

Executor to sell Hillblom aircraft

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Lee Hillblom's estate executor filed a petition the other day seeking authority from the Superior Court to sell the late businessman's aircraft for a \$140,000 net.

John D. Osborn, counsel for the executor Bank of Saipan, explained that the court has previously authorized the executor to place on the market the Lake aircraft.

Osborn said the aircraft, which was valued in the inventory at \$150,000, is the sole asset of Saipan Charter Inc.

Currently, the lawyer said, the executor has to pay monthly maintenance fees for the aircraft.

The executor has recently been authorized to renew the insurance policy on the aircraft at a cost of \$11,600, he said.

"It is of no practical value to the estate and presently represents an expense to the estate," said Osborn as he stressed that with the sale the maintenance fees will cease.

He said the estate should be entitled to a rebate on the unearned premium from the insurance policy.

In the same petition, Osborn asked for court's approval of a retainer agreement with a law firm in Makati, Philippines, allegedly necessary for their plans to dispose Hillblom's property

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Legislature ready for UMDA's lease

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

THE TENTH Legislature is all set to consider the proposed public land lease for the hotel development project planned by the United Micronesian Development Association.

In a joint letter to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday, leaders of both the House of Representatives and the Senate requested that UMDA's proposed lease agreement be officially transmitted to the bicameral chamber so they could act on it.

"Our respective committees are ready to review the proposed lease

and all pertinent documents," the leaders said.

"We stand firm on our commitment to work cooperatively with you and your staff to ensure that the decision we make with respect to this matter is the best one for the people of the Commonwealth," the joint letter further read.

UMDA has long been planning to develop and operate a golf course resort hotel complex in Marpi but the project has been snagged by changes in the original lease agreement.

UMDA's 25-year lease, covering some 210 hectares in the Marpi area, has long been approved since the time of the Eighth Legislature.

Aside from the main lease, UMDA also was given an accompanying 15-year extension by the Legislature in 1992.

But the lease had to undergo the entire legislative approval process again after government leaders decided not to go along with earlier plans of UMDA to finance, construct and operate a modern sanitary landfill in Marpi.

The developer originally offered to spend up to \$10 million

for the solid waste disposal facility as a public benefit contribution that goes with their project.

The first problem that snagged the agreement was when the Eighth Legislature put into the lease's approving resolution a provision that would divert half of the \$10 million to fund other projects on Saipan.

Such a proposal was not acceptable to UMDA.

Another hold-up was when the Administration finally decided it would build the landfill project on its own, with financial help from the federal government.

When discussions on the project restarted in 1994, the initial recommendation of the Tenorio Administration was for Legislature to approve the lease without requiring a public benefit contribution.

But when the House Committee on Natural Resources indicated opposition to such a recommendation, discussions resulted to UMDA insisting on providing \$10 million worth of infrastructure projects as contribution to the community.

The new revised lease agree-

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Draft of revised criminal code finished soon-- AGO

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office on Monday said the ongoing revision of the Commonwealth Criminal Code is nearing completion and that a final draft will be submitted to the Legislature on schedule.

Acting Attorney General C. Sebastian Aloit in an interview said special AG Cheryl Gill, who is tasked with rewriting the Code, is just about to wrap up the preliminary draft of proposed new law.

"To my understanding, we

should be coming to an end to the process of drafting a composite, comprehensive proposed revisions to the criminal code.

"My understanding is that the AG hired to perform that task is trying to close it out. We of course have the obligation not just to share it with the executive and legislative branch but to have the community involved with it," said Aloit.

When contacted yesterday, Gill declined any comment about the status of the revision job, saying it might be premature to discuss it.

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Sebastian Aloit

Bill to ban smoking in all public places

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

A BILL seeking the prohibition of smoking in public places was filed in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Rep. Pete Reyes introduced the bill, following the success of the no-smoking policy implemented in all executive offices three weeks ago.

The bill docketed H.B. 10-37, seeks the imposition of smoking ban in several corners of the CNMI including elevators, public offices, conference rooms, movie houses, museums, libraries, hospitals, banks, stores, taxicabs, and public restrooms.

If the bill is approved, violator would be fined \$20. "The court," the bill states "may assess costs not to exceed \$25 for issuing a penal summon upon any person who fails to appear at the place within the time specified in the citation issued to the person."

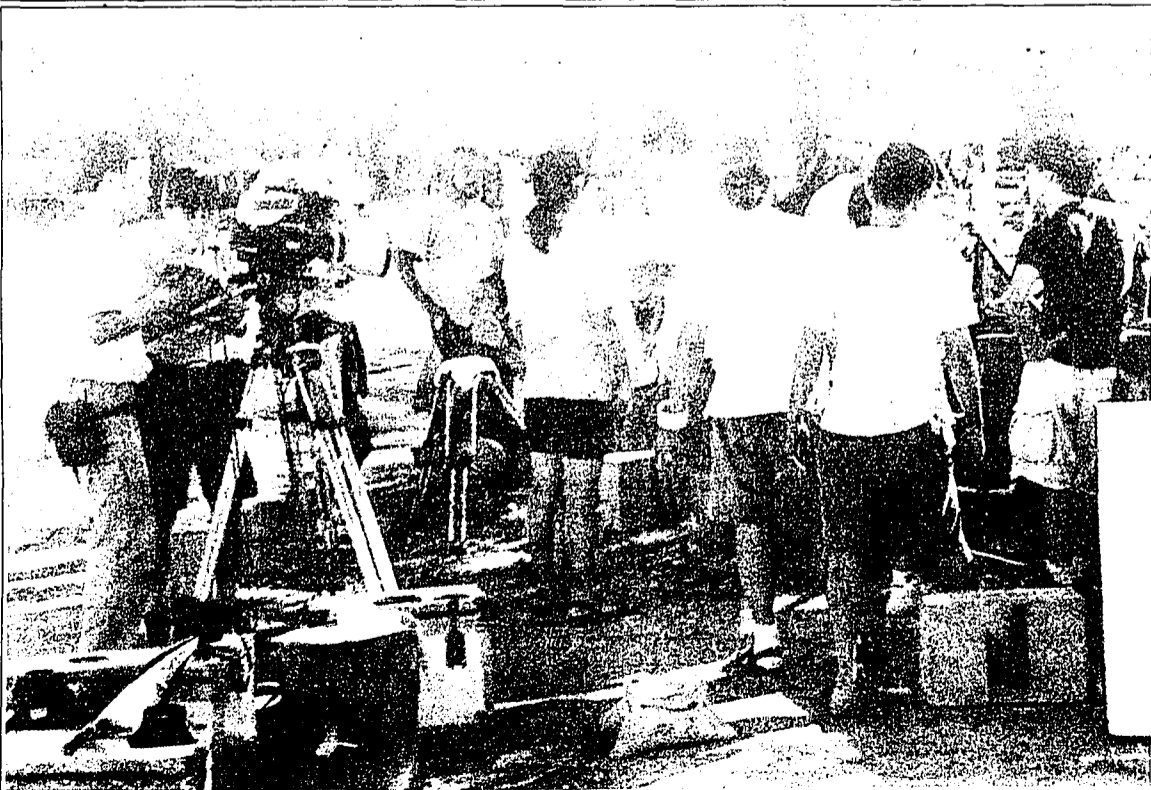
In the case of restaurants, operators are required to provide non-smoking areas. Restaurant

operators, nevertheless, are not prevented from designating their entire establishment as non-smoking area.

Signs that read "Smoking Prohibited by Law" in letters of not less than one inch in height should be conspicuously posted in places where smoking is prohibited.

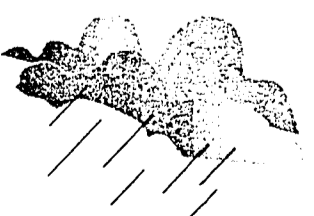
Private businesses are also covered by the proposed smoking

Continued on page 7



BEJEWELLED SAIPAN. A Japanese crew is on island shooting a film for a jewelry commercial. Photo was taken along Beach Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon. —Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Weather Outlook



Mostly cloudy with showers.

Move to avert new shutdown

By ALAN FRAM
WASHINGTON (AP) - Republican congressional leaders searched Monday for a way to avoid a new federal shutdown at week's end and said they would probably add a tax credit for children to such legislation.

But they showed little desire to heed the Democratic Clinton administration's pleas for quick action to head off a first-ever federal default by March 1.

Eager to avoid election-year blame for a third partial closure of federal agencies since November, top Republicans hoped for congressional passage as early as Wednesday of legislation keeping programs functioning for perhaps another month. Without such a bill, dozens of agencies would once again have to put some operations in mothballs after the close of business Friday.

The trick for Republican leaders, especially in the House, was balancing conservatives' demands for budget slashes with a bill Clinton would sign.

They were considering financing affected agencies at about 75 percent of last year's levels and eliminating some minor programs whose termination Clinton might accept.

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said Monday that 12 to 15 small programs might also be killed.

Republican aides listed possibilities as the National Biological

Survey, which studies endangered species, and the Bureau of Mines, which the administration has already shut under Republican pressure.

But after an evening meeting, House Republican leaders decided to add another sweetener for conservatives that could embarrass Clinton: a \$125 per child tax credit, payable this year only to many families with children below age 18.

They said the measure would cost about \$6 billion and be paid for by reductions in minor benefit programs that the Republicans and administration had tentatively accepted in their now-dormant budget talks.

That credit was to be a first installment of the \$500 per child credit included in the massive Republican budget-balancing and tax cut bill Clinton vetoed last year. Gingrich and other Republican leaders said they added it with an eye to Tuesday night's State of Union address, in which Clinton is expected to emphasize the needs of children.

"We thought this might be a way to turn his words into reality," Gingrich told reporters.

The focus on keeping the government open and on federal borrowing reflected a belief by many Republicans that their effort to reach a budget-balancing agreement with Clinton was probably over. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, more optimistic than many,

said there was "still some glimmer of hope" that a deal could be completed.

Gingrich was more blunt. "Since the budget negotiations are for all practical purposes not functioning ... we're trying to work for first of all how to get down payment to get to a balanced budget," Gingrich told reporters.

Dole's opposition to a third government shutdown echoed his sentiments during the first two, when he publicly expressed reticence about the closures.

House leaders had been adamant about using the shutdown as a tool for pressuring Clinton to accept a budget-balancing pact, but Dole decided that the tactic was backfiring on the

Republican.
The first shutdown lasted six days in November and idled 750,000 workers.

The second, a 21-day closure that ended in early January, came after some additional spending bills were enacted, but still kept 280,000 civil servants at home at 580,000 others on the job but unpaid.

Thailand refuses visa for exiled East Timor leader

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thailand, concerned about upsetting neighboring Indonesia, has refused to grant an entry visa to an exiled leader of East Timor's struggle against Indonesian rule, human rights activists said Monday.

Jose Ramos-Horta, a specialist in international law living in Australia, had planned to fly to Bangkok Saturday to help teach a training course in diplomacy for Thai university students.

"The Thai Embassy in Australia would not allow him to come," said Paitat Junthong, the office manager at Forum Asia, a Bangkok-based human rights organization. Forum Asia had sponsored Ramos-Horta's planned visit.

Suthin Nopakhet, chairman of the Thai parliament's subcommittee on human rights, described the refusal as an overreaction by Thai officials afraid

of antagonizing Indonesia.

Ramos-Horta, contacted in Kensington, Australia, said he learned Friday night that Thailand had rejected his request for a visa, despite his assurances that he would refrain from making any public statements about East Timor that might embarrass Thailand.

The Thai government had apparently caved in to pressure from Indonesia, he told The Associated Press.

An official in the Thai Foreign Ministry's East Asia Department said the ministry had yet to decide formally whether to refuse Ramos-Horta a visa. The official refused to give his name.

Ramos-Horta's 10-day visit would have ended a month before a planned summit of European and Asian leaders in Bangkok. Participants in the March 1-2 summit are to include Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor after it declared independence in 1975.

Ramos-Horta is the representative abroad for the East Timorese independence movement. A Portuguese citizen, he fled East Timor and teaches now at the University of New South Wales.

Human rights groups blame Indonesia's invasion and military occupation for the deaths of some 200,000 East Timorese.

The United Nations does not recognize Indonesia's control over the territory.

Thailand expelled Ramos-Horta during a visit he made here in 1994 to attend a human rights conference that coincided with a meeting of ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The association's members include Thailand and Indonesia.

Suthin blamed low-level Foreign Ministry officials for rejecting Ramos-Horta's visa application.

Broadhurst to become PIO



Incoming Public Information Officer Mark Broadhurst (right) sits beside former deputy PIO Kurt Burkhardt during a recent government reception. Broadhurst is set to replace PIO Bruce Lloyd, who will step up as special assistant to the governor.

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio will soon have a new public information officer in the person of newsmen Mark Broadhurst, the Public Information Office confirmed yesterday.

According to current PIO Bruce Lloyd, a memorandum was issued last week informing all department agencies about the Broadhurst's appointment.

The memo also announces Lloyd's designation as a special assistant to the governor, although a more defined title and function for him is yet to be ascertained.

According to Lloyd, Broadhurst's contract is currently being finalized and that the latter is expected to assume the PIO post on February 1st.

"This appointment has been considered for quite a while. It was only in the middle of last week that everything has

been decided," said Lloyd.

Prior to his appointment, Broadhurst is publisher and editor of the Saipan Tribune.

He also used to be one of the Republican Party's strategists who worked on then Gov. Larry I. Guerrero's reelection campaign in 1993.

Ironically, the person hiring Broadhurst this time is the same one Guerrero ran against in that year's gubernatorial polls.

Tenorio defeated Guerrero to become the CNMI's fourth governor.

Broadhurst, who used to work as political consultant in George Bush's losing presidential reelection campaign in 1992, also once worked with the Guam Administration of former Gov. Joseph F. Ada.

Word about Broadhurst's appointment spread since late last year after Gov. Tenorio appointed former deputy PIO Kurt Burkhardt as his special assistant on trade and tourism.

Union leader petitions court to let him stay in NMI longer

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

UNION leader Vic Perez filed a petition yesterday before the Superior Court seeking an order to allow him to stay in the CNMI pending the resolution of his labor case.

Perez, through counsel John F. Cool, sought a court order directing Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas Sablan to let him remain in the Commonwealth while his case is pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

Perez has been reportedly over-staying in the CNMI for nearly two years now.

In a petition for review of an administrative order, Cool asked the lower court to have Director of Labor Frank Camacho approved plaintiff's request to transfer to a new employer.

Cool also sought the Labor Division's action granting Perez's request to change his job category subject to submission of proof of evidence in the occupational field as required by law.

When the union leader was dismissed from his job at the Hafa

Adai Beach Hotel, he submitted a written request for transfer to a new employer in October 1994 and January 1995.

Cool said after the hearing, on Dec. 6 the Labor issued an administrative order denying the request of transfer based on the following grounds:

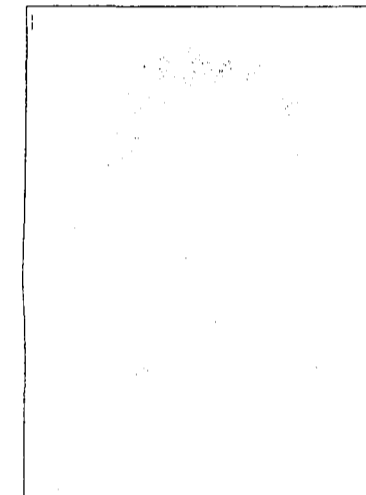
*The job classification to which plaintiff desired to transfer had not been established for non-resident workers through the procedures authorized by the Non-Resident Workers Act.

*There was no showing of a lack of resident workers to fill the demand for Union Business Agents.

*That to advertise the position would bypass the statutory duty of the Director of Labor to investigate the job market and to determine the need, if any, for non-resident workers in a particular job class.

On Dec. 20, 1995, Cool said Perez appealed the decision of the director of Labor to the DOLI secretary.

Last Jan. 11, Cool said Secretary Sablan affirmed the Dec. 6 administrative order without providing addi-



Vic Perez

tional opinion or comment. Sablan ordered the plaintiff to depart within 10 days.

Cool said the order is "arbitrary, capricious, an abusive discretion and otherwise not in accordance with law."

He said it is contrary to the plaintiff's constitutional rights, powers, privileges and immunities. Cool added that the order is "without observance of procedure required by law unsupported by substantial evidence."

Court drops Mitchell's claims in \$3M lawsuit

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has dismissed the claims of lawyer Theodore Mitchell against one of three lawyers he charged in the \$3-million civil lawsuit.

Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro issued a judgment Thursday, ordering that Mitchell "shall take nothing by his complaint" as against Peter J. Donnici.

Castro's order came after Mitchell and F. Matthew Smith, attorney for Donnici, signed a stipulation for dismissal with prejudice. In an interview, Mitchell said he voluntarily "let Donnici loose" in the suit for personal reasons.

Mitchell said Donnici is his good old friend. He did not elaborate. Mitchell sued Donnici, lawyers Michael W. Dotts and Richard W. Pierce, and Larry Lee Hillblom's estate, for allegedly instituting a civil lawsuit in 1993 before the U.S. District Court without probable cause.

He claimed that last Nov. 1, the estate deliberately abandoned the suit which had inflicted him financial damage and caused emotional and financial distress.

In his response, Donnici sought the dismissal of the case, saying that the court lacks jurisdiction over him being a resident in California.

Donnici also argued that Mitchell violated the Commonwealth Rules and Civil Procedure when the latter personally served the summons to him while he was testifying before the Superior Court in Hillblom's estate probate hearing.

Borja lobbies lawmakers on new reorganization plan

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

TOP executive officials are seeking the support of the Legislature to the amendments to an executive order reorganizing certain government agencies.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, in a letter to Senate President Jesus R. Sablan and House Speaker Diego Benavente, said he looks forward to implementing the provisions under Executive Order 96-1 "after the 60-day waiting period and to working with you in the future to improve our government even further."

E.O. 96-1, which amends the Second Reorganization Plan of 1994, does not require legislative concurrence. Under the law, how-

ever, the Legislature may nullify executive orders through a majority vote of both Houses.

"I would very much appreciate your strong and early support for these and the other amendments to the reorganization," Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja said in a separate letter, dated Jan 19.

The reorganization plan covered the Civil Service Commission, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Management and Budget Office, Retirement Fund, the Board of Professional Licensing, and the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Borja cited "one very important amendment (which) strengthens the authority and oversight of the CSC."

The commission will now be allowed to hear employees' appeals and grievances.

The executive order also "regularized existing excepted service employment, and provided safeguards and limitations for future excepted service contracts."

Other changes are as follows: • CUC has been given a greater autonomy;

• The finance secretary and the special assistant for budget management office were removed from the board of directors;

• The Board of Professional Licensing and the Historic Preservation Review Board have been restored to their previous status;

• The government health and life insurance programs will now be

administered by the Retirement Fund. However, the government, not the Retirement Fund, will continue to carry the liabilities of these programs;

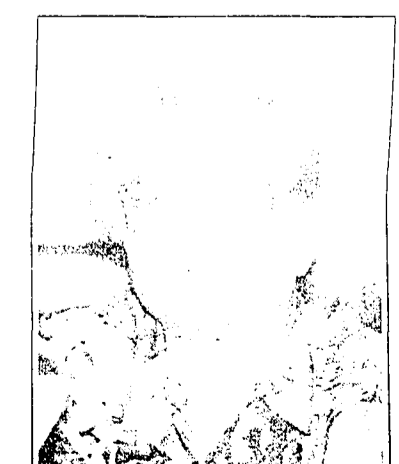
Under the same directive, fishing in the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone surrounding the CNMI has been subjected to law.

This provision, according to Borja, "will strengthen the Commonwealth's claim to resource management and other rights in that area."

Borja also supports the governor's move to transfer the customs service from the Department of Finance to the Department of Labor.

He said the consolidation of government regulatory functions

at ports of entry "will improve efficiency and expedite the entry of visitors and goods in the Commonwealth."



Jesus Borja

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



Twenty Years of Change

IT used to be that an employment with the NTTU, Naval Administration, Marianas District Administration and the Trust Territory Government meant a lifetime job until you expire or are debarred by a serious illness. Expiry meant the doubling of your last pay check and it meant just that—last pay check.

Today we have the CNMI Retirement Program upon which you can rely for some help when you retire or expire. It is a financially solvent program whose management has done an outstanding job in the investment of funds. It included a housing program for its members—first time homeowners.

Through the years, we have eradicated the use of benjos and replaced it with comfortable flush toilets. I mean, it used to be that the only time we use water is in food preparation and personal hygiene. We don't use it in benjos though our backyards are turned into graves of old benjos which had to be replaced every so many years.

We have also gotten away from the old firewood kitchen and now use electric stoves ovens and micro-waves. Young boys no longer have to go out and pick firewood nor do they have to endure our once smoke filled kitchens. Mom no longer uses the old wash board made either of plywood or cement. She now uses the modern convenience of a washer. But for every gain there's a loss. Monthly utility bills have gone up because of the need to use more electricity at home.

We never had the school lunch program. If you come to school without breakfast, you head for the drinking fountain between classes in hopes that bat water (usually inundated with chlorine) holds you up until lunch time. If you come back after lunch without food in your belly, you go through the same routine. Today, pupils have a school lunch program that included two meals a day—breakfast and lunch. How fortunate are they, right? Now, would we be able to fund this program if it is axed by the US Congress?

When our elders turn into their childhood ways, we attend to their needs as is expected of us by tradition. Today some families hire house maids to take-over this responsibility. Furthermore, I find it unsettling that young kids today are talking about turning their mom and dad into convalescent homes because they don't want to deal with the imposition of tradition. Perhaps our destiny is in convalescent homes. If you disagree, keep your fingers crossed that your children would stick to tradition when you have advanced in age and physically disabled. This is one aspect that will require careful study and more of our tax dollars down the stretch.

Pre-school or kinder-garten was limited to the middle class and island aristocrats. It was the unreachable dream of the majority who couldn't cough out what little they used to send their children to a private pre-school. This changed in the late sixties or early seventies with the institution of the federally funded HeadStart Program. It was an equal opportunity classroom setting aimed at empowering young pupils who come from economically disadvantaged families. We should salute Uncle Sam for his generosity in this regard, specifically, the grand opportunity to give every young pupil a fair chance of learning academic fundamentals.

I'm not sure that all these changes or call it progress has benefited the indigenous people by a long shot. Most young couples cannot build their first family home because the cost of a two-bedroom house is beyond their reach even with their combined income. We should tip off our hats to the administration for establishing a \$10 Million revolving fund for affordable housing. It should enable homestead recipients a fair chance to build their first family home. In the absence of these funds, most will see their new homesteads returned to the public domain.

We've also seen changes in generational fads. Dating then was had between home and catechism classes at Mt. Carmel after school. Holding hands is taboo, if not, lethal. I mean, we don't date American style. We practice what's known as "accidental" procreation every single chance. Then came Mr. MJ (marijuana), LSD, heroin and now shabu. Young people freeze their nimble minds as a way of securing peer approval. In dates, the question is: "Your condom or my condom?" It usually means none of the above which easily translates to "Go for It!" Woe! HIV is on the upward spiral!

I'm not sure that all is fine with what has happened here over the last twenty years. Traditional values have been eroded and now at the brink of extinction. Shabu values are threatening to make their permanent mark among young people. Everybody talks about the need to do something about it, but nobody wants to take the first step. It's lukewarm support or lip-service at its best. And most politicians feel good about providing lip-service in this and other equally pressing social issues. It gives you a clear and uninterrupted view of the apparent lack of strong and decisive leadership at a crucial juncture in our developmental history.

Other than the "fickle" tourism industry, the likely closure of the garment sector over the next ten years; poker, pachinko, lottery and dope, I wonder what lies ahead for us over the next twenty years? More of the same or worse or none of the above? Think about it. What has happened is very unsettling and I'm not sure we want a repeat of history. Take charge and let's look ahead together in prayers that through hope we can chart better days ahead for our children.



US national debt to default in February

By JOHN D. McCLAIN
WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government will default on the national debt by the end of February unless Congress raises the debt limit by then, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said. Congressional Republicans expressed skepticism, saying Rubin lacked credibility.

In a letter to U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, Rubin said Monday that unless the debt ceiling is raised, the government will not be able to meet its obligations after either Feb. 29 or March 1. Among the obligations the government may be forced to miss, Rubin said, are Social Security, veterans, military, civil service and railroad retirement benefits, certain health insurance and low-income housing payments and military active duty pay that will be due March 1.

But Rubin ruled out several options that had been suggested to avoid default, including delaying federal income tax returns and selling the nation's gold reserves.

Republicans in Congress have threatened to block raising the debt limit unless President Clinton compromises on the budget.

The White House, in turn, said Republicans were courting disaster by pushing the federal government toward its first default ever.

Gingrich said he didn't take Rubin seriously and was waiting to hear from Clinton.

"Secretary Rubin doesn't have frankly very much standing up here right now to tell us when the debt ceiling is expired, because the fact is each time he has told us it has disappeared again," he said.

It was the first time the administration had declared an absolute deadline for extending the \$4.9 trillion ceiling on the government's borrowing authority without going into default.

Rubin said the government could get past a Feb. 15 deadline for repayment of about \$25 billion in obligations by taking several "extraordinary actions" including:

- Suspending about \$3.9 billion of Treasury securities held by the Exchange Stabilization Fund.
- Exchanging about \$9 billion of assets held by the Federal Financing Bank.
- Extending to 14 months the 12-month suspension period for repayment to the civil service trust funds that he tapped earlier.

Clinton vows help for Israel-Syria peace

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton committed the United States on Monday to do "whatever we are asked to do" to help achieve a settlement between Israel and Syria in negotiations resuming this week.

Shortly before meeting with Clinton, Israel's new foreign minister said the time is not right to talk about the touchy issue of U.S. troops helping police an agreement.

"It is too early to predict how many... we will need," Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said.

At the State Department, Barak joined Tunisia's foreign minister, Habib Ben Yahia, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to announce that Israel and Tunisia will establish low-level diplomatic ties.

They will open interest sections April 15 in the Belgian embassies in Tunis and Tel Aviv.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries maintaining full diplomatic relations with Israel. Morocco and Israel established interest sections - diplomatic representation below embassy level - last year.

Ben Yahia said full diplomatic relations between his North African country and Israel will follow once the Jewish state is at peace with neighboring Arab countries. That would be Syria and Lebanon.

At the start of a meeting with Barak, making his first visit to Washington as foreign minister, Clinton said he couldn't predict whether Israel and Syria could reach

agreement by the end of this year. "I think the timetable has to be deemed by the progress that is made. That is entirely up to the parties," he said.

As for the U.S. role, Clinton said, "We will do whatever we can, whatever we are asked to do, within the limits of our ability, to try to make it possible for the parties to succeed."

In the past the administration has said that if both parties request peacekeepers on the Golan Heights, the United States would agree subject to the approval of Congress, where strong opposition exists.

Syria insists that the Golan be returned to its sovereignty as part of any peace agreement. Israel has occupied the Syrian hills overlooking its territory since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel has said any agreement returning the Golan must include arrangements to ensure the territory wouldn't again be used as for attacks on Israel.

Asked if a peace agreement can be negotiated that would include no commitment of peacekeepers, Barak replied, "I don't think that the whole problem or question of peacekeepers is central to the whole agreement."

He said stationing of peacekeepers "would not go further than a kind of monitoring the implementation of security arrangements in any case." A similar force polices Israel's peace with Egypt in the Egyptian Sinai, formerly occupied by Israel.

Public hearing set today on Obyan resort project



Manuel C. Sablan

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
A PUBLIC hearing will be conducted at 6:30 tonight at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for a major tourist facility project proposed by US-based Haas & Haynie Corp.

The project involves the construction of three hotels, two 18-hole golf courses, 300 golf villas, and water and wastewater treatment facilities, among others.

The first phase of the project, costing about \$75 million, will consist of a golf course, a 400-room hotel, and 50 golf villas.

The second phase will consist of two hotels, one with 500 rooms and the other with 300 rooms, and 250 golf villas.

The resort, at Obyan-Naftan, would be the first to be located at the southeast end of Saipan.

The facility, if and when finished, would be pumping about 500,000 gallons of wastewater daily. This wastewater will, however, undergo a chlori-

nation process, according to the plan. The treated water would be used to irrigate the golf courses and vegetated areas of the resort.

The resort site, about 2 million square meters of leased public land, is largely undeveloped, with no electrical power and paved roads.

Most of the development area for phase 1 will be close to the coastal waters, according to Director Manuel C. Sablan of the Coastal Resources Management, which will conduct tonight's hearing.

Sablan said the project area has a limestone forest, which the Obyan Beach Resort owner (Obyan Beach Resort Associates as represented by Haas & Haynie) should preserve.

After the public hearing, the CRM will review the testimonies, identifying specific areas of concern; evaluate them; and present findings to the CRM board.

Sablan said some of his concerns include the supply of electrical power from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the bad condition of the roads in the area.

Although the resort will put up generators, still their "long-term operation would have some impact on us," Sablan said.

Also, he said, "they will have to upgrade the road going to the area."

Among others, the project proponent will have to come up with an environmental impact assessment and snake prevention plan, according to Sablan.

Under the law, the CRM has to decide on the application of the Obyan Beach Resort within 60 days.

The application was submitted last Dec. 19.

Bombing exercise slated

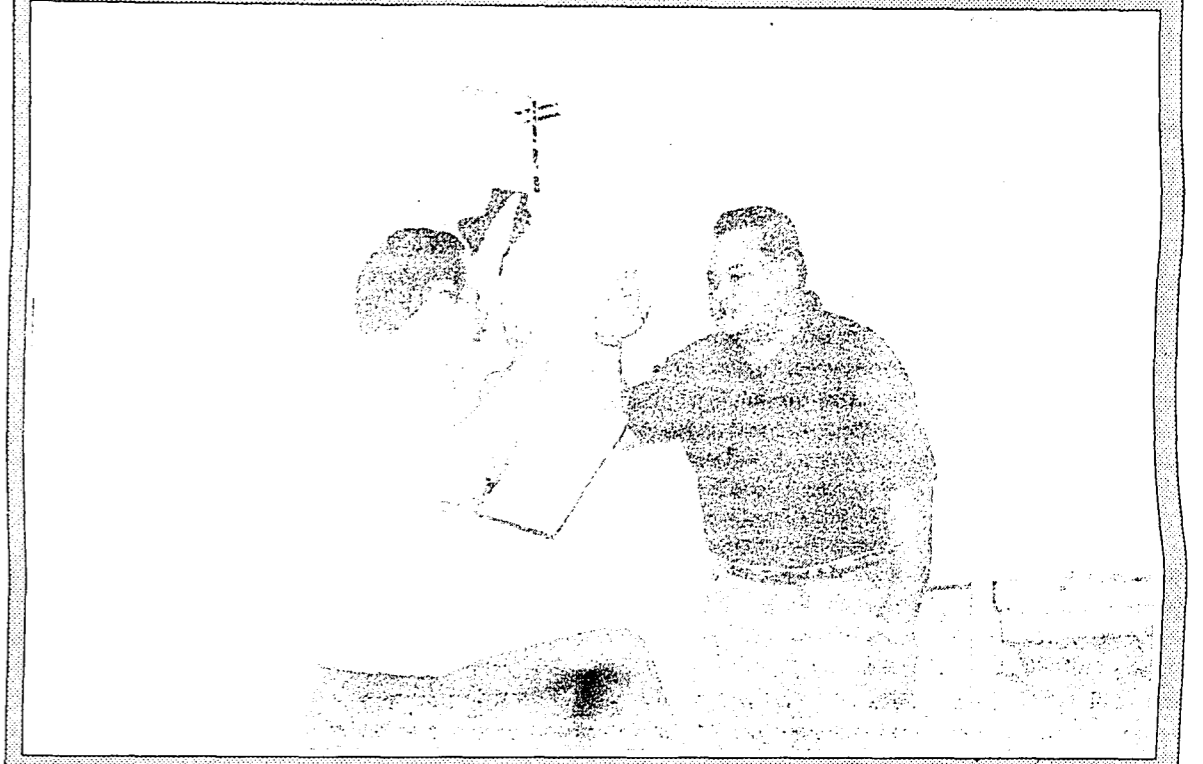
A MILITARY unit will be conducting a BOMBING EXERCISE on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on February 5, 1996 through and including February 9 1996 from 12:00 midnight to 11:59 pm.

The general location of the exercise will be the Farallon De Mendenilla Military Train-

ing Area from the surface to 5,000 feet mean sea level on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this exercise, the general public, especially tour operators, fishermen and commercial pilots are advised to stay away from the area during the date and time indicated.

Sablan sworn in as CUC Boardmember



Former Congressman Benjamin A. Sablan (right) takes his oath of office as CUC Board member. Sablan, shown here with CUC Chairman Carlos Shoda, has been nominated to replace Tony Cabrera in the important board.

Navy Band Guam in farewell concert

IN MARCH, the Navy Band of Guam will be dissolved, as part of the downsizing of the military in the Pacific. Thanks to the efforts of Rear Admiral David L. Brewer, III, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, Navy Band Guam will be making a farewell tour of Micronesia.

Saturday, January 27, at 4:30 p.m. seventeen band members will perform a free concert at the pavillion in American Memorial Park.

Under the direction of Senior Chief Musician John W. Johnson,

the band will offer a musical feast, ranging from military marches to jazz, rock and roll, county, reggae, classical and dixieland.

Ever since it was founded in 1902, Navy Band Guam has provided musical support for military commands and public concerts throughout Micronesia and the Far East. Since the 1950's, it has been the highlight of Liberation Day celebrations on Saipan, and for years of United Nation Day.

Gloria Hunter, Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, expressed the view of many when she said, "I'll really miss the band." Acting Governor Jesus C. Borja

will be at the concert to say thank you to these fine musicians on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth. It is hoped that everyone from manamko who remember the first Navy Band Guam concerts on Saipan to school children who recall the and during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II will attend this historic event. The concert concludes an important chapter in the post-World War II history of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For information about the Navy Band Guam concert, call the Public Information Office at (670)664-2277.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Section 11 of Public Law 8-41, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby serves notice that it will hold its regular Board Meeting on Monday, January 29, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA SEAPORT OFFICE Conference Room, Charlie Dock, Puerto Rico, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (December 15, 1995)
- II. CORRESPONDENCE
- III. COMMITTEES REPORT
 1. Finance Committee
 - a. Adoption of Financial Statements
 2. Other Committees report
- IV. EXECUTIVE REPORT
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Sale of Lottery Tickets at CNMI Airport
 2. DFS Matter re New Ramp
 3. Isla Produce (Gift Shop)
 4. Supplemental Budget for Immigration Area Expansion Project.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Employee Incentive Program
 2. IOTA Partners Commercial/Business Permit
 3. Award of Contract to Black Micro Corporation for Air-Conditioning and Renovation Project.
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- VIII. (Executive Session) LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

/s/Victor B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Directors

1/22/96

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US computation of backpay assailed

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE C.N.M.I. government has objected to the computation by the US government of about \$80,000 back pays to 11 Filipino teachers employed by the Public School System on Saipan.

The District Court had earlier approved the proposed awards as agreed upon between the teachers and the US.

But Judge Alex Munson on Monday allowed the CNMI and other defendants that included the PSS to file their "concerns" regarding the proposed PSS settlement fund awards after "finding good cause" and "in the interest of justice."

The 11 claimants who sought monetary relief from the PSS are Angelita Buniag, Rodil Callo, Janet Cruz, Julieta Cunanan, Lizabeth Menez, Margarita Mina, Blesilda Orio, Elena Parico, Arnaldo Reyes, Dolores Salta, and Dorothy Tabora.

The monetary relief included unpaid salaries, transportation and housing allowances, and tuition subsidies.

The CNMI, in its concerns, stated that in calculating the awards for alleged salary discrepancies, the US government's expert "committed two analytical errors."

"In arriving at the total salary award, the US' expert enhanced the award by 30.39 percent to reflect fringe benefits," said the CNMI, which was represented by Acting Atty. Gen. C. Sebastian Aloat.

The CNMI claimed the US also erred in calculating housing and transportation costs, "all to the ultimate detriment of the intended beneficiaries of the settlement fund."

It said that while it "is entitled to a great latitude in attempting to fashion awards... that latitude does not permit the US to assume the role of Robin Hood by crafting awards in contradiction to the

Executor...

Continued from page 1

in the country. The executor's counsel said the Castillo, Laman, Tan, Pantaleon and San Jose law firm is also willing to assist the estate with regard to the discovery in Jellian Cuartero's paternity claim as well as potential paternity claim in the Philippines.

Jellian is the alleged daughter of Hillblom from Julie Cuartero, a Filipino club dancer.

Meanwhile, Osborn asked for court's approval in the payment of \$11,681.85 in legal services to White, Pierce, Mailman and Nutting law firm in connection with the estate's defense of Gotas and Olopai separate suits against the estate.

Meanwhile, Osborn withdrew an earlier petition seeking authority to sell Hillblom's interests from two golf clubs in the Philippines.

It appears that the request is premature, he said.

eligibility criteria and calculation approaches set up in the Decree."

Under the decree of consent last September 1994, the defendants (CNMI and PSS) agreed to make available for distribution to eligible class beneficiaries \$1.2 million and \$.9 million for use by the US in granting monetary wards for (1) alleged salary disparities and (2) alleged denials of transportation, housing, and educational benefits, respectively.

One-hundred sixty-six teachers filed claims, but the US recommended monetary awards for 162 of them.

The 11 teachers filed certain objections to the US recommendations, as a result of which some them got additional awards.

The CNMI asked the court to direct the US to "reformulate individual awards under the decree to avoid the errors noted."



Pictured above are the participants in the 5-day Total Quality Improvement (TQI), Seminar II, held the second week of January and sponsored by Northern Marianas College. In attendance were employees of the College, Moylan's Insurance, Hotel Nikko, Public School System, and Commonwealth Ports Authority. In the first row (right to left), were the two presenters, Stanley Spanbauer and Jo Hillman next to Agnes M. McPhetres, College President.

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No jail term for gun wielder

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court handed a suspended sentence yesterday to a man who shot and wounded another person in 1994.

Associate Judge Miguel Demapan sentenced Michael Kukkon to 10 years in jail, all suspended.

Pursuant to a plea agreement, Demapan placed Kukkon under 10 years' probation.

Kukkon was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and illegal possession of a firearm.

Kukkon, through counsel Robert C. Naraja, entered a negotiation with Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli.

Kukkon pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

In return, the government recommended the dismissal of the remaining charge which the court granted.

Demapan ordered Kukkon to seek alcohol abuse counseling from a certified therapist from the Commonwealth Health Center.

The judge also required Kukkon to perform 200 hours of community work service in one year.

Court information showed that on July 17, 1994 Kukkon "purposely shot Edward Kapileo with a .22-cal.

rifle, causing bodily injury to Kapileo."

Meanwhile, Associate Judge Edward Manibusan dismissed yesterday "for lack of sufficient evidence" a criminal case against Thomas H. Ramangmou.

After the presentation of prosecution at a jury trial, Steven Pixley, counsel for Ramangmou, filed a motion to dismiss the case for lack of evidence.

Ramangmou was charged with accessory to the burglary and theft in connection with an incident at Nikko Gift Shop last July 19.

CNMI crime situation topic of Jon Anderson Live tonight

THE YEAR 1995 may yet be remembered as the year of violent crime. The unusually high number of homicide cases here in the Commonwealth during the past year seems to have tainted the image of a peaceful vacation paradise.

What needs to be done to restore public confidence, and what should be done to reassure tourists abroad? Those questions will be under the spotlight on tonight's Jon Anderson Live.

Join Jon as he takes a look at crime in the Northern Marianas. His guest will be

Assistant Attorney General Loren Sutton.

Both will be looking into what needs to be done to solve these cases and what it will take to prevent violent crimes in the CNMI.

Your questions and comments which are encouraged for this important edition of Jon Anderson Live.

Jon Anderson Live is a Live talk show where viewers can call with their comments and questions on the issues that matter in the CNMI. Jon Anderson Live airs Wednesday night at 7:00 pm n KMCV Channel 7.



Jon Anderson

Social Security Office reminds on correct info

BESURE your Social Security number and name are correctly shown on the W-2 form (statement of earnings) your employer is required to give to you before the end of January, Social Security Manager Michael Newman announced.

"Compare the number and name shown on the W-2 with the information on your Social Security card. Report any differences to your employer and to Social Security right away. The name and number on your W-2 must match your Social Security record so that your earnings will be credited to the correct Social Security record," Newman said. "Call Social Security at 234-6203 if you detect a problem on

your W-2." Retirement, survivors and disability benefits are based on an individual's earnings record. Uncredited earnings could adversely affect your future eligibility for benefits, as well as your benefit amount.

To check your Social Security record, you can request a Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement from Social Security. This statement gives you a year-by-year listing of your earnings that have been reported to Social Security, plus an estimate of the Social Security retirement and disability benefits that might be payable to you, and any survivors benefits that would be due your family in case of your death.

Legislature... Continued from page 1

ment was prepared and is now being sought by the House and the Senate. Both chambers are now ready to act on it.

Under the Constitution, public land leases of five hectares or more require approval of the Legislature meeting in a joint session.

Draft... Continued from page 1

She, however, told this reporter to contact her in three to four weeks time for an update.

Gill, who used to be chief of the criminal division of the AG's Office was hired in April of last year specifically to evaluate, research, revise and strengthen the criminal code.

The rewrite was deemed necessary by the Administration on the observation that the current code is completely outdated.

The present code, referred to as an "amalgam" of the former Trust Territory Criminal Code, is said to be approximately 20 years old.

Though there has been some revisions in the area of drug offenses, the code has remained virtually unchanged from the day it was originally enacted.

Thus, a revision was deemed necessary in the interest of effective law enforcement and increased faith in the criminal justice system.

During Monday's interview, Aloat said as soon as the first draft code is finished, it will undergo a thorough evaluation and discussion

process. "If not public hearings, the grant has provisions for a committee composed of members of the public formally participating. I contemplate that this group would themselves seek further input from the other members of the public," Aloat said.

According to the acting AG, the project set out in the original proposal is designed to take a year to include drafting, coordination, submission and preliminary consideration by the Legislature.

"A year is up I believe in the first week of June. So that's the timetable I am going at, having something for the Tenth Legislature to consider hopefully by that time," said Aloat.

"The work of the first draft is nearing its end. That's my understanding. I don't monitor this on a day to day basis but the timetable is well-known by everyone involved in the project.

But the sure thing is that the Legislature will get a package in a timely manner," said Aloat.

Bill to... Continued from page 1

ban. Under the bill, each employer would be required to adopt, implement, and maintain a written smoking policy. Violator faces a fine of not more than \$500.

The proposed ban would not apply in any property owned or leased by federal government offices, and private enclosed office workplaces occupied exclusively by smokers.

Also prohibited under the proposal is the sale of cigarettes from vending machines "unless the machine is located in bar, cabaret or any establishment for which the minimum age for admission is 18." Violator

of such provision faces a fine of up to \$1,000 "per day of each violation."

In filing the bill, Reyez invoked Section 9, Article I of the Constitution which states that "each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air and water."

A similar bill was filed in the Ninth Legislature last year but was vetoed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio lest it turns off tourists.

Last November, Tenorio issued a directive prohibiting smoking in all offices of the executive branch.

The new policy took effect on Ja. 2.

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RP's 'martial law' bills hit

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - As Congress reopened Monday, several thousand protesters demonstrated against anti-crime bills backed by President Fidel Ramos, charging they would limit freedom and pave the way for a return of martial law.

The widely criticized bills would give police new powers to hold suspects without charges, conduct wiretapping, and investigate bank records.

Ramos says the bills are needed to combat rising crime and international terrorism, but critics say they could also be used against government

opponents.

The protesters, including workers and human rights groups, filled the street in front of the Senate building with large banners reading, "Fight against a reimposition of martial law," and "Reject the anti-terrorist act."

Opponents charge that Ramos's administration is using fear of rising crime as a pretext to limit freedoms and prolong its term.

A government informer has also accused police officials of planting evidence against 27 recently arrested Middle Easterners to fuel fears of terrorism.

Whirlpool

The government has denied the accusation and arrested the informer, a former Muslim rebel.

The protesters charged that Ramos is following the same pattern as the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who declared martial law in 1972.

A "People Power" revolution in February 1986 forced Marcos to flee to the United States, and a democratic constitution was introduced the following year.

The anti-terrorism bill is sponsored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who served as Marcos' defense secretary until joining a military mutiny that triggered the "People Power" rebellion.

Opponents of the bill include many members of Congress; Marcos' successor, former President Corazon Aquino; and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"We have indeed a problem, a very real and serious problem concerning law and order in our country," Senate president Neptali Gonzales said.

"But I think we have enough laws ... it is always a problem of implementation."

In addition to the anti-crime bills, Congress plans to consider oil deregulation and amendments to a 10 percent value-added tax that went into effect Jan. 1.

The amendments, which would allow exemptions for unprocessed food, medical services, newspapers and textbooks, are intended to cushion the tax's impact on poor people.

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Police kill suspected Chinese drug trafficker

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Anti-narcotics police killed a suspected large-scale drug trafficker from China in a shootout before dawn Sunday, officials said.

Police recovered 140 kilograms (308 pounds) of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu," valued at 280 million pesos (\$107 million) from the car the suspect was driving, police Narcotics Command director Rex Piedad said.

Piedad said the slain man, Cheng Ting Lun, alias Mandy Tan, a native of China, is believed to be a member of a Hong Kong "Triad" criminal group.

In a report to the national police chief, Piedad said police tried to stop Cheng at about 2 a.m. in suburban Paranaque City.

When the agents approached his car, Cheng opened fire, prompting an officer to fire back and kill him, the report said.

Police said 14 plastic bags containing drugs were recovered from Cheng's car trunk.

In a bid to avoid suspicions of a frame up, Piedad said the car's trunk was opened in the presence of a

senator, a congressman, a prosecutor, and local government and police officials from Paranaque.

Police intelligence officials have been accused of planting evidence against a group of Middle Easterners who were arrested in December on terrorism charges.

Sen. Vicente Sotto, vice chairman of the Senate committee on illegal drugs, said three people suspected of being Cheng's accomplices were arrested Friday at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport while trying to smuggle drugs from Hong Kong. Officials did not release their names.

China is believed to be the main source of the shabu sold in the Philippines. Rising drug use here has led to an increase in drug-related crimes.

Cheng is the second alleged Hong Kong Triad member killed recently by Philippine narcotics police. Last year, agents gunned down Stanley Tan in the northern province of La Union as he allegedly ran through a checkpoint with 91 kilograms (200 pounds) of shabu in his car.

Whirlpool overturns boat; 3 die

OBANDO, Philippines (AP) - An outrigger boat capsized at night in treacherous waters on a river, killing three women returning from a wake, officials said Sunday.

Seven others, including a man believed to be the boat's pilot, were rescued but one was in critical condition, they said.

Rescuers said the victims were on their way home from a wake at an island off Obando town Saturday night when the accident occurred on the Binwangan River.

"They ran through a whirlpool and the boat overturned. Since it was so dark, they had difficulty swimming," said Nestor Hilario, chairman of the Obando People's Law Enforcement Board.

He said the boat's pilot failed to notice a whirlpool caused by a leaking dike. Dikes for prawn and fish ponds line the northeastern shores of Manila Bay.

Rescuers identified the fatalities as Delia Uy, Ligaya Litao and Rufina Litao, all from nearby Acacia-Tugatog village in Malabon, a coastal suburb of Manila.

Pacific Roundup PNG opposition leader not elated over profit

PAPUA New Guinea's opposition leader, Roy Yaki, says the Public Officers Superannuation Fund's (POSF) pre-tax profit of US\$17.3 million (Kina22.5-million) earned last year should not be used to divert attention from its scandalous property acquisition in Cairns, Australian. Deputy prime minister and finance minister Chris Haiveta announced POSF's 1995 pre-tax windfall last Friday, the Post-Courier reported Tuesday.

During the opening of the Aopi Centre - a multi-million dollar POSF property - in the Port Moresby suburb of Waigani Haiveta said the adverse publicity surrounding the \$14.6 million (Kina 19-million) purchase should not cloud the success of the fund's investment record.

Yaki, however, said mention of the profit aspect should not be used to sway public attention away from what he described as an "unprofitable" purchase. He said the purchase should be the most important issue facing POSF now, adding contributors to the fund were still waiting to hear from the government "and particularly the man who authorized the purchase what has happened since then". The opposition leader called on the government to provide an update on the three different investigations carried out into the purchase....Pacnews

High school not opening due to unsettled deal

IN PAPUA New Guinea, landowners say Passam National High School in East Sepik Province will not be opened for the new school year because the government has not yet settle a US\$152,000 (K200,000) land compensation.

In a petition to the school principal Monday, the people from Passam Number Two village and Paliaman communities said their grievances stemmed from unrests in the past eighteen months.

National radio NBC reports during one of the incidents, school students reportedly caused much property damage during a rampage through the communities.

It says the landowners later reached a compromise with law enforcement agencies to come to peace.

The petition says since most of the avenues for a financial settlement of the compensation have been exhausted, the villagers have no choice but to keep the school closed for an indefinite period. Education authorities in Port Moresby are yet to comment on the latest development at Passam....Pacnews

Minister summoned to answer three charges

PAPUA NEW Guinea's administrative services minister, Paul Tohian, has been served with a summons to appear at the Kavieng, New Ireland District Court next week to answer three charges arising from incidents at the Kavieng Police Station last Tuesday.

Xavieng court officials confirmed Monday that the local magistrate had signed the summons on Friday indicting Tohian on assaulting James Matutu - a police reservist, using abusive language and behaving in a threatening manner during the incident last Tuesday, the Post-Courier reported Tuesday.

The charges arose from Tohian allegedly telling Matutu to chew a bus tyre while accompanied by about ten others at the Kavieng Police Station.

According to reports published last week, Tohian was allegedly incensed by reports that a visiting police mobile squad had been mistreating the local people by getting them to chew the vehicle tyres for offences like overloading vehicles....Pacnews

A LETTER TO ITALIAN FOOD LOVERS

AS AN ITALIAN AND THE OWNER OF NINO'S RESTAURANT, I HAVE SERVED YOU PIZZA FOR OVER FIVE YEARS. BUT NOW BASED ON YOUR NUMEROUS REQUESTS TO CREATE A NEW AND EXCITING DINNER MENU FEATURING THE ITALIAN FOOD I GREW UP WITH, I AM PROUD TO PRESENT IT TO YOU.

THE NEW MENU FEATURES OVER FIFTEEN TYPES OF PASTA DISHES WITH DIFFERENT SAUCES. AND YOU CAN ENJOY THEM WITH YOUR CHOICE OF NINE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PASTA. IT'S A BELLISSIMO!

BECAUSE I AM ANXIOUS TO HAVE YOU TASTE THIS NEW AND EXCITING DINNER MENU, I AM OFFERING A SPECIAL DISCOUNT UP TO THE END OF FEBRUARY OF 20% OFF THE PRICE OF ANY FOOD YOU ORDER. THAT'S RIGHT - WHEN YOU DINE WITH ME, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR GROUP WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL 20% OFF THE PRICES ON THE MENU.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ENJOYED PRIMAVERA PASTA WITH CHICKEN BREAST? HAVE YOU EVER TASTED LASAGNA ROLLS? OR HOW ABOUT FETTUCCINI ALLA ALFREDO? BET YOU AND THE CHILDREN WILL LOVE MY BAKED MACARONI WITH HAM AND CHEESE. DID I FORGET TO MENTION THE SEAFOOD WITH PASTA? IT'S ALL BELLISSIMO!

AREN'T YOU TIRED OF THE SAME OLD SPAGHETTI NOODLES? THEN TRY A DIFFERENT PASTA-LINGUINI, FETTUCCINI, RIGATONI, SHELLS, BOW TIES, SPINACH ROTELLE, RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI OR ELBOW MACARONI. YES, YOU CAN SELECT THE ITALIAN FOOD YOU WANT WITH YOUR CHOICE OF PASTA FROM A VARIETY OF NINE DIFFERENT TYPES. CAN ANY OTHER RESTAURANT OFFER SO MUCH DELICIOUS AND VARIOUS ITALIAN FOOD?

AND TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR BUDGET, YOUR CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS WILL EAT AT HALF PRICE. I WANT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN ME IN ENJOYING THIS EXPANDED NEW MENU.

IF YOU PREFER I WILL ALSO DELIVER ANY FOOD ON THE MENU TO YOUR HOUSE. OR BETTER YET WHY NOT CALL ME FROM WORK AND PICK UP YOUR DINNER ON THE WAY HOME. THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK IS SET DOWN AND EAT WITH YOUR FAMILY DELICIOUS ITALIAN FOOD. LEAVE THE COOKING TO ME. ENJOY YOUR FAMILY AND LEISURE.

REMEMBER: EXCELLENT ITALIAN FOOD WITH A LARGE VARIETY TO CHOOSE FROM. LEISURELY DINNING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WARM ATMOSPHERE WITH GREAT SERVICE - ALL AT LOW-LOW PRICES. IT'S A BELLISSIMO!

I WANT NINO'S FOOD TO BE NUMBER ONE IN YOUR STOMACH. JOIN ME FOR DINNER AND EXPERIENCE REAL ITALIAN FOOD PREPARED FOR YOU BY AN ITALIAN WHO LOVES GOOD FOOD TOO.

BUON APETITO! TONY PELLEGRINO *Tony Pellegrino*

NINO'S - YOUR FAMILY RESTAURANT

DANDAN, ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT TELEPHONE 235-4253/4254

Simpson questioned under oath



OJ Simpson

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Sitting across from the father of murder victim Ron Goldman at a long conference table, O.J. Simpson was questioned under oath for the first time since the slayings of his ex-wife and Goldman 19 months ago.

The questioning Monday took place at the law offices of Fred Goldman's attorney.

The Goldmans, along with Nicole Brown Simpson's family, have brought a civil lawsuit alleging wrongful death caused by the former American football star.

Simpson, who was acquitted Oct. 3 of criminal charges in the killings his ex-wife and her friend, never testified at his trial.

His only detailed statement about the case was made to detectives the day after the June 12, 1994, slayings. But the jury never saw a transcript or heard the tape.

Subdued and sometimes speaking so quietly he couldn't be heard, Simpson responded to questions from a lawyer for the Goldman family, according to another attorney who witnessed the deposition.

Michael Brewer, who represents Goldman's mother, Sharon Rufo, described the questioning as detailed and said Simpson was inconsistent on several "fairly major issues."

The videotaped questioning focused on a nationally televised June 17, 1994, car chase before Simpson was arrested. Simpson held a gun to his head while police slowly pursued driver Al "A.C." Cowlings along Southern California's freeways.

On Monday, Simpson was asked about his actions and feelings on the day of the slow-

speed chase. Simpson also was questioned about the letter that his friend Robert Kardashian read shortly after Simpson disappeared that day. Many considered it a suicide note.

Fred Goldman told reporters that his lawyer, Daniel Petrocelli, questioned Simpson "very meticulously."

He would not discuss Simpson's specific answers or demeanor but said he was en-

couraged by the session, which was closed to the public.

The taking of the deposition is expected to continue for several days. Although the proceeding is private, attorneys can release the transcript later if they choose.

In a deposition, a witness is placed under oath and the proceedings are recorded by a court stenographer.

Simpson cannot invoke his Fifth Amendment right against

self-incrimination because he has already been acquitted of murder.

Simpson is scheduled to give a live interview Wednesday night to Black Entertainment Television, which reaches 43 million homes. Jeffrey K. Lee, president of the cable channel, said there are no ground rules and no topics are off limits.

Since the verdict in October, Simpson has spoken

briefly with several reporters but has not discussed the crime or the trial in detail.

Simpson was never seen in person by reporters. Journalists could see him over a video monitor mounted at the security desk in the office tower.

He was accompanied by Robert Baker, his chief lawyer in the lawsuit, and Robert Blasier, an attorney from the criminal trial.

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KARAMUCHO POTATO CHIPS, 93 G.
\$1.59 EA.

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\$9.65 PK.

ZEE BATHROOM TISSUE WHITE, 12 ROLLS
\$4.15 PK.

HOME & GARDEN TALL KITCHEN BAGS, 13 GAL X 30 CT.
\$2.99 EA.

REYNOLDS WRAP ALUMINUM FOIL, 12" X 200 SQ. FT.
\$5.99 EA.

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\$1.90 EA.

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BUDWEISER BEER DRY, LIGHT OR REGULAR, 12/12 OZ. PK.
\$8.80 PK.

COKE, SPRITE OR FANTAS, 24/12 OZ.
\$12.45 CS.

SIMPLY SODA SOFTDRINKS, 24/12 OZ.
\$9.50 CS.

KIRIN ICHIBAN DRAFT BEER, 12/633 ML. BTL. \$1.50 EA.
\$17.95 CS.

PEPSI PRODUCTS AND 7 UP, 24/12 OZ.
\$12.75 CS.

KERNS FRUIT NECTAR, 11.5 OZ.
69¢ EA.

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CLOUT POWDER DETERGENT, 160 LOADS
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\$3.70 EA.

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\$1.15 EA.

PALMOLIVE PLUS DISHWASHING LIQUID LEMON SCENT, 22 OZ.
\$2.09 EA.

SAFEGUARD BAR SOAP, 8/5 OZ. BARS
\$5.55 PK.

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JAN 24 - 30



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- NESTLE SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK**, 400 G. **\$1.19 EA.**
- SPRINGFIELD TOMATO CATSUP**, 40 OZ. **\$1.15 EA.**
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- KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE**, 1.6 LITRE **\$3.99 EA.**
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FROZEN SEAFOOD

- WHOLE BABY OCTOPUS**, 2 LBS. BLOCK **\$3.85 LB.**
- FROZEN TILAPIA** **\$1.45 LB.**
- HALF SHELL MUSSELS**, 2 LBS. BX. **\$4.49 EA.**

MEAT DEPT

- U.S. PORK SPARERIBS**, 20 LBS. **\$15.89 CS.**
- AUSTRALIAN BEEF SHOULDER STEAK OR ROAST** **\$1.55 LB.**
- U.S. CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS**, 5 LBS. BOX **\$4.79 EA.**
- U.S. BEEF SHORT RIBS** **\$3.39 LB.**
- AUSTRALIAN BEEF FOR STEW** **\$1.85 LB.**
- U.S. PORK HOCKS** **79¢ LB.**
- SHOWBOAT HOT SMOKED SAUSAGE**, 2.5 LBS. BAG **\$7.39 EA.**

BEVERAGE DEPT.

- ALOHA MAID FRUIT DRINK**, 24/11.5 OZ. **\$10.75 CS.**
- KIRIN ICHIBAN DRAFT BEER**, 24/355 ML. BTL. **\$19.95 CS.** (6 FOR \$5.00)
- BUDWEISER BEER DRY, LIGHT OR REGULAR**, 12/12 OZ. PK. **\$8.80 PK.**
- COKE, SPRITE OR FANTAS**, 24/12 OZ. **\$12.45 CS.**
- SIMPLY SODA SOFTDRINKS**, 24/12 OZ. **\$9.50 CS.**
- KIRIN ICHIBAN DRAFT BEER**, 12/633 ML. BTL. \$1.50 EA. **\$17.95 CS.**
- PEPSI PRODUCTS AND 7 UP**, 24/12 OZ. **\$12.75 CS.**
- KERNS FRUIT NECTAR**, 11.5 OZ. **69¢ EA.**
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- PENTECH 30 WATERCOLOR MARKER** **\$2.99**
- MEAD NOTEBOOK 5 SUBJECT** **\$1.99**
- MEAD NOTEBOOK 70 CT.** **89¢**
- BIC CLASSIC STIC PEN PKG. OF 10** **\$1.59**

- SPRINGFIELD TWIN PACK SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER** **\$3.29**
- NIVEA MOISTURIZING LOTION 12 OZ.** **\$6.99**
- SUPREME LIGHT BULB 4/PK.** **\$1.89**
- CORALITE KID BANDAGE, 25'S** **\$1.49**
- Maxithins** **\$3.79**
- POCAHONTAS PLAY-A-SOUND BOOK** **\$14.99**



END OF THE WINTER SAVINGS
JAN 24 - 30



WHILE SUPPLIES LASTS

Business & Trade

Toyota boosts overseas production

TOKYO (AP) - Toyota Motor Corp. said Monday that 58 percent of its sales overseas in 1995 came from vehicles produced outside of Japan, putting the company on track to meet targets set

during U.S.-Japan trade talks last year. Until recent years, most of the Toyota sold overseas were made in Japan. But Toyota and other Japanese automakers have been

moving production abroad to cope with the high cost of labor and materials in Japan and to answer U.S. trade demands. More than half of the U.S.-Japan trade imbalance comes from

autos and auto parts, and Washington has been calling on Japanese automakers to export less and buy more American-made parts.

Of Toyota's total overseas sales in 1995, 58 percent came from vehicles produced outside of Japan, up from 48 percent in 1994, the company said.

During U.S.-Japan talks on auto trade last June, Toyota said it intended to increase that percentage to 60 percent by 1996 as part of its "global business plan."

The target and similar goals announced by other Japanese makers helped Washington and Tokyo settle their dispute at the last minute.

The Clinton administration had threatened to put sanctions on Japanese-made luxury cars if no deal was reached. Toyota said it built 824,000 autos in North America during 1995, up from 735,000 in 1994. The company's global plan calls for the figure to rise to 1.1 million in 1998.

In the Asia-Pacific region outside of Japan, Toyota manufactured 450,000 vehicles last year, with the output slated to expand to 600,000 by 1998. ^

Dollar, stocks traded lower

TOKYO (AP) - The U.S. dollar was trading lower against the Japanese yen at mid-afternoon in Tokyo Tuesday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished lower in moderate trading.

The dollar moved narrowly after profit-taking dragged it lower on overseas markets Monday, traders said.

They said the dollar would continue its long-term upward trend against the Japanese currency, albeit at a slow pace.

At mid-afternoon, the dollar was traded at 105.62 yen, down 0.22 yen

from late Monday in Tokyo and also a bit higher from late New York trading overnight at 105.77 yen.

On the stock market, share prices moved moderately higher following overnight gains in futures prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and also on Wall Street. But declining futures prices later in the afternoon session reversed the course, leading the market's main index into a negative territory, traders said.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 115.61 points, or 0.57 percent, closing at 20,080.92 points.

On Monday, the index had shed 169.23 points, or 0.83 percent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was down 6.29 points, or 0.40 percent, to 1,564.10. The TOPIX had fallen 15.13 points, or 0.95 percent, the day before.

Trading of Daimler-Benz shares stops in Germany

By LAURINDA KEYS FRANKFURT, Germany - Trading of shares in Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest industrial group, were suspended Monday on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange while the company's board met to consider the fate of its bankruptcy-threatened Dutch aircraft subsidiary, Fokker N.V.

Options trading was also halted in Frankfurt and Berlin for AEG AG, the Daimler electronics and rail technology subsidiary that has also been losing money.

Daimler-Benz had refused to confirm a report Saturday by the news magazine Der Spiegel that the company could face a record loss of 5 billion marks (\$3.5 billion) for 1995, if cash-strapped Fokker is forced into bankruptcy.

Daimler held apparently unsuccessful bailout talks on Friday with the Dutch government, which owns 11 percent of Fokker.

A German Sunday newspaper, Welt am Sonntag, reported that the Dutch were unwilling to give as much emergency cash as Daimler wanted, and Daimler Chairman Juergen Schrempp planned to recommend to his board that the company stop guaranteeing Fokker's credit.

A spokeswoman at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange said the suspension of Daimler's shares for the entire day Monday was made in anticipation of an "important announcement from the company."

Dealers and traders said an announcement of bankruptcy for Fokker, which is mostly controlled by Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG, would probably have an immediate negative effect on the price of Daimler-Benz shares, and that would explain the suspension in trading.

Daimler has been extending a substantial amount of financial support to Fokker since the German company became the controlling shareholder in 1993.

A Daimler spokesman said Sunday his company had been asking the Dutch government to give an additional 1.3 billion Dutch guilders (over 1 billion marks or \$680 million) in emergency financial aid to keep Fokker afloat.

Welt am Sonntag said Fokker needed more like 2.67 billion marks (dfls 1.82 billion).

Daimler-Benz spokesman Roland Klein said Saturday he could not confirm the loss figures reported by Spiegel, which would be twice what

stock market analysts had expected. Exact numbers would be released April 11, he said.

Analysts had predicted a total Daimler-Benz loss for 1995 of 2.2 billion to 3 billion marks (\$ 1.5 billion to 2.1 billion).

Doubling that because of Fokker would be "catastrophic," Spiegel quoted Schrempp as saying during a recent company meeting.

The magazine said Daimler's recent acquisition of shares it did not already own in the money-losing electronics maker AEG would add 292 million marks (\$200 million) to the anticipated loss.

Daimler-Benz, whose concerns run from Mercedes cars to aircraft to financial services, has been hurt by the continued strength of the German mark, which makes exports more expensive.

It has been particularly hurtful to Daimler's aerospace division, controller of Fokker, which buys parts and sells its products in dollars, but pays German wages to build its planes.

Daimler-Benz Aerospace said last fall it would start moving production to other countries to remain competitive, and would cut 8,800 jobs in Germany over the next three years.

Bahrain opposition leader arrested

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) - Sheikh Abdul Ameer al-Jamri, a Shiite Muslim cleric and opposition leader, has been detained after two days under house arrest, his wife said Monday.

She told The Associated Press that police arrested him at midnight Sunday and that

his family remained under house arrest in their home in the village of Bani Jamra southwest of Manama, Bahrain's capital.

A government source who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed al-Jamri's arrest "for interrogation."

He would not give further

details, but said a detailed government statement would be issued later in the day.

The cleric's arrest came after a fresh, three-day wave of unrest in the Gulf island state during which protesters clashed with police, started fires at schools, burned homes and cars and blew up gas cyl-

inders. Scores of what the government describes as "rioters, saboteurs and instigators," have been arrested. They included an assistant of al-Jamri, 57.

The opposition is demanding freedom of speech, the reinstatement of an elected parliament disbanded in 1975 and the release from detention of hundreds of protesters rounded up when unrest started in December 1994.

The London-based Freedom Movement opposition group said Sheikh al-Jamri's arrest "is critical because it indicated that the struggle for political reforms in Bahrain will be stagnated."

The army in Bahrain, a major Middle East financial center, has threatened to step in to end the disturbances and the country's five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council have also offered to help.

Saudi Arabia, linked to Bahrain by a causeway, is the

dominant power in the GCC, a security and economic alliance which also groups Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The opposition says it is not seeking to topple the ruling Al Khalifa family and it is not manipulated, as the government insists, by predominantly Shiite Iran across the Gulf.

Tehran denies any involvement and an Iranian newspaper Monday described the allegations as baseless.

Al-Jamri, a member of the disbanded legislature, was freed from prison last September after five months in detention.

Earlier this month, authorities asked him not to incite riots in his mosque sermons, but he refused and instead chose not to lead prayers.

More than half of Bahrain's 500,000 indigenous population are Shiites, who mostly form the underclass of the country.

The ruling family belongs to the Sunni Muslim sect.

UNICEF to train staff in Chinese orphanages

By SUSAN SEVAREID UNITED NATIONS (AP) - UNICEF announced Monday that it will train workers and help set management standards in Chinese orphanages, where a human rights group claims children have been systematically neglected and starved to death.

Plans to work with the Chinese government in orphanages were in the works before New York-based Human Rights Watch/Asia reported on abuses documented by a former orphanage medical worker, said UNICEF spokeswoman Emily Booker.

The report, based on medical records smuggled out by Zhang Shuyun, showed that 47 percent of the 207 deaths at a Shanghai orphanage between November 1991 and October 1992 were due to malnutrition.

It claimed 66 other state-run institutions in China neglected, starved and mistreated children to keep the orphanage population down.

Chinese officials and the state-run media have vehemently denied the allegations in almost daily attacks on the report, released two weeks ago, and on Zhang.

A telephone call for comment on the UNICEF project to the Chinese mission to the United Nations was not immediately returned Monday evening.

Sidney Jones, executive director of Human Rights Watch/Asia, said allowing UNICEF in was a "de facto acknowledgement that there is a problem."

China has detained at least three people with ties to Zhang, the rights group said Tuesday.

Last week, police acknowledged they detained Zhang's younger brother two days after the report was released Jan. 7.

Another of Zhang's supporters, lawyer Shi Shengren, was detained in late November for seven weeks. Shi was responsible for initiating an inquiry in December 1991 that confirmed many of Zhang's allegations but was later quashed by top city officials.

On Tuesday, Human Rights Watch said that Xu Xinyuan, a former member of the city's legislature, had been detained Nov. 17 and was being held without formal charges.

Xu, a 48-year-old trade union official at the Shanghai Photographic Apparatus Research Institute, was one of the most outspoken of 16 delegates who lobbied for the inquiry into Zhang's allegations.

UNICEF said it will work jointly with the government to identify the orphanages most at risk throughout China, set up training for the staff, help

improve rehabilitation programs for physically disabled children and develop management standards.

A total of \$850,000 is committed to the program for 1996 and 1997. Jones called the UNICEF announcement good news, but whether it improves children's lives depends on whether UNICEF has free access to orphanages.

"If the Chinese government itself is going to tell UNICEF which orphan-

ages are at risk, that's not good," Jones said.

Another part of the plan - improving one orphanage in each province to serve as a model and a training resource center - also is worrisome, she said.

"That's been the problem thus far that there's one international showcase, then real problems going on in orphanages that don't receive all the attention."

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First Anniversary Rosary

We the family of the late

Natividad Delacruz Tenorio

Would like to invite all of our relatives and friends to join us for the first anniversary rosary of our beloved mother. Nightly rosary will be held at her residence in Kagman II, beginning on January 20, 1996, at 8:00 p.m. On the final day, January 27, 1996 the mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Dinner will follow immediately at her residence in Kagman II.

Your presence and your prayers is greatly appreciated.

Kindly join us.
The family.

Note: 4 pm. not 5 pm.

Public Notice BOARD MEETING

The Civil Service Commission will hold its regular board meeting on January 30 and 31, 1996 at the Commission's Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The board will convene at 9:00a.m. on both days. Additional information concerning the meeting is available at the Commission's office in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA:

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. NEW BUSINESS
- IV. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT
- VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- VIII. LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENT
- X. ADJOURNMENT

EUGENE A. SANTOS
Chairman, Civil Service Commission

Bank of Tokyo employee accused of embezzling \$8M

TOKYO (AP) - The Bank of Tokyo, a major Japanese bank, said Monday it has lodged a criminal complaint against a former employee who allegedly embezzled 850 million (\$8 million).

The employee, identified only as a 39-year-old loan officer at a domestic branch, used the money for gambling, officials said.

Bank spokesman Masami Shigematsu said the bank brought the case to police in the middle of May last year and fired the employee at the same

time. The bank's account raised the question of why it did not report the losses in its accounts for the first half of fiscal 1995, which ended last Sept. 30.

Officials said they had kept the case quiet to assist the police investigation, which is continuing.

Recently the secretive practices of Japanese banks have come under fire in connection with their huge portfolios of bad loans. Critics say they should be more open in making public the extent of their problems.

Also, Daiwa Bank was ordered

to pull out of the United States last year after it hid dfls 1.1 billion in bond trading losses by a rogue trader from U.S. authorities for nearly two months.

Shigematsu said the embezzlement was discovered after the banker was transferred to another branch office last March.

The Bank of Tokyo, known as the only one of Japan's 11 major "city banks" to specialize in foreign exchange, is to merge with Mitsubishi Bank on April 1, forming the world's largest bank in terms of assets and deposits.

Guinness records longest singing stunt

LOUDONVILLE, New York (AP) - Pub owner Eamonn McGirr can look forward to some sleep after warbling his way back into the "Guinness Book of Records" by singing continuously for 11 consecutive days.

McGirr, 55, broke the record Sunday night during a live broadcast of television program lasting several days to raise money for cerebral palsy.

He sang the final notes of the Irish tune, "I'll Tell Me Ma," then was showered with cheers and green balloons.

"It's a hell of a wonderful feeling," said McGirr, who last

set the record 17 years ago when it stood at 5 1-2 days. A man in India later broke the record, singing continuously for 10 days and 22 hours.

McGirr's latest attempt began Jan. 10, and the rules stipulated that he could hum or sing anything, even read the newspaper to a tune.

He was allowed a 5-minute break each hour, and McGirr saved up enough time to catch a few hours sleep during the ordeal.

He used up his entire repertoire of Irish tunes, but despite the fatigue he felt at the end, McGirr maintained his

quick Irish wit.

"Asked how his life would change after the record, McGirr replied: "The following songs will not be sung: 'Danny Boy,' 'Green Alligat-

tors' ..."

After breaking the record, McGirr headed over to his Irish pub in this Albany suburb to add a couple of hours to his record to make it an even

Ron Howard gets nominated for his works on 'Apollo 13'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The movie "Apollo 13" earned Ron Howard his second nomination Monday for the Directors Guild of America Award.

Mel Gibson, Mike Figgis, Ang Lee and Michael Radford were nominated for the first time - Gibson for "Braveheart," Figgis for "Leaving Las Vegas," Lee for "Sense and Sensibility" and

Radford for "IL Postino (The Postman)."

The Directors Guild honors are a highly accurate predictor of the Academy Awards. DGA winners have failed to win the Oscar for best director only three times in nearly a half-century.

Howard was nominated a decade ago for "Cocoon," but the Directors Guild award

'Cybill' best comedy; Shepherd, Grammer best comedy talents

By BOB THOMAS
BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) - Cybill Shepherd of "Cybill" and Kelsey Grammer of "Frasier" were named best actress and actor in musical or television comedy series at Sunday night's Golden Globe awards.

Shepherd's CBS television sitcom "Cybill" was also selected as best musical or comedy TV series at the 53rd annual awards, chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Shepherd, the star of "Cybill", commended her writers. "They make my job so wonderful," while Grammer, who plays the ad-calls-imp psychologist who moved his practice to his own show after years on "Cheers," called his "Frasier" experience "the most extraordinary couple of years of my life."

He lauded his cast and production team, saying, "I was born into a family, but I never really had one." With no "Forrest Gump" or

"Schindler's List" to dominate the awards season, the race for best picture was wide open. The Golden Globes have become a bellwether for the Academy Awards. In the last three years, they have come very close to accurately mirroring the Oscars, which will be held this year on March 26.

Unlike the Academy Awards, the HFPA divides its best picture recognition into two categories, dramatic and musical/comedy and also recognizes television.

Nominees for best drama included "Sense and Sensibility," "Apollo 13," "Leaving Las Vegas," "Braveheart" and "The Bridges of Madison County." Nominees for best musical or comedy: "The American President," "Babe," "Get Shorty," "Sabrina," "Toy Story," "Sense and Sensibility" led the nominations with six, followed by "The American President" with five.

The show, on NBC television,

Experts say statue in New York City mansion is by Michelangelo

NEW YORK (AP) - Art historians have decided that a marble statue of a naked, curly-haired youth, which was sold at auction in 1902 and has been housed in a New York City mansion, is by Michelangelo.

The 3-foot (0.9-meter) statue, missing its arms and the lower portion of its legs, has long graced the lobby of No. 972 Fifth Ave. in Manhattan.

The house was designed by architect Stanford White for the family of Payne Whitney. Built between 1902 and 1906, it was bought by the French government in the 1950s and today houses the cultural services of the French embassy.

The statue had been attributed to Michelangelo at auc-

tion in London in 1902 and by an Italian scholar, Alessandro Parronchi, in 1968, but his view won no support among art historians at the time. The New York Times reported Tuesday.

Other experts including James Draper, curator of European sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum, just up the street from the Stanford White house, have come to agree.

In view of the interest the statue is likely to arouse, the Met will ask to show it on loan, said the museum's director, Philippe de Montebello.

The statue's future may present legal and diplomatic problems, however.

The mansion that houses it belongs to the French government, which has not yet sent an expert of its own to examine the statue.

Fight on vs corruption in India

By DILIP GANGULY
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - With national elections three months away, a corruption scandal reaching the highest levels of government has raised a question: Can't political parties be made accountable for all the money they raise during campaigns?

For the first time since India became a republic in 1952, the Supreme Court has taken on the responsibility of forcing the political parties to report their cash flows.

"Bribes paid to the election funds of major political parties are the root of all corruption in our country," said Hari Dev Shourie of Common Cause, an

activist group whose petition helped persuade the high court to intervene in the scandal.

"Every year political parties spend more and more money in elections, and the people need to know where they are getting it from," said Shourie, 84, a retired government official.

Last week, three Cabinet ministers resigned after being accused of accepting money from a business family in return for favors for their companies. Seven other politicians, including the leader of the nation's largest opposition party, were formally charged.

More indictments are expected as the probe continues.

Corruption is not unusual in

India, but the number of political heavyweights already named in the 600 million rupees (dls 18 million) kickbacks-for-favors scam is unprecedented.

Since it stepped in the Supreme Court has issued notices to all 15 national political parties, ordering them to explain by Feb. 20 why they have not been maintaining proper accounts.

The order came as the parties campaign for a parliamentary election in April that could unseat the Congress Party and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and end his vaunted economic reforms.

Under existing election laws, a candidate running for Parliament is allowed to spend between 300,000 and 500,000 rupees (\$8,500 to \$14,250), depending on the size of the constituency. But there is no procedure that must be followed to prove that

Refugees flee toward Tanzania, camp burns

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - About 16,000 Rwandan refugees were stranded Monday near Burundi's border with Tanzania, unable to cross the closed frontier and reluctant to return to their burned out camp.

Burundian troops torched the huts Sunday of the few hundred Rwandan refugees who remained at Ntamba camp in northern Burundi, said Hitoshi Misa, the Burundi country director for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Probably the message is that these refugees should go back to their home country," Misa said in a telephone interview from Bujumbura, the Burundian capital.

Misa said none of the refugees had been injured or killed during the flight from Ntamba camp late Saturday and early Sunday or when the army set fire to the camp on Sunday.

Tanzania, which already has about 500,000 Rwandan refugees, has closed its border to refugees in Burundi. However, Misa said about 400 of the 16,000 refugees from Ntamba had managed to slip across the frontier.

About 15,000 Rwandan refugees fleeing ethnic fighting last week near Mugano camp in northern Burundi were allowed to cross into Tanzania temporarily.

Misa said Tanzanian authorities said the refugees from Mugano camp could stay only until an organized repatriation could be arranged.

There was no fighting reported around Ntamba camp, said Misa. However, the security situation in northern Burundi is steadily deteriorating and the refugees at Ntamba apparently decided to flee when Tanzania allowed refugees from Mugano to cross the border.

Misa said Tanzania would not allow the Rwandans from Ntamba to cross the border and that the UNHCR was encouraging them to return to Ntamba and reestablish their camp.

Burundian government officials were going to the area around Ntamba camp on Monday to

evaluate the situation, Misa said.

Rwanda and Burundi have the same ethnic mix of about 85 percent Hutu and 15 percent Tutsi, and both countries have suffered periodic outbreaks of violence.

The tensions in Rwanda flared into wholesale genocidal slaughter in 1994, when some 500,000 people died - most of them Tutsi killed by Hutus.

Most of the 200,000 Rwandan refugees in Burundi are Hutus.

The north, where the refugees are concentrated, has seen growing confrontations in recent weeks between Hutus and the Tutsi-dominated army.

Fighting last month persuaded some of the refugees to return home, despite fears of Tutsi reprisals there for the 1994 massacres.

Search continues for missing military chopper in Sri Lanka

By NIRESH ELIATAMBY
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Military planes and gunboats searched on Tuesday for an air force helicopter carrying 39 people that Tamil rebels claim to have shot down in the Indian Ocean.

The aircraft disappeared off northern Sri Lanka midday Monday, and the military searched for the Ukrainian-built MI-17 through the night but found nothing, officials said.

Air force planes searched until dusk Monday, then took off again Tuesday morning.

Tamil rebel radio first reported that the guerrillas shot the aircraft down, then said they saw two passengers jump from the downed helicopter into the ocean, the military said.

The radio report didn't say whether they were captured.

A military official said on condition of anonymity that a government cargo ship traveling in the area Monday said it saw a fire ball falling from the sky that probably was the aircraft.

Rebels on boats could have fired machine guns at the copter, or guerrillas using missiles could have attacked from the shore.

The helicopter was flying the 100 kilometers (60 miles) journey from

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) at the Saipan International Airport is looking for:

2 (Two) Fire Fighter Trainee

Applicants must be High School graduates or equivalent. Applicants must also pass the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Fighter entry qualifications on Medical and Physical fitness requirements.

The salary for this position is Pay Level 12/5, or \$471.73 bi-weekly.

Application forms are available at the Security Office, First Floor of the Arrival Building and also at the Administration Office, Second floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police clearance dating back five years. Applicants who have previously applied within the last two months need not apply. The deadline for submission of application is at the closed of business on January 26, 1996. For more information, please call Tel: 664-3500 or 664-3542.

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BETTER DRIVERS BUCKLE UP

Death and Funeral Announcement

Concepcion Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero Sanchez

Known as "Chong Apa or Chong Juan Sanchez" of Tuturam (San Vicente) was called to her eternal rest on Saturday January 20, 1996 at the age of 73 years.

IN HER DEATH SHE NOW JOINS HER PARENTS GREGORIO CHABRAHAN DELEON GUERRERO AND JOSEFA CRUZ DELOS REYES HUSBAND JUAN AGUON SANCHEZ BROTHERS, JUAN, PEDRO, ANTONIO, JOSE AND JESUS R. GUERRERO, SISTERS MARIA DLG. TENORIO, ELENA DLG. TUDELA PARENTS-IN-LAW CATALINO QUINATA AND DOLORES AGUON SANCHEZ BROTHERS-IN-LAW JOSE P. TENORIO ENRIQUE A SANCHEZ SISTERS-IN-LAW NICOLASA Q., and MARIA T. GUERRERO AND ROSA R. SANCHEZ.

HER PEACEFUL SPIRIT AND MEMORIES WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HER CHILDREN, SPOUSES, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER.

MARIA (CHECHANG) S. AND BERT M. SABLAN - JACQUELINE, MARIA V. GUERRERO, JULIANA A. SANCHEZ, JOSEPH C. SANCHEZ, BEATRICE M. SABLAN AND CECILIA C. TUDELA BROTHERS-IN-LAW AGUSTINE S. TUDELA, NICOLAS, GODFREDO AND JOSE A. SANCHEZ

BROTHER HERMAN R. GUERRERO (PAN) SISTERS-IN-LAW MARIA V. GUERRERO, JULIANA A. SANCHEZ, JOSEPH C. SANCHEZ, BEATRICE M. SABLAN AND CECILIA C. TUDELA BROTHERS-IN-LAW AGUSTINE S. TUDELA, NICOLAS, GODFREDO AND JOSE A. SANCHEZ

SHE IS ADDITIONALLY SURVIVED BY NUMEROUS NIECES & NEPHEWS.

Rosary is being said daily 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. at her residence in Tuturam, San Vicente.

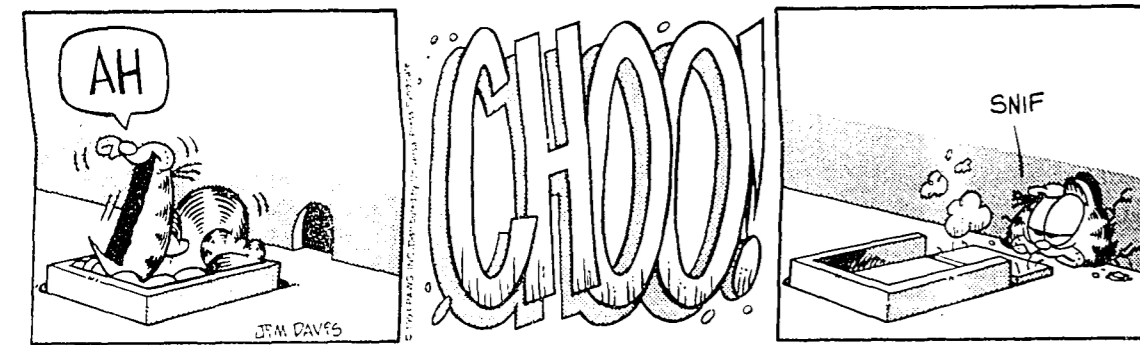
Last respect may be paid on Saturday, January 27, 1996 beginning 8:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 5:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Interment services will follow at chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Thank you yan Si yuus Maase.

Pacific Funeral Services •235-6516

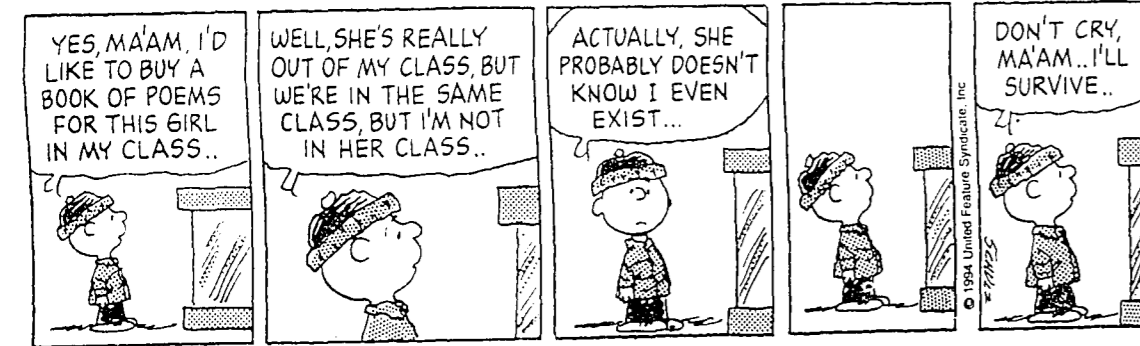
EKK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are not the type of individual to be overlooked for long, and once you attract the attention of others you will probably achieve enduring success in both personal and professional endeavors.

graph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide. THURSDAY, JAN. 25 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You must be aware at all times that your comments can offend others today even when you are being casual and offhand.

threaten a valuable relationship. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — The relief you have sought for a personal hardship may not last long today if you are unwilling to embrace a more permanent solution.

CLOSERS

COLUMN CLOSERS BY KEN KURSON

There's a reason that recipes often recommend that eggs be beaten in a copper bowl. The copper reacts to a protein in eggs called conalbumin that helps stabilize the eggs and can actually increase their volume when whipped.

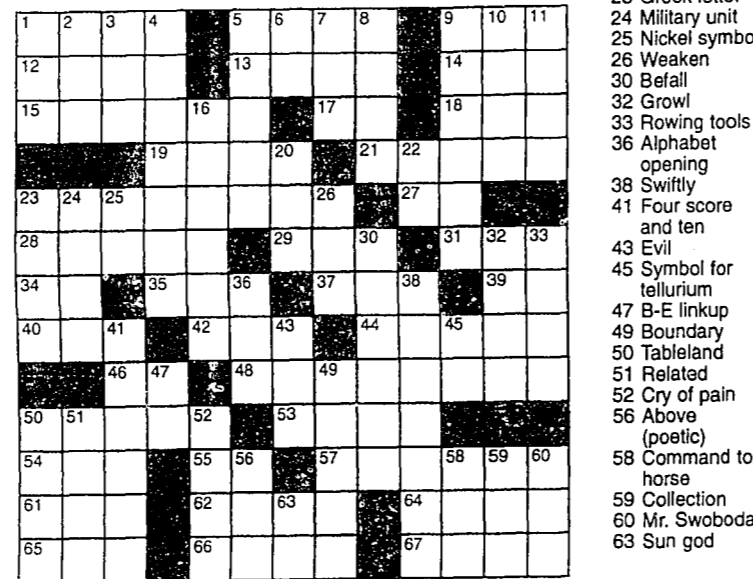
The handles on hairbrushes for women are longer than those for men because men have traditionally kept their brushes in small doo pits.

Many teen-agers have two obsessions: computers and obtaining a driver's license. A new CD-ROM called "License to Drive" tries to combine the two by giving a simulated driver's education class on any personal computer.

A rare metal called gallium has a melting point of only 86 degrees. If you hold a chunk in your hand, it will turn liquid.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

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Olympian... Continued from page 20

ter, you're on your own," he said. Police said they responded to at least 20 calls to aid stranded boaters, most of them kayakers, over the weekend when the Potomac became swollen by runoff of snow and rain from the major storm that hit the Washington area and other portions of the East Coast earlier this month.

Sydney... Continued from page 20

right to build the stadium. "Australia Stadium's proposal involved raising equity through a property trust listed on the stock exchange, giving 30,000 unit holders rights including a 30-year membership of the stadium and a right to purchase a ticket to Olympic events," Knight said. The Australia Stadium 2000 consortium plans to raise U.S. \$222 million in equity from investors by the end of the year, said Alan O'Sullivan, a director of Hambros Australia. Construction of stadium at Homebush is expected to start in the second half of this year and will be finished in 1999, with the Australia Stadium 2000 consortium operating the stadium for a 30-year period.

Martinez... Continued from page 20

She's also difficult because she's left-handed and with the serves it's difficult to read. Davenport, who gave Seles a tough time in the final in Sydney two weeks ago, presented no threat to Martinez. The Spaniard generally kept her shots on the court and out of the net.

Seles... Continued from page 20

until I rest." Seles won't have any rest for a while. Her next match is Thursday against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario or Chanda Rubin, who played Tuesday night. "It's pretty tough, maybe impossible, to beat her," Majoli said of Seles. "I think the only one who can beat her is Steffi." Trouble is, Steffi Graf isn't at the Australian. She's back home recovering from foot surgery, leaving the

Wheels... Continued from page 20

straight defeat by a comfortable 16-point margin. OI' Aces, led by Junior Renguil and Winsor Peter, started the game on a high gear and closed the top half with a combined 39 points for a 16-point lead, 55-39. D' Oners' John Acosta, Norman Margasino and Mike Diandra pooled 37 points in the last half in a bid to equalize the OI' Aces lead, but Renguil and Peter countered with 33 points to preserve their first half lead at game's end. The win was the fifth for OI' Aces in eight games.

Team Standings (as of Jan. 22) Table with columns: Team, W, L. Rows: Sharks, Brothers, Toyota Wheels, OI' Aces II, SNE/FT.

Heat... Continued from page 20

Bryant Reeves scored 22 points for expansion Vancouver, which hadn't won away from home since a 92-80 victory at Portland in the season opener on Nov. 3. Former Bucks Eric Mobley, Eric Murdock and Anthony Avent provided the second-half scoring punch, and Mobley capped the surge with a

Woodforde... Continued from page 20

tough shots, hit low slices that Philippoussis couldn't tee off on, and at other times set him back with high topspins. "It was very hard for me, after beating Sampras, to come back," Philippoussis said. "I think I maybe went on a bit too relaxed... When things didn't go too well at the start, I couldn't pump myself up (even though) it was a big occasion for me, one of the biggest matches of my life, to get into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open." Woodforde agreed that "he definitely wasn't the same player who played Pete Sampras." But, he added, "he's such a great player that I think you should all just forget about this match and look forward to him playing much, much better tennis."

Martinez... Continued from page 20

The 19-year-old Californian did not, accumulating 34 unforced errors, to 10 by Martinez. "I was moving her around with my slice, and she made some mistakes," Martinez said. "I think I also served very good," scoring four aces to Davenport's one, and six service winners to her one. Martinez, who knocked off Martina Navratilova to become the 1994

Seles... Continued from page 20

No. 1 Seles appearing unbeatable. "She's going to win the tournament pretty easy," said the No. 7 Majoli of Croatia, who didn't notice Seles being bothered by any injury. "She hit some unbelievable shots when she was stretched." After streaking through nine straight games in pursuit of a fourth title, Seles led 3-0 in the second set when she felt a twinge of pain between her ankle and calf. A left-hander, she had trouble pushing off on her right foot serving because of the injury, and she dropped that game with a double-fault on break-point. But she shrugged off

Wheels... Continued from page 20

OI' Aces 5 3 Sunrisers 3 3 Brewers 3 4 Panthers 2 6 D' Oners 1 5 Primos 0 7 D' Fours 0 8

Tigers... Continued from page 20

added a two-run homer for the victory. Carlos Camacho had a 2-for-3 performance, including a three-run homer for the Glazers. Bombers 10, Kool Runnings 6 After upsetting defending champion Red Torch earlier, Kool Runnings failed to power a continuous winning streak. Tom Torres had a perfect 3-for-3 showmanship including one triple, one double, one single and two runs scored. Mel Sakisat went 2-for-3 including a homer and scored twice. It was a close game until Tony

dunk just before the buzzer. The four former Bucks combined for 19 of the Grizzlies' 29 fourth-quarter points as Vancouver overcame a 72-71 deficit heading into the final period. Murdock and Mobley, whom the Bucks traded to Vancouver last month for Benoit Benjamin, scored all the points in a 9-4 run that put the Grizzlies ahead for good at 80-76 with nine minutes left. Murdock's bucket with 6:51 left

Woodforde, who is ranked No. 67 to Philippoussis' 40, "wasn't scared at all," of the big teen. "I've beaten him in practice," Woodforde said, adding that his experience in playing against Philippoussis in doubles had helped in figuring out his serve. Discussing strategy, Woodforde said that Philippoussis' game against Sampras "was just incredible... That was just a blinder of a game." But Sampras plays with power, "just like Mark Philippoussis, and I think Scud just loves it. He just doesn't like the subtle changes of pace, and that's what I set out to do." Australian fans call Philippoussis "Scud" because of the missiles he launches with his racket, and there were cries of "Come on, Scud," when he was trailing 5-0 in the final set. But groups of youngsters kept up chants of "Woody, Woody, Woody" between games.

Wimbledon champion, is one of the most consistent players on the women's tour. So far this year, the 23-year-old from Barcelona has already had winning streaks of 26 and 17 matches. At the Australian Open, she has yet to lose a set. But last year was frustrating, as she reached all four Grand Slam semifinals, only to be stopped by Mary

the pain to win in 58 minutes. "I was able to finish the match pretty strong," Seles said. "I said to myself, 'That's OK.'" Ticked off at dropping serve to begin the match when Majoli drilled back winners, Seles plunked down in her chair, flung away a towel, then vented her frustration by running out the set. "The first game I was a little bit lost," Seles said. "I was expecting a slower pace, and all of a sudden here were these bazookas coming back." The only problems she had the rest of the way were the pulled tendon and a little lapse in the final game, when

Palau Men's Slowpitch (as of Jan. 21)

Division A Table with columns: Team, W, L. Rows: Specs, Turtles, Glazers, Sedi Kau 4, Just For Fun, Ambassadors, Pelelu, Stevedore Waves, O&K Goods, Warriors. Division B Table with columns: Team, W, L. Rows: Koror Tigers, Kabekel, Red Torch, Wild Thing, Kool Running, Bombers, Wolfpack, Marlins, Aschooschoo, Nan Madol.

made it 86-78 and the Bucks were unable to recover. Vin Baker scored 24 points for the Bucks, who were trying to win their fourth straight for the first time since last Jan. 21. Hawks 105, Rockets 96 In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 26 points and Craig Ehlo had 20 of his season-high 25 in the final 14:30 as the Atlanta Hawks downed the Houston Rockets for their eighth straight victory.

At the end, "I was trying to blink away the tears," Woodforde said. "I was really overcome out there." He rejected what he called "the myth in tennis that after age 25, if you haven't reached the top 10 you're nothing." Philippoussis started the match with two aces, and said that after those, he thought he could keep up the level of play he had reached against Sampras. But on his next serve, he was broken after helping Woodforde with three double-faults and three shots hit impatiently into the net off his opponent's changes of pace. On the fourth break point, Woodforde set Philippoussis back with a moonball and then drilled a forehand winner down the line. "Mark showed today that experience is the key thing in matches," Philippoussis said. He also said he expected to absorb

Pierce, Steffi Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Seles. Martinez's next opponent will be No. 8 Anke Huber, who beat Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-2. Huber lost to Martinez twice in 1995, but had beat her in four previous matches from 1991-94. She is looking forward to their next meeting. "I think I have a good chance to

beat her, I have the game to beat her," Huber said. "It's going to be a really good match. "If I just play my game, take the ball early, and not miss too much like Lindsay Dedi today, I think I can have a break," Huber said. With her consistency, and if her game stays sharp, Martinez has a chance to get to the final here, and possibly the championship.

Like Seles, men's No. 5 Michael Chang also hasn't dropped a set on the way to the semifinals. His latest victim, Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, fell 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 Tuesday. Chang, a semifinalist here a year ago, will play the winner of Tuesday night's match between No. 2 Andre Agassi and No. 8 Jim Courier. "The way he's been playing the whole two weeks, he's the one who's been playing the best tennis," Tillstrom said of Chang. "But Agassi and Courier usually raise their games going into the quarterfinals."

The winning streak is the longest for the Hawks since putting together a 14-game string two years ago. Clyde Drexler led the Rockets with 23 points and Hakeem Olajuwon added 20. It was the third loss in a row for the two-time defending league champions. Mookie Blaylock added 20 for Atlanta, and Henry James, a recent signee from the CBA, scored 16 for Houston, including four 3-point baskets.

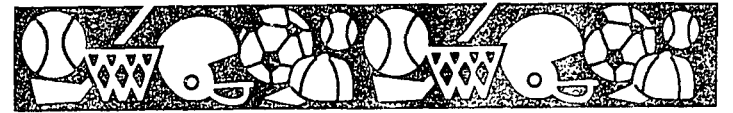
his lesson and bounce right back. "I'm only 19. I've had a great tournament," he said. In the quarterfinals, Woodforde meets No. 7 Thomas Enqvist, who beat Italian Renzo Furlan 7-5, 6-0, 6-3. While Woodforde says he isn't talking now about winning the tournament, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov is. After the sixth-seeded Russian beat American Mali Vai Washington 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, a television interviewer said, "I've got \$10 that says you'll win." "Make it \$100, I won't disappoint you," Kafelnikov responded. Later, he explained: "The player who I never won against is the tournament, Pete Sampras. Everybody else, I beat them. So why can't I win the Australian Open? I feel like I am in very good shape now. I am completely satisfied with the whole aspect of my game, and I've got enough confidence to win it."

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SPORTS



Palau Men's Slowpitch Softball

Tigers maintain division leadership

THE KOROR Tigers continued to maintain their leadership in Division B of the Palau Men's Slowpitch League by defeating Aschooschoo in game two last Sunday at the Koblerville Ballfield.

The Tigers posted their eighth straight victory to remain the only undefeated team in their division. The Tigers downed Aschooschoo, 16-9. The win tied the 8-0, win-loss

performance of Division A leader Pepsi Specs.

Gloyd Martin went 3-for-4, scored thrice and hit a two-run homer as Nick Koshiro contributed a two-run homer that helped the Tigers win their game. John Duenas went 2-for-3 with a double and a homerun for Aschooschoo.

Waves 16, Warriors 9

In the opener, Sid Sablan hit 3-for-

3, scored thrice and had three RBIs, while Donald Pangelinan hit a base-clearing triple as the Stevedore Waves got back their winning form, defeating the Warriors who have lost their last seven games after a season opening victory.

Collier Siksei posted 3-for-4 and

had three RBIs in a losing effort.

Turtles 15, Glazers 13

The Turtles edged Glazers, in the battle for the second spot in Division A, in game three with a two-run margin.

After a setback against undefeated Pepsi Specs the previous Sunday,

Turtles bounced back and defeated defending Division A pennant champion Glazers in a thriller.

Dennis Carnacho had a 4-for-4 performance that included a homer and a double as he scored four times with three RBIs. Frances George

Continued on page 19

Island-wide youth slowpitch softball to start in February

THE ISLAND-wide Youth Slowpitch Softball League which was planned to start this month might commence in February yet due to lack of team participating.

The league was first scheduled to open on Jan. 29 but the deadline for the submission of team rosters was extended to Jan. 26 which coincides with the 6:30 p.m. meeting of team officials and representatives at the Gilbert C. Ada gymnasium conference room.

League coordinator Joe Lizama said he would suggest in the Jan. 26 meeting the postponement of the start of the games to Feb. 19.

But if the team coaches and representatives will push for the start of the league on the 29th, he said he will not object.

As of now, eight teams have finalized their participation in the league.

The eight teams consist of four teams in the girls' 12 to 14 and 15 to 17 age groups and the boys' 12 to 14 and 15 to 17 age brackets.

These teams are from the villages of Tanapag, Chinatown, Koblerville and San Vicente.

Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel and Hopwood were also invited to join the league.

Lizama said he will suggest to move the starting date to Feb. 19 "because the last day for the use of the Susupe softball field by the Kintetsu Buffaloes and other university teams is on Feb. 15."

Heat beats Spurs, 96-89

MIAMI (AP) — Alonzo Mourning outplayed David Robinson down the stretch and the Miami Heat scored the game's final 10 points to beat San Antonio 96-89 Monday night.

Mourning scored 25 points, including a hook shot over Robinson with two minutes left to give the Heat the lead for good.

Miami held San Antonio without a basket in the final seven minutes to rally from an 86-74 deficit.

The Heat, who had lost seven of their past eight games, beat a team with a winning record for the first time since Nov. 18. Their next four games are against teams with winning records.

San Antonio, which leads the Mid-

west Division, has lost three of its past four games, all on the road. Robinson had 25 points but only four in the second half, when he was slowed by foul trouble. The All-Star center, who had averaged 33 points in his five previous games against Mourning, fouled out for the first time this season with 21 seconds left.

Vancouver 100, Milwaukee 92

In Milwaukee, Blue Edwards scored 18 points and led an inspired effort by four former Milwaukee players as the Vancouver Grizzlies snapped a 16-game road losing streak with a 100-92 victory over the stunned Bucks Monday night.

Continued on page 19

Sydney Olympic Stadium to hold 110,000 spectators

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The Sydney Olympic Stadium, the proposed centerpiece of the 2000 Olympic Games, will hold up to 110,000 spectators, the New South Wales state government announced Tuesday.

Australians will be asked to help finance the stadium — which will be built at Homebush in the city's western suburbs — through a public share offer, with shareholders gaining an option on Olympic tick-

ets, said Michael Knight, the state minister in charge of Olympic affairs.

A consortium known as Australia Stadium 2000, led by a private Australian construction group Multiplex Construction Pty Ltd and also including Hambros Australia Ltd, wholly-owned by British-based bank Hambros PLC, and Japanese building contractor Obayashi Corporation, won the

Continued on page 19

Wheels taint Sharks' winning streak

TOYOTA Wheels spoiled the winning streak of E Tours Sharks when the former defeated the league leader last Monday in Susupe.

The Wheelers scored a 13-point, come-from-behind victory and delivered the Sharks their first setback, 94-81, in the Miller Lite Men's Basketball League.

The win was the fifth of third runner Toyota Wheels in six games and the first defeat in eight games for the

Sharks.

Sharks' Edwin Bubos led his team to a 2-point lead at the end of the first half, 45-43, with 23 points. But Wheelers' Ray Lizama, Frank Iglesias and coach Tony Sablan came strong in the last half and pushed back the Sharks for the victory with the trio's combined 35 points.

While Lizama, Iglesias and Sablan pounded the board in the final offensive, Bubos countered with 21 points

in a losing effort.

Bubos, one of the top ten scorers in the league, finished with 44 points, followed by Robert Quitugua with 13 and Reni Layon 9.

Ray Lizama capped the night with 31 points, followed by Frank Iglesias with 17, John Richardson 14 and Tony Sablan 10.

In the opener, Ol' Aces handed winless D' Oners team its eighth

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Australian Tennis Open

Seles Injured but breezes down under

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — It's a miracle Monica Seles can pick up a tennis racket, much less beat up everyone with it, considering all her injuries and ailments.

She sure didn't look hurt Tuesday rolling over Iva Majoli 6-1, 6-2 to reach the Australian Open semifinals, though the litany of problems she recited sounded daunting:

—A strained tendon above her

ankle, suffered in the second set.

—A groin pull that still hasn't healed from two weeks ago.

—A mysterious virus that hit her last month, causing "terrible blood" with bad platelets and red blood cells.

—Tom ankle ligaments a few months ago.

—Tendinitis in the knee all through the U.S. Open and beyond.

—A few extra pounds she can't

shed because of all the above.

In five matches at the Australian Open, she has lost only 17 games. Imagine if she were healthy.

"On a scale of 10, it's about a 4," Seles said of the groin injury she's been taping and treating with anti-inflammatory pills. "It's not getting better. It's not getting worse, which is great. It's not going to get better

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Martinez to break grand slam barrier

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Four times a Grand Slam semifinalist in 1995, and four times a loser, Conchita Martinez is trying to break through that barrier at the Australian Open.

Martinez, the second seed, advanced to the quarterfinals Monday by trouncing error-plagued No. 10

Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-1.

"I'm certainly playing very good," Martinez said. "Today I was very focused, and I played very concentrated, not many mistakes.

If I keep playing like this, maybe I can keep on winning and reach the finals." Looming at the finals is likely to be the redoubtable Monica

Seles, who has beaten Martinez in straight sets in their nine career matches, most recently at the 1995 U.S. Open semifinals.

"I'm still figuring that one out. I'm watching her play, and she is just very dangerous," Martinez said. "She hits the ball very early, still.

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Woodforde shoots down Philippoussis

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Teen sensation Mark Philippoussis, flying high after conquering Pete Sampras, was shot down Monday by the slicing and softballing of wily veteran Mark Woodforde in the Australian Open.

Philippoussis, who never dropped service in knocking Sampras out of the No. 1 ranking two days earlier,

was broken seven times in his 6-2, 6-2 loss.

Australian fans thus had one of their native sons in the quarterfinals, but not the one many thought had the weapons to become the first Australian winner at the Open since Mark Edmondson in 1976.

This was the first time Woodforde, 30, one of the world's top doubles

players, had reached the singles quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament.

The 19-year-old Philippoussis, who served 29 aces against Sampras, had 12 against Woodforde — nearly offset by eight double faults.

Woodforde blocked back some of his fastest serves, retrieved other

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Olympian nabbed for violating boating ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — A world-class whitewater boater was among seven people arrested in recent days for taking kayaks or canoes onto the storm-swollen Potomac River despite warnings to stay away, the U.S. Park Police said.

David Hearn, 36, of Bethesda, Maryland, a 1992 Olympian who

won the single canoe title at the world slalom championships last September, was charged Sunday with resisting arrest after police said he refused to bring his kayak ashore.

Six other boaters also were ticketed for disobeying the ban on use of the river, whose whitewater portion just north of the Washington, D.C., is

a favorite practice area for top-level kayakers and canoeists.

Hearn, who flew to Costa Rica on Monday to train with the U.S. national team, told The Washington Post that he questioned the Park Police's authority to close the river.

"We think once you're on the wa-

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