

Tenorio invites more

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio wants to see more Washington, D.C. officials visit the CNMI.

The governor mentioned specifically Rep. Elton Gallegly, the chairman of the subcommittee on Native American and Insular Af-

fairs. Gallegly was annoyed by the CNMI government's invitation to seven Congressional staffers who belong to offices not involved with insular matters.

"Our invitation is open to Gallegly and other Washington officials," Tenorio said in an interview with the Variety. "We

don't have to invite them formally since they have jurisdiction over us."

Tenorio lamented that not too many Washington officials take time to visit the CNMI "because we are very far from the mainland."

"That's why they don't really know us," he added.

Tenorio said "public relations" efforts may be necessary for the CNMI government to convince Washington that things are going well under his administration.

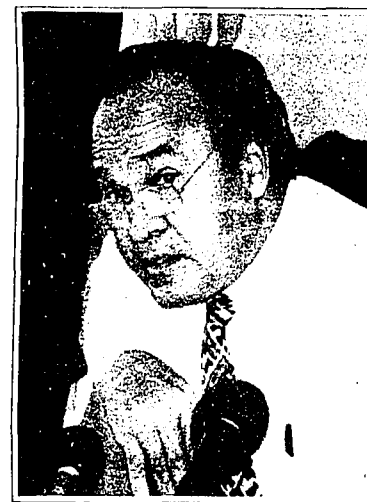
He believes the CNMI's invitation to the seven Congressional staffers is worth spending the

government's money. He would not say, however, how much the government had spent on the delegations' trip.

"They (staffers) have learned a lot from us," Tenorio said. "If some members of Congress ask them about us, then they can answer intelligently because they have seen it for themselves."

The governor said that while the CNMI may have some friends in Washington, he still could not please the federal government, and that "PR work" might be an effective recourse to offset such problem.

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Froilan C. Tenorio

AGO drops its case vs ex-congressman



Alvaro Santos

Office of Public Auditor, asked the Superior Court last week to dismiss with prejudice the civil action filed against Santos.

If the court approves AG's recommendation, OPA could no longer open the case and file the same charges on the former congressman.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Alan L. Lane earlier told the Variety that Santos "settled" his obligations to OPA.

Court information showed that Santos, who was still a congressman at the time, submitted his financial interests days after the May 31, 1995 deadline.

Last Sept. 11, OPA informed the former lawmaker of his late filing and the penalty in the sum of \$10 for each delinquent day.

OPA and its agent, AG, demanded on Dec. 15 payment of penalty from Santos.

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By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has dropped its civil complaint against former Congressman Alvaro Santos who was charged of violating provisions of government ethics code.

The AG, on behalf of the

Babauta says patience is needed to make 902 work



Juan N. Babauta

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

WASHINGTON Representative Juan N. Babauta is asking Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio to be more patient in seeing the consultation process under Covenant Section 902 achieve its goals.

Babauta made the statement in response to Tenorio's plans to stop the ongoing US-CNMI discussions pertaining to citizenship and submerged lands issues.

Tenorio in an interview last March 29th, expressed his disappointment over the lack of progress on 902 so he wants it stopped.

He accused the US side of taking its time in resolving the two issues.

In an interview last week, Babauta said 902 is so important a feature in the Covenant for the CNMI to seek a suspension of.

"That section is the only one that provides an opportunity for us to sit face to face with the federal government to discuss issues affecting the CNMI. None of the other insular areas enjoy that kind of provision in their relationship with the federal government," said Babauta. "I would not like to see that stricken down."

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Man charged for theft, assault on another man

THE ATTORNEY General's Office filed criminal charges against a man who allegedly assaulted a person after stealing bottles of liquor from a store.

Don E. Ngriraked, of Koblerville, was charged with theft and assault and battery before the Superior Court.

Court information showed that last Jan. 30 Ngriraked entered the Green Pea Market and took two bottles of liquor without paying it.

Ngriraked also struck Sun O. Dae who was at the store.

The court summoned the defendant to appear for a court hearing on May 6.

Meanwhile, the government also charged a man who allegedly stole items twice from Duty Free at the Grand Hotel.

Anthony Rios was charged with theft.

Last Dec. 1 and Feb. 6, Rios

entered the Duty Free and stole \$254 cash and wallet, according to the complaint.

Rios was summoned to appear for a court hearing on April 29.

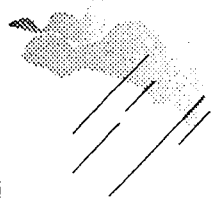
In another court story, Froilan

Continued on page 6



SPIRITUAL REJUVENATION. The hundreds of Catholics who went up to Mount Tapochao on Good Friday don't mind the two-hour walk up and downhill.

Weather Outlook



Partly cloudy
with isolated showers

Nation mourns crash victims

Clinton leads solemn rites for Brown



Bill Clinton

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Delaware (AP) - As 33 flag-draped caskets were solemnly brought home on a sorrowful President Clinton said the lives of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 32 other victims of a plane crash reflected the best of America.

"They are a stern rebuke to the cynicism that is all too familiar today." The president, his voice cracking with emotion on a raw, cloudy Saturday, declared that "what they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

The caskets were delivered to grieving, still-shocked families as the Air Force Band played hymns and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Clinton, with his wife and Vice President Al Gore, consoled each family in private.

The emotion of the moment clearly showed in the president's face.

"Today we come to a place that has seen too many sad homecomings, because this is where we in America bring home our own, those who have given their lives in the service of their country," Clinton told the crowd.

His voice often near breaking, the president talked about his visits with the families.

"Their loved ones were proud of

what they were doing," he said.

"They believed in what they were doing."

They believed in their country and they believed they could make a difference."

Each of the victims of the airplane crash on a Croatian hillside was represented here by relatives wearing red-white-and-blue ribbons.

The president said the crash victims "carried with them America's spirit - what our great martyr, Abraham Lincoln, called the last best hope of earth."

"The sun is going down on this day," Clinton said.

"The next time it rises it will be Easter, a day that more than any other reminds us that life is more than what we know ... sometimes more than what we can bear. But life is also eternal. What they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

The Clintons and Gore led a large delegation of government officials to be here as the aluminum coffins were brought from a transport plane into hearses beside an open hangar by eight uniformed pall bearers each. Four howitzers on the tarmac fired a 19-gun salute.

Brig. Gen. William Dendinger, deputy chief of chaplains for the Air

Force, offered a prayer.

"Help us always to remember these public servants, ever mindful of their willingness to share their talents and their wisdom," he said.

The president's friendship with Brown, a major player in his 1992 election, was deep.

Clinton was visibly grieving as he ended a week of sadness.

A day earlier, he made a return visit to Oklahoma City to be with the families of the 168 victims of last year's bombing of the federal building there.

Clinton said that "at the first of this interminable week," Brown met with him, Gore and two other people.

"He was bubbling with enthusiasm about this mission," the president recalled, quoting Brown: "These people are going on this mission because they want to use the power of the American economy to save peace in the Balkans."

"Sometimes it takes a terrible tragedy to illustrate a basic truth," he said in his radio speech Saturday.

"In a democracy, government is not them versus us; we are all 'us,' we are all in it together."

At Dover, each family was assigned a private room in a training building and the president, Mrs. Clinton and Gore went from room to room, spend-

ing a few minutes with each.

Brown's widow, Alma, joined them in meeting with the families of Commerce Department officials.

The White House said that each of the 33 families was represented here. Brown's funeral date has not been set.

The president will deliver the eulogy at the service at Washington National Cathedral; the burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors, reflecting Brown's four years of Army service. His body will lie in repose for a day at the Department of Commerce to enable department workers and the public to say their goodbyes.



Ron Brown

Conference on Bosnia to proceed sans Serbs

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - A conference on raising money to reconstruct Bosnia-Herzegovina will proceed as scheduled next week in Brussels even without the Bosnian Serbs, a top peace negotiator said Sunday.

"The second donors' conference in Brussels will go ahead even though there is not much progress from the Bosnian Serbs," Carl Bildt, the top civilian administrator of the Bosnian peace agreement, told the National News Agency Bernama.

The Bosnian Serbs have failed to yield to international demands to release prisoners of war prior to the conference, which is scheduled to be held in the Belgian capital April 12-13.

The other two parties in the conflict, the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian government, have complied with the demands by releasing prisoners who have not been accused of war crimes.

The European Union and Russia, the main organizers of the conference,

had threatened to cancel it unless war prisoners held by Muslims, Croats and Serbs were released.

The Bosnian Serbs say they have met their obligation under the Dayton accords by handing over documents on the POWs they still hold, prisoners they accuse of war crimes.

Bildt was speaking at the airport in Kuala Lumpur after wrapping up a two-day visit to Malaysia during which he discussed the aid situation with Malaysian officials.

He was on his way to Tokyo, where he hopes to drum up support for more contributions to help rebuild Bosnia, which has been torn by four years of civil war. From Tokyo he will go on to Brussels.

Organizers hope the conference, which is expected to be attended by representatives from 60 countries, will be able to raise \$1.2 billion in aid money to supplement the \$600 million pledged at a separate conference last December.

US tries to talk with North Korea on armistice violations

By SANG-HUN CHOE
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - The U.S.-led United Nations Command tried to contact North Korea Sunday to protest armistice violations in the buffer zone with South Korea.

Seven North Korean trucks loaded with 100 to 120 armed soldiers entered the northern side of the border village of Panmunjom on Saturday and occupied fighting positions, emplacing mortars, the command said.

It was the second time North Korea has violated the armistice with South Korea since announcing Thursday that it would no longer observe the agreement that ended their war in 1953. Northern troops staged a similar demonstration Friday.

None of the soldiers crossed into the U.N. side of the joint security zone at Panmunjom on either day.

Each time, the Northern troops stayed for about three hours and left without incident.

"The U.N. Command and the ROK (South Korea)-U.S. Combined Forces Command are concerned with these unusual events, but the combined and allied leadership see no other evidence of movement of troops or other military that would suggest any imminent threat," the command said in a statement.

The U.N. Command said it was trying to establish contact with the North's Peoples Army on Sunday.

A similar attempt Saturday was unsuccessful because the North's duty officer in Panmunjom refused to accept a hot-line call.

The armistice agreement allows each side to have only 35 troops in the joint security area at any one time, armed only with sidearms.

The armistice was signed at Panmunjom, and the village remains the site of infrequent, almost always testy talks between the former combatants.

South Korean military reported no unusual North Korean movements early Sunday.

Although the South Korean Defense Ministry ordered tightened vigilance around the truce village and along the border, the U.S. military said the violations did not indicate an attack was coming.

The first incursion prompted an emergency National Security Council meeting in Seoul on Saturday.

"The people should not be shaken by North Korea's provocation or menace and trust in the government and the military," President Kim Young-sam told reporters after the meeting. He said the South could easily repulse any threat from the North.

Kim's governing party has been emphasizing security concerns in the run up to Thursday's parliamentary election, in which it hopes to maintain its legislative majority.

While being careful not to appear to be soft on communism themselves, opposition parties have suggested the government has been blowing the incident out of proportion.

American authorities did their best to play it down. Officials in both Washington and Seoul called North Korea's violation serious but said it appeared to pose no risk of renewed fighting on the divided Korean Peninsula.

On Sunday, the North accused the South of provoking hostilities by putting its military on heightened alert.

It also accused Kim of trying to divert attention from internal problems, including a bribery scandal involving one of his key aides.

North Korea announced Thursday that it would "give up its duty" of jointly controlling the 2.5-mile-wide (four-kilometer-wide) demilitarized zone that stretches across the breadth of the peninsula.

That announcement prompted South Korea and the combined U.S. and U.N. military command in Seoul to order increased surveillance of the border to watch for any massing of northern troops and arms. None has been observed.

The increase in the so-called Watch Condition to a level 2 was the highest in 15 years, but affected mostly military intelligence and other units assigned to watch the tense border. No major southern troop movements or mobilizations were involved.

Most of the 37,000 American military personnel in South Korea were not affected by the heightened security alert, U.S. military spokesman Jim Coles said.

The United States, which led a U.N. force in defense of the South after North Korea invaded in 1950, has maintained a strong military presence since the armistice ending the war was signed in 1953.

About 130 North Korean soldiers armed with mortars and machine guns strode into the northern side of the joint security area at Panmunjom on Friday and stayed for 2 1/2 hours before leaving.

Regardless of immigration control issue Tenorio wants less US funding

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

WHETHER the CNMI retains control of local immigration or not, it would be the objective of the Tenorio Administration to reduce, if not totally eliminate federal funding assistance from the US.

This was according to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio who reiterated he would no longer want to see federal grant monies coming to the Commonwealth "with strings attached."

"I've said this before and I'll say it again. We get money from the federal government and then they tell us we have to do everything only after consulting with them. This is exactly what I don't want to see happening," said Tenorio in an interview Thursday.

Tenorio was commenting about a letter he received from California Rep. Elton Gallegly expressing disappointment over the visit of seven congressional staffers to the CNMI last week.

Gallegly, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs, was upset about the visit as he was not informed of the trip.

According to Tenorio, Gallegly's reaction is typical of what could be expected from the US if the CNMI continues to receive federal funding assistance.

"So let me make it very clear,



Froilan C. Tenorio

whether we keep immigration or not, eventually the objective of this administration will be to reduce as much as possible assistance from the federal government. I say that it should be our responsibility to see that we are self sufficient," Tenorio said.

According to the chief executive, the trouble with federal grant programs is that most of them don't really have to apply to the Commonwealth but are usually being accepted only because they are available.

"They give them to us whether we like it or not. A lot of these programs we did not ask for. The problem is that we get dependent on them and when the time comes for them to discontinue the programs, we don't have the local

funds to continue them," said Tenorio.

Although it may seem improbable, the governor said he would like the federal government to consult the CNMI on the kind of programs it wants to extend to the Commonwealth.

"This is because there are times when we just have to say 'thanks, but no thanks, we don't want that program over here because it's not suitable and appropriate for us.'"

"So my objective in this administration is to generate as much as possible local revenues so that we

don't have to continue to get from the US," he said.

Under US law, the CNMI is to provide federal funding assistance for the CNMI under Section 702 of the Covenant.

During a hearing in 1994, Tenorio told a US Congressional committee it can terminate Covenant funding for the CNMI as it only perpetuates dependency.

He then said he would rather have continued local control over immigration in lieu of the funding.

"Of course we would like to get more CIP funding from the fed-

eral government. But on the other hand, I will be more glad if we could generate CIP monies ourselves, so we can tell the US, 'Thank you for all the help in the past but now we are ready to stand on our own feet,'" said the governor.

"I don't want the US to continue to send us money because they need money over there too. And I agree, I don't want taxpayers in Illinois to subsidize our government over here. So my objective is to make us self-sufficient as much as possible," said the chief executive.

CHC to privatize radiology service next, says Abraham

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

WITH the pharmaceutical outpatient services ready to operate under a private firm by June, the Commonwealth Health Center gears for possible privatization of another hospital service—radiology.

Department of Public Health Services Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham revealed to the Variety that next in line under the department's privatization scheme is for the x-ray services and diagnostic imaging.

Abraham underscored the need to privatize the radiology services to increase the level of health care program in the CNMI with the participation of private organizations.

Abraham hinted that an off-island private firm has expressed interest with the program. He did not elaborate.

The secretary said the department is continuously looking at other hospital services and programs potential for privatization.

Gov. Froilan Tenorio has given Abraham a go signal to

privatize some hospital services and even commended the latter for the successful privatization of the laboratory and the pending outpatient pharmacy.

With regards to the privatization possibilities but had not been started, Tenorio, however, advised Abraham not to commit the government to provide the services, unless there is no feasible means for their delivery by the private sector.

The secretary believes that with the program (privatization), the government is saving 30-35 percent it normally spends in hiring labor personnel.

Under Abraham's term, the department had also already privatized the nursing recruitment, management of Rota Health Care, security services, linen and laundry services, yard maintenance, and house-keeping services.

The secretary earlier indicated major projects possible for privatization such as: diabetes and hypertension program; state systems develop-

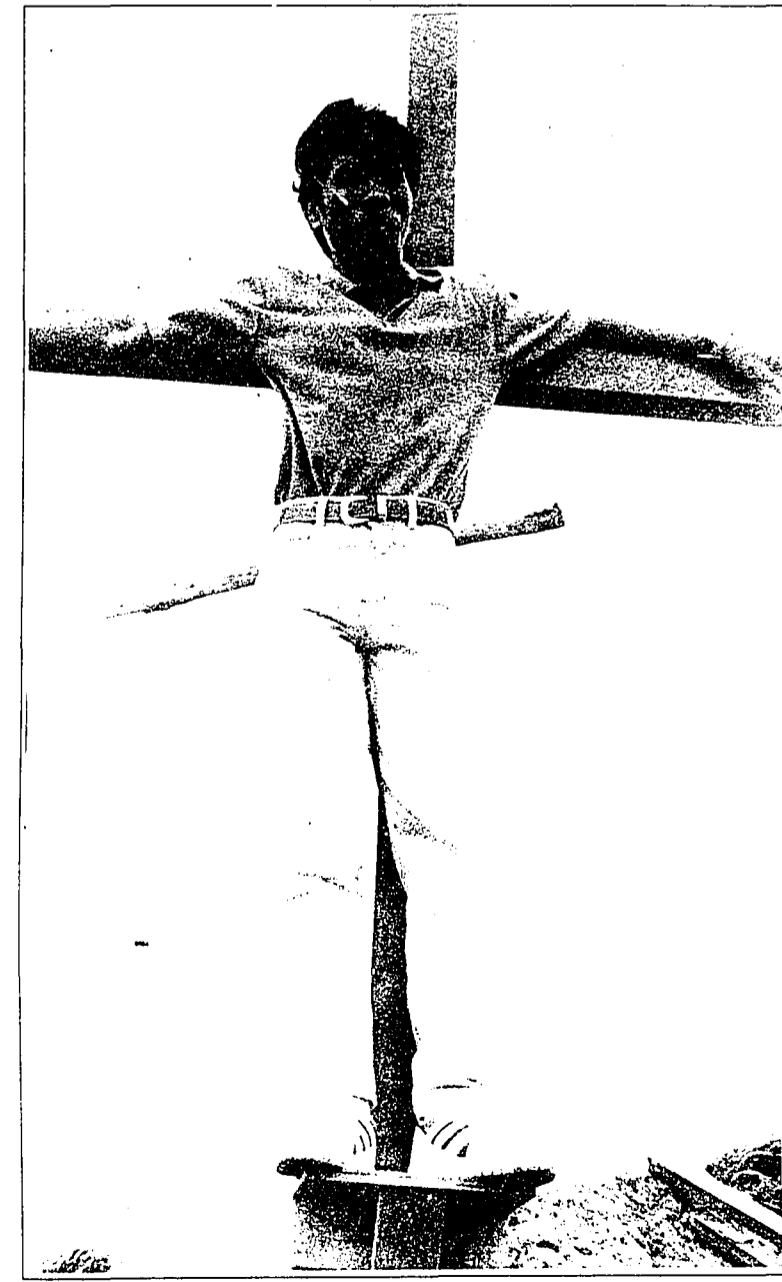


Isamu J. Abraham

ment initiative; family planning program; ophthalmology services; mental health services; and psychiatric care.

Other services include day hospital program; post-hospital ambulatory care; comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities; hospital hotel; adult home and congregate living facilities; and adult day health care.

Abraham said the programs have not been started, but DPHS is taking the initiative to pursue and find private firms to finance them.



NOT A JOKE. For Crisanto Estal mimicking the Crucified Christ is a good photo opportunity. Photo by FERDIE DE LA TORRE



WINDSWEPT CLIMB. Good Friday trekkers go up to the highest point of Mount Tapochao where the statue of the Resurrected Christ stands. Photo by RICK ALBERTO

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



France halts nuclear testing

The Government of France has succumbed to pressure from the international community on its nuclear testing program in one of the atolls in French Polynesia. It is welcomed tidings though this matter, specifically, the possibility that nuclear materials may creep to the surface from the caverns beneath the atolls remains an unsolved issue.

France has prepared funds to take care of people who may be affected by radiation. If nuclear materials find their way to the surface in Mururoa Atoll, this would have a devastating effect on the ocean resources and human life which would be very costly for the French Government.

The craze to manufacture the "perfect" nuclear head is beyond my comprehension. After all, the iron curtain is down. Therefore, the cold war has come to an end. Why would any reasonable man continue to find the "perfect" weaponry for mankind's destruction. Perhaps the French Government is too engrossed in its view of the need to perpetuate deterrence through a powerful nuclear head.

If, through the next decade Mururoa Atoll is found to be contaminated with nuclear wastes materials, we can almost guarantee that it will become a useless ocean graveyard for the indigenous people of French Polynesia. This information, coupled with the undercurrent for greater autonomy or self-government is likely to stir and solidify stronger indigenous commitment and demands for an independent Tahiti or French Polynesia.

This likely scenario simply translates into the Government of France being forced to cough out more money than it could ever imagine to repay the permanent destruction of an atoll. It may involve billions of dollars or Pacific Francs to make-up for the destruction of valuable sea resources and the rights of the indigenous people to live and enjoy their lives on an atoll that may just as well become ghost islands for eternity. The political war is on and it will take years before this matter is settled, if, at all.

The Kanaks of New Caledonia

For nearly five years, I represented the CNMI Government in the South Pacific Commission headquartered in Noumea, New Caledonia, a French territory. It was a worthy experience in every aspect of the work of the South Pacific Commission.

The conflict that evolved from demands of the Kanaks (indigenous New Caledonians) for effective control of their political destiny has resulted in several deaths of native Caledonians. About three-thousand French soldiers were flown in from France to quell political upheavals.

In the various official ceremonies that I have participated as a delegate, there lurks in the back of my mind the stark difference in livelihood between the white French community and the indigenous people. I saw tin shacks behind large posh residential buildings and quizzed the driver who occupies them. Came the answer: "Kanaks, who work as maids or gardeners for the more affluent French families".

The Kanaks are called the "Bush People" for living out in the country side in their traditional lifestyle. The New Caledonian Government has embarked on a low-cost housing for the elite Kanaks or those who are educated both at home and in Paris. French is the spoken and written language. Indigenous Caledonians who eventually move out of their traditional way of life and have secured their French education become the elite among their people.

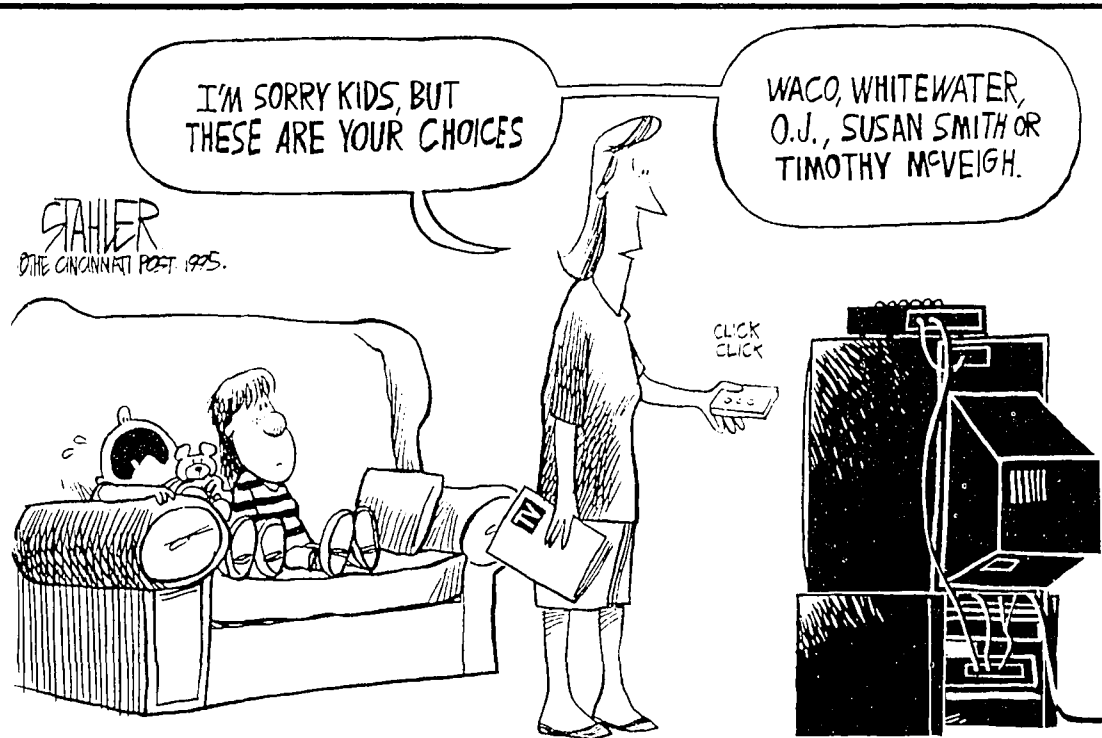
The picture is a bit blurry and it will be unfair to paint a negative picture altogether about the colonial government in Noumea. In other words, my information about indigenous movement for an independent New Caledonia is rather sketchy though I have read newspaper articles about their sacrifices to secure control of their ultimate destiny. Perhaps this is one experience which I find most unsettling in my dozen trips to New Caledonia.

New Caledonia is a huge country about three hours from Sydney, Australia. You can drive its paved roads to the northern part of the island, a trip that will take about four days. It is famous for its nickel deposit, an industry that isn't as lucrative as it used to be. In short, it is a resource rich country in both land and sea. The French Government, widely known worldwide for its applied technology, has assisted in the research and production of hybrid crops and livestock.

I visited its modern market near the shore and every stall is taken and loaded with fresh fish and local farm produce. I bought my share of fresh fish for sashimi, soup and barbecue with my Microphone friends. Thanks to Dave Rosario for his generosity of inviting delegates from the Micronesian Region for a get together. He and his family have always made it a point to make us feel at home. Perhaps the most interesting discussions other than what's new back home are those that revolve around the political plight of the Kanaks and the arrogance of the colonial power in New Caledonia.

The one question that seem to haunt the Municipal Government of New Caledonia is the overwhelming number of resident French Caledonians occupying most jobs in the South Pacific Commission. It is a nagging question similar to the very question that kept creeping up in the back of my mind: When will the real guardians (indigenous people or Kanaks) of New Caledonia be granted their rights to chart the future of their people and country?

It's one beautiful country where the indigenous people are struggling to have "their way" rather than the ways of their colonial ruler. I wish them well in their long journey to secure political sovereignty.



JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

The old Buchanan vs. the new Buchanan

WASHINGTON—Could Pat Buchanan, who spent his formative years in politics flinging filth on Richard Nixon's behalf, be suffering from his own version of the "18-minute gap"?

It was 18 missing minutes from the infamous Watergate tapes that convinced many Americans of Nixon's complicity in the scandal that ended his presidency. Similarly, Buchanan is skirting segments of his own career when he complains to audiences about the "sleazy tactics" and "attack ads" employed by his Republican opponents.

Though Buchanan often wraps himself in Nixon's legacy when it suits his political ends, he has conveniently edited out parts of his past that conflict with his new image as the pugilist populist who panicked GOP officials by winning the New Hampshire primary.

He likes to tell audiences that he's an "authentic conservative who's been right from the beginning." In the beginning, however, Buchanan was a free-trade advocate who found comfort in the corridors of power; an elite suburbanite who drove a Mercedes-Benz until he realized that the pitch-fork bearing peasants he preaches to don't drive pricey German sedans. The man who now draws cheers for condemning "bloodless corporate butchers" plied his trade in a White House whose illegal courting of the corporate gentry prompted sweeping changes in the campaign finance system.

But Buchanan's most astonishing break from the past may be his born-again attitude toward negative campaigns.

"Over the past year we have fought a good, clean campaign, and I am proud of that campaign," Buchanan said last week. "But in the last 24 hours, Bob Dole has reverted once again to the nasty attack ads he withdrew only last week. His campaign is making telephone calls smearing me; his surrogates are openly attacking my character."

Those are ironic words for a man who spent the summer of 1972 preparing the "assault book," a sleazy encyclopedia of negative information for Nixon to use against his opponent that fall, Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D. No blow was too low for the assault book. At one point, Buchanan referred to a McGovern campaign contributor as a "screaming fairy," and accused McGovern himself of having a "lynch mob attitude towards the nation's peace officers, a knee-

jerk tendency to exonerate hell-raisers and condemn the police."

While he condemned McGovern, Buchanan urged Nixon to stand firmly behind one of this century's most controversial figures—J. Edgar Hoover, the tyrant who ran the FBI for nearly half a century until his death in 1972. At the time, the public already was aware of Hoover's legendary abuses of power; his habit of using FBI resources to pursue private vendettas against lawmakers, entertainers and other "subversives."

"Let me say this," Buchanan wrote in a "suggested speech insert." "George McGovern will never be half the man, or half the American, that John Edgar Hoover was—the more Hoovers this nation produces, and the fewer McGovern's we get as candidates, the better off the United States will be."

Could those be the words of today's Pat "Let's-CleanUp-Politics" Buchanan? Is there any wonder why they were not included in his recent television commercials touting his White House experience?

UNDER THE DOME—The House Appropriations Committee has long been known as the dispenser of "pork" projects for various special interest groups. But the following matter belongs in a category all its own.

An unreleased letter recently penned by Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich., a second-term who won a coveted seat on Appropriations last year, proves that the life of a lawmaker isn't all glamorous.

"I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. R. Miles Handy II, President, Oink-Oink Inc.," begins the letter, which was written to the congressional relations office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"According to Mr. Handy, the United States Department of Agriculture was allowing Oink-Oink to purchase pork penises to use as a pet treat.... After several months of doing so, the USDA began to 'dye the raw penises green.' As a result of this, Oink-Oink Inc. is unable to use them because of this discoloration."

Fortunately, the pet owners' loss is everybody else's gain. It seems the pig genitalia were being dyed green to ensure that they weren't mixed with other parts of the pig meant for human consumption. Still, the whole episode only confirms what Otto von Bismarck famously noted: That there are two things you never want to see being made—legislation and sausage.

Letters

PSS asked to back petition

Dear Editor:
Recently Public Law 7-45 was amended allowing the Public School System to continue hiring non-resident teachers. Despite this, Public School System Commissioner William S. Torres and Board of Education Member Don Farrell have noted publicly that non-resident teachers will still be replaced this year after intensive recruiting in the U.S. mainland. Both have indicated that PSS faculty staffing is under control for the 1996-1997 school year.

There are some disturbing assumptions behind Mr. Torres' and Mr. Farrell's statements:

1) That these PSS leaders do not believe in using every resource available to give our children the best possible education; 2) That non-resident teachers are not as capable of instructing our "Americanized" curriculum as are U.S. citizen teachers; 3) That American citizen teachers are somehow superior to non-resident teachers in the effort to maintain local culture; 4) That young college grads from the US can "replace" island-experienced, qualified non-resident teachers.

Before our leaders refuse to re-new contracts to our non-resident teachers they need to ask some key questions. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has officially criticized the PSS for its failure to provide faculty stability at MHS. More importantly, parents and students understand how the constant turnover of teachers, year after year, means more rookie instructors with little understanding of the complex and beautiful culture of the Marianas. Leaders must consider: 1) Exactly how many teachers would be required to leave and how would this affect our children? 2) Why is the turn-over rate for local and U.S. mainland teachers so high in our school system? 3) How can we guarantee that all positions vacated by nonresidents would be filled by equally qualified and experienced teachers next year so our children will not be shortchanged? 4) Should place of birth be the determining factor when selecting the best possible teacher for our children?

The CNMI has demonstrated a deep concern for valuing its heritage and maintaining its culture. Most education scholars recognize that the presence of diversity in the faculty helps students understand their own culture and take pride in it.

CNMI students have the luxury and privilege of learning from a variety of perspectives on a daily basis. This should be honored and protected. Until enough local teachers are trained, the PSS is in a unique and exciting position to recruit interested teachers from anywhere in the world.

It is difficult to understand why leaders continue to renew non-resident contract workers for some government agencies but refuse to consider the impact this loss of teachers would have on the children of the CNMI.

The Association of Commonwealth Teacher of Marianas High School (ACT-MHS) wants to see the strongest possible staffing in our schools next year. We have developed and are currently distributing a petition to retain non-resident teachers. We encourage every member of PSS to help us by signing our petition and implementing policies that can retain the qualified and experienced non-resident teachers.

MHS teachers work hard to ensure that effort and ability, not national origin, are the keys to success in our school. We ask the PSS to do the same.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN S. MUCHER

Tenorio writes on wage issue

Dear Editor:
Your recent story, titled Inaction on April 1 Hike Dims Business Climate included some interesting comments from Saipan Chamber of Commerce President, Sam McPhetres which merits refutation.

Most educated and experienced business in the NMI are in agreement with McPhetres' assertion at vacillation in the consideration of an all-encompassing public policy projects an image of instability.

It is very concerning however, how you and the Chamber have sought the approval of mandated wages without any basis in fact. Of all people, I expect the Chamber to get its act together and fight for a delay in mandated wages until all sectors can evaluate the results of the mid-decade census data. Is your position on mandated wage increase based on factual socio-economic data or are you acting more like politicians who have no concept of the consequences of ill-conceived public policy decisions?

In the same breath, you mentioned that some companies have gone ahead and implemented a thirty cent (30¢) increase. You just confirmed what the private sector can do without being forced by mandate of law. This should be the basis of determining wages by industry. Meanwhile, you forgot to take into consideration whether other industries can afford the increase and how such an increase would impact upon unemployment, reduction in revenue generation, cost of basic housing, etc. Or has the Chamber done extensive research on these issues?

The fact that the Chamber is a businessmen's organization - people who work 18 hours a day to meet profit margins and remit taxes - dictates that you, of all people should lead and guide the other sector (government) to come to grips with economic realities in the islands. It is surprising too, that while investors remind us of the high cost of doing business in the NMI, you espouse driving this cost upwards even further. It doesn't follow, Mr. McPhetres, in that an increase in doing business is non-conducive to encouraging investment in the CNMI. And one need not go to Harvard University's School of Business to understand this. It only takes lots of common sense.

Finally, the Chamber seems to have lost focus on the importance of allowing the NMI certain competitive advantage in some of its industries who compete in the global market. Shouldn't this receive full review by the Chamber? Remember, any loss in revenue simply means that others, like members of the Chamber will have no choice but to cough-up the difference. Additional taxes isn't the answer, Mr. McPhetres.

Sincerely,

MANS TENORIO

House probes veracity of reported gov't surplus

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff
THE HOUSE of Representatives is busy determining the veracity of earlier claims made by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio that the CNMI government is running into millions of surplus funds for fiscal years 1995 and 1996.

This was after the House Committee on Ways and Means found out last week that a spending deficit may after all be expected by the CNMI government in the past and current fiscal year.

"Right now, I understand the Committee is still trying to get all the records, the actual information whether or not we'll be having a surplus or a deficit," said House Speaker Diego T. Benavente.

"The only way we can know for sure is if we could get the correct documents. We do have conflicting reports, the governor coming out saying we're going to have a surplus for FY 1996 while the committee so far in their deliberations has been basically told that we're going to be in a deficit situation for FY 1996."

The governor in a news conference in late March said he plans on submitting a \$237 million budget for FY 1997, in view of a \$10 million surplus noted by government in FY 1995 and of a strong revenue showing for the first four months of FY 1996. He said FY 1996 could lead to another surplus year.

But according to Rep. Pete P. Reyes, the House Ways and Means Committee found out last week from officials from the Department of Finance and the Management and Budget Office that a deficit could be anticipated.

"They admitted that the gover-



Diego T. Benavente



Pete P. Reyes

nor made statements that are untrue. There wasn't any surplus for FY 1995. The governor didn't understand the financial statement," said Reyes in an interview last week.

"This is something because a person who does not understand a financial statement is running our government, announcing erroneous information as he normally does," Reyes added.

"If the media wishes to hear recorded confirmation by his own staff, you're welcome to check the chairperson of Ways and Means so you could play back the records and see that the \$10 million surplus is not there," said Reyes.

The Variety sought Ways and Means Chairperson Ana S. Teregeyo for comment but the latter could not be reached.

According to Reyes, he suspects the governor may have been representing the real figures to sell his new budget package of \$237 million for FY 1997.

"This is ridiculous," said Reyes. "He continues to build up the size

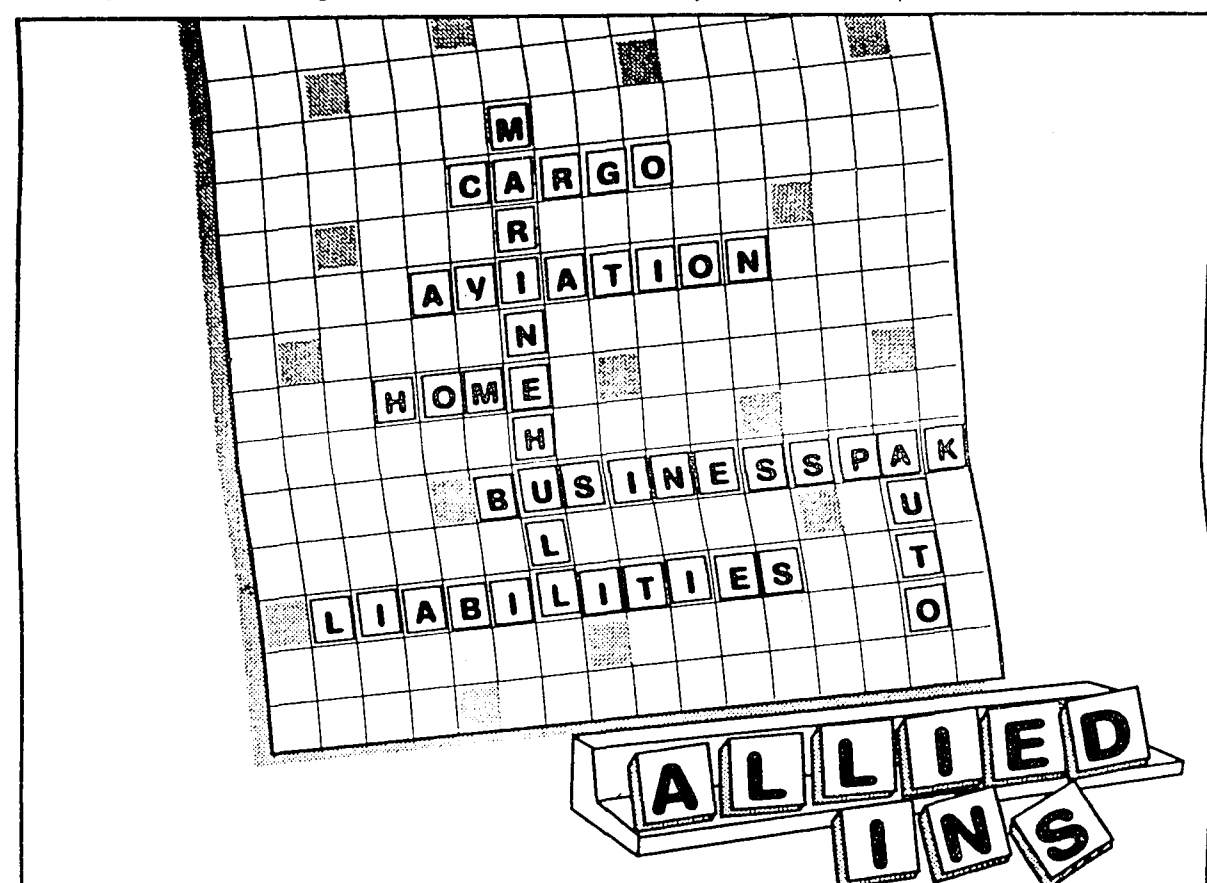
of the government. Why don't we for once return the money back to the people, if truly we are getting a lot of money and we are expecting \$237 million in resources," Reyes said.

Asked how much deficit he is expecting for FY 1995, Reyes said it could be close to about \$1.9 million although he added it may be possible that the figure could be bigger than that.

"We would have to wait for a final audited figure," he said.

As for the FY 1997 submission of \$237 million, Speaker Diego T. Benavente said the House will be looking at working on the new submission.

"I haven't talked with the chairperson about it. But because of the questions right now about what the real situation is, we would definitely be pushing for a public hearing on resources to confirm whether or not the CNMI government's projection of a \$237 million resources is correct," said the speaker.



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Visitors from Kanto area surge

THE Kanto region of Japan—comprising Tokyo, Kawasaki, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gumma, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Yamanashi—contributed the biggest share of the total number Japanese tourists who arrived on Saipan by air, statistics from the Marianas Visitors Bureau show.

Visitors from Kanto from October 1995 to February this year totaled 101,716, or 57.28 percent of the Japanese market.

The government's fiscal year

starts October.

The second highest contributor of Japanese tourists during the first five months of FY 1996 is the Kinki, or Kansai, area with 24,834, or 13.99 percent of the market.

Kinki comprises Osaka, Kobe, Shiga, Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, Hyogo, and Mie.

The Tokai prefecture—composed of Nagoya, Gifu, Shizuoka, and Aichi—was the third largest contributor, with 17,216, or 9.70 percent of the Japanese arrivals.

The Marianas Visitors Bureau maintains offices in Tokyo and Osaka, two cities located in prefectures that are the top two sources of visitors from Japan.

During the first five months of FY 1996 the Japanese (totaling 185,093) made up 62.50 percent of the total number of visitors (296,114) to the CNMI.

The other prefectures, together with the number of visitors they contributed and the percentage of

the market, are as follows:

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- Shinetsu (Nagano and Niigata), 6,615 (3.73 percent);
- Hokkaido, 3,351 (1.89 percent);

- Chugoku (Hiroshima, Tottori, Yamane, Okayama, and Yamaguchi), 3,222 (1.81 percent);
- Hokuriku (Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui), 2,789 (1.57 percent);
- Shikoku (Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi), 1,358 (0.76 percent); and
- Okinawa, 131 (0.07 percent).

Tourists who did not specify their cities numbered 1,617 (0.91 percent).— **Rick Alberto**

AG seeks revocation of Reddin probation

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has sought the revocation of probation against a man charged for trying to kill another person and assaulting his former girlfriend.

In a motion, Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli said William Reddin has not obeyed all criminal laws, which was part of the terms and conditions of his probation.

If proven by the court, Reddin will be sent to jail for one year.

Forelli explained that last March 18, Reddin entered into an agreement with the government in which he pleaded no contest to assault and battery charge.

The case stemmed from an incident last Jan. 29 when Reddin punched his former girlfriend, Dorothy Alice McKinney, in the face and kicked her on her side.

Under the agreement, the AG recommended the imposition of one year jail term against the defendant.

Reddin was also required to seek relationship counseling from a therapist.

The court sentenced Reddin in accordance with the terms of the agreement, said Forelli in her motion filed before the Superior Court.

The defendant violated the condition of the negotiation when he was arrested Tuesday for allegedly trying to kill William Mayfield with a Hawaiian sling and assaulting McKinney.

In that case, the AG filed a superseding information charging Reddin with attempted murder in the second degree, assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault and battery, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, and criminal contempt.

Babauta . . .

Continued from page 1

said Babauta. "I would not like to see that stricken down.

The Washington representative, who used to be part of the 902 panel during the previous administration, said patience is a key element in the 902 process as both sides are expected to pursue different arguments and different agenda.

"In my experience as vice chairman of the 902 negotiations several years ago, things were very frustrating as we couldn't reach agreements on issues

for a long, long time.

"But we kept working on them and although we did not settle then, issues are now coming into fruition because of our ability to keep working," said Babauta.

He added: "It may seem frustrating and I know there must be frustrations, but I think the strategy is to keep working and not let go."

Section 902 of the Covenant requires regular meetings between representatives of the US president and the CNMI governor on issues affecting the relationship of the federal and Commonwealth governments.

Tenorio early in his term as governor asked his 902 special representative Brenda Y. Tenorio and Vicente Salas to pursue a proposal to restrict US citizenship from certain persons born in the CNMI.

The governor proposes to limit US citizenship to CNMI-born children with at least one US citizen parent.

Currently, under Section 301 of the Covenant, anyone born in the CNMI acquires US citizenship regardless of the citizenship of their parents.

On the other hand, the issue of submerged lands was taken up as a 902 issue in light of federal efforts to include the CNMI among insular areas whose control of the waters surrounding their islands are being limited.

The CNMI government has been asserting that it has sovereign control over waters within the 200-mile radius off its coasts.

According to the governor, he feels the CNMI does not have to go through 902 and can go directly to US Congress for support on issues.

He said with the lack of progress on 902, his administration may end up doing that.

"The US cannot blame us because we made the effort to discuss this matter with them. We would not wait around," the chief executive said.

AGO . . .

Continued from page 1

AG, demanded on Dec. 15 payment of penalty from Santos.

Despite the demands made, AG said Santos had failed to pay the penalty and not even contacted OPA regarding the amount due.

The government asked \$70 payment from Santos for filing seven days late.

Under the statute, those required to file statement of financial interests or the so-called "reporting individuals" are each elected and appointed public official and judicial officer.

A person who refuses or fails to disclose required information within the deadline is guilty of misdemeanor offense.

After the case was filed, Santos told the Variety that he had no intention of not complying the provisions of the ethics code. He said he wants to pay his obligations.

Santos was among the seven persons slapped by OPA with civil case for not complying the provisions of government ethics code.

OPA also filed criminal charges against three other government officials for failing to submit report of their financial interests.

Meanwhile, the AG dismissed with prejudice the civil case against Barbara Santos-Van Meter, Marianas/Guam liaison officer.

Meter was charged for refusing to pay \$90 as penalty for filing her financial interest report late.

Meter likewise "settled" the case.

Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1

"You do PR work regardless of whether you do a good job or not," Tenorio said. "But, PR work is more especially necessary when you're doing a good job so that the people would spread the news about that."

Tenorio attributed the negative publicity the CNMI gets to some quarters who, he said, are out to discredit his administration's efforts.

"Some US congressmen are just envious of the things that we can do because we can control our immigration," he said. "They are just determined to take that way from us."

Man . . .

Continued from page 1

Camacho, of Navy Hill, was charged with theft and forgery.

Camacho allegedly got gasoline worth \$22 from a Shell station without paying it last Dec. 5.

Between Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 1995, Camacho was accused of forging \$1,860 checks payable to various entities and belonging to a woman.

Rios was summoned to appear in court on April 29. (FDT)

NMC Board of Regents meeting

THE BOARD of Regents of Northern Marianas College will hold its regular quarterly meeting on Friday, April 12 at 9:30 am at Board of Regents conference room on the As Terlaje campus.

Knott prods other US officials to visit

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

CONGRESSIONAL staffer Kerry A. Knott encourages other Washington officials to visit the CNMI "to see for themselves" the progress taking place in the island.

The seven Congressional staffers concluded their five-day visit Friday, satisfied with the briefing they got from local government officials and business leaders.

"I guess the biggest surprise we have seen is that we seem

to get a very similar message that we got when we talked to business leaders, local and federal officials," said Knott, Majority leader Dick Arme's chief of staff.

Members of the delegation, Knott said, "are impressed with the progress taking place and we will make sure that the people we work for are briefed on what's happening here."

The staffers' fact-finding trip was surrounded by controversies. Some quarters are cynical about the objectiveness of the delegation's conclusion as the trip was fully bankrolled by the government.

"We're not here to make a biased report," Knott told a press briefing at the airport. "We're here to learn."

He said the group's visit and report alone would not

guarantee a change of life in the Commonwealth.

The staffers, Knott said, would submit individual reports to the "decision-makers and they can do with it whatever they want."

"I don't want to give the impression that this is some kind of trip where we're going to report back and things are going to start changing," Knott said.

Because Washington is being confronted with bigger issues, Knott said, "the CNMI doesn't get the attention it deserves."

"I would encourage as many people to come out here and visit. The more first-hand experience they get, the more likely for the CNMI to get a balanced story in Washington."



Kerry A. Knott

Laws not the answer to NMI drug problems

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

STRICTER laws? Stiffer penalties? More policemen?

These are not the answers to drug and alcohol problems in the CNMI, according to Chief Public Defender Dan DeRienzo.

"Many people mistakenly believe that making laws is the only answer. This is simply not true. All the police in the world cannot stop alcoholism and drug use," DeRienzo stated in a position paper he has submitted to the Governor's Drug Task Force.

The growing drug problem in the CNMI has prompted government and community leaders to search for various solutions to the menace. Law enforcement agencies are seeking more money to step up their operations. Lawmakers came up with legislations that seek to increase penalties for drug abusers and pushers.

DeRienzo said increasing criminal sanctions and sending drug users to jail won't help curb the problem, but would rather make it even harder for the law enforcers to track down offenders.

Increased penalties, DeRienzo said, would only "push drug addiction under the ground further rather than bring it out into the open where qualified professionals can reach out."

"Stricter penalties," DeRienzo said, "will bring more fear into the minds and hearts of the public and less individuals and families will be willing to come forth with a problem."

Relatives of a person involved in drugs would not seek assistance from the government "because they are afraid that the government will punish their loved one rather than offer the needed assistance," the public defender said.

Statistics from the Drug Task Force indicate that from 1990 to 1995, 465 people were arrested for trafficking of marijuana, and for the same period, 335 were arrested for activities related to ice.

There is no need for more police and more arrests, DeRienzo said.

Educating the people and teaching them how to behave like responsible citizens would be a more favorable way to deal with the problem, he said.

"We can do this by placing a greater focus on education for both the user and his family," DeRienzo said.

He also recommended the "depopulationization" of drugs and alcohol the same way done by the government on the smoking habit.

"The government can emphasize the depopularization of alcohol and drug abuse by media campaign and setting example,"

DeRienzo said, as he proposed tax incentives for related media campaigns.

He also pushed for the establishment of a public clinic or treatment facility that offer assistance to families who need help.

There has to be readily available physicians, counselors and health and welfare professionals who are able to provide the treatment, he said.

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BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

500 civil servants stand to lose jobs

MORE than 500 civil servants in Vanuatu will lose their jobs, if the present coalition government is committed to reducing the size of its workforce. Prime minister, Maxime Carlot Korman, has pledged his government's support for a call by the opposition group in parliament, to

reduce the size of the country's public service by 10 percent. He told parliament his government will try its very best to reduce the public service, at the same time poses the need to secure sufficient funds to compensate some 550 civil servants, who will be struck from the payroll.

Finance minister, Barak Sope, says the present government will exercise discretion in re-employing strikers, to fill in existing positions, in a bid to create a public service free of politics. Opposition spokesperson and former finance minister, Willi

Jimmy, says the 10 percent reduction in the government workforce, and the suspension of new recruitment is a necessity, if the government is to arrive at a zero balance budget, an exercise where govern-

ment departments cannot spend more than what they are allocated. The 50 member house of representatives have unanimously approved the principal of the Appropriation Bill.

Several Hilo businesses oppose giving access to open farmers

HILO (AP) - A bill that would allow open farmers and merchandise markets to operate in any commercial zone on the Big Island is facing opposition in the Hilo business community. County Councilman Brian De Lima said he introduced the bill after hearing of complaints of "red tape" encountered by the operators of the Hilo Farmers' Market and other open

markets in the downtown area. Some business owners, however, think the markets are unfair because operators do not have to go through enough red tape. Restaurant operator Tip Davis said his business has to be wheelchair-accessible but the markets do not. Randy Rohner, a member of the Downtown Improvement As-

sociation, said he is not against the existing markets, which operate on Wednesdays and Fridays. But he said De Lima's bill would allow far too many of the markets, which he said would turn Big Island communities into "blue tarp cities." The County Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on De Lima's bill Wednesday.

Parliament passes gov't motion suspending 3 MPs

THE VANUATU parliament has passed a government motion to suspend three MPs of the opposition National United Party. Parliament says the suspension, for a period not exceeding two sessions, or one year, is because of their involvement in the constitutional crisis last February, RNZI reports. The member for Vila Town the only woman MP, Hilda Lini, was accused of stabbing two police officers with a pen, during a fracas in parliament. MP Robert Karie was accused of cooperating with Lini to willfully obstruct the business of parliament, and MP John Tari is said to have acted in

a manner demeaning of his high office, and therefore has endangered the respect for, and confidence in the parliament. The incidents occurred when the three were opposing the appointment of the speaker, and then the election of the prime minister, as not following correct parliamentary procedures. Summarizing the debate on the motion, the deputy prime minister, Donald Kalpokas, said democracy in Vanuatu is hanging on a thread, because a few politically hungry people are trying so hard to hold onto power.....Pacnews

Marshalls cuts gov't paychecks

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO - Confirming that belt-tightening in the Marshall Islands is not just talk, the Ministry of Finance implemented a five percent cut in pay for government workers this week and the Tobolar Copra Processing Authority announced a major reduction in copra prices because of a major reduction in government subsidies.

Prices of copra also to be lowered

Tobolar's board of directors approved the reduction in price from 19.5 to 16 cents per pound on the remote outer islands, and from 21.5 to 18 cents per pound in Majuro, where the copra processing mill is located. Meanwhile, the five percent pay reduction for government employees, including elected officials, earning more than \$10,400 annually becomes effective this week. The Nitijela (parliament) had passed a law

mandating pay cuts more than a year ago, but it was not implemented. This week's cutbacks are a result of the 1996 budget law passed by Nitijela in March. The government is facing a nearly \$5 million deficit this year. Asian Development Bank officials are playing a leading role in policy-making decisions aimed at cutting government subsidies, salaries and other services that are not productive. The Tobolar board's announcement said that "this reduction in price is due to the reduced subsidy received from the Nitijela." The new 1996 budget cut the copra subsidy from \$850,000 to \$600,000. Tobolar general manager

Michael Slinger said that he does not anticipate that the cut in price will greatly reduce production. He pointed out that when the price was dropped by two cents in November 1994, production actually increased. "The subsidized price (of 16 cents per pound) is still the highest in the world paid for copra," Slinger said. Copra production in the Marshalls during the past 18 months has been at its highest levels in more than 25 years. "If government field trip service continues to improve, the impact of the drop in price will be minimal," Slinger said. In late 1994, monthly production totals doubled "because transportation met its

schedule and had boats out picking up copra regularly," he said. Copra production from March 1995 to February 1996 soared to 6,794.47 tons for a monthly average of 579 tons. This was an increase over the same period in 1994-1995, when 6,370.79 tons were produced for a monthly average of 531 tons. The 1995-96 total would likely have cracked 7,000 tons - a benchmark that Marshalls copra makers have exceeded only once since records began being kept in 1951 - but for the October-November national election period, when copra production dipped to under 350 tons each month, primarily because government ships were busy with election-related travel and only irregularly collected copra.

Strong Toyota and Honda sales help industry growth

By MIKE McKESSON
DETROIT (AP) - March car sales rose 4.3 percent from a year ago, helped by Toyota's surprising 34.4 percent sales jump for the month. Ford reported Wednesday that its March sales of cars and light trucks were up 2.2 percent from last year's March rate. Earlier this week, Honda posted a 29.9 percent increase and Chrysler said sales were up 8.1 percent.

up 12.7 percent from a year ago and the European companies showed a 3.3 percent increase.

John Hanson, product news manager for Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., said the month's results far exceeded the company's projections. Toyota set a March record with Camry sales and its combined sport-utility vehicle sales were up 150 percent. "We had a really big (advertising) campaign on, but the incentive money was not that large, comparatively speaking, over last year," Hanson said.

Automakers' general sales performance in the year's first quarter is prompting some analysts to boost their estimates of how many cars and light trucks U.S. consumers will buy this year. Most had forecast 1996 totals about even with 1995. "Consumers are definitely shopping the deal, but they're also ready to buy," TMS executive vice president Yale Gieszl said in the Toyota report.

The industry's sales rate in the year's first quarter was up 2.7 percent from last year, with car sales running about even and trucks up 6.9 percent. The truck category includes pickups, vans and sport utilities. For March, the Big Three domestic companies combined for an increase of 1.7 percent. The Asian automakers were

Malaysian businessmen asked to join PNG peers

PAPUA New Guinea prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, has invited Malaysian businessmen to join their PNG counterparts to foster national and regional self-reliance and stimulate investment and trade in the Asia-Pacific region, the Post Courier reports.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted by Malaysia's national chamber of commerce and industry in Kuala Lumpur, Sir Julius said his visit to Malaysia has two important functions. He says it will reaffirm, consolidate and strengthen the already official relations between the two countries, in a very significant way. Sir Julius said his government is giving high priority to both activities, particularly in downstream processing, adding value to PNG's raw resources is definitely the path they will want to follow. Sir Julius says his visit and that of senior officials and chief executives of key firms in PNG's private sector, has signified what they see to be an increasing interest that Malaysian firms are taking in PNG....Pacnews

Leader writes police to clarify democracy meets


THE leader of Tonga's pro-democracy movement, 'Akilisi Pohiva, says he's written to the police to try to clarify his programme of meetings to discuss democracy. Acting commander, 'Eleni 'Aho says police are investigating the group, but she is refusing to comment on reports that Pohiva and his supporters will be arrested if they hold meetings on the northern island of Vava'u, RNZI reports. But, Pohiva says he's received a

letter from the police telling him that holding meetings to discuss democracy violates the law, and that it's against the law to induce people to have the monarchy, and Tonga's present form of government. He says he's written back to make it clear that is not what the meetings do. Pohiva says three pro-democracy movement supporters have already arrived in Vava'u.

Meeting with Aussie officials 'successful'


FIJI'S foreign affairs minister, Filipe Bole has described as successful and positive a meeting with Australian trade officials, parliamentarians and ministers. He had far ranging discussions with the Australian ministers, although the primary purpose of his visit was to discuss trade related matters, the Daily Post reports. The Australian government has stated that it will in consultation with the island states

of the South Pacific and New Zealand, the co-sponsor of SPARTECA, examine alternative options to improve the free flow of trade and investment in the region. Bole says he had reached an understanding with the Australians, on the need to review the existing SPARTECA agreement including the contentious ongoing problems in relation to the rules of origin provisions.....Pacnews



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10,000.00	887.32	469.57	330.95	262.11	221.18
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RECYCLE

FBI closes in on 'Unabomber'

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Investigators searching the remote northwestern cabin of the former math professor suspected of being the elusive Unabomber discovered and defused a live bomb, a federal law officer said. Investigators, who have been widely searching

Bomb discovered, defused at suspect's cabin

coln, Montana. They weren't allowed inside.

The structure, made of dark-stained wood, is hidden in a wooded setting about 300 yards (meters) from the nearest neighbor.

It has two windows and a closed door with three locks.

There was a bicycle parked outside, along with parts of other bikes. Neighbors said Kaczynski was often seen riding his bike around town.

A creek runs nearby, and there were two gardens. There was no sign of an outhouse.

The FBI had set up a table outside the cabin, but there was no sign of anything that looked like evidence, and agents refused to answer questions about their search.

Meanwhile, a magazine reported that Kaczynski's family had sent him thousands of dollars over the years, possibly explaining how a person with no visible means of support could have traveled the country, planting or mailing bombs.

"The guy lived largely off family contributions," a senior Justice Department official told U.S. News and World Report in its April 15 issue.

Kaczynski, 53, was charged with possession of bomb-making materials and jailed without bail. The charge doesn't mention the Unabomber investigation and is intended to keep him in custody while investigators build a case.

A partially completed pipe bomb, bomb-making chemicals and components and notes on making bombs were in the cabin, and one law enforcement official said a typewriter found there appears to be the one the Unabomber used to type his 35,000-word manifesto and letters.

Investigators searching the home are proceeding cautiously, fearing booby traps, but so far none have been found, said a law enforcement official familiar with the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

ABC News reported late Friday that agents found intricately carved wooden boxes in the shack. Carved videocassette-sized wooden boxes, sometimes made from four different woods, were used in some of the Unabomber's bombs.

The Unabomber's explosives were mailed from several states, and federal agents are also trying to track Kaczynski's movements through travel records.

Federal authorities have learned that Kaczynski left his shack and traveled 50 miles to a Helena hotel at least 25 times; four of the stays roughly coincided with five bombings blamed on the Unabomber.

The FBI took records of Kaczynski's stays at the Park Hotel between 1982 and 1995, hotel owner Jack McCabe said Friday.

Last year, the Unabomber promised to stop killing if newspapers published his treatise.

The New York Times and The Washington Post published the writings; there have been no bombings since.

Kaczynski apparently had no car and no steady work in

Montana. His cramped shack has no electricity or plumbing, which would appear to coincide with the Unabomber's aversion to modern society and technology described in the manifesto.

The U.S. News & World Report article said that Attorney General Janet Reno received an internal memo on Feb. 15 that for the first time identified Kaczynski as the prime suspect.

On March 11, agents searched the Chicago-area home of his mother, Wanda Kaczynski.

Kaczynski's name was in the FBI task force's database for more than a year, but he did not emerge as a top suspect in part because one profile of the suspect indicated he would be a blue-collar worker with no college degree, the magazine said.

Kaczynski has a doctorate in mathematics and taught at the University of California, Berkeley.

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Demonstrators cheer as a group in support of striking newspaper workers sit down to be arrested in front of the Detroit Free Press in Detroit. Detroit police arrested 60 people. Six unions and 2,500 union employees struck the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News on July 13, 1995. AP Photo

Fighting in Liberia, civilians flee

By NYENATI ALLISON
MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Fearing all-out warfare, civilians fled by the thousands to escape violent clashes between government troops and members of an ethnic faction trying to prevent the arrest of their leader.

Witnesses said they saw at least one body in the street, that of a girl apparently killed in crossfire.

Violence erupted before dawn Saturday as heavily armed government troops tried to force faction leader Roosevelt Johnson from his home in Sinkor, an eastern suburb of the capital, Monrovia.

"This city is no longer a safe haven. Everywhere is gunfire," one of the residents,

Mercy Baxter, said as she fled with her three children.

The streets were lined with civilians carrying bundles of clothes on their heads or packing their cars.

Johnson leads one of seven rival groups in Liberia's civil war, which has persisted for six years, most recently in violation of an August 1995 cease-fire agreement.

The war has killed 150,000 people, and forced half of the country's 2.6 million people from their homes.

Johnson was a member of the transitional government seated after the cease-fire agreement, but was later ousted.

He is wanted on murder charges stemming from clashes that killed several

people in the capital last week, for which his ethnic Krahn group is blamed. Johnson has been holed up in his house and refused to surrender.

On Saturday, his followers surrounded the house with mortars and grenade-launchers and patrolled the neighborhood waving assault rifles.

Neighbors began fleeing Friday, fearing what might happen if government troops stormed Johnson's house as they have threatened to do.

Soldiers of the African peacekeeping army deployed across Liberia were sent into Sinkor but were not involved in the fighting.

The peacekeepers have kept Monrovia a relative safe haven since the country's war began in 1989.

Storm weakens in central RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - A tropical storm packing winds of up to 95 kilometers (59 miles) per hour weakened Sunday as it hit land in the central Philippines, the Manila weather bureau said.

Tropical storm Ann was centered over Guian town on the southern tip of Eastern Samar province as of 11 a.m. (0300 GMT), said Analyn Solmoro, a weather bureau spokeswoman.

She said the storm's peak sustained winds dropped to 75 kph (47 mph) after it struck Guian and was expected to

US plane carrying shuttle does emergency landing

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) - The plane giving space shuttle Atlantis a piggyback ride back to Florida had to make an emergency landing Saturday because of an engine-fire warning light on the jetliner.

There were no signs of fire or smoke on the Boeing 747's engines, and inspectors were treating the incident as a maintenance problem, said John Campbell Martin, chief of external affairs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden Flight Research Center.

There was no damage reported to the jetliner or the shuttle, Martin said. About 10 people were on board.

The warning light for the right inboard engine flashed on five minutes after takeoff and the airliner jettisoned fuel and made its landing back at Edwards.

Atlantis had several mechanical problems during its space mission, including a leak of hydraulic fluid from one of three redundant steering systems.

It was forced to land at Edwards on March 31 because of cloudy weather at Kennedy Space Center.

The trip to Florida is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Martin said.

weaken further as it continued to slice west-northwestward across the central Philippines at 15 kph (9 mph).

Damage reports were not yet available.

In a related development, the provincial government of Marinduque, an island ravaged by mine waste, convened its emergency board to discuss preparations for the storm, which is expected to pass over the island early Monday.

Marinduque Gov. Jose Antonio Carrion said in a telephone interview Sunday that contingency plans have been set up to prevent further damage to the 14 towns severely affected by liquid waste which leaked from a copper mine in the capital town of Boac.

"Because of the mine waste, the Boac River has become shallow and a storm could unleash dangerous flooding," said Carrion.

"We are hoping the storm will spare us."

It is unusual for tropical storms to hit the Philippines so early in the year. Storms

usually visit the country beginning late May.

Ann the second major weather disturbance to hit the country this year.

Ferry sinks after catching fire off RP town, 4 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Four people were missing after an inter-island ferry caught fire and sank in the central Philippines, the coast guard said Sunday.

Passing fishing boats plucked 39 passengers and crew members from the sea, Coast Guard Commander Reynaldo Generillo said.

Three of the four people missing were children. Generillo said the wooden-

hulled Nickadel was sailing from Ormoc town in Leyte Island to the nearby island of Camotes Thursday when a fire started in its engine room. It sank minutes later.

Three of the rescued passengers suffered minor burns. A 51-year-old man and two of his children were among the missing, he said. The fourth was a 13-year-old girl.

Inter-island ferries, usually small, wooden, motorized ca-

noes, serve as the main mode of transportation in this country of more than 7,100 islands.

Last February, an overcrowded, aging ferry, Gretchen I, fell apart in strong waves near the central island of Negros, killing 54 people.

In 1987, the Philippines suffered the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster when the overcrowded Dona Paz collided with a tanker, killing 4,341 people.

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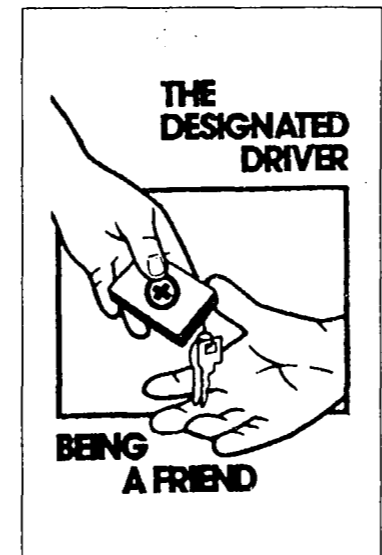
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Jerusalem celebrates Easter

By SHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI
JERUSALEM (AP) - Church bells resonated in Jerusalem as thousands of pilgrims and Arab Christians gathered in the Old City to celebrate Easter Sunday, marking the resurrection of Jesus after the crucifixion.

Palestinian Christians from PLO-controlled autonomy areas, however, were unable to reach the city because of an Israeli-imposed closure.

Travel restrictions banning entry to Israel were imposed following a series of suicide bombings claimed by Islamic militants that killed 58 victims inside Israel in February and March.

Sunday was Easter for Catholics and Protestants and Palm Sunday for Orthodox churches that follow a differ-

ent calendar.

The holiday, which usually draws thousands of tourists to the Holy Land, was quieter than in past years. Many pilgrims may have been deterred by the recent bombings, two of which were in Jerusalem. Israel's tourism ministry has noted a drop in travel since the first bombing Feb. 25.

Jerusalem police said they had increased security in the Old City for the Easter holiday, which coincides with the eight-day Jewish holiday of Passover.

In the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Christians stood in line outside the Church of Nativity waiting to pray where legend says Jesus was born. A majority of the estimated 42,000 Palestinian Christians live in Bethlehem.

In Jerusalem, pilgrims and

tourists made their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the Mass of the Resurrection, conducted around the candle-lit marble shrine which for centuries has been venerated as the site of Christ's

tomb. Sister Catherine from Kilkenny, Ireland, prayed at the Church Sunday.

"It is wonderful to be here ... that you know the lord was here before you," she said.

Bosnia Serbs' refusal to free prisoners to mean aid cutoff

By EDITH M. LEDERER
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The Bosnian Serbs say they have met their obligation under the Dayton accords by handing over documents on the POWs they still hold, prisoners they accuse of war crimes.

Earlier Saturday, top international officials said the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to free prisoners of war was likely to cut off desperately needed funds for reconstruction.

The U.N. Security Council, the office of Carl Bildt, senior civilian administrator of the Bosnian peace agreement, NATO and many Western governments had demanded the release of all prisoners not indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal by midnight Friday.

Bildt and other international officials threatened to withhold funds for reconstruction if the prisoners were not released.

"You cannot motivate the international community to spend money in a case where ... you don't have fulfillment of one of the most central obligations" of the peace agreement, said Michael Steiner, Bildt's deputy.

Steiner, the key negotiator on the prisoner issue, said in Sarajevo that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic "made a serious miscalculation" that could hurt the Serb entity, covering 49 percent of

Bosnia. Bildt's office has refused all contact with Karadzic, one of 57 people indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, but Steiner said he understood the Serb leader was handling the prisoner issue behind the scenes.

Steiner said he was happy the other two former warring parties - the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian government - had complied with conditions set by the international community.

The Bosnian Croats freed 28 prisoners and the Bosnian government released 18.

And they provided files on alleged war criminals to the war crimes tribunal.

Both parties released prisoners not suspected of war crimes.

Todd Cleaver, a tribunal representative, left Sarajevo on Saturday with files of 12 suspected war criminals held by the Bosnian Croats and 10 held by the Bosnian government, Steiner said.

If prisoners are not indicted, or held for further investigation, they should be freed, he said, adding that he expected decisions on indictment within a month.

Under the agreement, all those suspected of war crimes have been transferred to the central jail in Sarajevo, where they will be monitored by U.N. police and the International Committee for the Red Cross.

Hours after Steiner spoke, the

Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Christians all held separate masses and sang hymns inside the 800-year-old Church which marks the sites where they believe Jesus Christ was crucified, buried and resurrected.

Nobel Laureate facing sexual abuse raps freed

FREDERICK, Maryland (AP) - Dr. Daniel Carleton Gajdusek, the Nobel laureate accused of molesting a teenager, was released from jail Saturday night after posting a \$350,000 bond, a corrections officer said.

Gajdusek, a scientist at the National Institutes of Health, left the facility about 7 p.m. (0000 GMT), said the officer, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Gajdusek, 72, is accused of molesting a teen-ager he brought home from Micronesia in 1987.

And investigators are taking a closer look at all the children he's brought to the United States in the last two decades.

Gajdusek has denied any wrongdoing, claiming he brought the children to the United States to give them an education.

The FBI said its investiga-

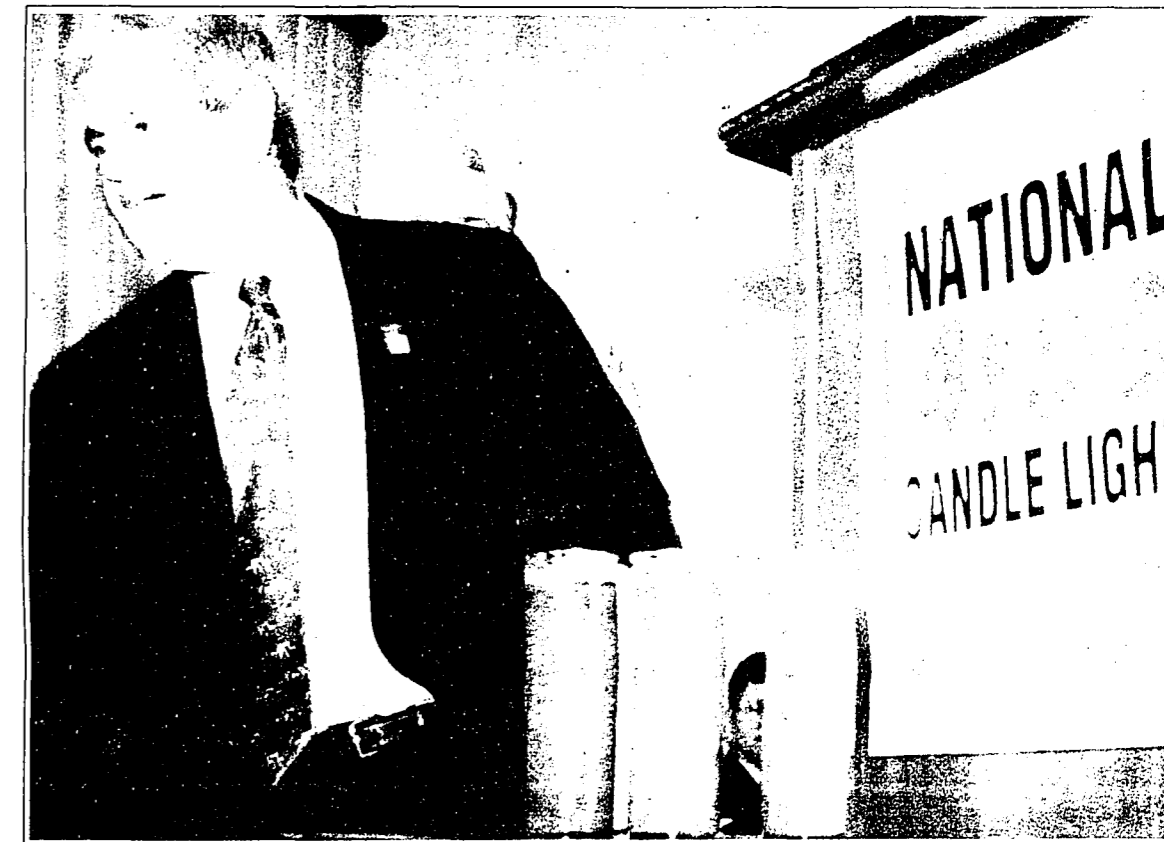
tion of Gajdusek grew out of a probe of child pornography on the Internet. Agents would not say how the two were related.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the probe began after agents learned that Gajdusek described the sexual habits of men and boys in professional journals. The journals did not say whether he engaged in sex with them, the newspaper reported.

District Judge W. Milnor Roberts lowered Gajdusek's bond from dls 1 million to \$350,000 Friday after the doctor's lawyer argued that his client was not likely to flee.

Defense attorney Mark J. Hulkower said his client returned Thursday from Europe even though he knew the FBI was investigating him.

A preliminary court hearing is scheduled for May 1.



House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Ga. speaks at the Congressional breakfast on Capitol Hill for the 1996 National AIDS Candlelight Vigil which will be held Oct. 12. Gingrich spoke to representative of private industry and government on private sector support the fight against AIDS. AP Photo

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AMENDMENT NO. 1 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PSS RFP96-005

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting proposals from interested companies to provide a one year service for the removal of trash refuse from all Public School System school sites on Saipan, Central Administration Office at Lower Base, Food Services Kitchen at the Northern Marianas College at As Terfaje, and all HeadStart Center on Saipan. The Scope of work is available during regular working hours Monday thru Friday except Holidays. Proposals will be accepted until 3:00 P.M., local time on April 24, 1996. Proposals must be in sealed envelope facemasked RFP96-005 and submitted to the Public School System Procurement & Supply Office located at the JTV Building, at As Lito Road, Saipan. Proposals will be evaluated and selections will be made based upon the following criteria.

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| 1. Price | 20% |
| 2. Adequacy and availability of dumpster truck | 10% |
| 3. Proposed size and quantity of covered metal waste container that is adequate for the site proposed. | 15% |
| 4. Proposed collection Scheduled and ability of firm to provide extra service on an on call basis. | 15% |
| 5. Management Scheme and Qualification of Firm | 5% |
| 6. Firm's Business Experience | 5% |
| 7. Safety procedure proposed and assumption of liability | 10% |
| 8. Number and Availability of manpower | 10% |
| 9. Financial ability of the Company | 10% |

A non refundable fee of twenty five U.S. Dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the proposal. The twenty five dollars maybe a certified check, a cashier's check or other forms acceptable to the Public School System, made payable to the Treasurer, Public School System, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The proposer is requested to submit with his proposal a copy of his business license. Any inquiry to the RFP may contact Louise Concepcion at telephone number 288-0705 during regular working hours.

/s/ William S. Torres
 Commissioner of Education

/s/ Louise Concepcion
 PSS Procurement & Supply Officer



A coffin lies atop what is left of a mausoleum in the cemetery in Pujili, some 60 miles south of the Ecuadorean capital of Quito, after it was destroyed in an earthquake. Hundreds of buildings were seen destroyed hours after an earthquake shook central Ecuador killing at least 15 people and injuring more than 100. (AP Photo)

Ex-LA mayor Bradley doing fine after stroke

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Former Mayor Tom Bradley, who suffered a stroke one day after undergoing triple heart bypass surgery, has been upgraded to fair condition and is responding to questions with gestures, officials said.

"His physicians intend to have him out of bed and sitting in a chair sometime this weekend," said Stephanie Jo Gomez, a spokeswoman for Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center.

Bradley, 78, who suffered a heart attack last month, underwent triple bypass surgery at Kaiser on Wednesday and suffered a stroke the next day. He had been listed in serious condition, but was upgraded Saturday to fair, Gomez said.

Tests also showed Bradley has continued good heart function, although his doctors say it is still too early to give a long-term prognosis.

Bradley is increasingly alert and able to flex his right foot on command, said Dr. Fred Alexander.

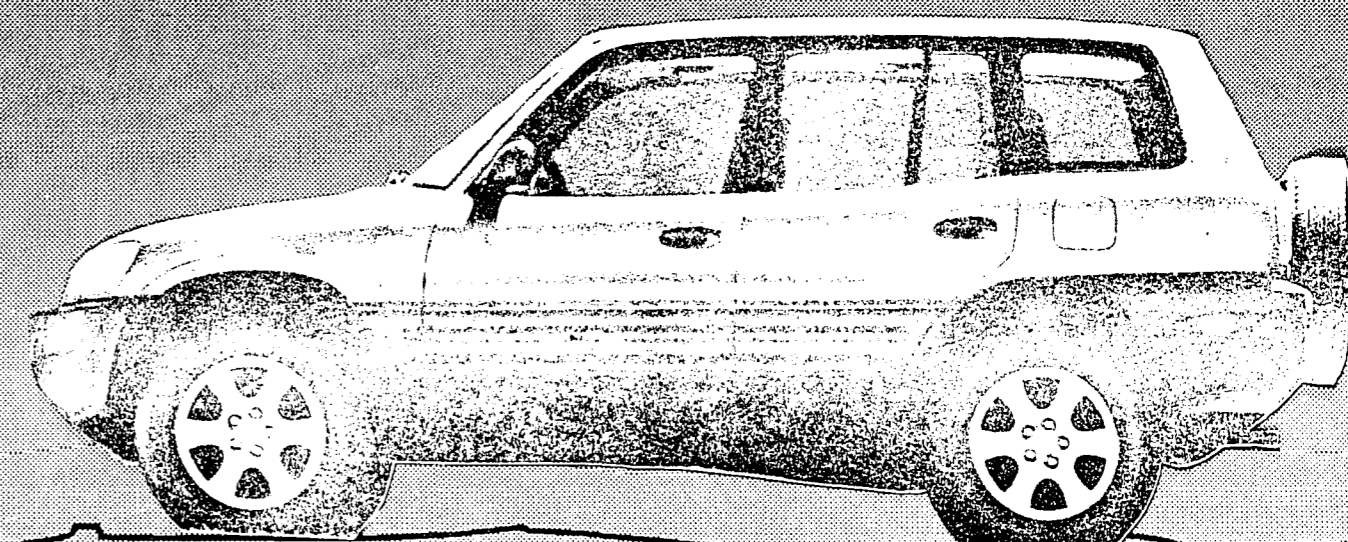
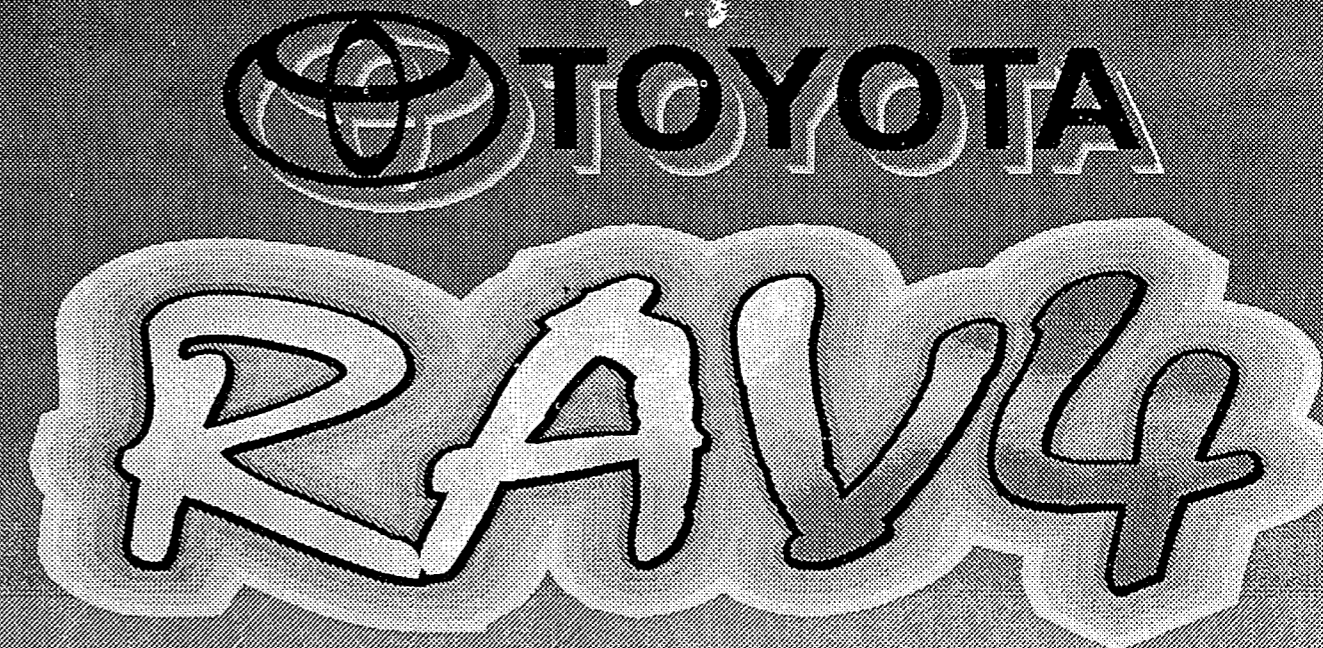
The stroke had partially immobilized his right side.

Additionally, the doctor said, Bradley is nodding yes and no to questions and is communicating with family members through hand squeezing and smiles.

The city's first black mayor, Bradley served 20 years beginning in 1973.

His tenure was highlighted by the 1984 Summer Olympics but marred by the deadly 1992 riots, which he called "the most painful experience of my life."

He retired in 1993 to work in Los Angeles for the San Francisco-based law firm of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison.



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For migrant workers in Taiwan Holiday joyous, but reminds of woes

By P.H. FERGUSON
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - For Mary, a 30-year-old Filipina worker, this Easter is a special one.
It's the first time in three years that she'll celebrate the holiday with her husband.
Like the hundreds of thousands of workers who make up a worldwide diaspora from the Philippines, she hopes to build a better life for her family with the money she earns abroad.
Mary is one of the lucky ones. She says she is well-treated by her employer, who knows and doesn't mind that she is using her cousin's working papers.
But advocates say thousands of other workers, especially undocumented ones, face hardship at the hands of unscrupu-

lous employers, rough treatment by police and exploitation by officially sanctioned recruiting agencies.
On Easter Sunday, thousands of Philippine workers braved sweltering heat to attend a Mass by Manila's visiting Cardinal Jaime Sin at an athletic field in suburban Taipei.
"In our country, you are called 'bayani' - new heroes," Sin told the crowd.
"You are here for us even as soldiers go forth in a war, to save others from harm.
You know many hardships. Is this not heroism?"
The cardinal's visit made a strong impression on those who came to watch him, like 21-year-old Cynthia Alcaarez, who arrived from the Philip-

pine three months ago and works in an electronics factory.
"It's a very special Easter because the archbishop has come to celebrate with us," she said.
For the Philippine workers, their faith is a source of strength - but it can also bring adversity down on them.
Because the Philippines is Asia's only predominantly Roman Catholic country, churches have become hunting grounds for Taiwanese police eager to earn a bounty of Taiwan dollars 1,000 (\$37) offered for each undocumented worker caught.
The Vatican has complained to Taiwan about the raids, which at times have disrupted choir rehearsals and Bible study classes as police demand to see work permits.
Six undocumented workers were arrested in and around a church last February and jailed.
About 80,000 Philippine workers are in Taiwan on legal contracts, and undocumented ones are estimated to number up to 10,000.
Most workers arrive legally, but some run afoul of the law by overstaying to try to find better jobs after their visas expire, according to Jennie Ting of the Overseas Contract Workers Counseling Center.
Which is why Millie, 41, lives in fear. She decided to work abroad in order to earn the money to send her son to private school.

But she took a chance by staying on to work after her visa expired, and the job did not work out. Now she faces four months in jail when she turns herself in, as she knows she must.
"I have no money or job - I just want to go home," she said.
Philippine officials have also condemned the network of government-sanctioned agencies they say exploits workers.
Former Supreme Court Judge Emilio Gancayco, who headed a presidential commission investigating foreign work contracts, said even if the pay is good, recruiters can easily cheat workers, who pay up to four months' wages in nonrefundable fees to Taiwan government-accredited agencies.
If an employer goes bankrupt or has a change of heart, the workers can find themselves deported, out of their fee money and with no earnings to show for it.
The hardship and uncertainty take a toll. Last November, in a case that mesmerized Taiwan, migrant worker Angelina Canlas murdered her employer's mother-in-law, then tried to take her own life. Doctors testified that stress had caused her to become mentally unbalanced.
For many, though, the risks are worth it.
Mary, whose husband arrived last week to work in a textile factory, borrowed travel papers from a cousin in order to return for a second

two-year stint.
This one will be easier than the first, with the confidence of knowing her employer, and with her husband living in a workers' dormitory about 30 kilometers (20 miles) away.
But the couple had to leave their two sons back home with family.
When their contracts expire, they plan to go home for good.
"My babies will be getting older, and needing me," Mary said.
Even if they wanted more children now, it would be impossible.
A migrant worker found to be pregnant is instantly deported. Contract workers may not marry, either.
For Rudie, 29, and his fiancée Tonette, 30, the wait is worth it. They have only a few months left on their contracts, and will marry when they return home.
"I definitely made the right choice coming here," said Rudie, who shares a room with four other workers.
Even though he had to pay 80,000 pesos (\$3,070) in agents' fees, his job at an electronics factory pays well. He even makes overtime.
Tonette, a short, energetic woman whose face creases readily into smiles, works as a maid and an English teacher. She, too, is glad she came.
"This Easter I will pray for my family's continued good health," she said, "and give thanks that I have been able to save what I have."

Solon's ordeal reflects HK dilemma

By MARCUS ELIASON
HONG KONG (AP) - Deep into the night, Frederick Fung lay in his hotel bed in Beijing, wrestling with the dilemma of a Hong Kong man who is neither slavishly pro-China nor in thrall to Western-style democracy.
Two Chinese officials had tried to talk him out of casting a dissenting vote on a committee working on China's takeover of Hong Kong on July 1, 1997.
They strongly implied that unless he supported the motion - to disband Hong Kong's elected legislature - he would jeopardize his career and be cut out of future decision-making.
"It was a very, very difficult time for me," Fung recalled.
But the Hong Kong lawmaker stood firm.
The vote by the Preparatory Committee on March 24 was 144-1, and a senior Chinese official immediately announced that Fung's lone "no" vote would cast him out of the loop.
Hong Kong had just been given a short, sharp lesson in the power politics of its soon-to-be ruler.
China has promised Hong Kong it can rule itself, remain capitalist and keep its civil liberties for at least 50 years.
But the tens of thousands who lined up for British passports in the last week of March suggest a degree of skepticism, and a desire to keep at least some link with the colonial power that has

ruled Hong Kong since 1841.
On the other hand, stocks and property prices are surging, and the days are gone when every bump on the road to 1997 jarred the stock market.
All is well, Hong Kong businessmen insist. The skyscrapered jewel of empire will survive 1997 unscathed, if only because Beijing needs it to go on injecting fuel into China's own economic transformation, they say.
But the fate of the elected legislature, and the cold-shouldering of dissenters like Frederick Fung, cloud the horizon.
China firmly believes the legislature elected last September is a plot by Gov. Chris Patten, in league with the popular Democratic Party, to perpetuate British influence over post-1997 Hong Kong.
The legislature was elected under rule changes drawn up by Patten without China's approval. Therefore, China says, it must be disbanded, and a provisional legislature set up to arrange fresh elections under pre-Patten rules.
Patten, growing ever more blunt in his criticisms of China, says the attacks on the legislature are designed to shut out the irksome Democrats. Calling the Preparatory Committee vote "a black day for democracy in Hong Kong," he saluted Fung for being the lone dissenter.

Since then, China has hit Hong Kong with more bad news. In what amounts to a loyalty test, it has said that Hong Kong civil service heads who want to stay in office must endorse the provisional legislature.
Thus the last 15 months of British rule are becoming an increasingly bitter struggle for the hearts and minds of Hong Kong's 6 million people.
It pits the outgoing administration and elected legislature against a shadow Chinese government based on an unelected legislature and Preparatory Committee with zero tolerance for dissenting voices.
Optimists believe the troubles will ease once China formally takes over. In their view, with the departure of Patten, the major irritant, China will stop treating all dissent as Patten-inspired and leave Hong Kong to get on with ruling itself.
They are heartened by signs of a charm offensive from the Chinese side. Beijing has given the British government a list of "requests for cooperation" with the Preparatory Committee. And the committee has published full-page newspaper ads soliciting the public's view on how to make the transition work.
But even after Patten flies out

for the last time, the Democrats, Hong Kong's largest elected party, will still be around, and pessimists fear dire consequences if they are frozen out.
"Driven out of the establishment, (they) will take their fight onto the streets," warns Terry Cheng, editor of the Hongkong Standard.
Fung believes his brand of gentle persuasion can help keep the peace.
"That is why I joined the Preparatory Committee," he said in an interview.
"I want to tell the Chinese officials that if you want one country, two systems, and Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong, you should respect Hong Kong's culture, norms and customs."
He wants the committee of 150 Hong Kong and Chinese public figures to behave like a parliament, open to all opinions.
"No minority votes, no negative votes - I can't accept that."
However, he sees some merit in China's argument that Patten broke the rules. He believes the changes can be reversed with minimal disruption, and a provisional legislature set up that is little different from the existing one.
Fung, 43, heads the Associa-

tion for Democracy and People's Livelihood, which has four of the 60 seats in the legislature.
He is one of the few declared democrats on the Preparatory Committee, and his appointment in January was welcomed by some people as a signal that China is not entirely intolerant of dissenters.
But Democratic legislator Lee Wing-tat believes that by joining the committee, Fung played into China's hands.
"He is only giving them legitimacy."
The Chinese authorities are using him and his party as window-dressing," Lee said in an interview.
Fung says he will stay on the committee and push his views, even though China says his dissenting vote means he cannot join the provisional legislature or serve on the all-important committee to choose Hong Kong's first post-colonial governor.
"Somebody still has to communicate with China, to talk to it, to make China open its eyes to the reality of Hong Kong," Fung said.
If China won't listen to the Democratic Party, "who else but me can do it?"

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION OF THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS, JUSTICES AND JUDGES, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED STATES AND MAYORS, WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1996, AT 9:00 A.M., IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER, NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENTS, VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COMPENSATION OF THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS, JUSTICES AND JUDGES, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED STATES AND MAYORS.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND. ANY PERSON WISHING TO TESTIFY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN, HERMAN T. GUERRERO. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL MR. GUERRERO AT TEL. NO. 664-2282 OR FAX NO. 664-2390.

Herman T. Guerrero
Herman T. Guerrero, Chair
March 21, 1996

Public cemetery dwellers hold white crosses as they join more than 5,000 protesters at a rally near the barricaded Presidential Palace in Manila to protest a law that forbids squatting on public properties. The protesters called for the full implementation of the Urban Development and Housing Act or UDHA, legislation which protects the urban poor's right to shelter.

AP Photo



Public cemetery dwellers hold white crosses as they join more than 5,000 protesters at a rally near the barricaded Presidential Palace in Manila to protest a law that forbids squatting on public properties. The protesters called for the full implementation of the Urban Development and Housing Act or UDHA, legislation which protects the urban poor's right to shelter.

AP Photo



Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) executive, Mitsujuki Okawa, bows to apologize as he testifies before a parliamentary legal affairs committee in Tokyo, Japan. TBS is under fire for giving members of the Aum Shinri Kyo doomsday cult a private look at an unaired 1989 interview with anti-cult lawyer. The lawyer was killed days later.

AP Photo

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- Jose D. Quitugua
- Maria M. Quitugua

would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us for their anniversary rosary at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Goro (Ankoi) Quitugua in Sa Teo, 7:00 p.m. starting April 4, 1996 until April 12, 1996.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

FIRST SAVINGS AND LOAN			
Association of America			
P.O. Box 21959, GMF Guam 96921			
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION			
December 31, 1995			
(In Thousands)			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Cash & amounts due from banks	\$ 3,301	Liabilities:	
Interest-bearing deposits	1,721	Deposit accounts	\$61,157
Investment securities	3,988	Notes payable	71,775
Loans receivable, net	161,923	Accrued interest payable	1,102
Accrued interest receivable	1,026	Other liabilities	3,044
Real Estate owned	267	Income taxes	972
Premises and equipment	2,630	Total Liabilities	138,050
Other assets	174	Stockholder's equity	
		Common stock	3
		Additional paid-in capital	15,200
		Retained Earnings	21,777
		Total stockholder's equity	36,980
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY	\$175,030
TOTAL ASSETS	\$175,030		
FIRST SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA			
SAIPAN BRANCH			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION			
December 31, 1995			
(In Thousands)			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash & amount due from banks	\$ 413	Deposit Accounts	\$12,712
Loans receivable, net	1,691	Accrued Interest Payable	140
Accrued interest receivable	14	Other liabilities	34
Premises and equipment	12		
Due from Head Office	10,753		
other Assets	3	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$12,886
TOTAL ASSETS	\$12,886		

At the movies

Travolta in 'White Man's Burden'

PATRICIA BIBBY

On the face of it, the premise of "White Man's Burden" would make for a fascinating study of race in America. In the film, starring John Travolta and Harry Belafonte, blacks are dominant and whites are oppressed.

This race reversal could inspire a provocative exploration of the psychology of racism. The first few minutes alone are rich with possibilities as you are forced to imagine life in another person's skin.

What emerges, however, is a disappointing effort that drives this gimmick into the ground while adding little to the discussion of race. Stereotypes aren't exploded, they are merely amplified to caricature extreme. And with a leaden plot that has so little energy, it actually seems to suck air from the audience. The only thing this film provokes is a yawn.

First-time director Desmond Nakano draws such broad strokes that if you reverse the roles once again, making blacks the oppressed and

whites the oppressors, the portrayals would be nothing short of insulting.

Louis Pincock (Travolta) is the picture of a noble working stiff. He labors hard at a candy factory (nice opening shots of chocolate and vanilla swirling around) and runs extra errands to ingratiate himself with the boss. He has a wife (Kelly Lynch) and two small children. They live in a rundown little hovel that's a stone's throw from a gang of brooding, white skin heads who play incessant heavy metal music.

Their world seems crowded, both physically and psychologically. It is stultifying and souldeadening. The encroaching urban noise pollution alone would drive most people to distraction.

We're repeatedly flogged over the head with the idea that Louis is a good father. Providing for his children is his greatest pleasure and happiest virtue, we're told in no uncertain terms ... over and over again to the point of over-

kill.

Belafonte is Thaddeus Thomas, the moneyed candy factory owner who lives in a Moorish mansion with peacocks on the lawn, in what could pass for Beverly Hills. He's also a racist fond of pointing out that white people are genetically inferior.

He is tended to by his white maid and has a wife who organizes charity fashion shows to benefit underprivileged white kids.

Through a chance, brief encounter, Louis' and Thaddeus' lives become inextricably linked. There's a misunderstanding that sets into motion a series of crushing blows for Louis, and his life begins to collapse around him.

One minute he's in the working world on the verge of a promotion, the next he's out

of work fending off a heartless landlord threatening eviction. Unable to get a job, he becomes more desperate for cash.

This leads him, improbably, to take Thaddeus hostage, which sets up the bulk of the action, or lack thereof, of the film. Louis rationalizes that it was Thaddeus' fault that he was fired, so Thaddeus should pay him for all the time he's missed on the job.

When this film drags itself listlessly to the finish line, with Kelly Lynch shutting the door on Belafonte, you'll probably be wishing it had been you shutting the theater door on this film.

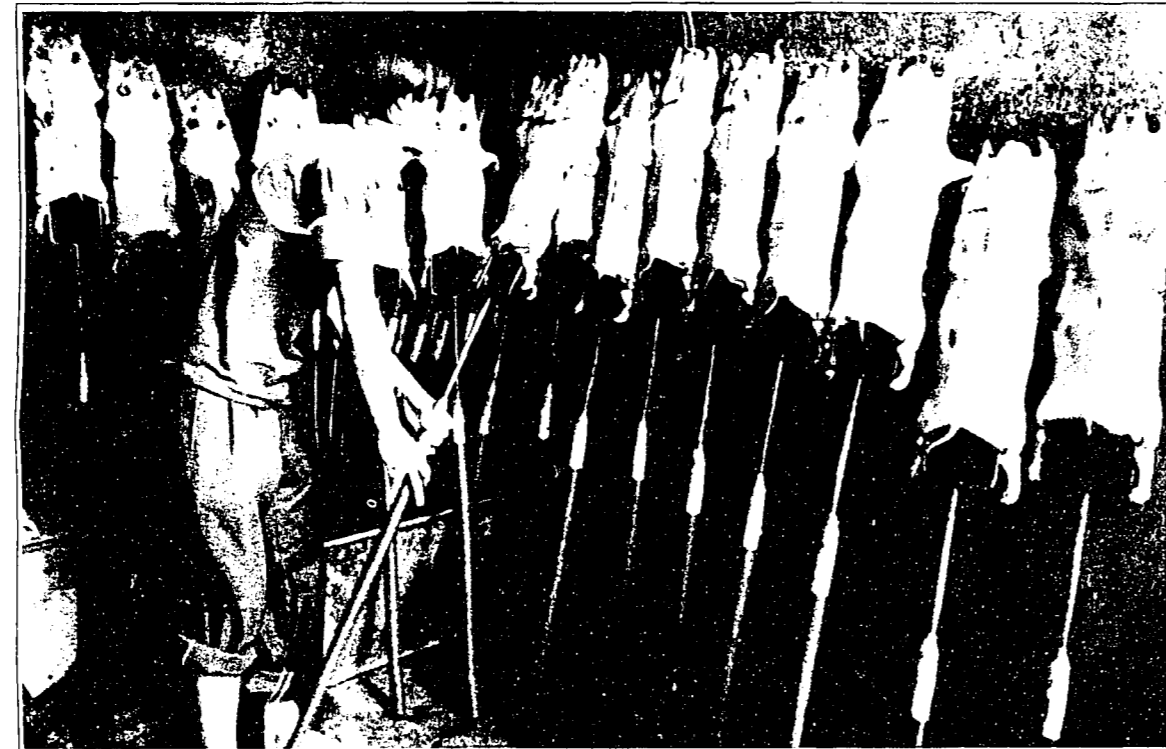
"White Man's Burden" isn't totally without merit, however. There are fleeting moments when Nakano hits a racial truism that resonates. For

instance, at the end of the charity fashion show, a group of poor white kids is brought on stage so the crowd can feel smugly superior to these little darlings.

There's another time when Belafonte tells Travolta something to the effect of "you're not like the rest, you're articulate." How many times have we heard that subtly condescending remark about people of other races?

But these are true notes lost amid a cacophony of false ones, not the least of which is Travolta's ridiculous urban-ghetto accent. When he declares that he was just "axing" someone a question, it's so ludicrous, it's funny.

Produced by Lawrence Bender, the Rysler Entertainment picture is distributed by Savoy Pictures.



A Thai restaurant worker prepares roasted baby piglets for sale at his shop in downtown Bangkok. The Oscar-winning Hollywood movie Babe, about a talking pig, is making it tough for at least one Bangkok restaurateur to bring home the bacon. The unnamed restaurant owner told The Nation newspaper Friday that his sales of roasted piglets have dropped from more than 200 a day to fewer than 100 after the film opened in Bangkok. Pork is a staple of the Thai diet, consumed in far greater quantities than beef. AP photo

Avalanche buries 20 people; 6 confirmed dead in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) - An avalanche of snow Saturday buried at least 20 mountain climbers staying in a shelter on the volcano Cotopaxi, killing at least six of them, authorities said.

"Six bodies were found and rescue crews were digging through the snow," said Ligia Tapia, a civil defense worker in the province of Cotopaxi, 55 miles (90 kilometers) south of Quito.

He said four people were rescued alive, and searchers continued looking for another 10 people believed buried un-

der the snow.

According to Radio Quito, other mountaineers reported there could have been about 50 mountain climbers taking refuge in the cabin shelter after a wind and snow moved in on the snow-covered peak.

This figure could not be confirmed. The Cotopaxi volcano, 19,325 feet (5,892 meters) above sea level, is a major attraction for national and foreign mountain climbers.

Police in Latacunga, a city 22 miles (35 kms) southwest of the volcano, said it was

unknown whether any foreigners were among the buried mountaineers.

They said the avalanche covered the highest shelter near the summit of the peak.

Nine days ago the same area was shaken by an earthquake of 5.7 magnitude, which caused at least 27 deaths.

Most of the deaths were in the Cotopaxi area, populated mostly by small Indian villages.

Authorities did not say weather the avalanche was related to the earthquake on March 28.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-1148
GAUDELIA AZURIN-RUIVIVAR, Petitioner versus
RAYMOND F. RUIVIVAR, Respondent
SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce of which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, at Saipan CM 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 917, Susupe, Saipan, CM. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

Dated this 11th day of December, 1995.

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

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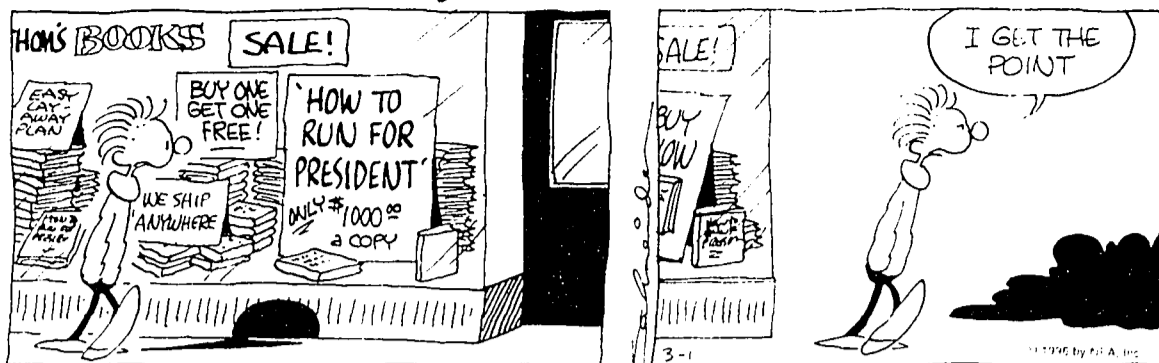
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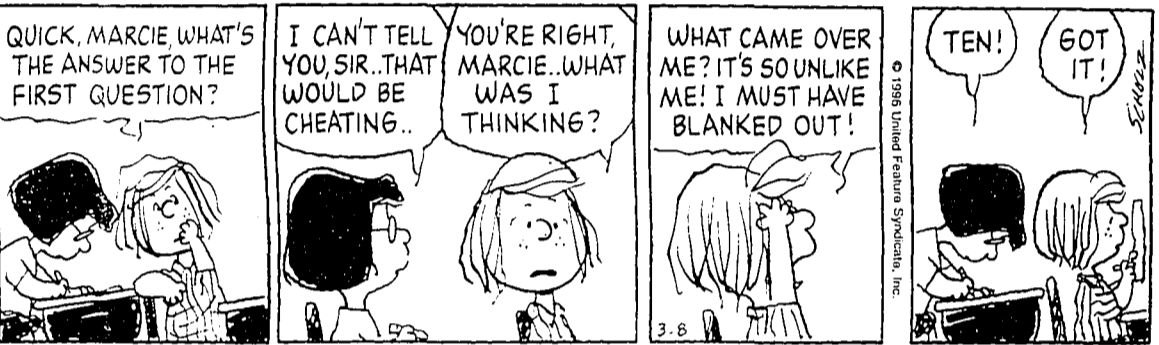
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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you can boast of a rich heritage, but you are more interested in doing your own thing than you are in continuing the work that others have done before you. Still, if you spend your life fighting your instincts, you will limit your success and have a frustrating professional life. In fact, you will have to rely on your family more than you might think throughout your life and you will have a special bond with your parents. You have many things going for you, including a sense of style and a unique approach to even the most old-style endeavors.

You may have to suffer one or two real tragedies in your life before you finally achieve success, but how you look at these unfortunate circumstances will determine whether they will play disastrous or pivotal roles in shaping your personality. In any event, you will carry these misfortunes with you throughout your life.

Also born on this date are: Betty Ford, U.S. first lady; Shekya Greene, comic; John Havlicek, basketball player; Julian Lennon, singer.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may not receive exactly what you ask for today, but with a little quick thinking, you can transform what you do get into something quite valuable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Onlookers must not be allowed to disturb you today. If you must, limit your audience to only those who have something valid to offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Make sure your facts and figures are correct before you sign that contract today. Take care not to shortchange yourself in any way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You must not allow a mild distraction to irritate you today. You may have to find a new location in order to get your work done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You will have to wait for others to get organized today before you can swing into action. You can take care of things by yourself very soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take care not to pass judgment before you have all the necessary information today. You should try to examine the evidence carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Even though others may criticize your methods, you should try to take the time to see that everything is laid out correctly before you begin today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You will not be affected strongly by what others say and do today. You will not be subjected to certain limitations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You have been wasting time. Make sure to take advantage of the opportunities presented to you today without hesitating for too long.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You will need a little help communicating with people who are out of reach. You can get through to them if you use your imagination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Even if a project starts off slowly today, it will pick up considerably by the end of the day. Maintain control at all times.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can be confident that your input will have a major impact today. You may have secured a permanent place for yourself.

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CLOSERS

In no Sherlock Holmes story or novel written by his creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, does Holmes ever say, "Elementary, my dear Watson."

The first building to be called a skyscraper and built on a steel frame was the Auditorium building of Chicago, which was designed by L.H. Sullivan, and completed in 1889. It was 19 stories high.

The earliest Arab civilization emerged by the end of the second millennium B.C. in the watered highlands of Yemen.

At the turn of the century, 37.5 percent of all American workers toiled in farm occupations. By 1991, that percentage had fallen to 2.5 percent. And the total number of farm workers in 1991 was about the same as it was in 1820.

The salary of members of the New Hampshire state legislature, called the General Court, is \$200 a year. Presiding officers get a raise to \$250.

Rhubarb got its name from the ancient Greeks. They named the plant that grew along the Volga river "rha barbaron," meaning "from the barbarian region of Rha."

Earth Tip: Home heating units emit 12 percent of the nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide polluting the atmosphere. You can cut down on hazardous emissions and help prevent acid rain by simply tuning up your furnace every year. Your annual tuneup should include calibrating the thermostat and cleaning the combustion chamber, boiler and nozzle.

Earth Tip: More than 700 species of butterfly are native to North America. Planting colorful, aromatic flowers will help remaining species prosper and leave you with a beautiful, sweet-smelling garden.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 — in a Blue Dress

6 Agrees with

11 Principal dish

13 Connie Chung's husband

14 Type style (abbr.)

15 Edwards of "E.T."

17 That man

18 Craggy hill

20 Hersher's namesakes

21 — the line

22 "Pretty Maids All in —"

24 Building addition

25 Prophet

26 Royal guardsman

28 Separated

30 Singer Tori

32 — tide

33 Empower

35 On the water

37 "Dead Man

Walking" star

38 Summer cooler

40 Actress Lamarr

42 Corrida cheer

43 Black or Eastwood

45 Sault Ste. Marie

46 Potlier ID

47 Schemed

49 Uch ID

50 Na is its symbol

52 Stan's partner

54 Storehouse

55 Disembarks

DOWN

1 Mississippi

2 Audience demand

3 Montpelier's st.

4 Pension-plan inits.

5 Letterman's rival

6 Bon Jovi and Voight

7 — League

8 Two (prefix)

9 Repeated a sound

10 Transparent

12 To be (Fr.)

13 She's married to Michael J. Fox

16 Beatles film

19 Steve Martin movie

21 Oater props

23 "Pretty —"

25 Hide away

27 — Hill (San Francisco)

29 Turmeric

31 Ski race

33 Fish trap

34 Redact

36 Was very fond of

37 Armed band

39 Within (comb. form)

41 — truly

43 Well-known board game

44 Relate

47 Fruit seed

48 Day (Sp.)

51 Prosecutor (abbr.)

53 Eric Braeden soap role (inits.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NAME: CRITICS
GEYSER HAMLET
EST GRACE PALO
REST OPALS MED
TOOL ESSSED CA
ANNNOY SEVENTY
TIOS AERO
RHONDAS REBEL
AA SEGAL KEPT
BIS LURID LON
ALEA AIMED PE
TERROR ELATES
RAMBO SADIIE

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Parish breaks Jabbar's record

CLEVELAND (AP) - Robert Parish appeared in his 1,561st National Basketball Association game Saturday night, breaking Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record.

The 42-year-old Charlotte center, who has played on three NBA championship teams and eight

All-Star teams, broke the record when the opening jump ball went up.

During the first stoppage in play with 9:48 left in the Hornets-Cavaliers game, official Tommy Nunez presented Parish with the ball. He got a 90-second standing ovation

from the fans and both teams.

Parish had already scored four points on a short jump shot and a dunk. The game resumed after a two-minute break.

"It's going to mean a lot to me," Parish said before the game. "I'm proud of the record for what it

stands for - consistency and longevity.

"It's a testament to my career. I've been blessed to not have major injuries."

Parish, who will be 43 on August 30, is in his 20th NBA season. He averaged 21.6 points a game during four years at Centenary College in Shreveport, La., then was a first-round draft choice of the Golden State Warriors in 1976.

The 7-foot-2 (2.2-meter) Parish was traded to the Boston Celtics after four seasons. The Celtics won championships with Parish at center in 1981, 1984 and 1986.

Charlotte, which is in a battle for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, signed Parish as a free agent on August 4, 1994. He had season averages of 3.7 points, 3.9 rebounds and 13.7 minutes per game before Saturday's action.

Carl Lewis proves he is still an Olympic threat

By JAIME ARON

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - A month after arousing critics' suspicions that he was washed up, Carl Lewis proved Saturday that he's still an Olympic threat.

Lewis, always a slow starter, used his trademark closing speed to run down Jon Drummond at the finish line and win the 100-meter dash in the Texas Relays in a wind-aided 10.10 seconds.

Drummond's time was 10.11. The victory came exactly five weeks after the eight-time Olympic gold medalist finished last in a 60-meter dash preliminary in the USA Mobil Indoor Championships. A month before, he was last in the 60-meter finals of the Gallery Furniture Games, another indoor meet.

On Saturday, in his first outdoor event of the year, the 34-year-old Lewis lived up to his own high expectations.

"After the indoors, a lot of people said it was over," Lewis said. "This shows that it isn't."

Drummond, who led most of the way, said he could tell by the roar of the crowd that Lewis was closing fast.

"He's a great finisher - the best in the sport," said Drummond, ranked fourth in the world last year. "You've got to beat him in the first 70 meters."

Drummond was followed by his Nike Central teammates David Oaks (10.16) and Wendell Gaskin (10.18). Anthony Jones of Jamaica was fifth at 10.37, followed by Ron Clark of Athletics International (10.43) and Floyd Heard (10.44), who ran for Lewis' team, Santa Monica Track Club. Auburn's Bryan Howard was last at 10.65.

Before the race, Lewis was given a lengthy introduction listing his

many accomplishments.

Drummond jokingly waved his arms as it began to drag on, then he mockingly dropped to his knees and bowed to Lewis.

Lewis admitted he was a bit embarrassed by the accolades, but said he's more appreciative of the recognition than ever before. He even uses it to psych himself up.

"It's not easy for me to motivate myself for a lot of these events," Lewis said. "It's not the same as when I was 18, 19 or 20 and wanted to blow away the world. But when you see a kid say 'C'mon, you can do it,' it helps."

Lewis insists he still has his eye on Atlanta, which would be his fourth Olympics.

He said he'll compete in the 100 and 200 meters and the long jump in the Olympic trials.

Parish's start against Cleveland was his 27th in 67 appearances this season, and his 16th consecutive start. Parish averaged 9.6 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.75 blocked shots in 29.4 minutes in the 15 previous games.

"He (Parish) is healthy, he's looking good, and he's running up and down the floor after 20 years," said Cleveland's Michael Cage, who started against Parish at center.

"I was somewhat in awe of him as a young person. Now I'm considered one of the elder statesmen after playing 12 years, and he's still playing."

Abdul-Jabbar played six seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks and 14 seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers.

He is the league's career leader in points scored with 38,387.

Knicks . . .

Continued from page 20

38 points, including an off-balance 19-footer (5.5 meters) at the buzzer that gave Philadelphia a comeback victory over Atlanta.

Maxwell scored 23 of his season-high total in the fourth period on 9-for-13 shooting. The 76ers overcame a 16-point, third-quarter deficit to snap a nine-game road losing streak and a four-game overall losing streak.

Clarence Weatherspoon had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia and Rex Walters added a season-high 17.

Stacey Augmon had 21 to lead the Hawks. Mookie Blaylock had 19 points and 10 assists, and Christian Laetner had his fourth double-double in six games with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Hornets 93, Cavaliers 89
In Cleveland, Robert Parish broke

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's U.S. National Basketball Association record for career games played and Charlotte boosted its playoff chances with a victory over Cleveland.

Larry Johnson and Kenny Anderson each scored 20 points as the Hornets moved a half-game ahead of Miami for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Parish played 39 minutes and scored 14 points on 6-of-9 shooting. He had nine rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots.

Cleveland, which lost for the fourth time in 12 games, leads the Atlanta Hawks and Detroit Pistons by one game for the fifth Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Mavericks 101, Clippers 96
In Dallas, Jim Jackson scored 25 points, including three key free throws over the final 15.5 seconds, and Jason Kidd added 24 points to lead Dallas past Los Angeles.

RP . . .

Continued from page 20

of reach.

Taiwan's Chen Wei-ju beat Sofronio Palahang 7-5, 6-4 in the last singles match at the Chungshing stadium in Taichung, central Taiwan.

In the opening singles on Friday, Lizardo beat Tsai Chia-yen and Palahang defeated Chen.

In the doubles, Taiwan's Lien Yuhui and Chen Chih-jung beat Robert Angelo and Alexander Toledo 7-5, 6-1, 5-7, 1-6, 6-3.

The result means that the Philippines will stay in Group 1 next year.

Botile . . .

Continued from page 20

It was the third title defense for the 23-year-old Botile, who captured the belt in a surprising second-round knockout of Harold Mestre in April 1995.

Last June, he won a 12-round decision over Sam Stewart and in November he knocked out then-undefeated Reynaldo Hurtado in the second round.

The fight appeared nearly even in the early rounds. In the ninth round, Gedeon was driven back for the first time by Botile's harder blows but still fired back, looping solid rights to the champion's nose.

In the opening fight of the night, another South African, former IBF world junior featherweight champion Welcome Ncita, 126 pounds (56.7 kilograms), pummeled a game Manny Santiago, 131 pounds (59 kilograms), of Hartford, Connecticut, en route to a unanimous 10-round decision.

The South African featherweight, Botile's sparring partner and stablemate, showed only flashes of his championship form. Scores were 100-90, 100-91, 100-91. There were no knock downs. Ncita's record is now 37-2.

US . . .

Continued from page 20

1993.

The median salary - the point at which an equal number of players are above and below - rose from dlr\$ 275,000 to dlr\$ 360,000. It had been at dlr\$ 450,000 before the

strike.

Figures for the study were obtained by the AP from management and player sources and include 768 players on active rosters and disabled lists when the season began.

Irwin . . .

Continued from page 20

front of the green, and it rolled in.

It was his third double eagle - the first came while he was a teen-ager and the second was in the Jacksonville Open in 1965.

Jay Sigel had the last of 14 previous double eagles in Senior Tour history at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on Nov. 13, 1994.

Nicklaus also two-putted from 16 feet (4.9 meters) on the last

hole for his fifth birdie.

But Irwin, playing in the same threesome, had the nerve it took to withstand Nicklaus' charge.

He was 7-under at No. 11 and two-putted from 20 feet (6.1 meters) to birdie No. 12 and keep Nicklaus from taking the lead outright. And he got his seventh and eighth birdies on the 15th and 17th holes to pull away from the three-time Tradition winner.



KidSpot

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Sat: 9:00
Sun: 3:00
Mon: 5:00
Tue: 7:00
Wed: 9:00

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SPORTS



Aerobics event slated Saturday

THEY'RE BACK...! Once again, the health oriented participants of the 1996 Beach Aerobics program in Saipan have returned to the island to conduct their Annual Fun in the Sun exercise event.

According to the Marianas

Visitors Bureau this will be the fourth(4th) year that they have chosen the Northern Marianas to hold their program as "that the unhurried atmosphere, beautiful beaches and clear water, constant pleasing temperature and fine

hotel accommodations are a perfect reason for them to hold their group program away from Japan."

Organized by the International Aerobics Federation (IAF) and the Japan Aerobics Federation (JAF), the annual

event has been gaining increasing exposure and popularity within the aerobics exercise community. "Knowing that our beautiful location awaits them is a great motivating factor to those who have participated before and something to be recommended to their friends," MVB said in a news release.

The dates for this beach aerobics event are scheduled for Saturday, April 6 through Sunday, April 7, with the most

active part of the event being staged on Micro beach, fronting the Hyatt Regency Saipan at 3:00 pm on each day.

"This would be a great way for the local community to see for themselves the level of athletic fitness these individuals have reached."

"Good personal health is truly one of our gifts, something we should all be concerned about and not to be taken for granted," the news release said.

Knicks rout Raptors, 139-106

TORONTO (AP) - John Starks scored a season-high 37 points Saturday night to lead the New York Knicks to their largest offensive output in seven years as they beat the Toronto Raptors 139-106.

The Knicks, who eclipsed their previous season-high of 120 points (done three times), won their second straight game to stay ahead of Cleveland for fourth place and home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Knicks hadn't treach 139 points since the 1988-89 season. Hubert Davis scored 21 points off the bench,

Derek Harper had 20 points and 11 assists, Patrick Ewing added 17 points and 17 rebounds and Anthony Mason scored 18 points with nine rebounds and seven assists.

Tracy Murray led the Raptors with 23 points and Doug Christie scored 21.

Vincenzo Esposito added 18 points off the bench.

Pacers 99, Heat 95

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored a season-high 40 points as Indiana beat Miami to clinch its seventh consecutive trip to the playoffs.

Miller, who scored 19 of Indiana's 26 fourth-quarter points and went 14-of-26 from the field, became the first member of the Pacers to score 14,000 career points.

His third 3-pointer of the game with 10 seconds left put the Pacers ahead 99-95 and iced the victory.

Derrick McKey and Rik Smits added 14 points apiece for the Pacers

Tim Hardaway and Chris Gatling led Miami with 19 points each.

Bucks 109, Nets 88

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Glenn Robinson scored 32 points and Shawn Respert had 12 of his season-high 19 in the fourth quarter as Milwaukee pulled away from New Jersey and snapped an 11-game road losing streak.

The Bucks had a 20-0 run in the fourth quarter and won for the second time in three games after losing 16 of 17. The Nets have dropped two in a row and four of their last five.

Robinson finished with a season-high 15 rebounds and five assists while Johnny Newman added 18 points.

Chris Childs led the Nets with 19 points. Shawn Bradley added 13 points and 12 rebounds.

76ers 100, Hawks 99

In Atlanta, Vernon Maxwell scored

Continued on page 19

Marbury to leave Georgia Tech for NBA

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephon Marbury made it official: He's leaving Georgia Tech after one season for the National Basketball Association.

After one season at Georgia Tech, the 19-year-old guard said he had signed with an agent and would make himself available for the NBA draft.

During a news conference Wednesday night, Marbury made the announcement surrounded by family, friends and his college coach, Bobby Cremins.

"I've always worked hard for this. I've always watched the NBA growing up. I always watched Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson and I said I could be playing on the court with them. Next year, I will be," Marbury said. "Opportunity is knocking and I have to take advantage of that."

Marbury said left no doubt that he won't be coming back to Georgia Tech.

"I don't want to prolong it. I have signed with an agent," who he identified as Eric Fleischer.

Marbury had said as far back as November that he would leave college if he was going to be among the top selections in the June draft. Even though there were no assurances he would be taken among the top five picks, the information Cremins was able to obtain indicated the 6-foot-2 star would go early enough.

Marbury was selected rookie of the year in the Atlantic Coast Conference after averaging 18.9 points and 4.5 assists for the Yellow Jackets, who returned to the NCAA tournament this season after a two-year absence. They reached the round of 16 before losing to Cincinnati.

Botile retains IBF crown

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — South Africa's Mbulelo Botile used a right to the chin to knock out Anee Gedeon 35 seconds into the 11th round to retain his International Boxing Federation bantamweight championship.

Botile's blistering lefts and rights knocked Gedeon down for the first time in the 10th round of the Tuesday night bout. Botile rained more lefts and rights forcing Gedeon to drop to one knee, blinking his eyes.

The champion threw more than

50 blows in the next minute and a straight left buckled Gedeon's knees. However, Gedeon would not go down for a third time.

Botile came out looking to finish the fight in the 11th. One punch later, it was over. Gedeon, the United States Boxing Association champion, lay on the canvas for several minutes before he was helped to a stool in his corner.

Leaving the ring, the champion said, "I'm glad I won. He was very strong."

Continued on page 19

Irwin leads Nicklaus by one

By MEL REISNER

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) - Hale Irwin responded to Jack Nicklaus' first double eagle in 31 years with a 7-under-par 65 Saturday and took a one-stroke lead after the third round of The Tradition.

Irwin, recovering from a 76 the day before, when erratic winds forced all but a handful of players overpar, matched his opening score and finished at 10-under 206.

"I guess there was a little redemption on my part to make sure that the 76 yesterday was a fluke and the 65 on Thursday wasn't," said Irwin, the 1995 Senior PGA Tour rookie

of the year.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, also shot a 65.

Raymond Floyd, who won this senior major in 1994 and started the round a shot behind J.C. Snead, was third at 208.

Bob Murphy stayed within four shots of the lead, and Isao Aoki was one shot behind him at 211 and one ahead of Tom Weiskopf, a winner last week in San Antonio, Texas.

Snead followed Friday's 69 in tough conditions with a 75 and fell into a four-way tie at 213.

Nicklaus, who has finished first

and sixth in two senior events this year, came out of the pack with startling suddenness on the back nine.

Four-under at the turn, he birdied No. 11, then gobbled up Irwin's lead with two monstrous shots on the 12th hole of the Cochise Course, one of four Nicklaus-designed layouts at Desert Mountain.

Nicklaus' 340-yard drive on the short par-5 rolled to the bottom of the fairway, leaving 159 yards to the flag. He pulled out an 8-iron, knocked the ball onto the

Continued on page 19

US Baseball salaries continue climbing

NEW YORK (AP)—Salaries in U.S. Major League Baseball are nearly back to their level before the strike, and Detroit's Cecil Fielder again is the highest-paid player at dls 9.2 million.

The average salary was dls 1,176,967 on opening day, according to a study released Tuesday by The Associated Press, an increase of 9.9 percent from opening day last year, when the average was dls 1,071,029.

In 1994, the last season before the 232-day strike, the average was dls 1,188,679 on opening day, just 1 percent higher than this year's average.

Total payroll was dls 902.26 million, 1.1 percent higher than the dls 892.15 million total at the start of the 1995 season.

The New York Yankees had the highest payroll at dls 52.9 million, followed by Baltimore at dls 49.4 million, Atlanta at dls 47.9 million and Cleveland at dls 46.2 million, up from dls 35.1 million. The Indians already have sold every available seat for home games this season.

Montreal had the lowest payroll at dls 15.4 million. Others near the bottom were Kansas City at dls

18.5 million and Oakland at dls 19.4 million, a decrease from dls 35.9 million.

Toronto had the biggest drop, falling from dls 49.4 million to dls 28.4 million.

Following the strike, the average salary dropped 9.9 percent on opening day last year, the first significant decrease since before the free agent era began in 1976.

Fielder tops the pay chart at dls 9,237,500, including his dls 7.2 million base salary and a prorated share of his signing bonus.

Barry Bonds is second at dls 8,416,667, followed by Ken Griffey Jr. (dls 7.5 million), Frank Thomas (dls 7.15 million) and Juan Gonzalez (dls 7.1 million).

The number of players making dls 6 million or more increased from 12 to 18 and the number making dls 5 million or more increased from 32 to 40. In 1994, just two players made dls 6 million or more, Bobby Bonilla and Ryne Sandberg.

The number of dls 1 million players, which dropped from 265 in 1994 to 215 on opening day last year, went back up to 241. The millionaires total peaked at 273 in

Continued on page 19

RP beats Taiwan in Davis Cup

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Joseph Lizardo came from behind for a 3-6, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Chen Chih-jung in the decisive singles match Sunday as the Philippines defeated Taiwan 3-2 in Davis Cup tennis.

Taiwan had kept its hopes alive by winning the doubles Saturday, narrowing the Philippines' lead to 2-1 in the second round match in Asia-Oceania Zone Group 1.

But Lizardo put the contest out

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