

Politicians artists too, Guerrero says

ARE POLITICIANS artists? Yes, according to Governor Lorenzo I. Guerrero.

"The imagination we apply to do a political task and the vision we have for the future is a form of art. In politics, one must use skill and performance to get his message across," he said during the 8th Annual Governor's Arts Awards at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Friday.

And what "art work" does politicians produce. Guerrero said "effective politicians leave behind roads, buildings and monuments, making them performing and visual artists."

Guerrero said artists inspire the citizenry to see the richness of Northern Marianas culture.

He also urged the people to recognize the importance of arts and culture in their search for identity.

"At a time when cultures all over the world are beginning to look alike, we are unique as a people. If we, however, fail to live our customs, we may lose them," he said.

Maggie Wonenberg, executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, said: "A nation's fu-

continued on page 3



GOVERNOR Lorenzo I. Guerrero presents to his former public information officer, Frank S. Rosario, the Most Outstanding Literary Artist Award during the 8th Annual Governor's Arts Awards at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Friday. Others in photo are (from left): Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Chairman David Peter, Lt. Gov. Benjamin Manglona and CCAC Executive Director Maggie Wonenberg.

Businessman named in \$23M suit for fraud

By Gaynor Dumat-ol

A BUSINESSMAN has been sued for allegedly overpricing by over \$23 million the lease of land in Obyan for a hotel and golf course project.

Property Management Inc. (PMI), representing Japan-based Ohtani Co. Ltd., accused Shinji Inoue of fraud and deceit and conspiracy to defraud in a complaint filed before the Superior Court last month.

Inoue and Ikuo Yoshizawa, president of Pacific Resort Development Inc. (PRDI), repre-

sented PMI in the negotiation for a land lease in Obyan.

According to the complaint, Inoue and Yoshizawa told PMI that leasing land in Obyan for the project would cost \$41.4 million. They received that amount from PMI between Oct. 15, 1990 to July 1991.

The leased properties in Obyan were placed under the name of PRDI.

PMI learned later, however, that the actual cost of the lease was only \$17.8 million—\$23.5 million less than the actual price quoted by Inoue and Yoshizawa.

The suit further alleged that Inoue and Yoshizawa violated their agreement with PMI which provides that the \$41.4 million should only be used to acquire leases on real estate properties for the hotel-golf course project and for related expenses, like permits and consulting fees.

Inoue and Yoshizawa allegedly used part of the money to lease other properties in Saipan and Tinian, according to the suit filed on behalf of PMI by the Carlsmith Law Office.

Part of the money for the lease continued on page 5

Developers give \$3.8M for sewer improvement

DEVELOPERS of big projects in Saipan have contributed a total of \$3.8 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. mostly for the improvement of the existing sewage treatment facility.

A summary of the developers' contributions prepared by the Coastal Resources and Management showed that the proponent of Lucky-Joeten Taga condominium donated \$1.2 million, the biggest voluntary contributor in the list during the period 1987-1992.

For the Dai-ichi Hotel expansion, CUC received \$542,000; Dai-ichi staff housing, \$76,032; Grand Hotel expansion, \$175,168; Gualo Rai Villa Apartments, \$39,600; AIBIC resort hotel in San Antonio, \$409,248; and Achugao II hotel, \$352,092.

For the expansion of Duty Free, \$20,160 was given by DFS Saipan to CUC, Hafadai Hotel expansion; \$334,080; J.C. Tenorio Commercial Center, \$73,920; Joy Motel, \$53,760; L and T Fina Sisu Apartments, \$46,080; Mc Donald's restaurant, \$10,800; Navy Hill Resort, \$255,780; Pacific Islands Club Phase

II, \$130,320; San-ai Palms II, \$52,185 and Yang's apartments, \$39,600.

Almost \$1 million more in pledges were promised to CUC.

The developer of Coral Ocean Point condominium promised \$604,000 to CUC; Fanaganan resort hotel, \$327,220; and Fullhouse, \$50,112.

Most of the developers also gave a total of \$780,000 in voluntary contributions to the Department of Public Works.

The developer of Achugao II gave DPW \$100,000; Coral Ocean Point condominium, \$150,000; Dai-ichi Hotel expansion, \$150,000; Dai-ichi staff housing, \$20,000; Grand Hotel expansion, \$40,000; Hafadai Hotel extension, \$50,000 and J.C. Tenorio Commercial Center, \$20,000.

Lucky-Joeten's Taga condominium project also gave DPW \$50,000, Pan Marakai resort, \$100,000; Pacific Islands Club Phase 2, \$70,000; and Palms 2, \$30,000.

The developer of Navy Hill resort also indicated its intention to donate \$20,000 to DPW.

Tinian casino agency strikes back

Tan: I never said it was in good condition

THE TINIAN Casino Gaming Control Commission has challenged Public Auditor Scott Tan and Senator David M. Cing to show any intentional neglect or abuse of funds by the commission.

At the same time, the commission denounced the audit report on its operations as a "very biased report" which did not take into account the commission's response to the findings.

"As a matter of fact, the first draft consists of a lot of errors that they (auditors) had to revise their report after receiving my response whereby I identified their mistakes," said Joseph M. Mendiola, chairman of the commission, in a letter to Cing Friday.

The letter was also signed by Jose P. Cruz, vice chairman, and Lino V. Lizama, Reynaldo M. Cing and Freddy U. Hofschneider, commissioners. Public Auditor Scott Tan de-

nied the accusations. "It (the report) was not biased. We have all the facts to prove our findings," he said in an interview yesterday.

He added that the recommendations were positive and aimed at helping the commission.

The controversy was sparked by the release last week of Tan's report which disclosed improperly classified and documented spending by the commission, as well as overspending. He also mentioned two officials

not performing their respective functions and receiving benefits not due them.

Cing was the first to react publicly to the report. His criticism was mainly directed against Tan.

"Your questionable professional behavior in this matter has disappointed me and has compromised my ability to represent the good people of Tinian," Cing said in a letter to Tan after publication of the audit findings. Cing recalled that he and Rep-

resentatives Jesus T. Attao, Heinz S. Hofschneider and Joaquin H. Borja met with Tan before the Legislature passed a bill to give \$470,000 to the commission through reprogramming.

Tan, according to Cing, assured the group that things "were fine so we went ahead with the reprogramming."

Tan, during yesterday's interview, said he never told continued on page 3

Jr's Agenda

by John DelRosario

We have adopted a policy on tourism development. It seems, however, that the type of facilities that we have today are what we call second tier or class type hotels and motels. In other words, they do not come close to what's known in the industry as "World Class Resorts."

It stands to reason, therefore, that the type of tourists we lure quite successfully to the islands are the "honeymooners". In other words, we have yet to attract the upper echelon or people with money. And the latter group are those with big bucks who also spend more money than honeymooners.

It behooves us to reassess what our goals are in the development and refinement of the glamour industry. So far, we have given several developers the minimum requirement in public land leases of twenty-five years. The real question which we must answer is whether these leases ought to be limited to 25 years or should we grant the 15 year extension being sought.

I can envision the risk of limiting these land leases to just 25 years. Firstly, we run the risk of forcing a developer to scale down its planned development from one of "world class resort facility" to one of transitional facility. It simply means that we would be getting lessor amount to the dollar once such facility is completed and operational. And we're back to square one. We again resort to luring more honeymooners rather than wealthy vacationers.

May I further illustrate a point: Assuming that you are renting a beautiful piece of property along the beach area. But the term of the lease is only good for ten years. Definitely, you will not venture sinking thousands of dollars into permanent structures knowing that you have only ten years within which you must recoup your expenses. Therefore, you will limit your hard earned money to transitional facilities, right?

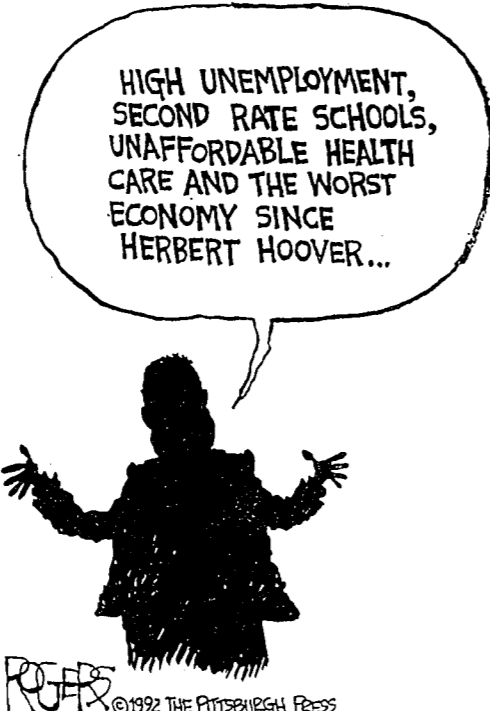
If however the term of the lease is 55 years, it leaves you room to plan for a first class and permanent facility in that you have the latitude now to recoup expenses and losses, right? So the same is true when we talk about the term of the land leases for resort development purposes. In other words, no developer/investor in his right mind would sink hundreds of millions of dollars if he knows that the term is too restrictive for purposes of recouping at least what he's invested here.

Granting these developers the fifteen year extension makes sense. Each would be able to build "world class resorts" which automatically puts the Northern Mariana Islands as a destination on the world map. With world class facilities, any Japanese millionaire sitting at home during the winter months would definitely be lured to spending the next three months out here (only three and-a-half hours away) than attempt taking an eight to ten hour flight to Honolulu and Australia for rest and recreation.

But we do not have these facilities today. And it is up to us to lure these developers into building world class resorts here by granting them the fifteen year extension or risk their bidding adios to the CNMI for good. So what's so important about building world class resorts here? It means more money to meet our constantly growing demands for more revenue to cover the needs of our Public School System, CHC and its constantly ballooning medical referral program, more officers and equipment for DPS, and other equally nightmarish social problems that also call for none other than MONEY!!

This desire is far stronger a sentiment in the Asia Pacific Region. And each of these countries are even offering free public land to developers because they know that any major development and its ripple effects stimulates the economy in their community similarly situated like the CNMI — hardly any resources to sell or trade on a global basis. Thus, the aspiration to resort to the cleanest industry the world over. These countries include: Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Peoples Republic of China, South and North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei. We need not actually go any further than our neighbor to the south, Guam. It is our closest competitor and we either put our act together or forget it!

Never for a moment neglect the fact that the Asian Pacific Region is one of the most dynamic regions in the world. While some are still haggling with peace and stability, a stabilizing factor in economic growth and development, we in the Northern Marianas enjoy the peace, stability and tranquility that most of these countries are clamoring to turn into an everyday reality. Given the economic doldrums that we find ourselves in, we must decide once and for all what we really want. It's now or never!!



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JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Disaster relief takes more than one form

WASHINGTON—To most hurricane victims, emergency relief efforts by the federal government evoke images of shelter, food and clothing.

To those seeking to exploit a natural disaster, it can be a bonanza of taxpayer dollars lavished on "stress-free fun days," Thanksgiving turkeys, and books like "Sexual Secrets" and "Fifty Ways to Avoid Malpractice."

These represent merely a few of the more egregious examples of how the Neighborhood Support Network splurged on itself in Hurricane Hugo's wake, which ravaged the Virgin Islands in September 1989.

The NSN was set up as a "trade name of the Caribbean Behavioral Institute after Hugo, which led President Bush to dispatch some 1,100 Army military police and 170 federal law-enforcement officers, including 75 FBI agents

to the Virgin Islands. They were sent to quell what was called the "pervasive looting" on St. Croix. About 90 percent of the island's buildings were damaged.

It appears that looting assumed many different forms. Though the Institute itself received a relatively small share of the money dispersed after the hurricane, details ferreted out by Interior Department investigators read like a textbook case of the waste that sometimes results from federal disaster relief.

In fact, a recent Inspector General audit found reason to question nearly every dime of the \$6.6 million of federal money spent by the Institute after Hugo. Sorting through the accounting debris was apparently about as formidable as sorting through the physical debris caused by Hugo: The Institute's entire accounting procedure was limited to entries

in the company checkbook. More than \$2.5 million was identified by the audit as "unsupported costs."

The Behavioral Institute received its slice of the federal relief pie after sending an unsolicited request for funding to the Virgin Islands Department of Health. The health department, coincidentally, was part of the Virgin Islands government that had just received \$222 million in hurricane relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sources say the health department "collaborated" with the Institute in applying for the grant. No other proposals were solicited, so the Institute promptly got its money, though several non-profit agencies and other sources were also eligible for funding.

Originally, the money was continued on page 6

Marshall Islands Scene

Are big nuclear payments enough?

By Giff Johnson

THE ANNOUNCEMENT in Majuro this week that over the past six years, Marshall Islanders affected by nuclear bomb tests had received - directly or indirectly - \$101 million is sobering news indeed. The money is part of a larger settlement provided by the US in the Compact of Free Association with the Marshalls.

Through the Compact, the US provided a fund of \$150 million for nuclear compensation. This fund is required by the Compact to pay out 12 percent - \$18 million - annual to islanders and various health, radiological and other compensation agencies for a total compensation package of \$270 million over the 15 year life of the agreement.

As Shearson Lehman Brothers official Daniel Roland, who manages the fund, noted "The amount of money that's been paid out is staggering."

But though seemingly enormous, islanders and some officials here are not satisfied. The Bikinians, for example, receive \$5 million annually from the fund. Half of this amount is automatically reinvested for the future. The remaining \$2.5 million is divided in quarterly per capita payments to the 1600 or so Bikinians amounting to something less than \$400 per payment.

The reinvestment requirement, however, is probably the most important aspect of the compensation deal, obligating the Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik islanders to put money away.

Because of this each of the four communities is guaranteed that it will have a nest egg of cash when the Compact expires in 2001. Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik have received a combined total of \$73.5 million, slightly over half of which has been reinvested into their own trust funds, while a total of \$35.3 million has been paid directly to islanders from these four atolls, Roland said.

The Nuclear Claims Tribunal is to receive a total of \$45 million to compensate people from islands other than the four receiving the bulk of the compensation, or to satisfy four atoll claims that were not met by the Compact payments.

But the Tribunal may soon be continued on page 6

Court rejects tax rebate publication

THE SUPERIOR Court yesterday rejected Saipan resident Lino Olopai's suit to compel the government to make the tax rebate list public.

Presiding Judge Pedro M. Atalig, in a summary judgement, agreed with the government's position that Olopai "does not have standing" to bring the private action suit.

"What plaintiff seeks is certain tax rebate information for reasons not apparent to the court," Atalig said.

He said the court, having concluded that Olopai lacks standing to maintain the lawsuit, "need not address the issues raised by the plaintiff."

Olopai's counsel Theodore Mitchell said he would discuss with his client what move to take following the decision.

Mitchell earlier explained that public disclosure of the names of all taxpayers given rebates as well as the amount they received would be a great help for ordinary people in the Northern Marianas.

He explained that by having access to the tax rebate list, CNMI residents would know how much tax rebate went to taxpayers and how much was left in the government coffers. Atalig said the suit filed by Olopai was not an action to enjoin the expenditure of public funds or breach of any fiduciary duty on the part of the government.

Politicians...

continued from page 1

ture relies on its people's skill and foresight to merge in the artistic diversity of the world."

Heading the list of awardees were Frank S. Rosario, adjudged as outstanding literary artist for 1992; Noel Quitugua, outstanding visual artist; Ramon Taimanao, outstanding traditional craftsman; and the Island Express, outstanding performing artists.

Marianas Cable Vision received an award as the organization which provided the most support for the arts. Twenty-three artists from schools in Saipan, Rota and Tinian received awards under the performing, traditional, visual and literary arts categories.

CDA may still sue bond trustee

By Rafael H. Arroyo

THE COMMONWEALTH Development Authority has not totally abandoned its plan to sue Bank of New York to get the \$25 million remaining in CDA's bond account with the bank, according to CDA Chairman Juan S. Tenorio.

"The issue of the leftover money is not a closed book until we actually get hold of it. It's not over till it's over," he said in an interview Friday.

"We here at the Commonwealth badly needs the money. At this time when the economy is so bad, the only recourse to spur economic activity is to have an infusion of funds," Tenorio added.

He said CDA might still sue for the transfer of the money "should administrative solutions fail."

He said the lawsuit is now on hold because of a tentative agreement between the Lt. Governor Benjamin T. Manglona and Assistant Interior Secretary Stella Guerra.

In a meeting on Nov. 19 Manglona assured Guerra that the CNMI would comply with the grant pledge agreement that requires Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to achieve full cost recovery in its operations.

Guerra, on the other hand, agreed to talk to Bank of New York to resolve the dispute over the bond money.

Bank of New York, trustee for a \$140 million bond flotation made by CDA in 1986, refused to transfer an estimated \$25 million remaining in CDA's account, upon the advice of the Interior Department.

The amount represents interest earned out of the 1986 bond transaction, some \$14 million in debt service collateral and about \$4.7 million in remaining project funds.

CDA told the bank to release the money by Nov. 21 or face a lawsuit. Tenorio has maintained that CDA is entitled to the money and that Interior has no authority to interfere in its transfer.

Guerra, during her meeting with Manglona and other local officials, said she was not against the release of the money.

"We do not intend to withhold anything nor do we say the money could not be used. It's just that there are some requirements to be followed under the grant pledge agreement," she explained.

Tenorio said it might take sometime for CUC to achieve full cost recovery but "we still feel CDA is entitled to the money."

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Time	Description of Event or Activity	Notations
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1992		
8:00 PM	Pacific Power & Light Dinner w/the Stars	China House Rest.
9:30 PM	Disco w/the Stars	Gilligan's Disco
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 1992		
12:00 NN	Luncheon w/the Stars	PIC
6:00 PM	Dinner w/the Stars	(Casa De Roma)
9:30 PM	Disco w/the Stars	Gilligan's Disco
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 1992		
12:00 NN	Luncheon w/the Stars	Aqua Resort
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MGM, Torres agree on injunction

MARIANAS Garment Manufacturing Inc. (MGM) agreed Friday to honor employment contracts with its 350 employees, mostly from the People's Republic of China, including payment of the minimum hourly wage of \$2.15 and overtime pay.

The company also agreed to refrain from threatening, harassing or intimidating employees or their families and from terminat-

ing or causing the deportation of employees in retaliation for the exercise of their rights.

These commitments were part of an agreement submitted to the Superior Court Friday by MGM and the Department of Commerce and Labor. Judge Pedro M. Atalig adopted the agreement as a preliminary injunction which will be in force until resolution of the lawsuit filed by Commerce and Labor Director Joaquin S. Torres against MGM.

The complaint alleged that MGM's workers were paid on a piece-rate basis instead of the mandated hourly wage and the authorized overtime pay, which were provided in the employees' contracts.

Friday's agreement was signed by MGM counsel Robert J. O'Connor and Assistant Attorney General John Cool, on behalf of Torres.

The agreement, a copy of which was received by O'Connor's associate David G. Banes, also provided for the following:

* MGM will help each employee to open a savings account at an FDIC-insured bank in Saipan. The company will provide time-off and transportation on each payday for up to 15 employees to deposit the employees' paychecks in their respective accounts.

* For the duration of the injunction, MGM will retain and pay the accounting firm of Deloitte

& Touche to oversee the distribution of the paychecks, with access to all records of MGM created after Nov. 30, 1992. If Deloitte & Touche is not acceptable to either MGM or Torres, the court will appoint another independent third party monitor from a list of mutually agreeable persons submitted by MGM and Torres.

* MGM will take all reasonable steps to prevent any person from entering factory premises or the barracks housing its employees to threaten, intimidate or pressure employees into surrendering or "kicking back" their wages.

* Each paycheck will be accompanied with a detailed statement, in a language which the employee understands, which

includes total hours worked, rate of pay, gross and net wages, deductions and itemization of number of hours worked.

* A copy of the payroll register must be submitted to the Department of Commerce and Labor within 24 hours of the distribution of the paychecks.

The Department of Commerce, for its part, will allow MGM to hire replacement workers and fulfill the employment contracts of current workers.

It also agreed to dismiss two pending labor cases involving MGM.

Banes said the proceedings on the lawsuit pending with the Superior Court would go on while the injunction is in effect. (NL)

Employer, family thank Laude donors

THE MANAGEMENT of Unique General Merchandise and Construction and the family of the late Eladio Laude wish to thank the following persons and establishments for their donations which are of great help and comfort to the family of the deceased:

Herman S. Sablan, Pete "Tisu" Borja (Maria M. Diaz), Paul K. Pangelinan, Manny Villaga, Ben P. Guerrero (Tindin), Angel Salas, Roberto Eparawa, Tik Palacios, Joe Ada, Mark Halstead, Tony Villagomez (Kiyu), Frank D. Palacios, Joe Sanchez, Manny R. Sablan, Terry R. Cruz, Tess Camacho, Robert Guerrero, National Office Supply, Kambara, Modern Stationery, Chong's Corp., Mr. and Mrs. David Apatang, Yosko Tessei and Tani Tudela.

Businessman...

continued from page 1

of the golf course and hotel site, according to PMI, was allegedly used by Inoue and Yoshizawa to buy shares in Tomorrow Enterprises, United Auto Services, World Express, Remington International Korea, Pier Waive and Hot Line and some unnamed companies.

Inoue and his partner also diverted part of the money to a restaurant business in Guam and by investing in TSS Investment, the suit said.

Yoshizawa, who was not named as defendant in the suit has, according to PMI, admitted he and Inoue concealed the actual price of the leased Obyan properties.

The suit said Yoshizawa also admitted having spent part of the money for his own use and benefit. Yoshizawa had returned \$3.1 million to PMI.

The suit said Yoshizawa cooperated with the plaintiff in correcting the fraud he and Inoue allegedly committed.

Yoshizawa said Inoue received more than \$3.5 million "for misrepresenting the true facts" to PMI.

PMI asked the court to order Inoue to pay \$20,387 in compensatory damages plus interest and punitive damages.

The court was likewise asked to declare that leasehold rights of Inoue to certain properties acquired using part of the \$41.4 million, be placed in trust of PMI.

The plaintiffs asked for a jury trial.

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Washington...

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slated to provide crisis counseling and other psychological services for hurricane victims. But the Institute quickly found more opportune ways to use the money.

As the Virgin Islands were digging out of the rubble of its worst-ever natural disaster, the Institute's director was buying himself "at least nine pen and pencil sets that ranged in price from \$49 to \$86 each." Money was spent to buy more than 100 computer software packages, including games such as "Friday Night Poker Club" and "Life and Death." Other software included personal finance programs, "The Diet Balancer," and "News of the Past."

Why so much software? Perhaps because an order was placed for 10 new desktop computers, computer modems, and other computer equipment in the spring of 1991, just two months before the program was slated to expire. Investigators doubt the computers were even received by the time the program ended.

While Virgin Islands residents were rebuilding their lives after the storm and the looting that followed, the Institute's director was spending \$303,000 for "consulting services." When investigators tried to discover just what kind of consulting was performed, they found no written contracts existed, no record of the rate of compensation, no time sheets and no evidence that services were actually performed.

Investigators did find that \$11,764 was spent by the Institute to research the potential of winning other federal grants.

According to the audit, the Institute also spent money on personal utility bills, including bills accrued by a relative of the director, \$85,000 for repairs and renovation to a building leased from a relative of the director, and a new videotape version of "The Godfather Epic."

Though FEMA didn't directly appropriate the money given to CBI, the audit represents yet another embarrassing chapter for FEMA, which endured a gale of criticism for its handling of the Hugo relief effort. After the agency flubbed relief efforts in South Carolina after Hugo, a furious Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., called FEMA "the sorriest bunch of bureaucratic jackasses I've ever seen."

After repeated phone calls to the director, a "clinician" from the Institute told our associate Jan Moller that "to the best of my knowledge ... the work we did and the funding was directly related to the storm." According to the audit, the Institute disagrees with virtually every recommendation made by the investigators and claims its accounting system is "adequate."

FEMA refused to comment officially on the report, nor would the Virgin Islands Department of Health. "This is way out of the ordinary," said Joyce Fleischman, deputy Inspector General for DOI. "The audit report speaks for itself."

Marshall...

continued from page 2

come a compensation battle ground.

Tribunal officials have said repeatedly during 1992 that the \$45 million will not be adequate to meet the expected number of land and personal injury claims. To date, it has limited payments on personal injury claims awarded to just 33 percent of their total value to conserve funds. More than 400 islanders have received \$5.7 million through the Tribunal since it began paying out compensation in 1991; but the remaining \$12 million due these claimants is being held back for the time being.

In fact, soon after Tribunal Chairman Sebastian Aloo first said publicly in January that the \$45 million was not enough, the Marshalls Nitijela (parliament) established a committee to review the issue and to decide if the US should be approached on the matter. The US, on the other hand, has flatly stated that it is not interested to discuss hiking the levels of compensation already provided. Former US Ambassador William Bodde said, and his successor, Ambassador David Fields reiterated, that the US considers the Compact fund "full and final" compensation.

Nevertheless, Aloo said the reality is that the Tribunal cannot pay 100 percent of the personal injury awards - about \$17 million - it has approved to date because the fund will then not have ad-

equated funds to compensate individuals who develop radiation-related illnesses 10 years from now. The Tribunal has been flooded with more than 5,000 claims; fewer than 10 percent have so far been approved.

In addition, while personal injury awards have already amounted to \$17 million, Aloo said the Tribunal is anticipating astronomical land damage claims from different atolls amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. Rongelap - which was dusted by snow-like fallout from the 1954 "Bravo" shot at Bikini - has already filed a land claim for \$100 million. And Bikini officials have remarked that if Rongelap's damage is worth \$100 million, then the value of damage to their islands as the "ground zero" for the tests will be substantially higher.

The land situation cannot be dealt with until the results of the country's first nationwide radiological survey is completed. This study also being funded from the compensation fund in the Compact. The majority of the field work is completed; laboratory analysis of soil and plant samples in Majuro is ongoing to determine the extent of radiation contamination still on islands throughout the Marshalls. The results are not expected until late next year.

So the Tribunal is guarding it \$45 million, and urging the Marshalls government to take up the compensation issue with the US. The Nitijela committee, appointed earlier in the year, has yet to meet.

Majuro hospital buys ultra sound, laser equipment

By Giff Johnson

MAJURO - Majuro hospital now has the latest in laser and ultra sound technology, that staff say will greatly boost doctors' capacity to diagnose and treat patients on island.

Dr. Masao Korean, the hospital's chief of staff, said the new equipment would save the Marshalls tens-of-thousands of dollars in off-island medical referrals.

The two machines were purchased with funds raised through the two and a half percent health tax that the government instituted last year, said Social Security administrator Joe Lanwi. Together the two pieces of equipment cost close to \$100,000.

Korean said that people "don't see the improvements at the hospital" but now the Marshalls is one of the few hospitals in the entire Pacific with these state-of-the-art pieces of equipment.

The laser equipment is used to treat eye problems such as detached retinas, a common ailment of diabetes patients. Diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic illnesses affecting Marshall Islanders. During a recent visit by a team of ophthalmologists from California, close to 200 patients were treated.

COP names top employee



Go

KOBLERVILLE Resort, Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, named Maria Andrea Go of F & B Dept. as the employee of the month of November.

Goor simply "Andrea" has been with COP since June 1990. According to her managers, Andrea is one of the most dependable F & B staff. She performs her duties very well as an F & B attendant even without the presence of a superior. Her flexibility and reliability are best exemplified when handling any job assignments along with other side duties.

Andrea sees her post as the starting point of her career in the hospitality industry. At 23, she is very much goal-oriented. She is glad and thankful that the management has recognized her efforts in doing her best. She would like to share her secret in enjoying her job, "Honestly, I like people," she quipped.

Go received \$100 cash and a certificate of appreciation for COP.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRPM) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-92-X-88 submitted by Chung H. Cho for the three (3) storey apartment building on privately leased land, track number (22593-B-R4), San Vicente, Saipan.

The three (3) storey project which has been constructed is consist of eighteen (18) two-bedroom and four (4) one-bedroom apartment units with a swimming pool at the basement level.


The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December, 01, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. at the San Vicente Elementary School Cafeteria. This is the second and final notice.

The public is invited to attend and to submit written and/or to make oral comments regarding this project. All written and oral testimonies received shall be made a part of the permit application record, and shall be considered in any decision upon the subject application.

Please contact CRM at 234-6623/7320/3907, if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

/s/JOAQUIN VILLAGOMEZ
Administrator
Coastal Resources Management Office

12/1/92



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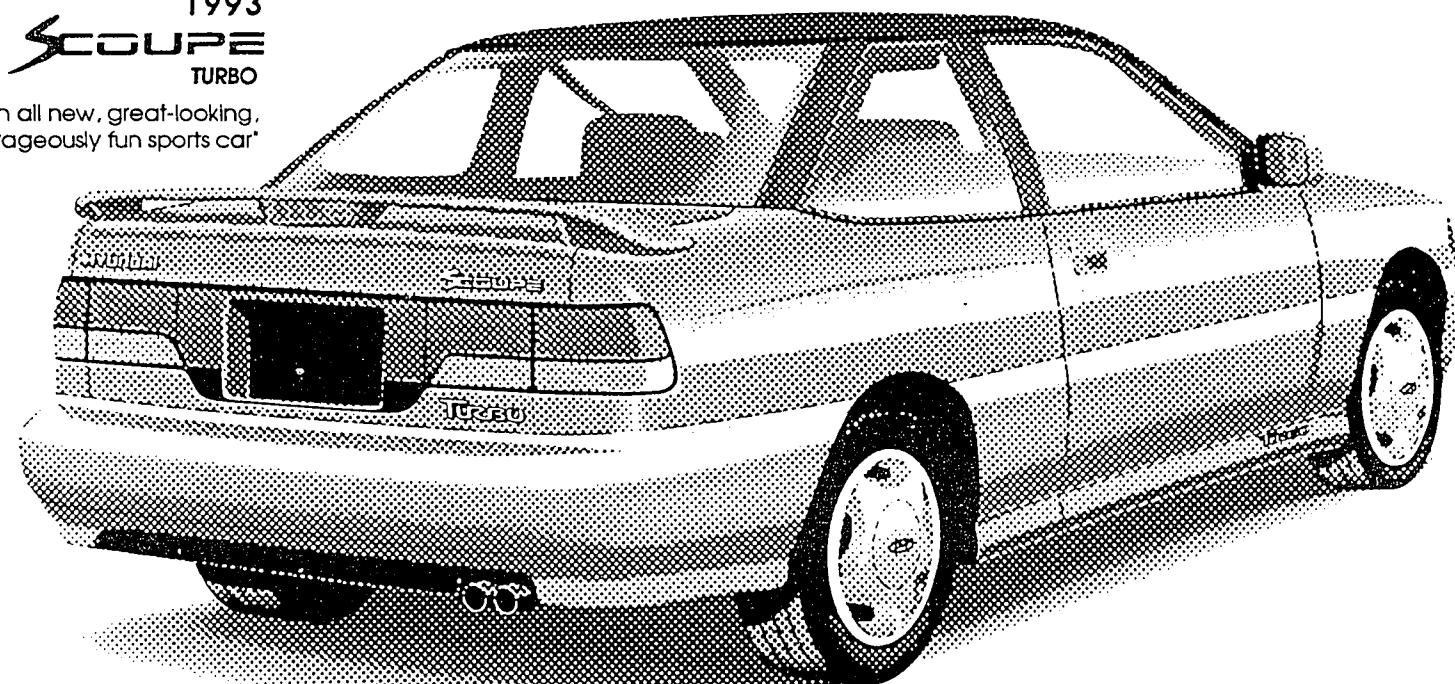
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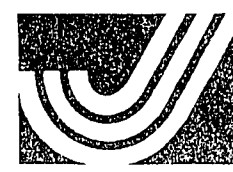
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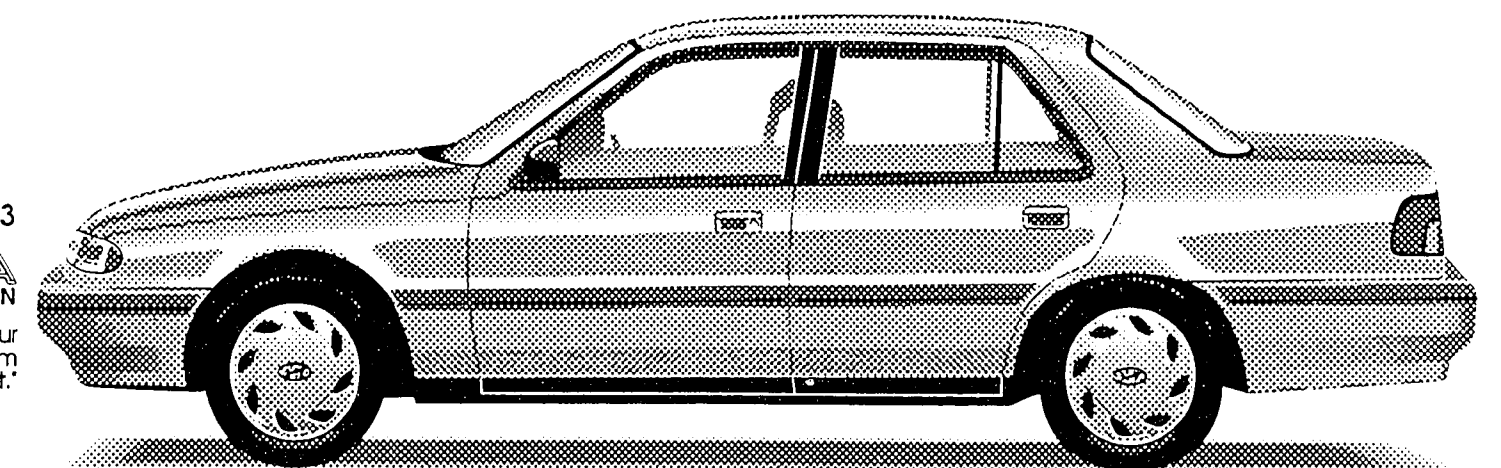
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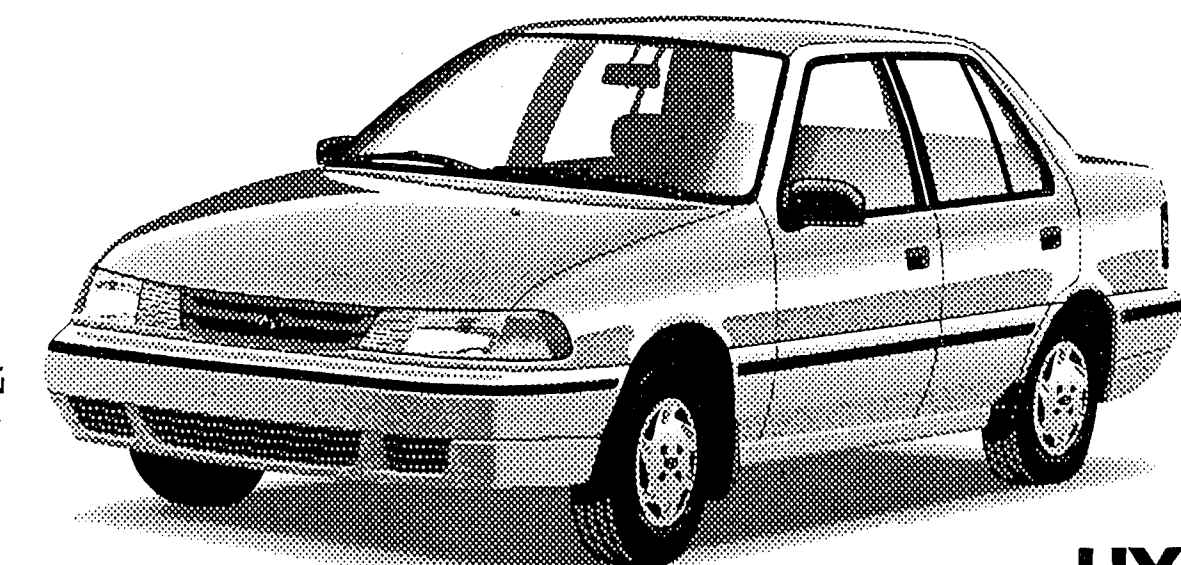
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Jumbo jet nears speed of sound

JERUSALEM (AP) - A modified Boeing 747-100 passenger jet flew almost at the speed of sound - more than 100 kilometers per hour above its top cruising speed - in a test last month, officials said Sunday.

While modern fighter jets are capable of reaching speeds greater than Mach 2, passenger jets are designed to fly slower than Mach 1, the speed of sound.

The flight took place on Sept. 30 and was part of stress testing done by the government-owned Israel Aircraft Industries on a craft it is converting to a cargo jet, said company spokesman Phil Herman.

The jumbo jet took an 18 degree nose dive from 36,000 feet, hitting Mach 0.98, test pilot Menachem Shimol told army radio.

An air force F-16 fighter jet flew 30 to 40 meters (yards) from the jumbo's wingtip to serve as the pilot's speedometer since the 747's instrument panel could not measure such speeds, Shimol said.

The Boeing jumbo jet's official maximum cruising speed is 939 kilometers per hour (583 miles per hour). The speed of sound, or Mach 1, is 1056 kilometers per hour (660 miles per hour) at 30,000 feet above sea level.

The test was done as part of Federal Aviation Administration licensing for the jumbo which was being converted to a cargo jet, said Herman.

He said Israel Aircraft had installed a reinforced floor and a large and heavy door on the left side of the jet for loading. He added a Boeing-100 underwent similar testing when the craft was developed 23 years ago, but he did not know what speed it achieved.

Airbus challenges Boeing



A BOEING 747 passenger aircraft.

By Terril Jones

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) - Test pilot Richard Monnoyer eased forward the throttles, bringing the lumbering aircraft down Runway 36 of Istanbul's Ataturk airport.

Forty seconds later the Airbus A340 reached its takeoff speed of 138 knots (254 kph, 159 mph) for a surprisingly quiet liftoff. A few minutes later, it was almost hands-off flying for Monnoyer as the plane's onboard computers took over.

In just over a month airlines will put into service the new A340, a four-engine passenger jetliner that is already challenging Boeing Co.'s dominance of the long-distance commercial jet market.

The A340 has the longest range, 14,500 kilometers (9,060 miles), of any commercial jet, and Airbus already has firm orders and options for about 250 of them.

The imminent debut of the A340 underscores the inroads Airbus is making in a market once dominated by American aircraft firms.

An A340 recently set a distance record for a passenger plane, flying the 14,900-kilometer (9,315-mile) route from Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, southern France to Perth, Australia.

With a capacity of up to 440 passengers, the A340 is smaller than a Boeing 747 but can go farther, appealing to changing needs of airlines for longer flights of lower passenger density.

Air France and Lufthansa inaugurate A340 service in January. Northwest Airlines and TWA of the United States are among other major A340 customers.

This weekend's test flight was part of the examination by Airbus and Air France of a variety of the plane's functions, from cargo and food loading to cabin temperature, vibrations, seating arrange-

ment and the plane's interior color patterns.

"This plane is not the final version, and we want to avoid as many teething problems as possible before it goes into service," said Airbus spokesman Alain Dupiech.

The A340's two-engine twin the A330 is for shorter hauls, typically carrying 335 passengers 8,740 kilometers (5,460 miles) from late 1993. The A330 will compete directly with Boeing's 777, which enters service in 1995 carrying up to 375 passengers a maximum of 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles).

Airbus is a consortium of France's Aerospatiale, Deutsche Airbus, British Aerospace and the Spanish aerospace firm CASA.

A continuing trade feud has Boeing and the US government charging that the 22-year-old Airbus is no longer an infant industry, and the government sub-

sidies it receives amount to unfair competition.

Airbus counters that it repays aid annually, and accuses Boeing of developing its aircraft with the help of US Defense Department research contracts, tantamount themselves to subsidies.

Inside, the A340 is airy, with unusually high 2.5-meter (8-foot, 3-inch) ceilings.

The only high-tech aspect of the A340 immediately apparent are the flat-screen color television monitors at the front of the economy section and on the back of every seat in business and first class.

Passengers can tune into a choice of movies, news, sports, dance or documentary programs in stereo sound. The picture freezes when in-flight announcements come on, so viewers don't miss anything.

Other flat screens show cabin communications and temperature information for the crew.

Lawmakers hit Mirage sale to Taiwan

BEIJING (AP) - A group of Chinese legislators joined Sunday in their government's barrage of criticism of France's reported decision to sell fighter planes to Taiwan.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress said in a statement that it

was "shocked and resentful" at the French move, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

"The French government has continually created various difficulties and obstacles for bilateral relations in recent years," the statement said.

Taiwan news reports said

French companies have signed contracts to sell the estranged Chinese province 60 Mirage 2000-5 jet fighters and 1,800 missiles. The French government has refused to confirm or deny the reports.

The Chinese legislators' statement did not comment on what

their government would do if France went ahead with the sale. The trade ministry already has reduced imports from France in anticipation of the deal and has suspended a planned purchase of six planes from Airbus, in which France is a partner.

Airline wants doctors' say on smoking

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Malaysia Airlines will consult medical experts and study passenger reaction before deciding whether to ban smoking on all its international flights, Transport Minister Ling Liong Sik said Sunday.

Commenting on a recent resolution by the International Civil Aviation Organization to impose an overall smoking ban by July 1996, Ling told reporters, "We must do surveys. Let us do all those things first. After all, we have until 1996 to make the decision."

Ling said the international organization could adopt such resolutions but had no right to force its members to implement the decisions.

"As a doctor, I know that smokers who do not smoke for quite some time, especially on long-distance flights, may get withdrawal symptoms" he said.

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Dear Readers:

Please allow us to give this message to the people of the Commonwealth. We are afraid that accurate information has not been provided to the people in connection with our project and we have found that we share the opinion of the public that the public park and elderly center are required for the benefit of the people's life in Saipan.

1. MPLC entered into a lease agreement with Nakamoto Enterprises, Ltd. covering an area commonly known as the Samoan Housing Area in Garapan, Saipan. In doing so, MPLC performed its fiduciary duty to persons of Northern Marianas descent in compliance with Article XI, § 4 (a) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution. This lease agreement was brought into question in a lawsuit filed in the Superior Court alleging a breach of these duties by MPLC. The Superior Court dismissed the case in February 1992. The court found no breach of the MPLC's fiduciary duties. This case was appealed to the Supreme Court and the oral argument was conducted and concluded on November 20, 1992. We believe that justice and fairness has been realized through the court in modern society and that we have to comply with the court order in order to keep the order of society.

2. We have fully respected and shared the opinion of the public and the legislators' recommendation that public park is required for people of the CNMI descent. Thus, we have agreed to construct a beachside park in the Samoan Housing Area for the children and people of CNMI, as well as an access road, parking lot and playing facilities for children on the island. The area of the beachside park incorporated into our offer is approximately 7,600 sq. m.

3. We have fully respected and shared the opinion of the public and the legislator's recommendation that the elderly center is required for people of CNMI descent. Thus, we have agreed to construct the Man Amko Center in the Sugar King Park at our cost in our lease agreement.

The following are the reasons why we agreed to voluntarily donate the elderly center to CNMI.

- (i) We Japanese have the same tradition of honoring and respecting our elders and their welfare and we feel the same for the CNMI people.
- (ii) We hope to provide the elderly with a pleasant environment where they can spend their remaining years.

The reason why, after having conferred with MPLC, we have designated the Sugar King Park as the site for the elderly center is because such area has plenty of greenery and a calm environment and thus such area would be a safe and comfortable place for the elderly people. We trust that these reasons are supported by the public.

In contrast, the Samoan Housing Area is located in the middle of hotels and we cannot understand the idea of relocating the Man Amko Center to the center of the tourist and commercial zones, which is one of the most popularized places on the island.

4. When the resort hotel together with the beach-side park is opened, which is scheduled for 1996, the CNMI government will gain tax revenues of some US\$3,000,000 each year, which will amount to some US\$75,000,000 over the 25 year contract period on a simple calculation basis, and will give the CNMI government an opportunity to appropriate these tax revenues to the infrastructure and its educational, medical, and other essential facilities to be further strengthened in the interest of people of the CNMI descent at present and in the future.


We will create a well-balanced resort hotel together with a beachside park in accordance with the CRM's regulations.

5. We have agreed to provide, among others, the following for the benefit of the general public and residents of CNMI in our lease agreement.

- A. We shall voluntarily donate US\$1,500,000 for the improvement of the water and sewer system in the Garapan Area.
- B. The hotel shall include a convention hall capable of handling at least 1,000 persons. Upon request, the hall shall be made available to any government agency without charge.
- C. The hotel shall provide Japanese language classes, free of charge, to up to 50 CNMI descents.
- D. The hotel shall train and employ local persons in hotel management.

6. We are confident that, together with the people in Saipan who wish prosperity and growth of CNMI for people of the CNMI descent, we can assist CNMI by paving the way for co-prosperity and co-existence with the conservation of the natural environment, the fundamentals of human life and the act of development which are necessary to social and economic prosperity.

Masaji Nakamoto
President
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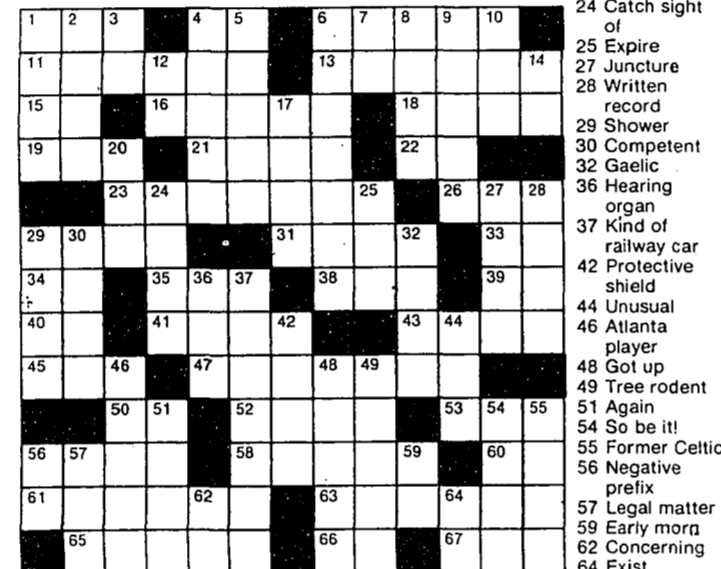
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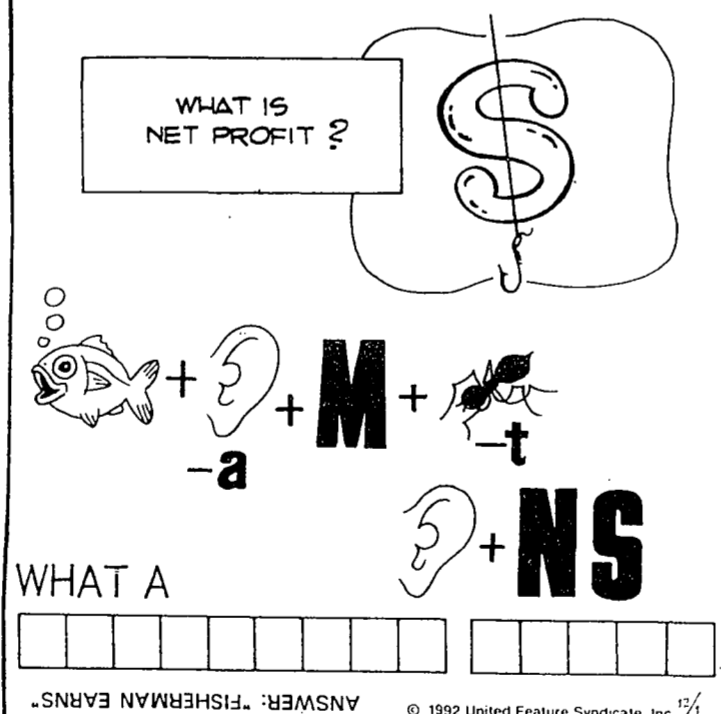
(1913-1990), actress; Lou Rawls (1935-), singer; is 57; Woody Allen (1935-), director; is 57; Lee Trevino (1939-), golfer; is 53; Richard Pryor (1940-), comedian-actor; is 52; Bette Midler (1945-), singer-actress; is 47; Carol Alt (1960-), model; is 32.

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Philippines Transfer of \$356M delayed

By Eileen Guerrero Solicitor General Raul Goco had suggested the funds be returned to the Philippine Central Bank pending the end of litigation or an out-of-court settlement.

Mrs. Aquino established a commission to track down the Marcos assets and retrieve them. But inept management and other legal problems rendered the commission largely ineffective.

Biggest opposition party changes name

MANILA (AP) - The country's largest opposition party has changed its name and chosen leaders in an effort to revive its fortunes after defeat in the presidential elections last May.

Mitra finished a dismal fourth. Laban candidates won 87 of the 200 House seats in the election but defections to Ramos' standard reduced the number of seats to 31.

Convicts live outside walls

By Robert H. Reid MANILA (AP) - During President Fidel Ramos' visit to a provincial city, a congressman saw a familiar face in the crowd. The man was supposed to be serving a life sentence for murdering an Italian priest.

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Ramos calls for more discipline

MANILA (AP) - President Fidel Ramos urged Filipinos Sunday to exercise more self-discipline to overcome the country's economic and social problems.

