a life sentence. He was 50.

Prosecutors in Koblenz confirmed Monday that Conrad died last Thursday, apparently from heart failure. An autopsy has been ordered.

Conrad was convicted in 1990 of masterminding an espionage ring that sold highly sensitive information to Hungarian and Czechoslovak in-

telligence agents from 1975 through 1985, when he retired after 20 years in the military.

Prosecutors said the documents — about troop maneuvers, NATO strategy and nuclear weapons sites — eventually found their way to the Soviet KGB.

The German court found he had compromised the West's entire defense capability, in exchange for an estimated \$1.2 million.

Because Conrad had retired in the West Germany with his German wife and son, he had to be prosecuted by German authorities.

Netanyahu survives vote



Benjamin Netanyahu

By JACK KATZENELL
JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu survived a parliamentary no-confidence vote with a tie Monday, leaving his government still teetering in precarious balance between rival sides in a dispute over a West Bank troop withdrawal.

Netanyahu's former foreign minister, David Levy, voted with the opposition, as did four of the five members of Levy's Geshet faction, cementing their break with the governing coalition after Levy resigned last week.

The 54-54 tie in the 120-seat Parliament fell short of the absolute majority of 61 needed to topple the government. Netanyahu said he was satisfied.

"The opposition... didn't get a majority, they didn't topple the government, and they won't topple the government," he said.

But the tie underscored Netanyahu's extremely difficult political situation eight days before he is due in Washington to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton, who expects a concrete offer on Israel's long-delayed West Bank troop pull-back.

In his speech to the Knesset, centrist lawmaker Yehuda Harel said his Third Way party's continued support for Netanyahu was conditional on implementation of the pull-back, promised in the Israel-PLO accords.

But a group of more than 15 rightist legislators are threatening to bolt Netanyahu's coalition if the pullback goes through.

The situation leaves Netanyahu with little maneuvering room.

Netanyahu "won't (be able) to continue his term in the coming months," opposition lawmaker Yossi Beilin said. "He will have to resign or be toppled. ... We are preparing ourselves for next elections."

Many Israeli commentators believe Netanyahu's goal is to gain time in hopes circumstances will somehow change.

Officials have suggested that the Cabinet will decide

on the pullout but on condition the Palestinians fulfill a series of demands — and pull the troops out only after another vote in several months if they comply.

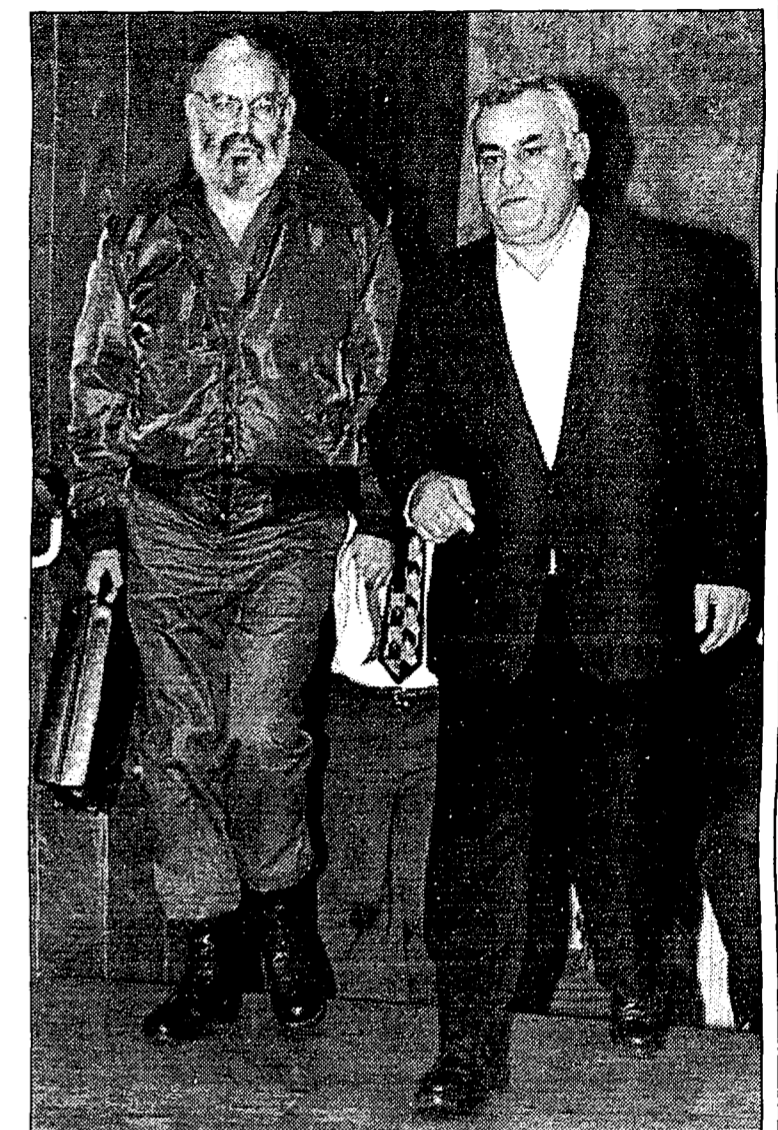
The question is whether this will satisfy all the parties involved: the Palestinians, the Americans, coalition centrists and coalition rightists.

Still, Netanyahu's reputation as a skilled political operator remains intact: For the moment, he has weathered last week's dramatic resignation of Levy, who accused the government of abandoning the peace process and pursuing a ruinous social policy.

Monday's no-confidence motion was introduced by the opposition Labor and Meretz parties over what they said was Netanyahu's failed social and economic policy.

Three coalition legislators were abroad and three rebels from Netanyahu's Likud Party — former Cabinet ministers Dan Meridor and Benny Begin, as well as legislator David Reem — absented themselves to show their displeasure with the prime minister.

Levy told Israel TV that Netanyahu "shamelessly broke" an agreement with him on welfare issues, and therefore Geshet is "free to vote as we see fit and according to our conscience."



Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai right arrives to a Government Cabinet meeting Sunday accompanied by his aide Deputy Head of Army Intelligence Brigadier General Yaakov Amidror at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. Mordechai threatened to resign in three months if the Israeli-Palestinian peace process remained deadlocked. AP

Suspected Palestinian guerrillas arrested

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli security forces have uncovered several cells of the Islamic militant group Hamas which planned bombings in West Bank settlements and Israeli cities, the army said Monday.

Israel Radio said dozens of members were arrested — some by Palestinian police.

Israel remained on high alert for terrorist attacks, meanwhile.

"We are receiving various signs of preparations by the terrorist groups to stage attacks," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "We're making a supreme effort not only by activating our own security agencies but also by enlisting every possible external factor — the Palestinians and also others."

The army said Israel gave the Palestinians information about Hamas activists, arms and explosives in the areas under their control.

A bomb laboratory contain-

ing a large quantity of explosives was then discovered in the West Bank city of Nablus, it said.

A statement by the army spokesman said the suspects were being questioned about their involvement in the recent shooting attacks and their links with Hamas leaders in neighboring Arab countries.

The statement said some of those arrested took part in attacks on Israeli military and civilian vehicles near Nablus in West Bank. In one attack, two soldiers were wounded.

Hamas has killed some 200 Israelis with suicide bombings in recent years in an attempt to derail the peace process.

An attack now could scuttle chances of reaching an agreement over Israel's delayed troop redeployment in the West Bank.

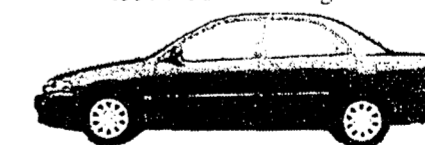
Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat are to meet separately with U.S. President Bill Clinton next week in search of a formula.

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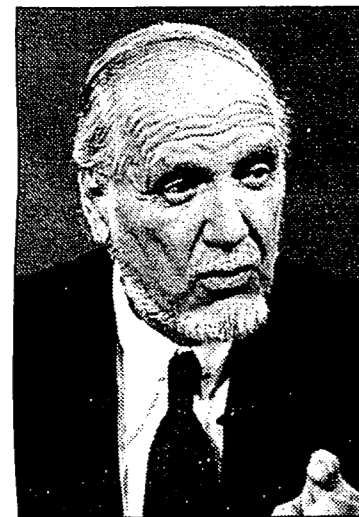
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Europe signs human cloning ban

By Joseph Schuman
PARIS (AP) — Hours after French President Jacques Chirac called for an international ban on human cloning, 19 European nations signed an agreement Monday to prohibit the genetic replication of humans beings. The actions came two days after President Clinton blasted a Chicago physicist's intention to clone humans as "untested and unsafe and morally unacceptable" and urged Congress to outlaw human cloning. "It is on the international level that one must ban cloning and the genetic manipulation susceptible

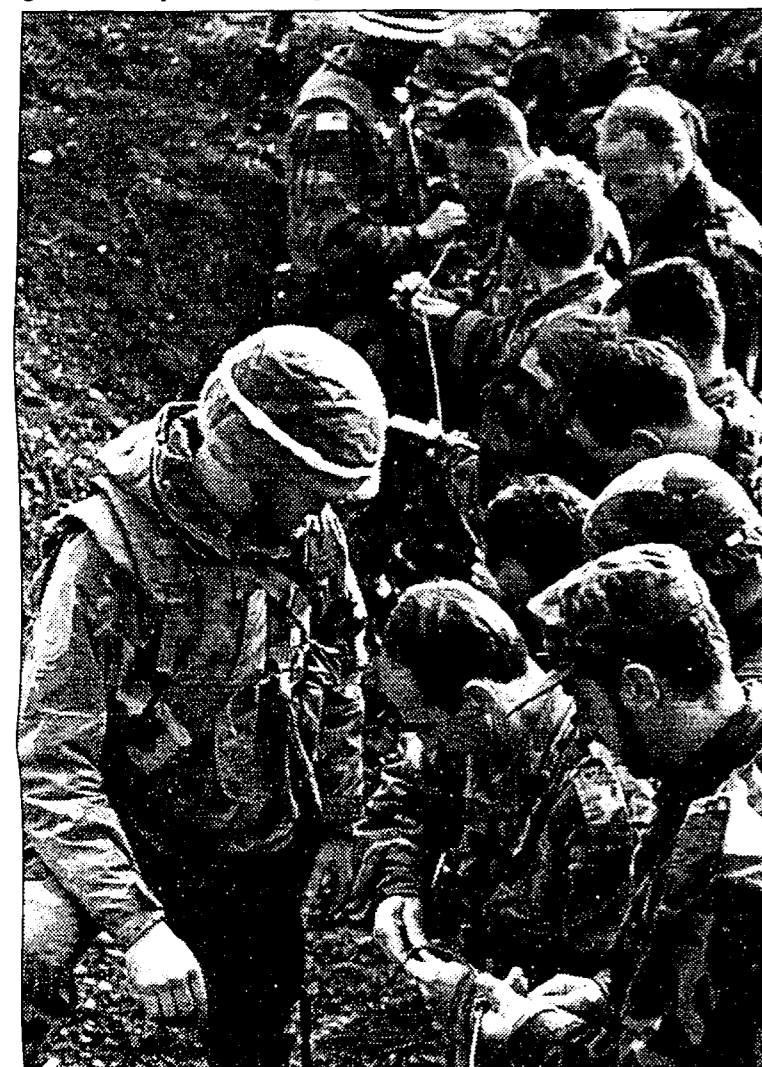


Richard Seed

to altering the character of the human species," Chirac told the European national ethics committee. The 1997 presentation of Dolly the sheep, the world's first cloned mammal, set off an international outcry over the implications for human biology. Many world leaders renewed their condemnation after Chicago scientist Richard Seed said Jan. 7 that he planned to begin working on human cloning using a new technique. "We would resolve nothing in

banning certain practices in one country if the doctors and researchers can develop them elsewhere," said Chirac, citing the "worrying trend" in the United States. Representatives from 19 members of the Council of Europe later today signed a protocol that would commit their countries to prohibiting by law "any intervention seeking to create human beings genetically identical to another human being, whether living or dead." The 40-member group was

founded in 1949 to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The cloning protocol will not include two of Europe's biggest countries. Britain, with a strong tradition of defending the freedoms of scientific research, also balked. Countries signing today are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Macedonia and Turkey.



US soldiers conducting mine disposal demolitions training with Bosnian soldiers, at BiH Army camp near Tuzla on Friday. The training is part of a month long demining training program underway throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. AP

Bosnia Serbs fail to elect premier

By Radul Radovanovic
BIJELJINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Despite international warnings to stop stalling, the polarized Bosnian Serb parliament failed Monday to elect a new premier and government. The assembly did make one small step forward: It re-elected Dragan Kalinic, an ally of war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, as parliament speaker, and chose his deputies. That allowed the parliament to formally establish itself. Deputies loyal to Karadzic have been trying to block moderate economist Mladen Ivanic from the premiership. He was nominated by President Biljana Plavsic and supported by the international community.

He was not allowed to present his proposed programs in the assembly's formal session Monday. But he was given a chance to speak to individual deputies. The next vote is scheduled for Jan. 17. Plavsic, Kalinic and Karadzic ally Momcilo Krajisnik headed to Belgrade after Monday's session for consultations with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who reportedly has decided to back Ivanic. That would be a major boost for his chances at the premiership. Plavsic and Karadzic followers are locked in a power struggle that has divided Bosnian Serbs and blocked the operation of the 49 percent of Bosnia they control. On Sunday, the top international

official in Bosnia implied he would appoint a temporary government if they continued to stall. The official, Carlos Westendorp, said after Monday's session that he was glad the key parliamentary officials were chosen, but lamented the failure to choose a prime minister. He did not indicate whether he would take any action. The Bosnian Serb parliament was elected last November in a vote that broke Karadzic supporters' grip on power. But the hard-line lawmakers who remained still actively oppose Plavsic, who favors closer adherence to the Dayton peace agreement. The first post-election parliamentary session ended in disarray last month.

Holocaust survivors offers \$110M

By Ian Mader
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Under pressure from Jewish groups and the United States, Germany said Monday it would pay \$110 million over five years to provide pensions to Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe. Divided among the estimated 18,000 survivors, the total would generate pensions of about \$128 a month — a little less than half that paid to Holocaust survivors in Western Europe. The agreement follows a controversy over revelations last year that German veterans suspected of World War II atrocities were drawing government pensions. But Jews from Eastern Europe who suffered in Nazi ghettos and concentration camps were deemed ineligible. With most of the survivors believed to be in their 80s, negotiators

argued time was running out. "It's a shame that it comes so late. So many of the people have died in the meantime," said Ignatz Bubis, chairman of Germany's Central Council of Jews. "But it's better now than never." Germany has paid about \$55 billion to survivors of the Nazi regime, but those living in the Soviet bloc could not apply for compensation during the Cold War. After the collapse of communism, Germany gave \$1 billion in one-time payments to East European victims of all ethnic groups that suffered under the Nazis, the government said Monday. Jewish groups argued that Eastern European survivors deserved the same kind of direct, monthly compensation from Germany as their counterparts in Western Europe. They got support from the Clinton admin-

istration and 82 U.S. senators, who last August urged Germany to pay the pensions. The German government promised in August to find a solution for Eastern European Jews. In November, it also cut off the pensions for veterans suspected of war crimes. "As we see it, nearly 10 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Cold War has finally come to an end for the East European Holocaust survivors," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress in New York. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, Friedrich Bohl, concluded the compensation agreement with Israel Singer of the Jewish Claims Conference, Bohl said Monday. Germany is to pay \$27.5 million a year into the fund from 1999 through 2002, Bohl said.

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Is it... Continued from page 6

People fly to their ports of embarkation, board and experience the pleasure and adventure of an ocean voyage. One cruise line alone was responsible for \$1.4 million in airline ticket sales in a single season. I believe this is the next century's competitor for hotels since they are floating islands themselves. Granted one of the joys of travel is the experience of different cultures which passengers experience at each port of call. This improved mode of tourism travel may rewrite the book on resort hotel structures fixed, as they are, in one place and at the same time require ever larger port facilities just as the jumbo jet changes air ports. Tourism is an extremely fragile industry and many forces, both internal and external, can affect its success. Typhoons can be a disruptive force, as can droughts, pollution, crime, an area's price structure, competition from other areas, fuel prices, the dollar yen ratio and a myriad of other factors. As the yen declines in value against the dollar our islands become more expensive for the Japanese to visit. Currently it requires about 130 yen to purchase one U. S. Dollar. At what point would the Dollar become so expensive for the Japa-

nese that it becomes prohibitively expensive for the average Japanese to purchase a vacation in the Commonwealth as compared with other non dollar associated areas? I submit that the level must be somewhere around 170 yen to the Dollar. Unfortunately we have no control over any exchange rate. Already the Thai Baht has lost fifty percent of its value which translates into hotel room rates being one-half of what they were six months ago. Imagine this impact on a hotel's reduced cash flow measured against a fixed debt service obligation. No economy should be dependent on a single industry - especially tourism. Therefore, every effort should be made to diversify the island's economic base. Manufacturing, fishing, agriculture, etc., accomplishes this goal. In most cases manufacturing, and to some extent, fishing and agriculture will require nonresident workers. Manufacturing will also require the importation of raw materials. But always the matter of an adequate labor force arises. Since each of the islands are different, a development plan tailored to fit the special circumstances of each while taking care to protect the environment would be worthwhile. Unlike Guam, the three principal inhabited islands of the Northern Marianas require a tremendous duplication of services that cannot be consolidated.

Three airports, three school systems, three power and water systems, fire immigration, health, etc. Thus, the high cost of providing government services. Their infrastructure requirements and well being of a growing population, the needs of the private sector and the protection of the environment are difficult elements to balance and accommodate. But sooner or later they must all mesh usually as a result of compromise and "trade offs." Many professional disciplines, all government agencies and municipalities and most business and civic organizations must have an input. This coordination is very difficult and may explain the failure of the planning process in many areas. It's a task for which I would not want responsibility. As someone once said about planning, "I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you" and according to Murphy, "If there's more than one way to do a plan and one of those ways will end in disaster, then somebody will do it that way." A lot of common sense goes into creating a plan. Without a dictator the whole thing may be impossible but it's nice to talk about between typhoons. Having a dictator has the added advantage of getting rid of all the economists and most, if not all, of the lawyers. But there is a choice, plow new ground - or let the weeds grow.

Hostage... Continued from page 2

regular closing time of 3:00 p.m. (0700 GMT). Stocks finished the day up 91.50 points, to 14,755.94. Trading is done on the lower floors of the exchange. Traders continued work in a normal, business-as-usual manner until the closing bell. The Tokyo exchange is located at the center of the capital's crowded financial district in the central part of the city. About 1,400 people work in the 15-story exchange building. It was unclear if the assault was linked to recent losses on the exchange and the increasing mood of gloom over Japan's sagging economy. The market has been volatile for months amid the Asian regional economic turmoil and a string of high-profile bankruptcies in Japan. On Monday, the benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average dove 2.21 percent. "These are the times we live in," said Eiji Moriyama, an onlooker who works in a nearby office building. "These are hard times and something like this was bound to happen." Rightists who call for a return to Japan's militarist past have a

long history of violence and intimidation. They have often been linked to attacks and threats against government officials and other critics. In 1996, a rightist slammed a bus filled with jugs of gasoline into the gates of Parliament. The bus burst into flames, but there were no injuries. In 1995, two rightists threw a firebomb at the Socialist Party headquarters of then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. **Dole...** Continued from page 2. Dole did not return calls to his office seeking comment Monday. His wife, Elizabeth, has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the Republican presidential ticket in 2000. While many of Dole's comments during the presidential campaign focused on illegal foreign contributions to the Democratic Party, Dole said in October 1996: "Our actions are not for sale to some foreign influence or some foreign interests." In another comment as the election neared, Dole said, "And we cannot allow the political influence of any American to be outweighed by foreign money. All coconut crabs found on the site shall be turned over to DFW and before construction, the permittee shall develop a DFW-approved plan for pre-trapping to remove coconut crabs; and The Marine Water Quality Plan shall be reviewed and approved by CRM, the Division of Environmental Quality, and DFW before the start of construction. The Bird Island project, whose potential impacts of the proposed horseback-riding and staging area. The other additional conditions imposed by the CRM: Horses and horseback-riding activities shall be prohibited in any conservation or forestry areas, including Marpi Commonwealth Forest and areas currently designated for tourist use including the Bird Island Lookout and the Kalabera Cave; The lease of 135 hectares of public land met stiff opposition from some legislators, notably former Rep. Stanley Torres, who said the land should be reserved for homestead purposes. The lease was approved by the legislature in July last year.

CRM OKs... Continued from page 11

Seman had said the public hearing conducted last Dec. 16 was not well attended because of typhoon Paka. Besides, he added, the permit application did not contain a complete environmental impact assessment and did not discuss the potential impacts of the proposed horseback-riding and staging area. The other additional conditions imposed by the CRM: Horses and horseback-riding activities shall be prohibited in any conservation or forestry areas, including Marpi Commonwealth Forest and areas currently designated for tourist use including the Bird Island Lookout and the Kalabera Cave;

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Departmental Secretaries	

This 182 rooms floating hotel will open August 1, 1998. Interviews will be held January 20 & 21 at Summer Holiday Hotel from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Send all resumes to: Director of Human Resources
 Palau Floating Hotel
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 GMF, GU 96921
 E-mail: gca@ite.net
 Fax # 671-734-1230

Pick up employment applications from Palau Consulate Office in Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Tel. # 235-6804/5

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Departmental Secretaries	

Tial lombibechaki hotel a ngangii a 182 el rooms (dart ma okai ma erung). E mo mengai a esmerel era August 1, 1998 (ongei el buil era kot el kebsengil el chalak). Aikel kirel a ker ma nger (interviews) a morngr era January 20 ma 21 era Summer Holiday Hotel (muchi era etu el klok e meimaim elimo eim el klok era kebsengil (9am - 5pm). Aikel rokui el babier er kau ra duch ra ureior (resumes and references) a moduroki el mora:

Director of Human Resources
 Palau Floating Hotel
 P.O. Box 24368
 GMF, GU 96921
 E-mail: gca@ite.net
 Fax # 671-734-1230

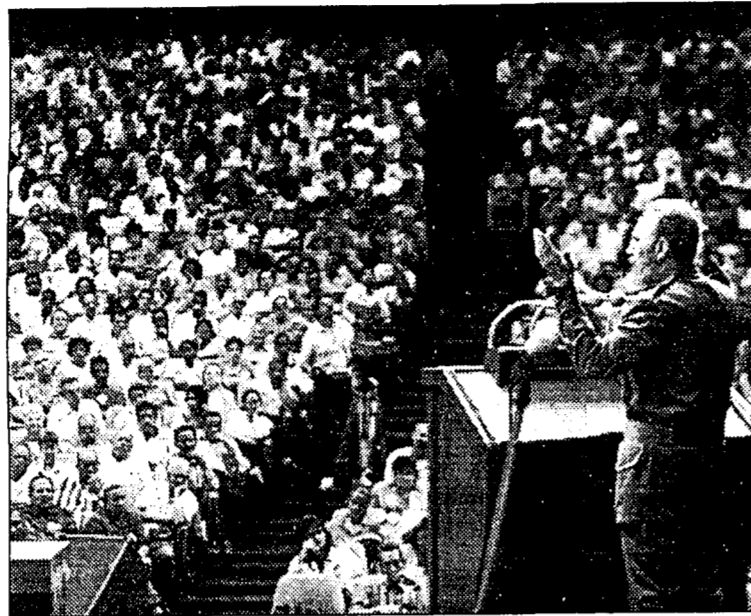
Ngsebechem el ngmai a babier er ureior era Palau Consulate Office ra Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. A dengua a 235-6804/5

Pope faces tough Cuba trip

By Victor L. Simpson
VATICAN CITY (AP) — Slowed by age and infirmity, Pope John Paul II faces the rigors of air travel and tropical heat next week during a grueling, much-anticipated trip to Cuba. A sudden spell of weakness 10 days before his departure underlined worries about the 77-year-old pope's

health. Leading a baptismal service Sunday in the Sistine Chapel, John Paul lurched forward and was immediately supported by one of his assistants. The Vatican denied an Italian news report that the pope suffered a dizzy spell. But officials no longer minimize his frailty.

"He hobbles. Sometimes he has to lean on his staff," said papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, adding that John Paul has walked with difficulty since undergoing hip replacement surgery after a fall in his bathroom in 1994. The historic trip to Cuba — the pope's first — carries much weight



Cuban President Fidel Castro addresses the Communist Assembly during a speech on the upcoming Cuban Parliament elections in Santiago De Cuba, east of Havana on Friday. Castro said Friday that the battle for success in the Sunday election is in relation to the future of the revolution and humankind. AP

for John Paul, offering him a chance to enhance the Roman Catholic Church's profile there after nearly four decades under communism. He faces a taxing schedule. In addition to the transatlantic flights, he will travel by air to the Cuban interior on three consecutive days, returning to Havana each evening. He will deliver about two speeches a day, meet with his clergy and try to mingle with the faithful, if recent trips are any guide. Temperatures on the Caribbean island average in the 80s in January and the pontiff, a native of Poland, has never fared well in tropical heat. During a 1995 visit to Sri Lanka, the pope made an unscheduled stop to change clothes when he became bathed in sweat in a non-air conditioned car. John Paul has a long history of medical problems, dating to 1981 when a would-be assassin shot him in the stomach. In 1992, doctors removed what the Vatican said was a benign colon tumor. The pope was last hospitalized in 1996 for an operation to remove an inflamed appendix. In addition, slurred speech and a tremble in John Paul's left hand are possible symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Although the Vatican has never confirmed the pope suffers from that ailment, it has acknowledged that the pope may have an "extra pyramidal syndrome" — which could be one of many problems, including Parkinson's. Extra pyramidal refers to the part of the motor system that controls non-voluntary movement. Still, John Paul keeps bouncing back. During a Jan. 3 visit to Italian earthquake victims in Assisi, Franciscan monks said the pope, running late, skipped the rest period set aside for him. He then ate a hearty lunch of cured beef and parmesan cheese, pasta and braised veal, washed down with Umbrian wine. As often happens when he is outside the Vatican, the much-traveled pope appeared in high spirits, turning down a limousine ride to walk through the crowds.

Colombia prison standoff ends

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Hundreds of inmates and their relatives ended a prison standoff Monday after reaching an agreement with government negotiators on improving prison conditions and easing overcrowding. Some 460 women — mothers, wives and girlfriends of prisoners at the San Isidro jail in Popayan — left the building in small groups after the pact was signed. More than 300 inmates led the protest, demanding better drinking water, medical attention and an end to overcrowding. "Their demands were just and their protest peaceful," said Jorge Munoz, the town's ombudsman. "The conditions are

very unhealthy." The disturbance broke out Sunday — visiting day for women. The women apparently volunteered to join the protest. Munoz said one inmate was slightly injured by a gunshot Sunday. He denied reports that the prisoners had held a guard hostage. The jail, 230 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota, was built to house 900, but currently houses 1,038 inmates. Colombia's prisons hold 43,000 inmates, 29,000 more than their intended capacity. Congress passed a bill in December designed to ease overcrowding by granting early release for some crimes. But red tape has held up most releases.

Health care cost hit \$1T

By Alice Ann Love
WASHINGTON (AP) — Health care costs have topped \$1 trillion in a single year for the first time, but the government says annual spending increases are slowing. American spending on health care averaged \$3,759 per person in 1996, up 4.4 percent or \$126 from 1995, according to a Health and Human Service Department report released Monday. That's the lowest growth rate since the annual tally of health spending trends — tracking public and private spending on everything from medical research to Band-Aids — was first compiled in 1960. And although the total hit a record \$1.035 trillion, that is the same 13.6 percent share of the nation's booming economy that medical expenses have taken since 1993. "This report shows significant national progress in slowing the growth of health care spending," said HHS Secretary Donna Shalala. Low inflation, more people in managed care, and new government spending curbs all have contributed to slower expansion of the nation's health care bills after average yearly growth of 11 percent throughout the 80s, the report said. In 1996, almost 88 percent of America's health care dollars bought personal health care services and supplies, from aspirin to open-heart surgery. Doctors and hospitals are getting a smaller share of the pie, however — 54.1 percent in 1996 compared to 57.6 percent in 1990. Instead, more money is going to nursing homes, home health aides and other alternative caregivers, such as optometrists and community health clinics. "Managed care plans are now responsible for much of the spending," said Daniel Bachman, a senior economist with Pennsylvania-based WEFA Inc. Their emphasis on cheaper alternatives to hospitalization and limiting doctors' fees "could certainly be part of it." Americans also spent 9.2 percent more on retail purchases of prescription drugs

in 1996, for a total of \$62.2 billion. Prescription prices are rising, but people are also buying more drugs, the HHS report said, in part because of increased advertising by pharmaceutical companies. Overall, private sector health care spending, which accounts for 53.3 percent of the nation's total medical budget, has moderated more quickly than government costs. In 1996 private expenses for health care increased by just 3.0 percent, compared to public spending increases of 6.1 percent. That trend could reverse in coming years, said Katharine R. Levit, director of HHS's National Health Statistics Group. "The private side of things should be reaccelerating and at the same time the public side ... should be decelerating," said Levit. Two-thirds of all private money spent on health care, or \$337.3 billion, went to pay insurance premiums in 1996. That was up just 3.2 percent from 1995, the smallest increase this decade. And out-

of-pocket spending by consumers, including deductibles and co-payments charged by health plans, also increased only marginally by 2.7 percent to \$171.2 billion. "That is largely due to employers who sought out plans that promised to slow the rate of health care cost increases," through managed care, said Levit. But in 1996, the cost of benefits insurers provided to Americans outpaced their profits, growing by 3.4 percent, to \$292.3 billion. "Their profits have been squeezed," said Levit — an awkward trend many analysts agree must lead to higher pre-

Stayman . . .

Continued from page 1
 to have 902 consultations. Section 902 of the Covenant provides for regular discussions by US and CNMI representatives on issues affecting the relations of the two governments. "The negotiator (of the President) has been informed about that and he said he is ready for that (negotiation)," Stayman said. But he promptly added that the two panels were yet to exchange letters to formalize the talks, while adding that he could not tell when the negotiations can possibly start. He said that he previously met with business and public representatives during his earlier visits to the CNMI and asked them to respond to the Federal legislation proposal. "We never get any response in terms of amendments to that pro-

posal. The position of most of the people then in the administration was there should be no Federal legislation and that continues to be the position of the CNMI government," he said. Stayman said the Federal government would be willing to talk about what's in the legislation, in its attempt to be more flexible. "We have to have a stable policy," he said, stressing that it is necessary to put into Federal laws whatever agreement will be reached. He said it is possible to have the 902 negotiations even when the proposal was already submitted to the Congress, adding that the purpose of the provision is to make recommendations. "What we have right now is the administration recommendation and the position of the CNMI government for Congress not to act on that," he explained.

Mansur . . .

Continued from page 1
 governance," said Mansur. "Where it will fall short, however, is if the CNMI government does not take adequate action or work on appropriate reforms," he

said. "Then that is an argument for the federal government to step in and 'take over.'" And in the long run, it will be inevitable for the CNMI to become a part of the U.S. in that sense," he added. Mansur pointed out that considering the "near term," the

Northern Marianas is "still young" and holds promise. "I'm impressed by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio's leadership, his vision, his push to revitalize the government and his desire to move forward for the future of the NMI," said Mansur. "In his inaugural speech, he outlined a 100-day plan. Now he has the opportunity to demonstrate," he said.

Miller . . .

Continued from page 1
 addressing some of these problems, but how they address it is certainly their prerogative, so we'll see," Miller said. He described yesterday's discussions as a "conversation to know one another, and about changes and the possibility of changes." "It was, for me, (an opportunity) to explain my position, and for them to explain their concerns and their history of involvement with these issues," Miller said, adding that the meetings gave him "new insights" on the issues involved.

He said he remains convinced, however, that without a change in the status quo, there should be a federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage policies. As the ranking Democrat of the U.S. House Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Northern Marianas, Miller last April filed a bill that would impose severe restrictions on the islands' multi-million dollar garment exports to the mainland U.S., and the extension of federal laws that will lead to the gradual phase-out of the CNMI's estimated 30,000 alien workers. CNMI government and business leaders believe that such a federal takeover will be disastrous for the local economy.

Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1
 nial that the government has cash flow problems, adding that revenues are still going up and the government will continue to run a small surplus. In his memo, however, the new governor said government revenues are decreasing, and one of his top aides, Dr. Jose T. Villagomez, earlier noted that the various reports submitted by the transition subcommittees are not as "rosy" as the former governor's. The final draft of the transition report, however, is still being finalized, it was learned yesterday.

The transition team has earlier recommended a thorough review of travel and other pending financial obligations of the government. It has also been suggested that government's expenditures will be limited to essential items and services. Then outgoing governor Tenorio said rumors of a bankrupt government were being circulated to prevent the new administration's supporters from asking "cushy" government jobs. Asked for a comment, Villagomez said Tenorio's statements on turning over a strong economy and a financially sound government may be "delusional."

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DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Victoria Cabrera Cepeda

"Victorian Juan"

of
San Vicente passed away in the grace of our Lord on Friday, January 09, 1998 at the age of 78

In her death she now join her:

Father: Joaquin Cabrera
 Mother: Natividad Mendiola Cabrera
 Brother: Prudencio M. Cabrera
 Valerio M. Cabrera
 Luis M. Cabrera
 Sebastian M. Cabrera
 Isidro M. Cabrera
 Sisters: Merced C. Camacho
 Isabel C. Sablan

Survived By:

Husband: Juan Ilano Cepeda
 Children: Luis C. Cepeda (deceased) & Benita Joaquin C. Cepeda & Maria Francisco C. Cepeda & Antonia Antonio C. Cepeda & Rose Rosa C. Cepeda Jose C. Cepeda & Anita Materne Juan B. Cepeda & Linda Koshiro

She is additionally survived by numerous grand children, great grandchildren great great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, relatives & friends

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 PM at their residence in San Vicente.

Last respect will be on Saturday, January 17, 1998 between 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at their residence in San Vicente Village. The funeral mass will be at 3:30 PM at San Vicente Church followed by the burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

PUBLIC NOTICE DR-1194-MP

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse local governments and State agencies for eligible costs incurred to repair publicly owned facilities as well as potential construction of new facilities damaged as a result of Typhoon Paka's high winds and tidal surge...

- 1. Debris clearance not qualified as emergency work.
2. Permanent repair of protective flood control and protective coastal facilities, including dams, reservoirs and channels.
3. Damage to roads, including streets, culverts and bridges.

The President's Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management requires that all Federal actions in or affecting the base floodplain be reviewed for opportunities to relocate out of the floodplain or to minimize future damage from flooding...

- 1. The FEMA estimated cost of repairs is less than 50% of the estimated replacement cost of the entire facility and is less than \$100,000.
2. The facility is not located in a floodway or coastal high hazard area.

FEMA intends to provide assistance for the restoration of the facilities described above to their pre-disaster condition except for certain measures to mitigate the effects of future flooding...

- 1. The facility is functionally dependent on its floodplain location. Flood control facilities and bridges are examples.
2. The project facilities are open space use. Facilities which are part of a park or other open space use are examples.

Additionally, the possible effects of not restoring the facility should be examined. In each case, there may be an overriding public need for the facility, which clearly outweighs the Executive Order's requirements to avoid the floodplain...

Hazard mitigation projects may involve construction of new facilities, such as a detention pond or a debris dam, modification of an existing, undamaged facility, such as improving waterway openings of bridges or culverts...

PUBLIC NOTICE DR-1192-MP

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse local governments and State agencies for eligible costs incurred to repair publicly owned facilities as well as potential construction of new facilities damaged as a result of Typhoon Paka's high winds and tidal surge...

- 1. Debris clearance not qualified as emergency work.
2. Permanent repair of protective flood control and protective coastal facilities, including dams, reservoirs and channels.
3. Damage to roads, including streets, culverts and bridges.

The President's Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management requires that all Federal actions in or affecting the base floodplain be reviewed for opportunities to relocate out of the floodplain or to minimize future damage from flooding...

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Hazard mitigation projects may involve construction of new facilities, such as a detention pond or a debris dam, modification of an existing, undamaged facility, such as improving waterway openings of bridges or culverts...

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

In Re The Estate of Ignacio M. Litulumar, Deceased. Probate Action No. 97-1219B

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Petitioner, the Commonwealth Health Center, has filed a Petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands...

- 1. Debris clearance not qualified as emergency work.
2. Permanent repair of protective flood control and protective coastal facilities, including dams, reservoirs and channels.
3. Damage to roads, including streets, culverts and bridges.

The hearing on the Petition is set for January 20, 1998 at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom B.

CONTACT: nis Niizeki International Saipan Co., Ltd. Phone: 234-5050 Fax: 234-8771

ANNOUNCEMENT

Miss Cheang Leong Hoi Chi (Shelley), a translator, is no longer connected with SAN AKAI CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. Her contract expired last December 1997.

All transactions entered on her behalf will not be honored. Accordingly the Company will not take any responsibility.

SAN AKAI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INCORPORATION GENERAL MANAGER

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

In the Matter of the Adoption of KADYA LITILBOLWOL IGNACIO ROGOLIFO A Minor Female Child.

By: LANA LYNN LIMES FITIAL, Petitioner. Adoption Action No. 97.0203

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a verified petition was filed in the above-entitled court for the petition for adoption of Kadya Litilbolwol Ignacio Rogolifoi by Lana Lynn Limes Fitial, the petitioner.

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CONTACT: nis Niizeki International Saipan Co., Ltd. Phone: 234-5050 Fax: 234-8771

ANNOUNCEMENT

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SAN AKAI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INCORPORATION GENERAL MANAGER

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

Union Bank, Plaintiff, vs. Vernon C. Vaughn, Defendant. CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-930

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons...

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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- 01 LATHE MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.20 per hour
02 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$3.50-10.00 per hour
Contact: WESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. (1/14)W70030

- 01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: H.S. LEE CONST. CO., INC. dba H.S. Lee Expt. & Aprt. Tel. 234-6856(1/14)W70040

- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$850.00 per month
Contact: BLANCO VENDE LTD. dba Kiosk Shop Tel. 322-3313(1/14)W25112

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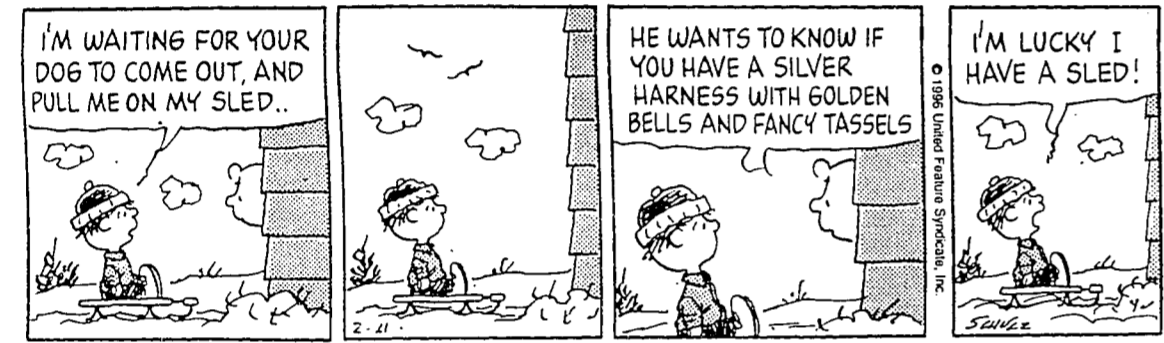
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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder
Born today, you are likely to enjoy a career that spans many years and which exposes you to all manner of people and cultures.

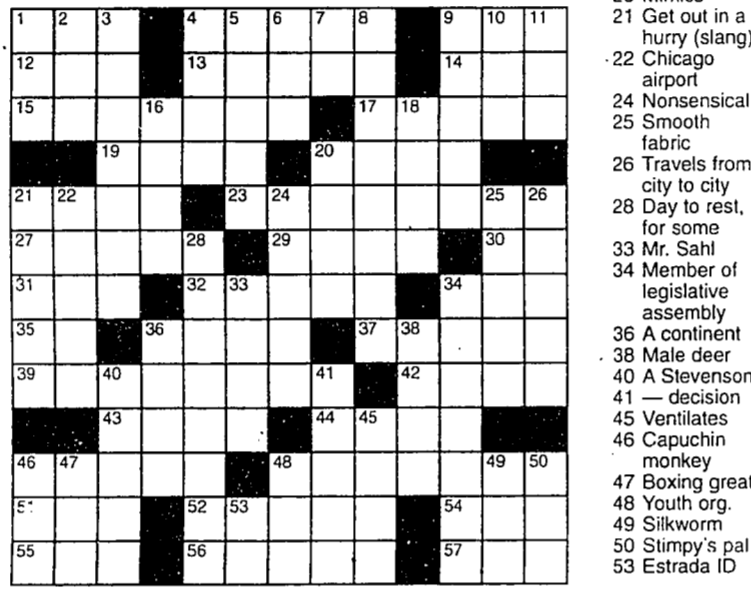
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may think that it's impossible to have your cake and eat it too, but today you may find a way to increase your own take.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Even though a loved one is looking out for you, he or she doesn't fully understand the meaning of what you are going through right now.

Focus on those things that give you insight into the reasons people react to you the way they do. Perhaps you need to see yourself more clearly.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Now is no time to let up at all; keep up the pace and be sure that your sights are set on a goal that remains, for the time being, in the distance.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — The decisions you make today are likely to affect many people who have expressed an interest in being a part of a coming project.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 H.S. course
4 Opera highlights
9 Kin to bro
12 Scottish river
13 Unwilling
14 Explosive inits.
15 Assert dogmatically (2 wds.)
17 Positively charged electrode
19 Region
20 In a line
21 Scattered seeds for planting
23 Coolest
27 State of total disorder
29 —do-well
30 O'Toole ID
31 Sugar — Leonard
32 Accumulate
34 Alphabet sequence
35 Rooney ID
36 Like — of bricks
37 "They Died With Boots On"
39 Sizes up
42 Jillian, et al.
43 Soil
44 Brazil estuary
46 Dinner course
48 Showiness
51 — carte
52 Norse god
54 Miner's find
55 Roman three
56 Irish post
57 — Tin Tin

DOWN
1 Sullivan and Maninaro
2 Bom (Fr.)
3 Take a vacation (2 wds.)
4 — vera
5 Dick Martin's
6 Fleming of James Bond fame
7 — all costs
8 Keenest
9 Actress
10 Self-reliant (abbr.)
11 Sault in a hurry (slang)
12 Chicago airport
14 Nonsensical
15 Smooth fabric
16 Travels from city to city
18 Day to rest, for some
19 Mr. Sahl
20 Member of legislative assembly
21 A continent
28 Male deer
30 A Stevenson
41 — decision
45 Ventilates
46 Capuchin monkey
47 Boxing great
48 Youth org.
49 Silkworm
50 Slimpy's pal
53 Estrada ID



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Williams upsets Hingis

By STEVE WILSTEIN
SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — In a match of extraordinary drama deserving of a Grand Slam final, Venus Williams limped and staggered through a third set Tuesday in the Sydney International to beat top-ranked Martina Hingis for the first time.

back limping worse than before. "Never had that," said the 17-year-old Williams. "The (umpire) asked me if it's cramps. I said, 'I don't know, it's pain.' I really didn't want to quit because I'd come so far in the heat. I had to go on." Williams mother, Oracene, sat at courtside watching her daughter in trouble, but remarked, "When she's hurt, that's when she's dangerous. That's when she goes for her shots." Williams required a medical timeout and treatment on court at 1-1 in the third set. When she resumed play and served, she grimaced through each point as she fell behind a 1-2. But Hingis, the defending champion at this tournament and winner of three major titles last year, couldn't capitalize on that injury and dropped serve at love when Williams ripped a forehand winner crosscourt and out of reach. Williams made it 4-2 when she broke Hingis with another sizzling forehand crosscourt into the corner.



American teenage tennis player Venus Williams of Palm Beach, Florida, in action during her upset victory over world number 1 women's player Martina Hingis of Switzerland Tuesday at the International in Sydney. Williams overcame leg cramps to win with a score of 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. AP

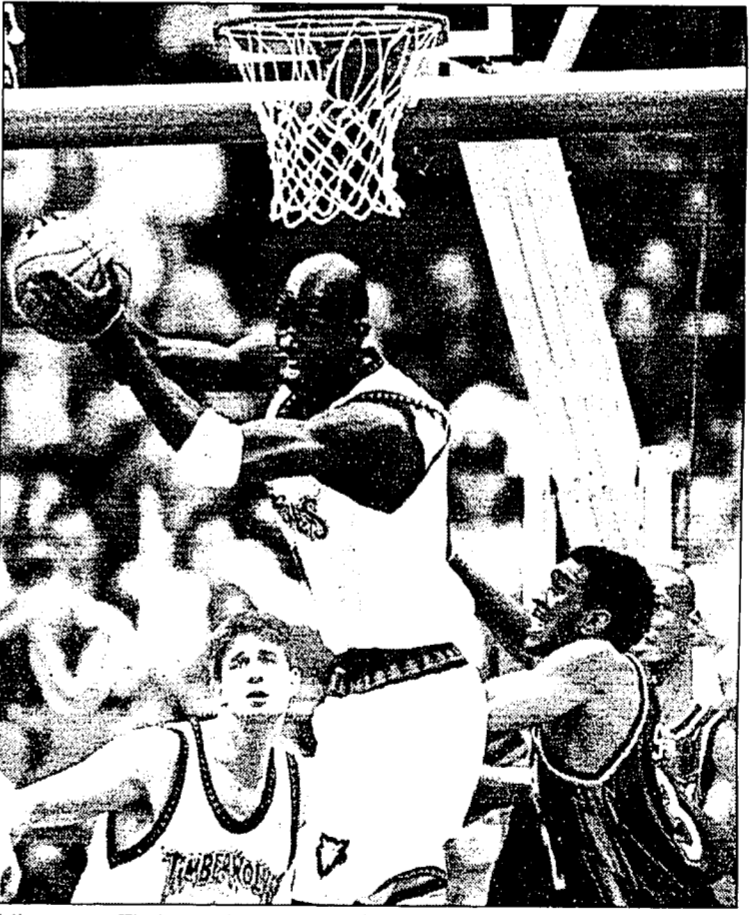
After Hingis evened the match, and took a medical timeout of her own to deal with cramps and dizziness at 5-5, Williams swept through the final two games and won both at love. At the end of the nearly 2 1/2-hour match, Williams bounced up and down in delight, the white, yellow and blue beads in her hair clacking, and she ran to hug her mother in the stands while the crowd gave her a standing ovation. Hingis, who won all three of her matches against Williams last year while going 75-5, brushed off the loss as insignificant. "This was not as important as it was at the U.S. Open," Hingis said. "I'm sure we will have many other matches." Hingis blamed herself, saying, "I didn't play very smart," and claimed she probably wasn't ready for a tough match after arriving from wintry Switzerland only a few days earlier.

Timberwolves stop Warriors

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Garnett scored 21 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves rallied for a 103-87 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night. Cherokee Parks added 14 points as the Wolves won for the eighth time in 10 games and moved three games over .500 (19-16) for only the third

time in team history. Donyell Marshall scored 19 points for the Warriors, who have lost seven straight and are 2-16 on the road. New Jersey Nets 108, Toronto Raptors 100. At Toronto, Kerry Kittles scored a season-high 31 points as the New Jersey Nets snapped a

four-game road losing streak. Sherman Douglas, filling in for injured starter Sam Cassell at point guard, had 15 assists and 16 points for New Jersey. Kendall Gill, Keith Van Horn and Jayson Williams each scored 18 points for the Nets. Damon Stoudamire scored 19 points for the Raptors, who have lost 16 of their last 17 home games. Milwaukee Bucks 110, Los Angeles Clippers 95. At Milwaukee, Glenn Robinson scored 33 points and Ervin Johnson set season highs with 21 rebounds and 20 points as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Los Angeles Clippers. Ray Allen added 21 points and Armon Gilliam 15 for the Bucks, who have won two straight games for the first time since late November. Lamond Murray scored 20 points for the Clippers, while Rodney Rogers and Maurice Taylor each had 19. Utah Jazz 106, Cleveland Cavaliers 99. At Salt Lake City, Jeff Humecek scored 23 points and John Stockton had 22 as the Utah Jazz won their seventh straight game.



Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett jumps high for the rebound over Golden State Warriors' Joe Smith, right, as Timberwolves' Cherokee Parks (44) watches in first half Monday night in Minneapolis. AP

MTC . . .

Continued from page 24
followed by Vanessa Mobel and Lina Kintoki also contributed 6 points for their team. Rose Pangelinan and Bertha Tudela were the top scorers for the Unified Team. In the second game of the evening, the Toyota Wheels defeated the Spoilers, 92-67. Without having any personal fouls, R. Brostrom came in strong

with 19 points for the Toyota victory. Aside from Brostrom, Dado Vistal also contributed 16 points, while R. Catala came in with 14 points. Top scorer for the Spoilers is Diego Masga with 19 points and Steve with 10 points. Next game for the BANMI will be tonight with 1st game Lebowel vs. L.A. Dept. Store Ol' Aces and second game will be Pacific Trading Lite vs. Kontrarios.

Packers . . .

Continued from page 24
But Green Bay can score with Denver: Favre vs. Elway; Dorsey Levens vs. Davis; Robert Brooks, Antonio Freeman and Derrick Mayes vs. the Denver wide receivers; and Mark Chmura vs. Sharpe at tight end. Add an underrated offensive line and it's pretty much a wash. But defense is another story. "We don't care about individual honors, we play team defense," says strong safety LeRoy Butler, the only Packers defender to make All-Pro. "We're just as happy when someone else makes a play." That's true. But it's also true that many of Butler's cohorts on defense are big-time players, starting with Gilbert Brown, who is big-time to the tune of 350 pounds (158 kilograms). He's the reason teams don't run on Green Bay — the 49ers got 33 yards on 18 attempts Sunday. There's also Reggie White, not the force at 35 he was a decade ago but still a player who makes big plays — like three sacks in last season's Super Bowl. There's Santana Dotson, an excellent inside pass rusher, and Brian Williams, a speed linebacker who styles himself after this year's two All-Pro outside linebackers — Denver's John Mobley and the Giants' Jessie Armstead. And there is cornerback Doug Evans, who was assigned every week

to the opponents' best receiver and usually shut him down. San Francisco didn't even bother throwing his way on Sunday. Denver's defense has solid players such as Mobley, emerging in his second season as one of the game's best linebackers. Add cornerback Ray Crockett plus safeties Steve Atwater and Tyrone Braxton, the only two starters besides Elway who played with the Broncos in their last Super Bowl. But like those Super Bowl Broncos of the late '80s, these Broncos can be run on. Yes, they're bigger and more physical than the Denver Super Bowl defenses of the '80s (everyone's bigger and more physical these days). But they were 16th in the league against the run and their best runner, stopper, defensive tackle Keith Traylor, is 60 pounds lighter than Brown. On the plus side? That two-touchdown spread is probably more than it should be. Oddsmakers always like to inflate the line to draw money to the underdog.

SML meeting Friday

RGA January Qualifier

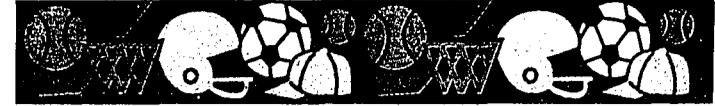
THIS is to inform all Refalawash Golfers Association members that the first tournament for 1998 is set for this Sunday, January 18 at the Marianas Country Club. The tee-off time will be at 11:00 a.m. and showtime will be at 10:00 a.m. it's open for the first 16 members and its a first come first serve basis. The officers are also reminding all members to update your membership dues before the tournament because if you haven't pay your dues you can't play on this day of the tournament. So please contact Chairman Joe Lizama or President Tony Rogolifoi at 234-1001/1002 about your membership dues. (P.T. Castro)

THERE WILL be an important meeting of the Saipan Major League on Friday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m. in the Ada Gym Conference Room. The agenda includes election of officers, 1998 season, the Mobil Games and Micronesian Games. All interested persons are urged to attend. Call Bob Coldeen at 235-6369 for more information.

Aschoscho . . .

Continued from page 24
Girls came back scoring 12 points but it didn't give the victory in the second set. The second set was led by Julie Tokyo, with eight points, together with Jenn, who contributed three points.

SPORTS



Pierce makes waves



Justin Pierce

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff
JUSTIN Pierce Arafura Games gold medalist came up strong in his heat in

NMI swimmer tops his heat at World Swimming meet in Australia

the 100-meters breaststroke last Monday's games at the World Championship in Perth, Australia.

Pierce came in first in Heat One with a time of 1:13.89 and Palau's Anlloyd Samuel, of Palau came in second with a time of 1:21.14. Pierce also bested Guam's swimmer Daniel Kang with a time of 1:15.55 but Guam's swimmer 4th in Heat Two.

Pierce left for Perth, Australia last January 8th with his coach and Acting Director for Sports and Recreation Bill Sakovich in which he will compete in the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke event.

According to Bill Sakovich, Pierce

will also be swimming on Friday, January 16 which probably for the 200-meter breaststroke.

This is the third Saipan swimmer that left for the World Championship to represent the Commonwealth in the highly-competitive and prestigious world championships.

In 1991, top Saipan Swim Club Swimmers Mike Villagomez and Jon Sakovich represented the CNMI with high honors, and posting high in the world ranking.

According to Bill Sakovich Pierce has been training very hard for over a month with his coach Jean Sakovich. He showed the

best time among the swimmers in the Saipan Swim Club for which he was chosen to represent the CNMI.

There are about 200 swimmers from all over the world vying for the world championship.

Pierce is the son of Mr. & Mrs Richard W. Pierce who also are in Perth, Australia watching their son swim in his event.

BANMI women's tourney:

MTC Nets win over Unified Team, 55-35

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

CONNIE Camacho of the MTC Nets top scored for her team towards a victory Monday night against the Unified Team at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Camacho came on strong with 8 points in the first half followed by Julie Tokyo with six points.

In the second half, Camacho added another ten points for a total of 18 points.

Tokyo had a total of 12 points and Hope Kinsella with 6 points

Continued on page 23



Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway avoids a sack by Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Donta Jones (54) and throws a pass in the second quarter of the AFC Championship game Sunday. The Broncos won to advance to the Super Bowl against the Green Bay Packers Jan. 25th. AP

Super Bowl XXXII

Packers heavy favorites

By DAVE GOLDBERG
NEW YORK (AP) — It's been nine seasons since John Elway has been to the Super Bowl. Guess what? An AFC team still hasn't won.

When Elway and the Denver Broncos were pased by the Giants, Redskins and 49ers after the 1986, 1987 and 1989 seasons, those were the third, fourth and sixth straight wins for NFC teams.

"You know how these things are," George Young, then general manager of the Giants, said after the third one. "They work in cycles. The AFC will start winning again."

Well, Young left for the NFL front office last week, Elway made it back to the Super Bowl on Sunday and the AFC has now lost 13 straight NFL title games going on 14. The early line has Green Bay a 13 1/2-point favorite over Denver.

Why are the Packers such heavy favorites?

- They play in the NFC.
- Brett Favre is the NFL's best quarterback, as good or better than Elway, now 37, was a decade ago.

- Green Bay's defense is the league's strongest now — it hasn't surrendered a touchdown pass in 31 quarters.

This Denver team is the best that Elway has played on. Just having Terrell Davis to run the ball instead of Sammy Winder and Gerald Willhite makes it that.

The receivers — Rod Smith, Ed McCaffrey and Willie Green — don't have a moniker like the old Three Amigos, but they're as good or better.

And Shannon Sharpe, the tight end who runs like a wideout, can be impossible to cover. The offensive line, anchored by Gary Zimmerman and center Tom Nalen, is very good.

Continued on page 23



World number 1 women's tennis player Martina Hingis of Switzerland reacts during her loss to American Venus Williams Tuesday in Sydney. AP

Aschoscho wins in girls' volley

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff
ASCHOSCHO defeated the Tanapag Girls in just two sets during their game Monday night

at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium during the 1997/98 Girls Youth Volleyball League.

In the first set the score was 15-4. Connie Camacho was the top

player of the evening, as her skilled playing brought her team to victory.

In the second set, the Tanapag

Continued on page 23

