

DPL does public lands inventory

Director assures there's still enough land for homesteads

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Public Lands (DPL) is conducting an inventory of public lands to determine whether there are enough sites for homestead development in the Commonwealth, DPL Director Bertha Leon Guerrero said Friday.

Guerrero at the same time expressed optimism, the CNMI is still not running out of lots for homestead applicants, currently pegged at about 3,200.

"I have issued a memo asking our staff to concentrate on the inventory (of public lands)," said Guerrero, in an interview.

"Personally," she added, "I feel that there are still enough lands for homestead."

Guerrero said the inventory



Bertha Leon Guerrero

project tops DPL's priorities following inquiries from the Legislature and applicants themselves.

She however said the undertaking could be a "long and tedious" process considering that DPL has

not contracted out the job to private organizations.

"We don't have enough staff. We have to go out physically and manually check. We want to make sure that we have identified sites properly. And it is only an in-house staff that's working on it," Guerrero said.

She explained that DPL opted not to farm out the job because "it may be too costly," considering the bulk of work that needs to be done.

The plan is to conduct on-site investigations from Marpi down to Tanapag, and then San Roque and on until Obyan. Tinian and Rota follow next.

Guerrero said she will have to convene bi-weekly meetings with

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BOE picks Inos as PSS commissioner



Rita Hocog-Inos

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

VETERAN educator Rita Hocog-Inos has been unanimously chosen by the Board of Education to be the new Commissioner of Education.

Inos beat 10 other candidates during Friday's selection proceedings held at the conference room of the Public School System Office in Nauru Building.

PSS legal counsel Sean Frink

said Inos will have a four-year term as education chief, but her contract is still being negotiated.

Inos is replacing William S. Torres whose contract was terminated by the board last December, citing the members' "loss of confidence" in him.

Inos is currently the deputy director of the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory. She was running mate of former Gov. Larry Guerrero during the Nov. 8, 1996 primary for the Republican Party.

Inos was not available to give a statement at press time.

The criteria for qualification were at least five years of teaching experience, five years of experience in administrative work and a master's degree in education.

Others who vied for the position were Alvaro Santos, former congressman and former vice

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NLRB tells Saipan Grand it has to deal with Local 5

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE NATIONAL Labor Relations Board has dismissed the union election protest filed by the management of Saipan Grand Hotel and certified HERE-Local 5 as the bargaining representative of the hotel's employees, a board officer on Saipan announced Friday.

"This means that the union is the exclusive representative of Saipan Grand employees; Saipan Grand will now have to bargain with the union about the terms of the contracts covering its employees," NLRB representative David Biggar said in an interview.

Koichi Sano, one of the hotel managers, refused to comment, saying he was not in the position to give a statement to the press. No other management representative was available for comment at press time.

The decision was made by a three-member panel last March 26 in response to the management's objection to the result of the union election held Oct. 5, 1995, in which 49 employees voted in favor of being represented by Local 5; 24 voted against it.

The certification was originally issued by NLRB's regional director on Oct. 13, 1995, but was temporarily revoked following the

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STUDENT BOYCOTT. Placard-bearing Marianas High School students stage a demonstration inside the campus Friday to protest the delays in the completion of airconditioning project for the school. (See related story on page 4)

Photo by Mar-Vic C. Munar

Ombudsman mulled to keep eye on DOLI-- Sablan

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ACTING Gov. Jesus R. Sablan said Friday that the administration is considering the creation of an office of the ombudsman to monitor the CNMI's labor and immigration bureaucracies, whose operations were recently described as "organized crime" by a federal official.

Sablan said the administration's original plan was to break up the Depart-

ment of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) by returning Immigration under the supervision of the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

"But," he added, "maybe we could maintain DOLI's current setup and have independent yet internal auditors within the department."

Sablan said the internal auditors will have a separate office but connected with either AGO or the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) and will function as om-



Jesus R. Sablan

budsman.

"Their responsibility will include maintaining the integrity and credibility of (the CNMI's labor and immigration)," he said.

Like OPA, the ombudsman's office could investigate and refer perceived anomalies to AGO for prosecution.

Sablan said the new office may be included in the administration's plan to reor-

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WEATHER Outlook

Yeltsin is urging all Russians: Pay taxes

MOSCOW (AP) — Although the number of people paying taxes is on the rise in Russia, President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that tax evasion remains widespread and is crippling the state budget.



Boris Yeltsin

In a regular radio address which was one impassioned call on Russians to pay taxes, Yeltsin mixed arguments and threats, as well as promises of a better future.

"We are trying to ease the tax burden," the president said. "Our tax system is improving."

He went on to warn his countrymen that tax police were gaining experience, too, with more than 200,000 tax evaders caught last year.

Yeltsin noted that the number of Russians who pay their taxes in full had topped 5 million in 1998, four times higher than in 1995.

Many Russians, however, try to avoid the heavy tax burden, and many

entrepreneurs say they would be forced to close their business if they properly paid taxes.

"The problem is that our citizens have not grown used to paying taxes," acknowledged Yeltsin. "We still have to remind them, to convince them and even to threaten them."

The government, on the other hand,

is strapped for cash and faces strong pressure from its key creditor, the International Monetary Fund, to improve taxation. Efforts to pass a new Tax Code, meanwhile, have been stalled in parliament.

Yeltsin still praised the government for introducing some new tax laws, improving the rates for Russia's emerging middle class and providing breaks for people who buy apartments or have a child.

"It's always a pity to give away the money you have earned. But there is nothing else to do — taxes are the foundation of the budget in any country," said Yeltsin.

"Tax evasion is destroying the budget," he added. "Therefore, it is a serious crime."

Paying taxes, Yeltsin argued, constitutes not only a legal but a moral responsibility as well.

"Those who are strong and rich, those who have achieved success in life must share with those who are old, poor and cannot provide for themselves," Yeltsin said.

Number of rich people sharply rising in India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Despite an economic slowdown, India's middle class is growing and creating a big market for consumer goods, a survey of the economy released Friday said.

India, where 70 percent of the people still live from agriculture in small villages, has traditionally been a nation of poor people, with a small middle class and a tiny group of very rich.

But the middle class in the year 2,000 could be double that in 1996 if the economy grows by 6.4 percent annually, said the survey by the New Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research, a privately-funded respected research group.

The council set a middle class income at 96,000 rupees (\$2,460) annually, enough to sustain a family and still have income to spend on non-essential consumer items.

Growth has slowed to five percent in the financial year that ended on March 31, compared to 7.5 percent in the previous year, which

may effect the report's predictions. Even so the number of middle class households will balloon over the next decade and could transform the income structure of Indian society, according to the survey of 300,000 households.

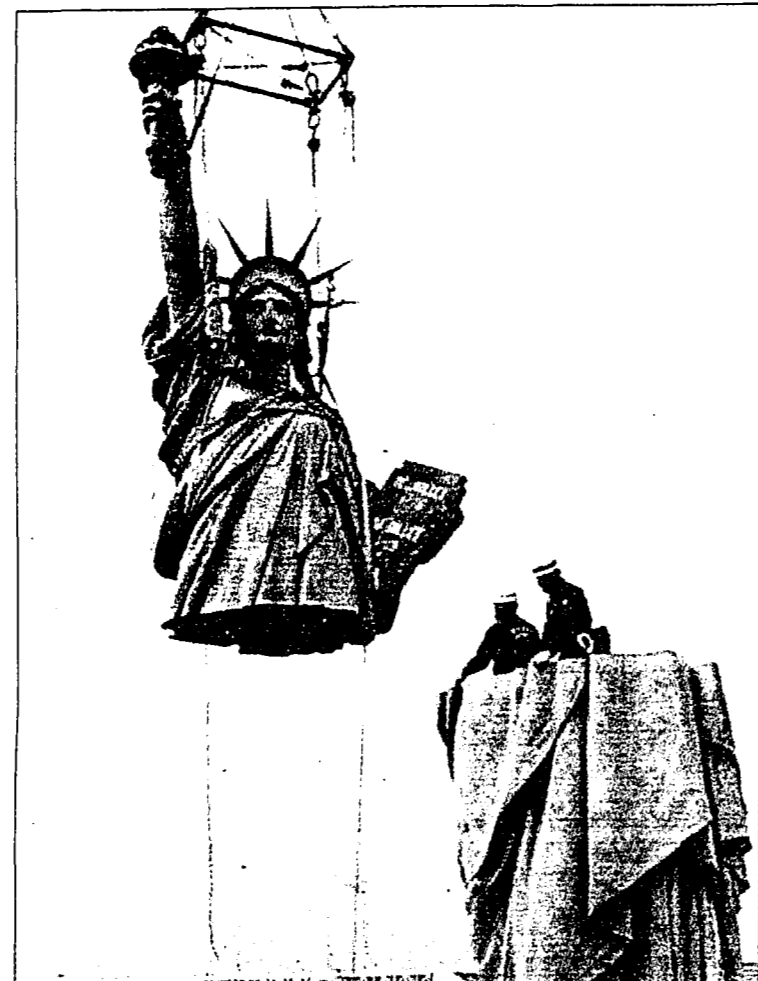
Middle class households were projected to grow from 7.7 million in 1998 to 23.2 million in 2007.

As a percentage of India's population, which is approaching 1 billion, the high earners would comprise 11.7 percent, compared with 4.5 percent now, the report said.

The number of households with earnings of more than 215,000 rupees (\$5,510) would grow to 6 million by 2007 from about 1 million, assuming the growth rate returns to its previous level.

The findings will be welcomed by multinational companies selling relatively expensive products in India.

Many have been burned by initially overestimating the size of the middle class and have also been hurt by the economic slump.



Workers wait in the bottom half of the Statue of Liberty as the top half is hoisted in the air to be joined together at the Odaiba Park in Tokyo. After being transported from Paris, the statue will stand beside the Tokyo Bay to mark French Year in Japan. AP

Hong Kong activists launch new campaign for democracy in China

By PRISCILLA CHEUNG
HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong activists launched a fresh round of activities Sunday to press for democracy in China ahead of the anniversary of the bloody 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

The activists erected a monument and a "Goddess of Democracy" statue — modeled after the Statue of Liberty — in a tourist district for Sunday's Ching Ming Festival, when Chinese traditionally visit their ancestors' graves.

About 50 members of political parties and religious and social groups laid wreaths in front of the monument to commemorate those killed in the army's June 4, 1989, attack on student-led demonstrators demanding democracy.

"Release dissidents. Reassess the 1989 democratic movement," the activists chanted. Chinese authorities labeled the movement a

"counter revolutionary rebellion."

In the crackdown, soldiers killed hundreds of dissidents and authorities jailed thousands of others, including student leader Wang Dan.

Nearly one in four Hong Kong people protested at that time, and the issue remains very sensitive in the territory.

Demands for a reassessment of the 1989 student movement are included in the platforms of several candidates for the May 24 legislative election, the first since Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese rule last July 1.

"Hong Kong people have not forgotten the people who were

massacred. They have not died in vain," said Emily Lau, a legislative election front-runner.

After Sunday's service, activists planned a series of lectures, exhibitions, demonstrations and a kite-flying ceremony and annual candlelight vigil on June 4, said Cheung Man-kwong, vice chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movement in China.

Alliance Chairman Szeto Wah said the group was awaiting government permission for the vigil, which attracted 50,000 supporters last year.

Human rights advocates are watching the government's han-

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China: Legal production of VCDs to meet demand

BEIJING (AP) — China has opened 88 legal video disc factories with enough production capacity to meet demand and replace the black market in pirated video discs, an official newspaper reported Friday.

With a visit by President Bill Clinton scheduled for June, China is eager to show it is eliminating piracy of movies, music and computer software — a major trade

irritant that nearly provoked U.S. sanctions in 1996.

Legal Chinese factories now can produce 330 million VCDs annually, far above projected demand this year of 220 million discs, the Economic Daily reported.

More than 2.2 million pirated VCDs were seized by Chinese authorities in the first two months of this year, the newspaper said.

Diplomat caught with fake dollars

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in Russia's Far East detained a North Korean trade representative and another man as they tried to sell \$10,000 in fake bank notes, officials said Friday.

The two were detained Thursday in the port of Vladivostok on a street where illicit trading in currencies is common, the re-

gional Interior Ministry department said.

The report, carried by the ITAR-Tass and the Interfax news agencies, identified the diplomat as 64-year-old Li Moon Mu, a trade representative with the North Korean embassy in Moscow. He is facing expulsion from Russia, it added.

2 cops found guilty

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas yesterday convicted two of the 11 police officers accused of beating burglary suspect Eugene Eugenio.

Police Officers Norbert Pua and Chris L. Guerrero were found guilty of assault and battery, and misconduct in public office.

Bellas, however, acquitted Sgt. Joaquin Salas and Police Officer Hillary Tagabuel of the same charges for lack of evidence.

In separate ruling last week, the court cleared from the case Sgt. James Deleon Guerrero, and Police Officers Jason Tarkong, Jose

2 others cleared in 'police brutality' case

Saures, Jesse Concepcion, Diwain Stephen, Jesse Seman, and Jack Camacho.

The judge said Friday that before coming up with the decision, he reviewed the statements of government witnesses—Police Officers Eugene Babauta and Jullian Camacho—and so with the physical evidence, photographs and a medical report.

Bellas said the testimonies corroborated with the physical evidence that Eugenio suffered bruises and contusions

as a result of the assault and battery.

All such factors have led the court to believe that there was beating that happened in the Criminal Investigation Bureau office, said the judge.

Witness Babauta had testified that he was in the CIB office when he saw Pua approach and give an "upper cut" blow to Eugenio, who was handcuffed and seated on a chair.

Babauta also stated that

Chris Guerrero came rushing in the room and suddenly kicked Eugenio on the back.

Bellas said there was too much emotion involved considering that Eugenio was the suspect in the assault of a police officer who responded during the reported break-in at Wendy's Restaurant on Nov. 29.

The sentencing of Pua and Guerrero was set on June 17.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams in an interview said it is unfortunate that police offi-

cers who are in charge with protecting and serving the people were involved in such situation.

"As the judge indicated in giving his decision, it's sad that something like this has to be brought before the court. The government's understanding and position that everyone even those who are charged with crimes deserve to be treated courteously and humanely and not assaulted," Williams said.

The incident, he added, is one of those cases where whatever the verdict "is in an unfortunate situation."

3 other suspects in 'rape' rounded up

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE THREE remaining suspects in the alleged kidnapping and raping of two Chinese women at the Suicide Cliff in Marpi fell in the hands of authorities Friday afternoon.

The Variety gathered that police took in the 20-year-old Sheldon R. Yano in Koberville and apprehended co-defendant Jake A. Ito, 20, in Capitol Hill at about 3 p.m.

On the other hand, suspect Jose Olopai Rabauliman appeared with his counsel Anthony Long during Friday's bail hearing in the Superior Court. Associate Judge Virginia Omerheim set a \$10,000 cash bail or \$10,000 in property bond for the temporary release of Yano, Ito, and Rabauliman.

Omerheim said the court will appoint counsel for Yano and ask the public defender to represent Ito after the defendants were found incapable of hiring their own lawyers.

As of Friday late afternoon, Rabauliman was still arranging the papers for his temporary liberty. The court sent Yano and Ito back to jail.

The police first arrested the 21-year-old Hadley F. Renguul shortly after the reported rape incident happened at the Suicide Cliff last March 28.

All four suspects were charged with two counts of rape, four counts of kidnapping, two counts of oral copulation, and two counts of assault and battery.

Court documents showed that the suspects, on board a van, grabbed the two victims who were walking near Horiguchi Building in Garapan at about 4:30 a.m.

The suspects brought the women to the Cliff where they raped them, said the documents.

Govendo seeks Buchholz's ouster

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A DEFENSE lawyer has sought the ouster of the chief of Attorney General's Office Criminal Investigation Division for pursuing the case against the 11 police officers accused of beating a burglary suspect.

Ken Govendo, counsel for Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero and Police Officer Jack Camacho, said Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross Buchholz, chief of AGO's CID, could have dismissed the case without prejudice and handled the matter administratively at first.

Dismissing the case without prejudice would allow the AGO to file the case against the officers at a later time, said Govendo in a statement issued Friday.

"Instead, he (Buchholz) proceeded in order to make a name for himself and stuck the new guys in his office with the dirty work."

"He should be replaced immediately. This kind of showing off will get the Commonwealth in trouble in the future," the lawyer pointed out.

Govendo stated that former acting Attorney General Loren Sutton also should have never allowed the case to be filed as it was an extremely poor judgment.



Ken Govendo



Ross Buchholz

The defense lawyer also assailed the Department of Public Safety's Internal Affairs which allegedly did an extremely poor job on the case.

"All they (Internal Affairs) wanted were convictions and they never tried to do detective work in order to find out what really happened."

They chose to believe Francis Eugenio (burglary suspect) over their own police officers," Govendo said.

"It's hard to believe that there is actually a police legal advisor attached to DPS. I wonder what he was doing during all of this," he added.

Govendo said Eugenio is a 20 year old "punk who has been in trouble with the law for a number of years."

He said Eugenio purposely smashed a police officer over the head with a crowbar so he would not get caught.

"If the Parole Board let this guy out were convictions and they never tried to do detective work in order to find out what really happened."

The lawyers said the CIB Task Force identified Eugenio, tracked him down and captured him less than 48 hours after the Wendy's burglary.

"Instead of receiving citations, they (officers) received suspensions. The police officers involved were suspended without pay on Dec. 29."

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Radio announcer dies in car accident

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A RADIO announcer was killed when her car reportedly veered off the roadway and fell into a ditch on As Terlaje Hill near the Northern Marianas College at dawn Friday.

Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro said Marilyn H. Iakopo, 36, of Fina Sisu, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center at 5:07 a.m. She suffered head injuries.

Iakopo, an announcer of KCNM, was reportedly on her way home when the accident happened at the intersection of 16th Highway and NMC road at 4:37 a.m.

Investigation showed that Iakopo was driving eastward a Toyota Camry with license plate ABJ-735 on As Terlaje Hill when the vehicle veered off the roadway near Galaxy Snack Bar.

Iakopo lost control as the car slammed onto an old water tank and flew into a five-foot ditch filled with tangle-tangle trees. The vehicle overturned, police said.

Responding traffic investigators and emergency medical technicians pulled out the victim out from the wrecked car then transported her to CHC.

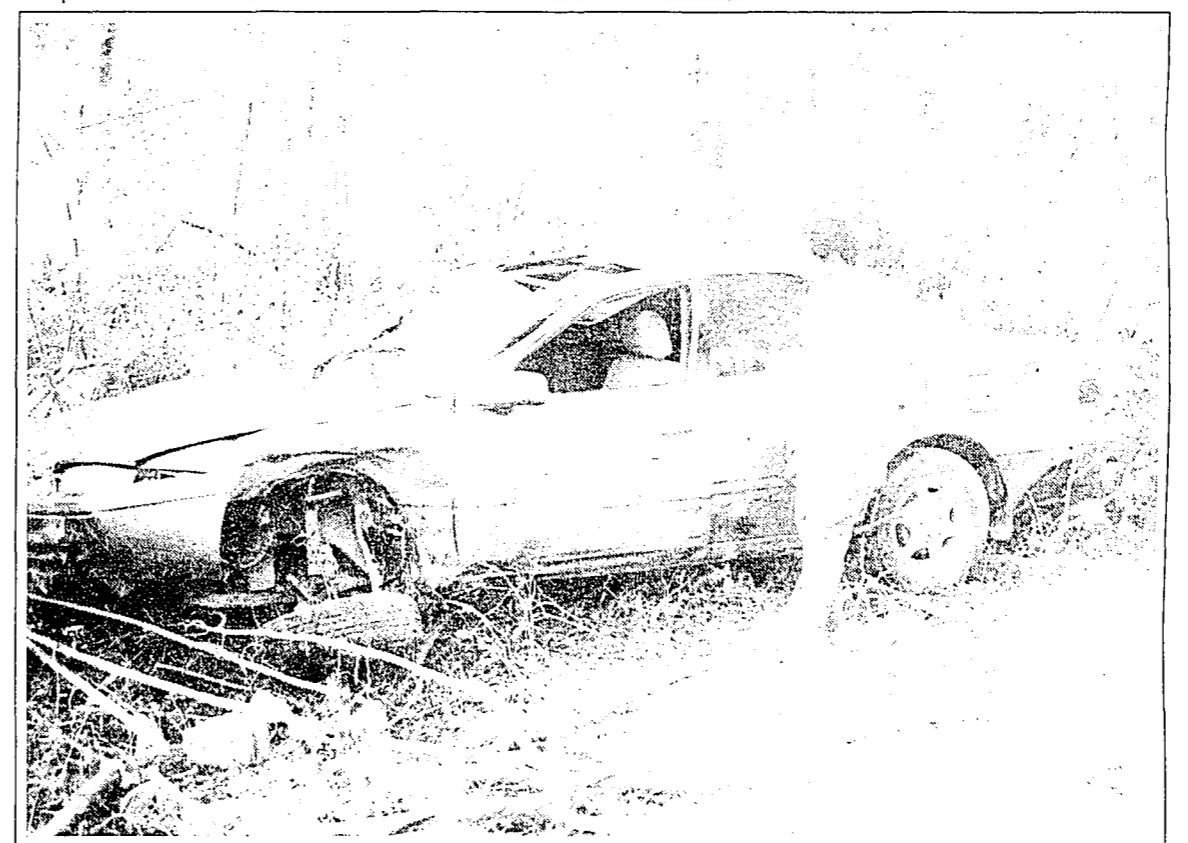
In another report, investigators are looking into a reported "inside job" break-in at Dai-Ichi Hotel Thursday morning.

Police said a male suspect was seen through a surveillance camera entered one of the guest rooms where a backpack containing camera and some clothes was later found missing.

The hotel's security men later discovered the stolen items at the house-keeping room, police added. No arrest was made yet.



Senior U.N. diplomat Jayantha Dhanapala talks to a reporter upon his arrival in Bahrain from Iraq Saturday. U.N. weapons inspectors who completed inspections of Saddam Hussein's palaces left Iraq after failing to find any new evidence of banned materials. AP



Tow truck driver Arcadio Bery inspects the car driven by Marilyn H. Iakopo after the accident on As Terlaje Hill before dawn Friday. Iakopo died during the mishap. Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Students boycott classes

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

"WE'RE tired of our poor facilities. We have enough!"

Thus said students of Marianas High School who boycotted their afternoon classes Friday to protest the continued delays in the completion of several facility projects for the school.

The students said they've lost their patience when the Office of the Public Auditor ordered last week the termination of the Public School System's contract for MHS's air-conditioning project, and the removal of all newly-installed A/C units at the school.

"We're mad. We met with the Board of Education and they said it's not going to happen. But this is not only about the airconditioning problem; this is just the last straw. We're tired," said 11th grade student Kristina Borja, one of the initiators of the protest action.

"We have a gym that was supposed to be finished since I don't know when; we have no aircons, and we don't have working bathrooms," Borja said. "We have some, but it's hard to get a thousand students to get into these bathrooms within a 10-minute break."

MHS principal Jim Denight said he did not sanction the students' protest action, but he supported their cause.

"I agree with their sentiments, but I don't agree with the format they are using to air their grievances," Denight said. "I agree that this school has been neglected for so many years, and I'm



Board of Education Marja Lee Taitano (left) banter with MHS principal Jim Denight and PSS legal counsel Sean Frink as they watch high school students protest the Office of the Public Auditor's order to remove all newly-installed airconditioning units in their classrooms.

Photo by Mar-Vic C. Munar

glad to see the students getting involved in these issues."

Before the demonstration started, a group of students led by Borja had a late morning meeting with Denight, Board of Education Chairman Marja Lee Taitano and PSS Legal Counsel Sean Frink to discuss their concerns.

Taitano vowed the board would act expeditiously on the students' concerns.

But the education officials' efforts to dissuade the students from walking out of their classes proved futile.

"They (education officials) didn't

want us to protest, but this is not just an aircon situation," Borja said. "We have been promised all these things for a long time now, but they say basically the same things that they tell us every year."

The students refused to attend their afternoon classes starting at 1:30 p.m. Most of the teachers, while expressing support for the students, stayed in the classrooms.

The protesters gathered at the stage area. Some of them were bearing placards that read "Our school needs to be cool," "We'll fight with

Denight," and "Public Auditor, Listen to the People."

"I'm happy to see them say 'we have enough'. We're tired of second class facilities when right next door

the government can build a \$15 million facility," Denight said, referring to the newly constructed Judicial Complex located right next to MHS.

Aside from the air-conditioning facility, at least two other major projects for MHS remain hanging in limbo.

One was the \$1.2 million gym project which has been frozen for almost a year now. It was started in 1992, and was supposed to be finished in less than a year. PSS suspended the project last year due to conflicts with the contractor.

In the same manner, the emergency classroom project had been stalled.

Last week, OPA urged PSS to terminate its contract with JWS Air-conditioning and Refrigeration for the installation of 118 air conditioners for MHS, saying the "PSS failed to adequately assess the technical qualifications and specifications of the bids in accordance with the bid evaluation requirements."

It was the second contract for the same project that was ordered terminated.

Frink said PSS would appeal the OPA's ruling.

Island-wide cleanup to kick off EAW April 18th

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

AN island-wide cleanup on April 18 will precede the observance of the Environmental Awareness Week on April 19-25, organizers said Friday.

Marvin Seman, chair of the cleanup committee for the EAW observance, said the cleanup activity will be participated in by government officials and employees, the private sector and individual citizens.

"This (island-wide cleanup) is the kickoff event for the Environmental Awareness Week," Seman said.

Seman said the activity will start at 6 a.m. and last until noon.

Earlier, it had been planned that the island-cleanup would be made on April 25, the culmination of the EAW.

But the activity was made to precede the EAW since April 25 coincides with the Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Seman said there will be four different teams that will be as-

signed to monitor the cleanup activities in different places of the island.

Individuals participating in the cleanup will receive a free T-shirt.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce donated some 1,000 T-shirts to give away on that day, according to Seman.

"We're inviting the general public to come out and help us keep Saipan clean," Seman said to drum up support for the island-wide activity.

Seman mentioned areas that need to be cleaned up including the Quarter Master Road, the Navy Hill road leading to the Maturana area, the road behind the Tanapag cemetery, Koblerville (particularly the road leading to the airport), and Dandan Road starting from San Vicente.

"These are the roads that need cleaning," Seman said.

Seman also said the can recycling contest participated in by different schools will end on April 18.

Chinese national ordered deported

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

AN NONRESIDENT worker has been ordered deported over alleged illegal activities, including a recent theft at the Duty Free Shop (DFS) in Garapan.

In his ruling, Linn Asper, supervisor of the Department of Labor and Immigration's Administrative Hearing Office (DOLI-AHO), likewise directed that Gu Wen Fu's labor permit be revoked and asked the employer, a certain Carmen Acosta, to secure a one-way plane ticket for Gu's deportation.

Gu failed to appear before Asper's sala during a hearing scheduled March.

Gu did not state in required documents that he had been convicted of a crime in his home country.

"At the hearing," Asper penned, "it was established by a preponderance of the evidence that (Gu) violated (the law) by failing to report on his Non-resident Worker's Affidavit that he had been convicted of a crime."

Asper noted that it has been alleged the GU "has committed crimes in the

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More homesteads but less applicants on Rota, Tinian

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

UNLIKE their counterparts on Saipan, Tinian and Rota homestead applicants are at a better advantage since "there are more lands" there, according to the Division of Public Lands (DPL).

"They (applicants) have a little bit more advantage. There are more public lands and less applicants," said DPL Director Bertha Leon Guerrero.

Guerrero estimated Tinian and Rota homestead applicants to be "between 150 and 300."

She said government is still investigating the applicants to check whether they are qualified.

There are, according to Guerrero, an estimated 3,000 homestead applicants on Saipan.

DPL is still in the process of classifying these applicants into qualified and unqualified ones.

Meantime, Guerrero said DPL has recently awarded a contract to a private firm tasked to survey the Marpo Heights subdivision on Tinian for homestead expansion.

Guerrero said approximately 120 lots will be added up to the subdivision. She failed to give an estimate on the existing number of lots.

The Marpo Heights area was approved for homestead subdivision by the now-defunct Marianas Public Lands Corporation (MPLC).

It was originally planned to be a school site but was eventually redesignated into a homestead.

Henry Hofschneider, Deputy DPL Director, explained that the expansion of the Tinian homestead site was being done because "we don't want to wait and end up like what we have here on Saipan."

"We are very slow in opening up additional subdivisions (on Saipan)," Hofschneider admitted.

A similar expansion project has also just been concluded on Rota's Sinapalo III homestead area, according to Guerrero.

Bill to give OPA more powers gets support from committee

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is recommending the passage of a bill that would grant the Office of the Public Auditor law enforcement powers.

Re-introduced by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (R-Prec. 2, Saipan), House Bill 11-4 includes amendments proposed by OPA itself.

The bill, which was opposed by the previous administration, seeks to give OPA investigators authority to obtain and execute search warrants and serve subpoenas.

The proposed law would allow OPA to subpoena the productions "of all records, reports, audits, review, papers, books, documents, recommendations, correspondence and any other data and material relevant to any matter under audit and recommendation."

In addition, OPA could ask the Superior Court to issue an order compelling the production of these materials.

Any failure to obey a court order is punishable by the court as contempt.

However, the bill also states that OPA could keep its subpoenas "secret," and could only make it public "until such time it is necessary for (OPA) to do so."

OPA, moreover, could serve a subpoena to any person who could then be required to testify under oath.

But if the person asked to testify is subject of an investigation, he or she could consult with an attorney and even refuse to testify by invoking the Fifth Amendment.

The bill was filed last year after it was learned that OPA was having difficulties in getting copies of documents vital to its investigations.

During the previous administration, the Attorney General's Office also failed to prosecute individuals found by OPA to have violated procurement law or the government's ethics code.

Under current law, OPA could only investigate and recommend further action to AGO.

Land formerly leased to UMDA eyed for homestead program

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Public Lands (DPL) is considering converting into homestead lots, a portion of the estimated 150-hectare Marpi site government had recently taken back from a private developer.

However, the move may be tightly-hinged on a plan by the Department of Public Works to develop the landfill in the area.

"We are looking at that (Marpi land) as a possible homestead site," said Deputy DPL Director Henry Hofschneider.

But DPL Director Bertha Leon Guerrero said government will "have to see what is going to be developed in the area before we put up a homestead site."

"We don't want to put a residential development right next to a dump."

Guerrero said DPL may decide not to put the homestead "real close to the dumpsite."

The site was formerly leased to the United Micronesian Development Association (UMDA)

which was planning to build a golf course and a tourist resort.

It will be recalled that the Board of Public Lands (BPL) recently declared a default of the UMDA lease after it found out that the agreement was not duly signed by appropriate CNMI officials.

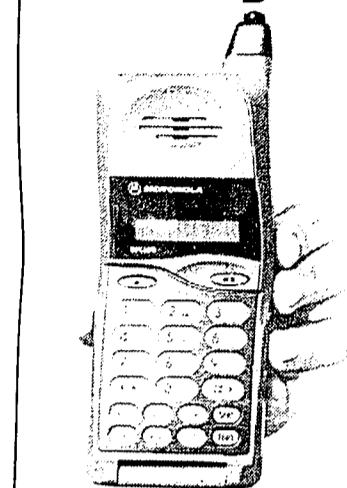
UMDA tried to apply for a new lease, according to BPL Chair Tomas B. Aldan.

However, upon presenting its new lease proposal for a resort facility at the old Cowtown area, UMDA has said that Asiana Airlines, a Korean firm, which had expressed interest on the project, has backed out.

The UMDA is among five private developers whose current projects in the Commonwealth, altogether seen to generate at least \$10 million in annual revenues, are being imperilled due to last year's series of currency devaluations in the Asian region, according to Aldan.

The four others are the World Corp., a Korean firm building a hotel also in Marpi; MDM Corp., another Korean hotel engaged in a similar hotel project in Garapan; Shimezu

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DPH warns of pregnancy risks

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

IT WAS her first time and all Theresa, knew was that she was not supposed to get mad because her emotions during pregnancy would show off in her baby's physical appearance.

Theresa said she tried hard to keep her smiles during her nine-month pregnancy, until she delivered her first born who turned out to be a lovely and healthy baby boy. "I was not supposed to get mad because I didn't want my baby to look bad," she quipped.

But the Department of Public Health said there is more than having an ugly child when gestating mothers undergo emotional problems during pregnancy.

David Rosario, acting deputy secretary of the Division of Public Health, said majority of pregnancies are trouble free, as much as gestation is a time of constant changes.

Rosario said some of those changes can cause problems for mother or her unborn baby. Doctors said the problems can be physical, as much as these can be mental.

If not for her regular prenatal check up, Noemi could have had serious problems during pregnancy and during her delivery.

In one of her regular check-ups, her OB-gynecologist found Noemi's blood sugar to have shot up. In that instance, Noemi recalled that blood was extracted from her three times every hour.

She was advised to get rid of sugar, which Noemi actually did and she hardly find difficulties in her delivery of a healthy baby.

Rosario said imbalances in the consumption of sugar may and can cause diabetes. Dr. Norma Ada, a pediatrician at the Commonwealth Health Center, said diabetes is one of the most common diseases in the CNMI affecting about 1880 people.

Rosario said increase demands on

certain body parts can cause high blood pressure. Unlike Noemi, an advertising staff, who did not take a vacation leave prior her delivery, Theresa had to stop working as a commercial cleaner on the seventh month of her pregnancy.

Health experts said women who already have medical problems like kidney, heart or thyroid difficulties, pregnancy can make higher blood sugar and blood pressure worse.

"These must be carefully and seriously watched," Rosario said.

He added that many things that are normally fine can be harmful during pregnancy, adding that certain medications, activities and types of job may not be good during gestation.

He said getting early and regular prenatal care can find possible problems and help take care of pregnant women and their unborn babies during pregnancy.

This, Rosario said, is the very essence of safe motherhood.

Apartment complex eyes expansion

THE apartment business may be down now, but as far as the owner of the Lakeside Apartment complex, the future looks good.

The complex is pushing through with its expansion project as it continues to complete the construction of another four-unit apartment building.

Each unit will have three bedrooms.

The construction of the fifth apartment building, the last phase of the complex, started late last year.

The complex, located on Texas Road in Susupe, several hundred feet south of the Nauru Building, has four existing apartment buildings with a total of 32 units.

The existing complex comprises one 10-unit, two-story building; one

12-unit, three-story building; one four-unit, two-story building; and one six-unit, three-story building.

With four units more to be added, the apartment complex will have a total of 36 units to constitute a major siting project requiring it to undergo the Coastal Resources Management permitting process.

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'Amnesty for illegals needed'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THERE is now a need for legislation granting amnesty to illegal aliens who could then be hired by private companies without violating the hiring moratorium law, acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan said Friday.

Now that hiring moratorium is in place, says Sablan



Jesus R. Sablan

Sablan said he has asked the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to look into the possibility of tapping the CNMI's estimated 4,000 to 7,000—some say 15,000—illegal aliens for the private sector's labor needs.

Noting that the hiring moratorium law does not require aliens to "exit" the islands before seeking new employ-

ment, Sablan said granting amnesty to illegal aliens could allow them to be hired by private companies, particularly the new investors and small businesses.

Sablan reiterated the administration's support for Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio's (R-Prec. 1, Saipan) House Bill 11-76, which would provide a six-month immunity or amnesty period for illegal aliens.

First introduced four years ago, Tenorio's amnesty bill would give illegal aliens the choice to either seek employment legally or to be repatri-

ated. "We need such legislation," Sablan said.

It was Sablan, as acting governor, who signed into law the hiring moratorium bill last March 27.

In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, however, Sablan urged legislators to enact a "more workable" hiring moratorium that does not burden the private sector with "undue hardship."

He said the moratorium is

"not well suited to be a long-term solution."

Though admitting that there is a need to check the further growth of the CNMI's alien population—estimated to be 42,000 now or more than half of the islands' total population—Sablan said there may be better ways of addressing this concern.

He said the Legislature should "act with speed and care in formulating permanent measures" to replace the hiring moratorium law, and to monitor its effect on "all the segments of the community."

Munson rules Diaz a proper defendant in Senate lawsuit

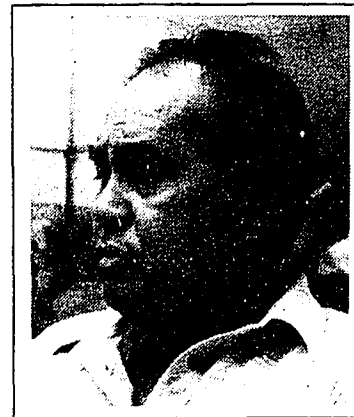
By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL district court on Friday denied the motion of Board of Elections Executive Director Juan M. Diaz to be dismissed as defendant in the amended complaint filed by lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand and former Rep. Stanley T. Torres seeking to reappoint the Senate seats.

In his order, District Judge Alex R. Munson said Diaz is a proper defen-



Alex R. Munson



Juan M. Diaz

dant "to whom an injunction would apply in order to prevent the conducting of an election."

Diaz had argued that being not a member of the BOE but as executive director, his powers "are defined exclusively by the Board" and thus and he "cannot provide the relief requested."

However, Munson noted that Diaz had been hired by the Board of Elections, which has the power and duty to "employ...persons on a full- or part-time basis as necessary to conduct elections and administer other duties and responsibilities."

"Presumably, the executive director has the primary responsibility for the preparation and management of all elections," Munson stated in his order.

During the hearing on the motion, Rayphand and Torres were represented by their lawyer in the case, Theodore R. Mitchell.

Diaz and the eight members of the BOE were represented by CNMI Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg.

Rayphand and Torres filed an amended complaint on Jan. 15 after Munson dismissed the original complaint since the BOE, as defendant, "cannot be held liable under the statute" since it is a government entity.

In the amended complaint all the eight BOE members were also named defendants. They are Miguel M. Sablan, Vicente S. Atalig, George D. Hocog, Maria B. Diaz, Vicente H. Borja, Frances M. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Connie Seman-Carmacho.

In the amended complaint filed in their behalf by Mitchell, Rayphand and Torres are seeking the court's declaration that the composition of the new 11th Senate violates the Equal Protection clause.

They are also seeking an injunction against the defendants in their official

capacity so that a special election can be held to select the members of a new Senate.

Rayphand and Torres said that based on the 1990 population, there should be eight senators elected to represent Saipan and the Northern Islands and one senator to represent both Rota and Tinian.

They claimed that for the past 20 years, the voting population of Saipan and the Northern Islands had been denied equal protection as guaranteed by the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because of the "malapportioned" Senate.

At present each of three inhabited islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—is represented by three senators.

This means Rota and Tinian, which have only 10 percent of the CNMI population, are given three-fourths of the Senate membership.

Mitchell said the reason for the present composition of the Senate is that Rota and Tinian "demanded control of the Senate in exchange for giving their support for the Covenant."

"The Saipan delegates had no choice, because the United States would not have agreed to the Covenant unless it got all of the Northern Mariana Islands as a package deal," Mitchell added.

Also on Friday, Munson told the defendants from the BOE in a separate order that they may renew their opposition to the plaintiffs' motion for the convocation of a three-judge panel before the panel itself.

The motion to convene a panel of three judges to rule on the reapportionment issue, made orally on March 19, had been granted by Munson.

"The court having granted plaintiffs' motion to convene a panel of three judges, defendants may renew their motion and seek consideration of the question by the full panel," Munson said in his April 3 order.

According to Preston Gates:

'Hearing went in NMI's favor'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI's lobby group in Washington has expressed confidence that last week's hearing at the U.S. Senate went good in favor of the CNMI.

"The hearing was very successful in that the CNMI was able finally to present its position clear to the tabloid media attacks," said Jack Abramoff, one of the lobbyists for Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds.

Abramoff said he believes the proceedings have set back the efforts to federalize the minimum wage and immigration control in the CNMI.

"We are also confident that certain forces in Washington will continue to press this cause," Abramoff said.

"We are equally confident that the reform measures and strong leadership of the Tenorio Administration, and the legislature will enable the friends of the CNMI in

Washington D.C. to stand strong in its defense," Abramoff added.

Abramoff said he was impressed with the CNMI officials who testified at the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He described their presentation as "superb."

"The CNMI should have been very proud of these officials," he added.

Preston Gates has been representing the CNMI in Congress for two years. The administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has extended the government's contract with the law firm to assist the CNMI during the March 31 hearing. It was reportedly paid by the CNMI a total of \$4.25 million in the past two years.

Critics in the US mainland frown on Preston Gates' fight for the CNMI. Some suspect that the law firm, while working for the CNMI, is also lobbying on behalf of garment magnate Willie Tan. Abramoff denied this specula-

tion. "We have never represented or received any fees from Mr. Willie Tan," Abramoff said.

The Hill, a weekly newsletter that covers the U.S. Congress, reported two weeks ago that Abramoff has written a memo

which "suggests that Tan plays a key role in shaping the budget for the lobbying activities of Preston Gates."



David A. Wiseman, Kerry McKinney (seated) and Ronald Sablan from HANMI and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce met with Congressman Ralph Hall of Texas. Hall expressed his full support for the CNMI against any federal takeover.

CHC pursues hospital tie-ups

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC health department is pursuing a deeper tie up with nearby hospitals and health care facilities to maximize resources.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said it would be harder for the Commonwealth Health Center to refer patients to distant medical facilities.

"Our resources dictate where we should go," Villagomez told Variety.

The CNMI's health czar said more funds must be earmarked for prevention, stressing the benefits of preventive measures over treatment.

"Our dollars should be focused on disease prevention. That's what we should do in the first place,"

he added.

Villagomez said the Center is pursuing tighter relationship with the John Hopkins University Hospital, which is more accessible to the Northern Mariana Islands than other medical facilities with the same quality of health care delivery.

When asked about a possible tie up with the Mayo Clinic, one of the best hospitals in the mainland, Villagomez said "it is too far away."

"Flying people to distant hospitals is more taxing. It makes no sense if there are available health care services of similar quality in nearby facilities," he added.

The CHC has been referring CNMI patients to the mainland, Hawaii, Guan and the Philippines.

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WEDNESDAY: 6 oz. "Angus" top Sirloin Ala Monterey w/ Mashed Potatoes
THURSDAY: Roast Pork with mashed potatoes & applesauce
FRIDAY: Pub Style Fish & Chips (Mahi-Mahi) with Tartar Sauce.

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By popular demand, Golden Lobster Restaurant is pleased to announce that we will resume our weekday breakfast service on April 12, 1998. Our new hours will be: 7:00am-11:00am Breakfast 11:00am-2:00pm Lunch-6:00pm-10:00pm Dinner, Monday thru Sunday **BREAKFAST WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE AFTER 11:00am MONDAY THRU SUNDAY.** So take advantage of our \$3.95 breakfast special while it lasts.

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We can now accept phone or fax orders at this number 235-1457 (IGLR).

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Also beginning April 7, 1998, we will be offering a selected sandwich menu for lunch.

Don't forget that Monday is discount day for all those who have Golden Lobster Registered Keychains, that's 10% off your bill, every Monday, excluding items already on special. "To get one, just ask your server for details on how to qualify."

AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

MHS Art students help beautify campus



MHS Art Instructor Wesley Foster (right) joins his students for a photo near a wall mural they have just completed on campus.

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff
WALL MURALS are making the campus of Marianas High School look more colorful than ever, thanks to the inventive eye of an instructor and a couple of dedicated students. "We started a program here in

MHS where students can come during intercession and spend their time painting murals and finding ways to beautify the campus," said MHS Art instructor Wesley Foster.

"The intercession was designed to help students perform better in subject areas they may be weak in. But I felt the time could be also used for other students interested in art projects," he said.

According to Foster, students have done about four wall murals and have decorated the school's water tank.

"Right now, I have 10 students and 3 volunteers and we just finished one wall mural. During intercession, the

students have more freedom to work on projects," said Foster.

"The intercession class is counted as one credit, although it is not required. It helps keep them out of trouble and helps develop their creative and artistic skills," he said.

Foster, who has also spent his "vacation days", working with the students, pointed out that the wall mural designs mostly reflect "island themes".

"We try to focus on the cultural aspects of island life, and other themes that the students and the community can relate to," said Foster.

"I encourage team work among the student artists because you need that in wall mural painting. The students have to work together. Also, they develop thinking and visual skills

and learn the basics of art such as mixing colors," he said.

MHS Principal Dr. Jim Denight also noted that the students are "doing an excellent job" and that school plans to "expand its fine arts and music programs".

"We will try to offer as much support as we can. The students are impressive in their work and they are enthusiastic about it," he said.

Wesley also noted that he would like to see the program continue and thanks the parents of the students for "allowing them to come and work, especially during the weekends."

"We can only get better as artists by keep practicing and working on it. And I am glad the students have this opportunity," he said.

MHS JROTC cadets return from Guam Naval encampment

FIFTY-ONE CNMI JROTC Cadets recently returned from completing their Annual Encampment conducted at Naval Station on Guam.

The encampment is an annual requirement for all JROTC units to participate in, at the expense of the Department of the Army, Cadet Command, Fort Lewis, Washington.

A minimum of ten percent of cadets enrolled in each program are required to participate.

The CNMI program deployed eight cadets each from Rota and Tinian High School and thirty-five cadets from Marianas High School.

"The students were really excited to go into a real military environment. It added realism to the training," said CSM Doroteo Aguigui.

"Also, one of the trip's highlights for the students was to go into the military commissary," he said. During the encampment, cadets honored their leadership, planning

and coordination, drill and ceremony, land navigation and marksmanship skills.

As a surprise, instructors from the Multiple School Unit Guam JROTC organized competitive events in which six teams from the CNMI and Guam competed in.

Cadets were trained and practiced just hours prior to the competition.

The Guam team placed first, Saipan second and Tinian placed third in the competition.

Rota did not place but received the sportsmanship trophy.

Through Admiral Janzac, Commander Hanby and their support personnel, lodging was provided at the Naval Magazine Complex, meals at the Naval Station gallery, ground transportation from their transportation department and airline tickets from the Navy Airline Ticketing Office.

The University of Guam SROTC Cadre and Cadets conducted the land navigation training.

The Guam Multiple School Unit

JROTC Cadre and Cadets conducted the marksmanship and other training events.

During their non-training period, cadets received an orientation at the University of Guam, organized by Major Roque Salas and the Senior ROTC Cadre on campus.

Cadets were allowed to shop in the Military Post Exchange Facilities and also tour the Navy Commissary.

Prior to their departure from Guam, cadets enjoyed a luncheon hosted through the CNMI/Guam Liaison Office by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

The opportunity for cadets to excel was made possible by the following individuals and their support staff: Admiral Martin Janzac, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas; COL Raymond E. Rassmussen, Commander, 1st BDE, 4ROTC Region; Lieutenant Commander Patricia Handy, Pro-

Continued on page 20



Stand Attention! A JROTC cadet leads his fellow cadets in a training drill on campus last Friday.

WSR Report Card Day

THIS is to inform all blue track parents of William S. Reyes School, that the third quarter report card day for blue track students is on Tuesday, April 7, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Parents are encourage to come to William S. Reyes school to pick up their children's report card.

For more information, please call William S. Reyes School at 234-6170.

AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

Camp Hyatt opens to kids

CAMP Hyatt will be offering a special camp designed for the local kids between the ages of 4 and 10, from April 6 to April 17.

The camp will be offered Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

It will feature activities such as gar-

dening, swimming, Japanese language lessons, dancing, arts and crafts and more, a news release from Camp Hyatt said.

"Spring Break is going to be a lot of fun!" says Camp Hyatt Coordinator Krista Ruchaber. "We have a lot of great educational activities planned,

the kids will swim, dance, play tennis, learn about water safety and be able to interact with other participating kids that will be staying in our hotel.

Spring Break at Camp Hyatt is priced at \$99 per week.

To register, please call Club Elan at 234-1234 ext. 25



A little stretch. Children learn a ballet technique from Miss Marina, a guest instructor from Russia, during a recent Camp Hyatt program.

Student receives honors at Chesire Academy

CHESHIRE, CT — Jung Min Kim of Saipan was inducted into the Chesire Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society recently.

Jung Min is a Senior at Chesire Academy. He was one of six students selected for the distinct honor based on his excellence in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

Jung Min is the son of Kang Hee Kim and Kyoung Suk Kim of Saipan. In addition to his selection to the National Honor Society, Jung Min is a student proctor, a tour guide, member of the Community Service Club, the Prom Committee, and the International Club.

He received the History Prize for

his outstanding performance in history and was a member of the basketball team, varsity football team, and lacrosse team.

Founded in 1794, Chesire Academy is a private, independent, co-educational day and boarding school currently enrolling students in grades K-4 and 6-12.

Literature Corner

If you have poems and short stories you would like to share, please mail to P.O. Box 231 or fax to 234-9271

Fire Watcher
By Elizabeth Drumwright

I am missing
My eye glasses,
Cannot find them
Without them on.

My hands reach
In the usual places
To no avail. Other hands
Must hold my second sight.

Ah, my young son handles
The spectacles, complaining
They will not start a fire
With the sunlight of the garden.

My lenses sadly do not
Magnify the sun's rays.
I gladly hold my son's burning
To learn, his learning to burn.

Untitled
Author Unknown

I woke up this morning remembering
an image freshly imprinted
on my
mind. I

was standing at the entrance of
this path lined with Flame Trees in
full
blossom. I remembered think-

The Everlasting Tree
By MHS Seniors Roman Benavente, Jesma Camacho, Janneth Ecal, Arlene Manalo, Suno Park, Richard Rabago and Christina Tamam

Can you see my tree
Standing in the forest?
Can you see the flowers
Swaying in its chorus?
Can you smell its scent
Blowing in the breeze?
Can you feel its power,
Stronger than all the seas?
Tomorrow we will harvest
My everlasting tree,
But that is not the end,
Just you wait and see.

ing to myself that I had been there
often
before
but never entered and that something
was different this time.

This time the path was alive
with vibrant colors filling me with
emotions I did
not
know existed. So I entered and
walked on.....

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Power Windows
Power Locks
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Elsewhere in the Pacific Health report on French nuclear testing out soon

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The French government says it will release a report on how many people developed cancer because of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific from 1966 to 1996.

Defence Minister Alain Ri-

chard made the announcement in response to a written question from a French parliamentarian.

He said the report had been completed, but did NOT disclose when it would be made public. Radio Australia reports the study will be released at the same

time as another report France has requested from the International Atomic Energy Agency on the radiation effects of its nuclear testing program.

The agency's report is due to be released in the next few weeks.

Smaller A. Samoan gov't sought

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—There's been a call for the American Samoa government to reduce its work force and payroll.

Representative Sua Schuster, says the government employs far too many than it needs and the amount of money spent on sala-

ries far exceeds what the government spends to provide and improve public services.

The legislator says proposed tax hikes will not solve the government's financial crisis unless payroll spending is significantly reduced.

He says the legislative should advise the government to begin laying off workers. Government employs about 4,000 workers and spends \$US3 million payroll every two weeks.

Labor MPs reaffirm their support for PM

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Three members of parliament from Solomon Islands Labor Party have reaffirmed their commitment to the ruling coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the three MPs, Lands and Housing Minister Jackson Piasi; Transport, Works, Communication and Aviation Minister Sir Baddeley Devesi and West New Georgia and Vona-Vona MP Nelson Boso, dismissed the proposed motion of no confidence as the work of time wasting stirrers, who have no regard for the serious issues currently facing the nation, SIBC reports.

They reiterated their support for Prime Minister Ulufa'alu and his government's reform programme.

The MPs rejected the speculation they were not happy with the government as disinformation spread by the opposition.

Smoke affects Pacific Islands

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Smoke from huge, man-made fires in Asia, Africa, Australia and South America is so dense that skies over remote South Pacific islands often have smog levels resembling those found in the American city of Los Angeles.

This is according to a research paper by Nobel prize winner F. Sherwood Rowland, of the University of California.

Rowland, winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry, and his co-author, Donald Blake, also of the University of California, based their findings on a series of 1996 research flights that, for the first time, measured unhealthy levels of smog-forming ozone over a vast area of the South Pacific, including Fiji and French Polynesia.

According to a report by The Los Angeles Times, Blake said the research flights detected significant levels of smog in a vast area of about 5 million square kilometres, most of which was thousands of kilometres from sources of population.

On several occasions, ozone was measured at 130 parts per billion, a level that exceeds the US government's threshold for unhealthy air.

Rowland says in the past satellites had shown some enhanced ozone in the South Pacific.

general for public service and CRP; Jimmy Nanuman as director general of internal affairs; Jimmy Wilfred as director general for finance and economic management; Johnson Wabaiat as director general of health; George Andrew as director general of education, youth and sports; Stanley Temakon as director general of lands, geology and mines; Roy Mickey Joy as acting director general for trade and business development; Abel Nako as acting director general for agriculture, forestry and fisheries and Mannaseh Tari as acting director general for infrastructure.

The nine directors general were selected from 88 applicants and it has taken the Public Service Commission five months to come up with a final selection.

Heading the government departments will be Jean Sese as director

Fiji bill to establish agency OK'd

SUVA (Pacnews)—The establishment of a Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority department, looks set to go ahead.

The Senate this week approved a bill to set up the Authority.

During debate on the bill, a number of senators raised concern about the

Authority becoming an autonomous body but still having government influence, especially with the finance minister making board appointments.

Island Networks Corporation reports. Senator Ro Sainimili Takiveikata has voiced her opposition to the establishment of a Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority.

She described the move as untimely and wrong.

Cooks economic plan is released

RAROTONGA (Pacnews)—Cook Islands finance minister Papamama Pokino has announced that the 1998/99 Budget Policy Statement has now been released.

It sets out government's objectives, priorities and intentions with respect to economic management for the next three years, AKTIV Cook Islands reports.

Pokino says the budget policy statement also discloses forecasts for the current fiscal year and examines the economic outlook and financial projections for the country up to 2000/01.

He says the figures in the report disclose actual returns for the first half of this financial year and anticipated revenue for the second half.

Pokino says statement reaffirms the Five Point Plan adopted in the 1996/97 budget which is to repay debt, restore liquidity, privatise and sell assets where appropriate, grow the economy and establish reserves.

Marshalls builds canoe center

MAJURO—Construction of the first outrigger canoe building and training center in the Marshall Islands is well underway in Majuro.

The tall, thatched roof building is a symbol of the renaissance of canoe building and sailing in this north Pacific nation that, in years gone by, produced some of the Pacific's fastest voyaging canoes and navigators expert in steering by the stars.

The island style building presents a stark contrast to the modern, multi-story concrete office buildings and hotels that surround it.

Despite the modern development in the Marshalls, canoe promoters have been successful in engineering a rebirth of the centuries old art.

"People are now realizing the importance of canoes," Youth in Health/Waan Aelon Kein (canoes of these Islands) Project Manager Alson Kelen said during an interview at the construction site as youth trainees scaled scaffolding to thatch the 40-foot tall canoe house.

"They get very excited about it. It's not just having a canoe. They want to be involved in races and building canoes."

Once the current canoe house is completed, the second phase

US no longer has the same Pacific vision

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—A retired United States ambassador James Wilkinson says Washington is looking for the cheapest possible way to maintain relations with the countries of the Pacific Islands region.

"Trade not aid," is the current buzzword in Washington, as U.S. funding becomes increasingly difficult to find or justify for Pacific Islands region development. Wilkinson noted, since "no more bloody daggers" are pointed toward the Pacific by Japan, Russia or China — which earlier drove U.S. Pacific policy.

The retired diplomat told journalists meeting in Honolulu last week that "We don't have the vision we used to have towards our current and former insular possessions," with much of Washington now seeing the Pacific nations as simply a "money sink, taking on weight like a rock".

He believes continued U.S. involvement in the region is essential, particularly in those nations with U.S. Compacts of Free Association - the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

training center facility will get underway, according to Kelen. The project is being supported by UNESCO, the Australian and U.S. governments, and many local sponsors.

Previously, "our project focused on documenting outrigger canoe designs and included training for youth as part of the work," Kelen said. "Now, we're focusing on training young people to build and sail canoes."

Waan Aelon Kein advisor and boat builder Dennis Alessio sees the canoe building center developing into much more than a workshop for training young people to build and sail outrigger canoes.

"It will also be an educational activity for schools, the general public and tourists," he said. It will be a place that both local people and tourists "can see and be involved in canoe building," he said.

The building of the first canoe house is already drawing students in for "working tours." This week,

groups of students from Rairok Elementary School and the Upward Bound program at the College of the Marshall Islands visited, and as part of their tour helped to thatch sections of the roof, Kelen said.

Kelen sees the program as being "a living archive" by involving young people in learning about canoe building and sailing so that the traditions are passed on to future generations.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Waan Aelon Kein project was the only focused effort promoting canoes in the Marshall Islands. Now many others are taking up building canoes and organizing races.

Already 11 outer islands have radioed into Majuro to confirm participation in the second annual Outrigger Marshall Islands Cup canoe race act for May 9, according to Alessio, who is helping with race planning.

"At this time last year, no one had called in," Alessio said. Several outer islands are planning

their own races leading up to sending their fastest canoes into Majuro in May. While canoe races were not unusual 50 or more years ago, this is a first in modern times.

"It's starting to take on its own personality," Alessio said. "People are doing it as their idea,

not ours. It's an enormous success."

"The whole idea of the documentation program," said Alessio "was to prevent this art from being lost. Through the documentation, interest picked up and now another generation is doing it."

US moves to protect Marianas fruit bats

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has taken steps to further protect the once endangered Mariana fruit bat found on Guam and all of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Field supervisor for the Service's Pacific territories in Honolulu, Brooks Harper says fruit bats are important to the two U.S. North Pacific territories because they disperse plant seeds.

They also help to maintain for-

est diversity and contribute to forest recovery after typhoons.

The classification of bats on Guam is proposed to be downgraded from endangered to threatened, with threatened status extended to the Marianas.

Previously, it was assumed that the Guam and Mariana Island fruit bats formed separate colonies.

More recently, biologists have found that they fly between the two territories.

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HUMANITIES COUNCIL 1998 GRANT CYCLE

The CNMI Council for the Humanities announces the availability of funds for the 1998 grants cycle and is now accepting applications for funding. Deadlines for 1998 major grants (\$2,000 and above) are: 1 May; 3 July; and 2 October. Mini grants (under \$2,000) and planning grants (up to \$1,500) may be submitted any time. The Council is particularly interested in humanities projects that focus on improving literacy through reading and discussions groups for preschool, elementary, secondary and the out of school population. Grant funds may be used to purchase books and related materials, for fees, stipends, honoraria and travel costs for speakers, discussion leaders and other scholars associated with the project. The Council encourages applications to fund workshops, seminars and symposia for teachers, parents, school administrators and students to explore various methodologies, curricula and the use and application of computer technology and the internet to improve and enhance literacy throughout the Commonwealth. The Council welcomes applications from public and private schools, teachers and parent associations, church groups, colleges and other nonprofit organizations. For more information or for application forms, please call or visit our office at 235-4785, Ground Floor of King's Plaza, Dandan. The CNMI Council for the Humanities is a nonprofit, private corporation funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Bank manager sued by insurance firm

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
AN insurance firm is seeking to recover over \$100,000 it paid to a bank which sustained losses as a result of the allegedly dishonest acts committed by a bank employee.
The bank was not identified in the lawsuit filed by National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh against the bank's then Tinian branch manager Mihaina Pangelinan.
The National Union had issued a fidelity bond to the bank whereby it agreed to indemnify the bank for losses up to \$1 million in excess of a deductible of \$25,000 which the bank may sustain as a result of the fraudulent and dishonest acts of bank employees.

The fidelity bond was in effect from Sept. 5, 1995 to Sept. 9, 1996.
During the effectivity of the bond (between April 1 and Aug. 31, 1996), National Union claimed Pangelina "converted to her own use funds belonging to the bank or funds in which the bank had a pecuniary interest, totaling \$185,000."
Pangelinan allegedly falsified the bank's records and forged the bank account holder's signature Thomas I. Palacios on a savings account withdrawal slip "drawn on that customer's savings account at the bank."
The defendant's acts "resulted in a direct loss to the bank in the amount of \$187,000," the complaint said.

Continued on page 18

Continental watches Japanese economy

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
CONTINENTAL Air Micronesia is watching closely the economic developments in Japan, which may trigger further changes in the air company's flight schedule.
But Continental vice president for sales and promotion Walter Dias said the monitoring of the Japanese economy is initially aimed at working out on more reasonably-priced travel packages.
Dias said the Japanese market remains "very soft," adding that the airline company is concerned about the economic news coming from Japan, where majority of tourists to the Northern Mariana Islands are coming from.
News reports claimed business sentiment at major Japanese companies has nosedived since December, quot-

ing a central bank survey.
The Associated Press on Friday reported that the Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey indicated growing concern over sluggish economic growth and worries about the impact of the financial crisis in the Asian region.
Reports also said there were no indications that corporate confidence would recover anytime soon.
Dias said there may be a need for a close coordination between officials of the tourism sector and the airline company, as well as industry players like hotels, if the Japanese economy dips further.
"We have to work with hotels in the Northern Mariana Islands to see that everybody's tourism packages are reasonably-priced," he told Variety.
Dias also mentioned that Conti-

ental is not planning, at this point, to make significant changes in the airline company's flight schedules, adding that adjustments have already been put in place.
"We have already made our adjustments," he added.
Continental is servicing 14 roundtrip nonstop flights between Japan and Saipan every week, as the company reduced the Guam-Saipan connecting flights in an effort to recoup its \$2 million monthly losses.
Dias said Continental is conducting aggressive sales and promotional strategies in Japan to promote the Northern Mariana Islands in the Japanese market, as part of the company's commitment to the Commonwealth's tourism industry.
But figures from the Marianas Visitors Bureau were not very encouraging, as tally during the second month of the year plunged from 53,360 last year to 42,618 in February 1998, posting a 27 percent decline.
Visitors from Japan decreased by 11 percent and those from Korea by 89 percent, MVB statistics said.

The MVB has attributed the decline in the number of tourists from the two primary markets to the regional economic crunch and to the termination of Continental's direct flights from Seoul and Asiana Airline's flights from Pusan, Korea.
But the Bureau is expecting to reboot visitor arrivals with the opening of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino late this month, and the declaration of 1999 as "Visit the Marianas Year."

Bill wants driving tests in local languages

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
SENATE Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) has re-introduced a bill requiring that written examination for driver's license should be administered in English or "another one of the three official languages of the CNMI."
An earlier version of the bill was passed by the Legislature last year, but vetoed by then governor Froilan C. Tenorio, who described the proposed law's language as "unclear."
Tenorio said he vetoed the bill because of its provision that states "(The driver's license examination) shall be in English and in no language other than one of the three official languages of the (CNMI), namely Chamorro, Carolinian or English."
The provision "makes no sense," Tenorio said.
"Is the exam supposed to be only in English, or can it also be in Chamorro or Carolinian?" he said.
Tenorio said the Legislature should draft a new bill "that is clear and can be understood."
But then senator Eusebio A. Hocog said it is Tenorio who was confused and not the bill's language.
However, efforts to override Tenorio's veto failed.
Introduced recently, the new legislation, S.B. 11-32, is a virtual carbon copy of the vetoed bill.

RP forest fire under control

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines (AP) — A fireman was killed after a burning tree fell on him as he fought a fire that has raged for 19 days, threatening to destroy one of the Philippines' virgin forests, officials said Friday.

The fire has destroyed about 20,000 hectares (49,400 acres) of forest and grassland in the island province of Palawan. Two babies died in the flames last week.
Provincial officials said the most of 50 brush and forest fires on Palawan are under control.
Disaster officials said 25-year-old fireman Suklao Geston was killed by a burning tree Thursday in Rizal, one of the worst-hit towns.
About 500 volunteers are trying to control the blaze from spreading from Rizal and neigh-

boring Quezon in the southwest-coast of Palawan, where much of the primary forests in the province are found.

The area is about 720 kilometers (450 miles) southwest of Manila.
Forest fires in ten Palawan towns are under control, but firemen in four villages in Rizal and nearby Quezon towns are still battling the blazes there.
Three major watersheds in Quezon are under threat from the fire, which has engulfed some 20,000 hectares (49,400 acres) of forest land on the western flank of Mount Mantalingahan, Palawan's highest mountain which straddles five towns, including Rizal and Quezon.
On Wednesday, President Fidel Ramos ordered an intensified campaign to put out at least 65 forest fires raging in four Philippine provinces.
Environment officials said a drought caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon has left many Philippine forests parched and vulnerable to fires.

The fires were started by poor slash-and-burn farmers who were unable to control the flames be-

cause of the dry surroundings. Forest fires also have been reported on central Negros island,

in the southern region of Cotabato and in the Cordillera mountains on the main island of Luzon.



Fire volunteers walk towards a mountain Thursday in Palawan province, Philippines to battle pockets of fires that is destroying the country's last remaining virgin forest. AP

RP's Petron to cut prices of gasoline

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Fidel Ramos on Friday announced that a partly government-owned oil company will reduce fuel prices, a move that could win votes for administration candidates in the May 11 elections.
Ramos also announced that a plan by the government-owned National Power Corp. to raise electricity rates has been suspended pending a financial review by the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Board.

The new prices for premium and unleaded gasoline and diesel by the Petron Corp. will be implemented Saturday, Ramos told reporters.

The government and Saudi Aramco are the largest shareholders in Petron, each owning 40 percent of the country's largest oil refiner.

Ramos said the two other major oil companies — Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines — will not be asked to follow Petron's lead, but he expects that "market forces will probably compel them to do likewise."
Opponents criticized his decision last month to accelerate the deregulation of the oil industry, which meant the government will no longer set fuel prices but allow free competition among the oil companies to determine them.

Ramos said deregulation of the oil industry was needed in order for the Philippines to obtain a standby credit from the International Monetary Fund to stabilize the prices in case it devalues steeply against the U.S. dollar in the future.

It is also the last key reform urged by the IMF to allow the Philippines to exit from more than three decades of economic supervision.

Ramos also said full deregulation will attract more oil companies to do business in the Philippines, eventually resulting in lower oil prices.

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According to surveys:

Americans tired of Clinton probes

By NANCY BENAC
WASHINGTON (AP) — Many Americans say they have had enough of the investigations into President Bill Clinton's personal life, even if they suspect he may have engaged in sexual misconduct.



Bill Clinton

Diane Redd, walking her dog in Milwaukee on Thursday, spoke for many when she said, "There are a lot better things to do with the taxpayers' money than to know what the president's sexual activities are."

In interviews with Associated

Press reporters around the country Thursday and in nationwide polls, most people welcomed a U.S. judge's decision throwing out Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit and they said prosecutor Kenneth Starr should wrap up his investigation of the president, too.

Niakia Barnwell, a preschool teacher from Trenton, New Jersey, welcomed the opportunity to share her opinion.

"That man's been through enough," she said of Clinton. Steve Stark offered this thought while on a citizens' watch patrol in Des Moines, Iowa: "It's time we just move on."

Polls attest to the notion that Americans do not have much stomach for investigating the president's personal conduct, even as the same surveys indicate public doubts about Clinton's behavior and deep concern about potential lawbreaking.

An ABC TV News poll found that six in 10 Americans supported the judge's decision to throw out the Jones lawsuit, even as 61 percent said they thought the president had engaged in a pattern of sexual misconduct.

Likewise, 53 percent of Americans said they thought Clinton did proposition Mrs. Jones during a 1991 encounter in a Little Rock hotel room, something he strongly denies.

Other surveys turned up similar results.

A USA Today-CNN-Gallup poll indicated 63 percent of Americans thought U.S. Judge Susan Webber Wright did the right thing in tossing the Jones case



Paula Jones in her workout outfit talks to the media as she drives to the gym Thursday in Long Beach, Calif. A federal judge in Arkansas dismissed Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton on Wednesday. AP

while 25 percent thought she made the wrong call.

Sixty-seven percent said they want an end to all investigations into sexual allegations about the president although 58 percent said they believed there was some kind of incident between Jones and Clinton in that hotel room.

A CBS TV poll found that 53 percent supported the dismissal of the lawsuit. Among those who had already heard about the ruling, the sentiment was 3-1 in favor.

A significant minority, however, believes there are serious questions to

be asked and answered.

Eddie McElroy, a drug treatment center worker in Tuttle, Oklahoma, said: "The problem is we don't know what we don't know and the only answers can only come through Starr."

From Brentwood, Tennessee, came another view. Deliveryman Terry Jones declared, "The Republicans are just trying to get (Clinton) out of the office because he's a Democrat. It's a game. Politics ain't nothing but a dirty game. They need to leave him alone."

Senate panel OKs bill to raise visa number for skilled aliens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate committee has approved legislation increasing the number of visas available for high-skilled foreign workers.

On a 12-6 vote Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation introduced weeks ago in response to computer and technology industry complaints that the current visa quota will be hit as early as May, four months before the end of the fiscal year.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Spencer Abraham, chairman of Judiciary's immigration subcommittee, would raise the visa ceiling from the current 65,000 annual limit to a maximum 115,000 for each of the next five years.

Last year, for the first time,

the demand for "H-1B" visas — which entitle high-skilled workers to remain in the United States for up to six years — outpaced availability.

Computer companies contend the shortage of available talent will dampen their industry's explosive growth. Abraham warned that some companies may relocate overseas if they cannot find the necessary talent in this country.

Seeking to address Democratic complaints, Abraham abandoned his earlier push for a permanent increase in the visa category and added some teeth to language designed to ensure that U.S. workers are not replaced by foreign workers willing to work for lower wages.

Planes collide: 5 killed

By PATRICIA J. MAYS
MARIETTA, Georgia (AP) — Fiery debris rained down on a suburban neighborhood in Georgia after a private jet and single-engine plane collided, killing at least five people.

Both pilots and three passengers on the jet were killed in the accident Saturday, said Preston Hicks, a spokesman with the National Transportation Safety Board.

Although the jet's flight plan showed five people aboard, one of the passengers never boarded the plane, Cobb County police spokesman Robert Quigley said. The smaller plane did not file a flight plan.

Crews were searching for additional victims, but were hampered by leaking jet fuel and twisted wreckage.

The jet had just taken off from Peachtree-DeKalb County Airport near Atlanta en route to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when it collided with the smaller plane at 3,000 to 4,000 feet (900 to 1,200 meters), Hicks said.

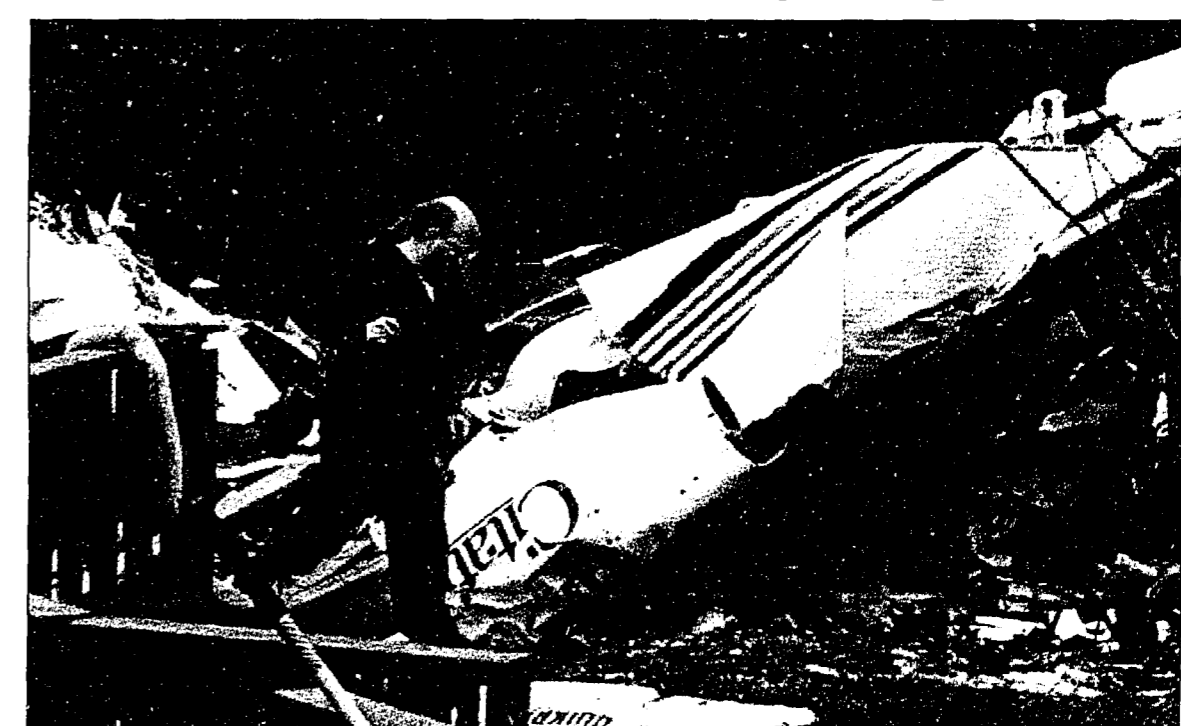
The smaller plane was registered out of Cumming, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Atlanta.

The planes hit the ground near a subdivision of single-family homes north of Atlanta. No one on the ground was injured.

"I heard something that sounded like a crippled plane. Just as I got up and got to the back door, it hit that big maple tree out there," said J.B. Dalton, who found a mangled, single-engine Cessna 172-N burning in his backyard.

The second plane, a Cessna Citation jet, smashed into a deck behind a

Fiery debris rains down on Georgia neighborhood



An investigator walks past the wreckage of a small jet which crashed behind a Marietta, Ga., home after colliding with a single-engine plane Saturday. The single-engine plane crashed a short distance away. Police officials say both pilots were killed. AP

two-story house.

The bulk of the jet, which seats seven to 10 people, lay flattened and fractured in the back yard. The rear of the jet was found in a backyard swimming pool a few blocks away.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were on the scene investigating.

The jet's pilot was identified as Marion "Chip" Allen, 53, of Atlanta. The passengers were identified as fellow Georgians Craig Folds, 37, of Roswell and Mike Fisher, 43, of Norcross.

The third passenger's identity was withheld pending confirmation by medical records, but The Atlanta Journal-Constitution identified him as J. Eric Dahlgren, 45, of Atlanta. All four victims on the jet were lawyers for Cox Enterprises, which owns The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Authorities did not identify the pilot of the smaller plane. The Journal-Constitution identified him as Robert H. Duncan.

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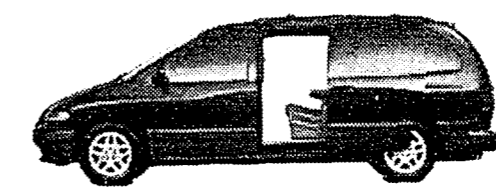
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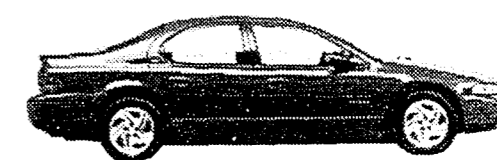
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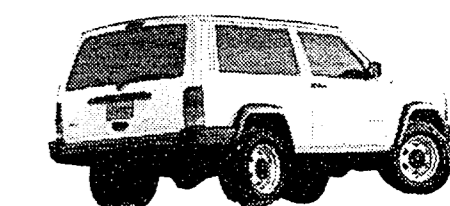
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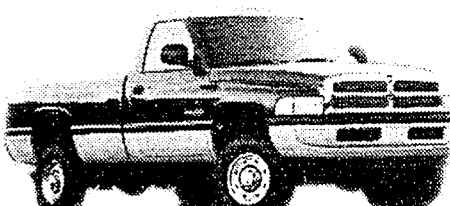
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Offerors shall provide a certification, signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations to such labor laws and any remedial action taken. **FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL.**

Selection of the three highest ranked consultants will be made based on Cost - 50 points; Experience - 30 points; Capability to perform work - 20 points.

Six (6) sets of the proposals and copies of business licenses must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **CUC-RFP-98-0021** to CUC Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, on Monday, April 27, 1998.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors, who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals, and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award of the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defect in the proposals if, in its sole opinion to do so, would be in its best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Senae panel OKs bill to raise visa number for skilled aliens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate committee has approved legislation increasing the number of visas available for high-skilled foreign workers. On a 12-6 vote Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation introduced weeks ago in response to computer and technology industry complaints that the current visa quota will be hit as early as May, four months before the end of the fiscal year.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Spencer Abraham, chairman of Judiciary's immigration subcommittee, would raise the visa ceiling from the current 65,000 annual limit to a maximum 115,000 for each of the next five years.

Last year, for the first time,

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IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH ENVIY, THEY LEARN TO BE JEALOUS.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH DISRESPECT, THEY LEARN TO BE DISRESPECTFUL.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH UNCLE, THEY LEARN TO BE SHY.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH SHAME, THEY LEARN TO APPREHEND.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH GUILT, THEY LEARN TO FEEL GUILTY.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH TOUGHNESS, THEY LEARN TO BE PATIENT.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH DISCOURAGEMENT, THEY LEARN CONFIDENCE.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH PRIDE, THEY LEARN TO APPRECIATE.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH APOLOGY, THEY LEARN TO LIVE THEMSELVES.
IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH ACCEPTANCE, THEY LEARN TO FIND LOVE IN THE WORLD.

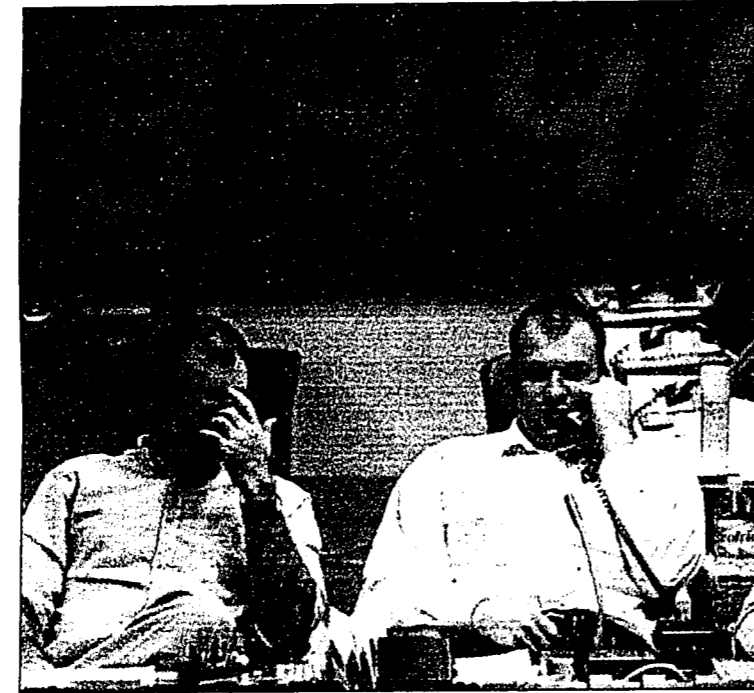
Dollar soars to 6-year high vs Japanese yen

By MARTIN FACKLER
TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar soared to a six-year high against the yen Friday and Tokyo stocks tumbled after credit rating agency Moody's Investor Service signaled it may downgrade Japanese government debt because of the country's weak economy.

The dollar bought 134.56 yen in Tokyo at late afternoon, up 0.69 yen from the same time Thursday and above its late New York rate of 133.50 yen overnight. The U.S. currency rose as high as 135.20 yen — its strongest since April 1992.

In the report Friday, Moody's changed its outlook for Japan's economy to "negative" from the previous "stable" — a sign it may be considering lowering its appraisal of the Japan's ability to repay its debts.

"The change reflects uncertainty about the ability of the authorities to achieve a policy consensus that would help promote a return to economic growth and fiscal balance," the New York-based ratings agency said. Speaking to a press conference after



Money dealers sit underneath an electronic board at the Foreign Exchange as the U.S. dollar against Japanese yen soars to six-year high after credit appraiser Moody's Investor Service signaled Japan's weak economy may force it to downgrade the country's debt. The U.S. currency rose as high as 135.10 yen, its strongest since April 1992. AP

the report's release, Japanese Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga said the government may move to prop up the yen, which he said has fallen too far.

The Moody's report pushed both the yen and Japanese stocks into a nosedive by heightening already intense concern about the country's faltering economy.

It came just a day after a widely watched survey by the Bank of Japan showed business managers more pessimistic about the economy than at any time since 1994.

"That Moody's called into question Japan's credit risk will have a very big and broad impact on the yen, stocks and everything," said Tatsuya Ishii, head of customer foreign exchange at Banque Nationale de Paris in Tokyo.

Nor have promises by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to stimulate the economy helped.

A rare public show of discord within the party over the details of the package has only underscored the perception that lawmakers are engrossed in their own political wrangling even as the economy stalls.

"Investors want to see whether the government can actually implement effective steps," said Takahisa Matsuura, general manager of the equity department at Nomura Securities Co.

While in its report about Japan's long-term foreign currency bonds and domestic currency obligations Moody's once again gave the country its highest rating of "Aaa," the rating agency voiced concern about the lurking danger to investor confidence posed by Japan's enfeebled financial industry.

Economists share that concern, warning that Japan teeters on the brink of a destructive deflationary spiral as banks, struggling to write off massive bad debts from the stubborn slump in property prices since 1992, cut back on lending in order to replenish cash reserves.

In the equity market, the benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average dropped 185.12 points, or 1.18 percent, to close at 15,517.78 — a four-month low. On Thursday, the average posted its largest decline of the year: 538.76 points, or 3.32 percent.

Koreas agree on talks

By PAUL SHIN
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Kim Dae-jung said Sunday that South Korea will accept a North Korean proposal to reopen inter-Korea government talks to discuss economic aid and other issues.

In what appeared to be a major policy change, North Korea proposed Saturday that vice Cabinet minister-level officials of the two sides meet in Beijing this weekend.

The talks, if held, would be the first South-North Korea government contact since 1994 when deputy prime ministers of the two sides met to prepare for the first ever inter-Korea summit.

The proposed summit was canceled after the death of the North's leader, Kim Il Sung, a few weeks before the meeting was to be held.

"South and North Korea will have governmental talks for the first time in years. It is a very significant change and progress. We'll not only accept the proposal but also put our efforts to achieve successful results," Kim said at a news conference held at Seoul's airport upon his return from an Asia-Europe summit in London.

Deputy Prime Minister Kang In-duk immediately called a meeting of security-related Cabinet ministers Sunday to discuss technicalities and other problems related to the North Korean proposal.

In its proposal, North Korea suggested that the proposed government contact take place at a Beijing hotel to discuss possible South Korean fertilizer aid and "other matters of mutual concern."

South Korean news media, quoting unidentified sources, reported Sunday that the Seoul government would accept the North's proposal on the condition that the meeting be held on the Korean peninsula.

South Korea prefers the border village of Panmunjom as a meeting site, a suggestion already rejected by North Korea for a recent series of Red Cross talks for food aid.

All recent Red Cross contacts between the two Koreas have been held in Beijing. In the latest Red Cross meeting in Beijing in March, South Korea agreed to give 50,000 tons of relief food to the famine-stricken North.

Pyongyang's communist government has resisted South Korean efforts to convene the Red Cross contacts on the peninsula, apparently to avoid political embarrassment to its people and military.

The North's proposal for government talks came after Pyongyang unofficially appealed for 200,000 tons of fertilizer from South Korea through a South Korean agricultural expert who visited the North late last year.

South Korean officials have openly stated that they would consider the North Korean appeal if official government talks are held.

Relations between the two Koreas had been frozen because of the North's refusal to talk with South Korea's previous government which it called "anti-national, anti-unification." The North's attitude has reportedly turned "responsive" to the new South Korean government of President Kim Dae-jung.

South Korean officials are insisting that if the inter-Korea government meeting is held, it also should discuss humanitarian issues such as reuniting separated family members.

An estimated 10 million Koreans remain separated by the division of the Korean peninsula into the communist North and the capitalist South in 1945 and the 1950-53 Korean War.

About 50 people from each nation were allowed to cross the border in 1985 for temporary family reunions — the first and only time such reunions have been allowed since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

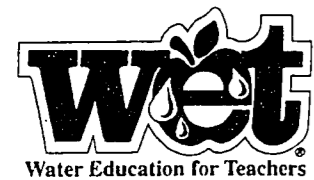
Efforts to arrange more reunions have been stymied by political and military tensions.



Unemployed people and homeless people line up to looking for jobs during a street campaign by social workers at Seoul railway station Tuesday. The jobless rate is increasing continuously this year as the country undergoes IMF-sanctioned belt-tightening economic policies. AP

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Mariana Islands



Project WET Presents
The Groundwater Picture Poster Contest

Draw us a picture and your work of art may be turned into a professional poster and distributed all over the CNMI! Cash and water-saving prizes!

Pick your category, draw a picture, turn in your picture at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation or to your school's Project WET Facilitator. No entry fee.

- Grades 1-6 Theme: The Water Cycle. Show us how water comes to the islands, and where it goes, and goes...
- Grades 7-8 Theme: Water Conservation. Your picture should show us how to capture rainwater and methods to conserve water for our daily use.
- Grades 9-12 Theme: Groundwater Pollution & Best Management Practices. Considering our island resources are limited, draw a picture showing how humans can so easily pollute the groundwater and what you think mankind can do to better manage limited resources and protect the environment.

Watch for Project WET presentations coming to your school on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian! Our representatives will educate students about the groundwater cycle, conservation and pollution issues. After the demonstration, draw your picture and turn it in for big prizes! The Poster Contest is open to all students in public and private schools and those not currently in session.

- Official Rules:
- Use regular 8 1/2 x 11 white copy/typing paper
 - Use crayons, markers, paints, etc. (no chalk)
 - Print name, age, grade level, school, telephone number on back of poster
 - Turn in to your school's Project WET Facilitator or at CUC Lower Base Corporate Communications
 - No entry fee
 - Deadline: May 15, 1998
 - We reserve the right to make factual corrections and reprint the winning posters. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade winner in each category.

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La Fiesta
Easter/Spring
SALE

EASTER/SPRING SALE
Eggstravaganza!!!

Easter is right around the corner! La Fiesta and The Tenant Association are having their Easter/Spring Sale for all tenants throughout the mall. Discounts are available from April 5th through April 19th. La Fiesta will be hosting a special Easter event on Saturday, April 11th (the day before Easter). There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for Kiddies (ages 3-5 yrs. and 6-8 yrs). Grand prizes are a Nintendo 64 and a Giant Disney Easter Basket donated by The Fun Zone. We will also have a basket and egg decorating contest. Registration starts at 4:00pm and the games will begin around 6:30pm.

La Fiesta San Roque
Saipan

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Fire kills family in Taiwan

Death & Funeral Announcement



Frederick D. Austin
(Fred)

DOB: February 28, 1932 DIED: April 1, 1998

Predeceased by his Parents:
Father: Roscoe Charles Austin
Mother: Mable Pearl Olson Austin
His parents-in-Laws: Juan Taisaque Cabrera
1st Wife: Antonia Dela Cruz Cabrera
2nd Wife: Ana San Nicolas Cabrera
Brothers and Sisters-in-Laws:
Antonio Cruz Cabrera
Rose Tenorio Cabrera
Jesus San Nicolas Cabrera
Angela Roberto Cabrera
Jose San Nicolas Cabrera
Cecilia Sablan Cabrera Tudela
Joaquin San Nicolas Cabrera
1st Wife: Victoria Dela Cruz Cabrera
2nd Wife: Ana Dela Cruz Cabrera
Francisco San Nicolas Cabrera
Regina Blas Cabrera
Rosa Cabrera Camacho
Francisco Tudela Camacho
Maria San Nicolas Cabrera
Juan San Nicolas Cabrera

Survived by his Wife:
Carmen San Nicolas Cabrera (Pota) Austin

Children & Spouses:
Anne Marie & James French (Ohio)
Patricia Mabel & James Rhode (Calif.)
Teresa Carmen Austin & James Larry Cimaard (Saipan)
Raymond Alan & Emily Austin (Arizona)

***Twelve Grandchildren**

Sisters & Brothers: Myra Smallwood (Wyoming)
Phyllis Hanson (Wyoming)
Francis Gaskill (Wyoming)
Raymond Austin (Wyoming)
Gregoria Camacho Cabrera

In-Laws:

Rosary is being said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at their residence in Chalan Piao. Last respect and viewing will be said on Monday, April 13, 1998 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be at 4:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Church on the same day. Burial will follow immediately after the mass.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Twelve members of an extended family died in an early morning fire at their home in central Taichung city Sunday, police said.

The victims included members of the Lin family from four generations, ranging in age from 78 to just 1 year, police said.

One of the female victims was three months pregnant, they said.

A male member of the family survived by jumping from a second story window.

Police were still investigating the cause of the fire, which broke out during a traditional Chinese tomb-sweeping festival this weekend when families make offerings to deceased relatives.

Television pictures showed water from firemen's hoses was unable to reach flames pouring out of the home's third floor, apparently due to a lack of water pressure.

But Taichung fire chief Wu

Ching-fang denied low water pressure impeded fire fighting efforts, instead blaming "a few leaks."

Residents of the area told television that abandoned cars and piles of unused furniture blocked entrances to the lane where the fire occurred.

Taichung was the scene of a February 1995 fire at a restaurant and Karaoke bar that killed 64 persons, Taiwan's deadliest fire to date.

Boy arrested for dad's slay

TOKYO (AP) — In a continuing wave of youth crime grabbing Japanese headlines, a 14-year-old has been arrested for allegedly beating his father to death

with a baseball bat and two teenage girls punished for murdering a retiree.

The boy and a classmate were arrested for the murder of

Tsutomu Takahashi, just east of Tokyo, local police official Koji Iwahara said Friday.

Iwahara said the 14-year-old was arrested Thursday. His classmate had already turned himself in.

Takahashi, 41 and unemployed, was found dead in his living room on the night of March 25. Iwahara said police recovered a metal bat and a barbell, weapons allegedly used in the killing.

Iwahara said the 14-year-old claimed his father often beat him. Meanwhile, a family court on Tokyo's northern outskirts decided Friday to send two teenage girls to juvenile training facilities for robbing and beating a 69-year-old man to death.

The girls, both aged 15, were found guilty of killing the retiree at his apartment in Urawa, 23 kilometers (14 miles), north of Tokyo, on Feb. 17.

Crimes by minors in Japan have been on the rise recently, prompting a nationwide debate over whether stiffer punishments should be allowed under the nation's juvenile law.

The number of heinous crimes such as murders or robberies by juveniles in Japan jumped to 2,263 cases last year, up 51 percent from the year before.

At present, criminal charges can only be brought for minors 16 or older.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



"Wanter" JOHN KUS

Date of Birth: June 16, 1929
Died: March 02, 1998

Survived by his WIFE: Concepcion (Chong) Urumelog Kus
CHILDREN/SPOUSE/(GRANDCHILDREN): Antonia Urumelog & Richardo Omar (Jetro, Jacklyn, Richardo Jr. & Zeralyn)
John Diego Urumelog & Bernie DL Guerrero (Kimberly, Jonathan & Jocelyn)
Vivian Urumelog & Daniel Aldan (Jennifer & Ashley)
Erna Urumelog & Nargim Uddin (Nasima, Naznin, Alpona & Nahida)
Patrick, Rowena, John Joe & Steven Urumelog

SISTER & BROTHER-IN LAWS: Mina U. & Vicente Igsair, Vicky U. & Donald Davis, Rita U. & Nick Bailas & Guillermo (Gill) A. Urumelog, Maria Urumelog, Ana Urumelog, Henry Angui

Also survived by other children, numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.

Nightly rosary is being said at Garapan Lower MIHA Housing #A42 at the residence of Antonia & Rick Omar.



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Applications for the above position may be submitted between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at LSG/SC's office located on Airport Road, across the street from the Saipan International Airport. A current court or police clearance (not older than 30 days) must be submitted with your application.

LSG/SC is an equal opportunity employer, and complies with federal law requiring proof of eligibility to work in the United States prior to beginning work.

Bank . . .

Continued from page 12

It said the acts were committed within the terms of the fidelity bond issued by the plaintiff.

The bank accordingly demanded from Pangelinan to return the money, but she allegedly refused to do so until the filing of the complaint last April 1.

The complaint said National Union paid to the bank \$162,000 resulting from the defendant's "unlawful conversion" of the bank's funds, as its obligations under the fidelity bond.

National Union said that because it paid the amount to the bank, it is subrogated (substituted) to the rights of the bank against the defendant for the recovery of the \$162,000.

RECYCLE

Indonesia closes 7 banks

By GEOFF SPENCER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — In a move designed to show that it has become serious about reforming a crisis-ridden economy, Indonesia has shut the doors of seven insolvent banks.

Another seven banks with major problems will stay in business, but only under the management of a government-appointed restructuring agency.

The announcement late Saturday comes just days before the International Monetary Fund and Indonesia are expected to sign new terms for a \$43 billion economic rescue package.

The bailout was first put together in last October and then was revised in January. But it has stalled two times since then over concerns that Indonesia has not gone through with promised tough structural changes to end its worst economic crisis in 30 years.

"Indonesia will implement its reform program in all seriousness," the official Antara news agency Sunday quoted Ginandjar Kartasasmita, Indonesia's top economic minister, as saying.

Ginandjar has led three weeks of intensive negotiations over the bailout with the IMF.

The IMF is currently looking for extra money from the United States to replenish funds drained by multibillion-dollar bailouts of Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea.

Some lawmakers in Washington have criticized the IMF's Asian policies. Others want Indonesia to commit to improving its human rights track record in exchange for international financial help.

The perilous state of the Southeast Asian country's banking industry is regarded as a central factor in Indonesia's deep economic crisis, which has resulted in the currency's collapse, soaring inflation and mass unemployment.

Several of the banks have links to members of President Suharto's family as well as to a Cabinet minister close to the president.

Critics say many of Indonesia's economic problems stem a system which has made Suharto's relatives and associates rich from monopolies and subsidies put in place during the president's 32 years in power.

The IMF has insisted that many of these privileges be abolished so that the economy can be liberalized.

Indonesia, however, has complained that past IMF demands for a quick end to the many state subsidies for basic items will make life miserable for millions of already poor Indonesians.

Both sides say they will soon announce a compromise solution.

Finance Minister Fuad Bawazier said the seven banks had been suspended and their operations frozen after they refused to heed repeated warnings about their unhealthy liquidity situation.

He said the closures were "part of an overall strategy of restoring our economy, and they are part of

out efforts to strengthen the rupiah's exchange rate."

The rupiah has fallen about 70 percent since Southeast Asia's financial crisis hit Indonesia last July.

The action to shutter the seven banks marks second time in six months that Indonesia has moved against banks judged as insolvent. It shut down 16 banks on the IMF's advice last November and later promised to merge or close more.

Since then there have been several runs on banks by nervous customers. The most recent was on Friday when several bank offices were besieged by hundreds of people wanting to withdraw funds.

To ease fears, Fuad said all depositors' money in all 14 banks would be guaranteed by the government.

"They have nothing to fear. Their money is safe," Fuad said. Indonesia is currently nervous about the potential of civil unrest.



Indonesian Finance Minister Fuad Bawazier, left, and Chairman of the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency (IBRA) Iwan Prawirana share a light moment during a news conference announcing the freezing of seven banks in Jakarta Saturday. AP

Death and Funeral Announcement

CECILIA PALACIOS SABLAN (TUDELA)

BETTER KNOWN AS "CHELAN CHEDU"

BORN: SEPTEMBER 29, 1912

DIED: MARCH 30, 1998

PREDECEASED BY:

Parents: Gregorio Reyes Sablan and Soledad Cruz Palacios
Husband: Jose San Nicolas Cabrera
Son: Antonio Sablan Cabrera
Grandson: Aldebert Cabrera Tudela
GreatGrands: Robert Atalig Tudela and Cecilia Tudela Sadea
Grandson-in-Law: Kraig Williams
Sisters/Brothers/Spouse: Francisco P/Maria D.T. Sablan; Jose P/Dolores T. Sablan; Pedro P/Lina M. Sablan; Antonio P/Maria S. Sablan; Nicolas P/Isabel Sablan; Ana P. Sablan; Maria S./Jesus D. Guerrero; Soledad S./Pio Mendiola; Romaldo Santos

SURVIVED BY:

Husband: Agustin S. Tudela
Children/Spouse/Grandchildren/Spouse:
• Carmen Cabrera Tudela; Lucia C. Tudela and Ray Sadea
• Margarita Cabrera Tudela and Jose C. Tudela:
Francisco C. and Cynthia A. Tudela
Diego C. and Victoria O. Tudela
Brian C. Tudela
Bernice T. and Calisto I. Reyes
Priscilla Cabrera Tudela
Lillian T. and Jose M. Camacho
Alvin C. and Rose T. Tudela
James C. and Clarisa C. Tudela
Gary C. Tudela
• Antonio S. Cabrera
Bill and Cecilia B. Benavente
Sisters/Spouse: Nieves S. and Ramond Q. Taitano; Antonia S. Santos

Additionally survived by 39 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Jose C. and Margarita C. Tudela

Viewing will be on April 07, 1998, from 8:00AM-3:00PM at the house of Mr. & Mrs. Jose C. Tudela in Chalan Kanoa. Mass of a Christian Burial will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Burial will follow immediately at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Fifth Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late



JUAN SABLAN CABRERA

Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Anniversary Mass of passage unto eternal life of our beloved husband and father.

Daily mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Church at 6:00 a.m., beginning April 1st and ending on April 9, 1998. After the mass on April 7, breakfast will be served at Hahina's Restaurant.

Please join us.
Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mrs. Joaquina Muna Cabrera & Children

Govendo . . .

Continued from page 3

They have not received a paycheck since that time and they and their families have been suffering," Govendo said.

He said the officers should all receive back pay and resume their duties and also deserve a written apology from DPS.

The court cleared from the case nine officers, including Govendo's clients Deleon Guerrero and Camacho, but convicted two officers of assault and battery and misconduct in public

office.

DPS legal counsel William O'Roarty in an interview explained that the case was filed because Eugenio complained he was assaulted while he was in police's custody.

O'Roarty said Eugenio's complaint was legitimate as it was corroborated by medical evidence and testimonies of two police officers.

"When we do run an efficient police department you have to investigate these allegations. We had three people who independently corroborated the same statements so we took the appropriate action. What would you do when you have these complaints independently corroborated and you're concerned about the safety of the people in the commonwealth," he said.

The Variety tried but failed to contact Buchholz for comment.

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1996 DODGE RAM 350 (15 pas.) 40,000 miles	\$14,000
1992 DODGE RAM 350 (15 pas.) 40,000 miles	\$4,500
1988 CHEVROLET (15 passengers)	\$2,700
1990 TOYOTA CAMRY (Aircon Good)	\$3,300

Please contact: MR. PARK 234-2340

Hong Kong . . .

Continued from page 2

ding of the event for clues to how tolerant the post-handover government is.

"We will hold the vigil, with or without government approval," Szeto said.

"The government has not pressured the group to mute its voices, even though Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's leader, repeated his warning last month that

Hong Kong will not be allowed to become a base for anti-Beijing activities.

Beijing had branded the alliance subversive. Formed to support student movements in 1989, the group holds regular protests demanding an end to one-party rule in China.

The post-handover government so far has remained tolerant of pro-democracy activities, even though it introduced tougher laws last year to curb anti-China activities.

The government also is expected to introduce anti-subversion legislation to the new legislature in accordance with the post-handover Constitution.

Last month, new Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji ruled out any re-evaluation of the crackdown, squelching speculation that he differed with other Communist Party leaders on the issue.

But he also said protests will remain legal in Hong Kong, which under handover agreements is guaranteed a high degree of autonomy.

Denight, principal of Marianas High School;

Marie Quintanilla, a special education teacher assigned at the Children Developmental Assistance Center; Roger Ludwick, a retired educator who taught for years at MHS; Justo Quitugua, former PSS Deputy Commissioner;

Juan L. Babauta, principal of Garapan Elementary School; Roman Delos Santos, a veteran educator; John Joyner, former spokesman for ex-Gov. Larry Guerrero; and Guadalupe Borja Robinson, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's special assistant for youth affairs.

BOE . . .

Continued from page 1

president of the Northern Marianas College; John "Jack" Angelo, apprenticeship/trade director of NMC's Department of Continuing and Technical Education; Jim

Denight, principal of Marianas High School;

Marie Quintanilla, a special education teacher assigned at the Children Developmental Assistance Center; Roger Ludwick, a retired educator who taught for years at MHS; Justo Quitugua, former PSS Deputy Commissioner;

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Ombudsman . . .

Continued from page 1

ganize the executive department, which will be submitted as a proposed legislation to the Legislature.

He said reforming the CNMI's labor and immigration is a long-term undertaking that will also require federal assistance and expertise.

"I trust that with the help from our federal government, particularly through training and shared responsibilities, we can succeed," Sablan said.

"We did it before and we could do it again," he added.

An "invention" of the Swedish government, the office of the ombudsman is an independent government entity that receives and investigates complaints made by individuals against abuses or capricious acts of public officials.

NLRB . . .

Continued from page 1

management's filing of protest on Oct. 17 of the same year.

The management had argued that four of its pro-union employees, Edwin Melon, Paquito Gonzales, Bonifacio Demetrio and Sesinado Laderas were holding supervisory positions and, therefore, should not have participated in the union activities.

"The NLRB's decision basically said that there's no evidence of supervisory participation that might have influenced the result of the election," Biggar said.

The board said that by definition of the law, the employees concerned were not holding supervisory positions, and that their pro-union activities "in any event would not warrant setting aside the election."

"This means that the management has an obligation to deal with Local 5," Biggar said.

Chinese . . .

Continued from page 4

Calimlim, DOLI records showed, was able to prove that his first entry into the Commonwealth was in 1980.

"Therefore," Asper argued, "the prohibition contained (in the law) does not apply to him."

Asper nevertheless noted that questions raised by DOLI on the worker's alleged establishment and its relationship to his supposed fulltime employment as an auto mechanic to ascertain Nenita V. Marquez of NVM Enterprises was not included in an earlier DOLI Determination of the case.

"They (questions) should be raised in an amended determination of the Director of Labor wishes to do so."

"This case should be dismissed without prejudice to re-opening on other alleged violations," Asper ruled.

DPL . . .

Continued from page 1

the DPL staff concerned to monitor progress of the inventory.

Meantime, Guerrero said majority of the current 3,000 homestead applicants "have not come in to respond to our questions."

DPL, explained the director, reviews applications to sift out unqualified ones and determine which among those established to be qualified applicants should be classified first priority.

Several sectors, citing ongoing golf course projects and similar resort-related ones, have expressed concerns on the availability of lands to homesteaders.

Thomas B. Aldan, Board of Public Lands (BPL) chair, in an earlier interview, had likewise said there still is enough lands for homestead applicants.

MHS . . .

Continued from page 8

tecol Officer, Naval Station, Guam; Major Roxue Salas, Professor of Military Science, Senior ROTC, University of Guam; Major Paul Luarea, Director of Army Instruction, Guam JROTC; Mrs. Margaret Dela Cruz, Acting Commissioner of Education; Mr. Patrick Tellei, Deputy Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. James Denight, MHS

Job Vacancy Announcement

- 01 WAITER-RESTAURANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NIPPON GENERAL TRADING CORPORATION dba Country House Restaurant Tel. 233-8223(4/6)M25939
- 01 TRANSLATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$5.20 per hour
01 TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: GUANGDONG DEV. CO., LTD. Tel: 288-2288(4/6)M25940
- 01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
01 TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: HORIZON, INC. Tel. 323-8882(4/6)M25947
- 01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE/REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 OFFSET PRESS OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 SIGN PAINTER-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
Contact: R & M ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 322-3043(4/6)M25948
- 05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 TRANSLATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAI-CHI U.S. INTL. INC. dba Queen's Karaoke Tel. 256-8808(4/6)M25949
- 02 (LABORER) CEMENT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 TRUCK/TRACTOR DRIVER-Salary:\$4.25 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA CEMENT CO. INC. Tel. 322-3333(4/6)M1367
- 01 LABORER (CONSTRUCTION)-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC SUBSEA SAIPAN INC. Tel. 322-7734(4/6)M25941
- 01 CYLINDER REFILLER-Salary:\$3.30 per hour
01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
Contact: C-GAS CORPORATION Tel. 235-6077(4/6)M25943
- 02 H.E. OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-2700(4/13)M26030
- 01 PEST CONTROL WORKER-Salary:\$900.00 per month
Contact: NO KA OI TERMITE & PEST CONTROL (SAIPAN), INC. Tel. 322-2847(4/13)M26031
- 01 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMAN-Salary:\$3.75-5.50 per hour
01 ELECTRICALIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Arjay Construction Tel. 234-8779(4/13)M71483
- 01 ASSISTANT COOK (HELPER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: YH CORPORATION dba Ajichiban Restaurant Tel. 235-3211(4/13)M71485
- 01 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CALISTRO CEPEDA/ EUGENIA CEPEDA dba Cepeda's 3-In-One Tel. 256-3721(4/13)M26025
- 01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: W.E.L. DEVELOPMENT INC. Tel. 235-1071(4/13)M26012

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,450.00 per month
Contact: JOSE K. PANGELINAN dba M.D. Group & Assoc. Tel. 234-0484(4/6)M25944
- 03 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 STEEL (WORKER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SU CORPORATION Tel. 288-9430(4/6)M25945
- 02 SALES PERSON-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN MYUNG DONG CORPORATION dba Italy Shopping Tel. 233-3341(4/6)M25946
- 01 SHOP MANAGER-Salary:\$4,000.00-6,000.00 per month
01 ASSISTANT SHOP MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00-3,000.00 per month
Contact: TROPICAL PLAZA LTD. dba La Fiesta San Roque Tel. 322-0998(4/13)M71484
- 02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JAC INC. dba Tropical Cleaning Services Tel. 235-5377(4/13)M26013
- 03 DANCER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WAYNE A. SHIMABUKURO dba Stop Light Night Club Tel. 287-7817(4/13)M26017
- 01 LICENSED (MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST)-Salary:\$10.25 per month
Contact: DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC. dba Biopath Tel. 235-0233(4/13)M26020
- 01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
01 INDUSTRIAL (WELDER) (ARC)-Salary:\$4.50-5.00 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$5.00-9.93 per hour
05 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCT CORPORATION Tel. 322-0407(4/13)M26021
- 01 MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00 per month
Contact: HAE WOONG CORP. Tel. 235-3403(4/13)M26022
- 01 AC TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:\$4.05 per hour
Contact: CAMACHO INVESTMENT CORPORATION dba Summer Holiday Hotel Tel. 234-3182(4/13)M26023
- 01 MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: GREGORIO B. & NATALIA M. MAGOFNA dba M.C.M. Snack Bar Tel. 234-8282(4/13)M26024
- 01 GIFT SHOP SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.50-9.10 per hour
01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$2,662.00 per month
Contact: Y.O. SAIPAN CORPORATION dba Okadayaya Tel. 234-6656(4/13)M26025
- 01 WAREHOUSEMAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00 per month
Contact: ICEBERG CORPORATION Tel. 288-8384(4/13)M26027
- 02 HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(4/13)M71490
- 01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$800.00 per month
01 AIRCON TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC BUILDERS, INC. Tel. 235-7171(4/13)M71495
- 01 EDITOR, JAPANESE LANGUAGE MAGAZINE PUBLICATION Salary: 800.00-1,200.00 per month
01 MANAGING EDITOR, JAPANESE LANGUAGE MAGAZINE PUBLICATION-Salary:\$800.00-1,200.00 per month
Contact: HAFADAI PUBLISHING CORP. dba Hafadai Magazine (4/13)M26033
- 01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: KEY INT'L. TRADING CO. LTD. dba Wholesale General Mds. Tel. 288-1338(4/13)M26034
- 02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.16-3.50 per hour
02 MERCHANDISE DELIVERER-Salary:\$3.30-3.50 per hour
01 TRANSPORTATION AGENT-Salary:\$3.92-4.50 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:\$4.00-5.00 per hour
01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.30-3.50 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$5.00-5.50 per hour
Must have at least 5 years experience in airline catering.
Employment certificate is required to all positions.
Please send application to LSG LUFTHANSA SERVICE SAIPAN, INC. c/o Ms. Lori Villarde, P.O. Box 270 CK Saipan MP 96050 (4/13)M71491
- 01 COST ESTIMATOR-Salary:\$4.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: GEORGE F. FLEMING dba Fas Moving & Storage Co. Tel. 322-6587(4/13)M26032
- 01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MILNE & REYES ENTERPRISES dba Micronesia Builders & Dev. Tel. 234-5860(4/20)M26094
- 01 ARCHITECT (SUPERVISOR)-Salary:\$700.00 per month
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EO Corporation Tel. 234-8827(4/20)M26095
- 01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,700.00 per month
01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,700.00 per month
01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,700.00 per month
01 MATERIALS ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,700.00 per month
02 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,700.00 per month
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- 02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
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01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
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- 01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$3.50-4.50 per hour
Contact: ASAP COMPANY, LIMITED dba Estetica Beauty Salon Tel. 234-3030(4/20)M26104
- 03 PRESSER/LAUNDRY OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
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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.

- 01 SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-9555(4/20)M26106
- 01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
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Contact: MISAMIS CONSTRUCTION (SAIPAN) LTD. Tel. 233-3073(4/20)M26107
- 01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.50-4.50 per hour
Contact: KWEK'S ENTERPRISES SAIPAN INC. Tel. 234-7243(4/20)M26102
- 01 ACETYLENE PLANT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.30 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN INDUSTRIAL CO., INC. Tel. 234-7415(4/20)M26101
- 01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: MOTION AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR CENTER, INC. Tel. 235-3481(4/20)M26100
- 01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$650.00-1,350.00 per month
Contact: NINO'S, INC. Tel. 233-9298(4/20)M71596
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$9.20 per hour
Contact: CNMI TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. Tel. 235-6712(4/20)M71600
- 01 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
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MICROL INSURANCE, INC.
Needs
MOTOR CLAIMS ADJUSTER
Successful candidate must have sound mechanical knowledge, office skills and able to work within a team environment. Insurance experience preferred.

ACCOUNTANT
Successful candidate must have 4 years accounting experience, office skills and able to work within a team environment.

Please submit your resume at Microl Insurance office at Ground Floor, Lim's Office Bldg., cor. Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan.
No phone calls please.
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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

In Re The Estate of NICANOR M. METTAO, Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-0275B

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: All heirs, devisees, legatees, and creditors of Nicanor M. Mettao, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that GEORGE N. METTAAO has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Letters of Administration for the Estate of Nicanor M. Mettao, deceased. The hearing on the Petition is set for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st day of April, 1998, at the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For further particulars, please refer to the petition on file herein, or contact John M. Chambers of the Law Office of John A. Manglona at telephone number (670) 233-6901 or fax (670) 233-6903.

Creditors of the Decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 1998.

/s/ Dep. Clerk of Court

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TORIBIO PAGARIGAN MERCADO, Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-107B

NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS

TO: Creditors of the estate of Toribio Pagarigan Mercado, deceased.

You are hereby notified that Theresa M. Nieto, of Saipan has been appointed and qualified as administratrix of the estate of Toribio Pagarigan Mercado. Administratrix's attorney of record is Reynaldo O. Yana of P.O. Box 52, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons having claims against the decedent are hereby required to serve them duly certified on the said administratrix or her attorney of record at the address specified above, and to file them with the clerk of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, together with proof of such service, within 60 days of the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated this 24th day of March, 1998.

/s/ REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Administratrix

CAR FOR SALE
'95 Toyota Camry XLE
Loaded, CD Changer, Automatic Transmission
Wholesale value - \$15,800.00
Loan value - \$13,400.00
Asking Price \$13,900.00 OBO
For details call Tel. No. 322-1015

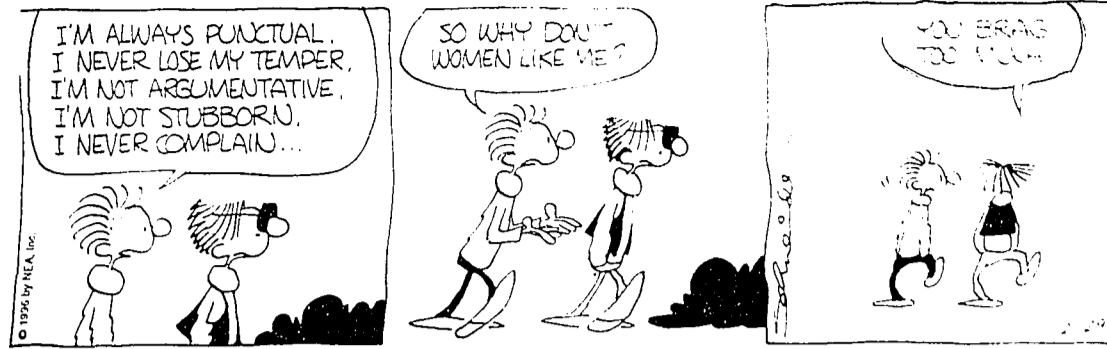
WE NEED TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY. I'M THINKING OF SELLING A FEW SMALL THINGS I'VE GOT AROUND THE HOUSE...

LIKE WHAT?

THESE GO TWO OF THEM NOW....

TURN LITTLE THINGS INTO BIG MONEY WITH A CLASSIFIED AD!

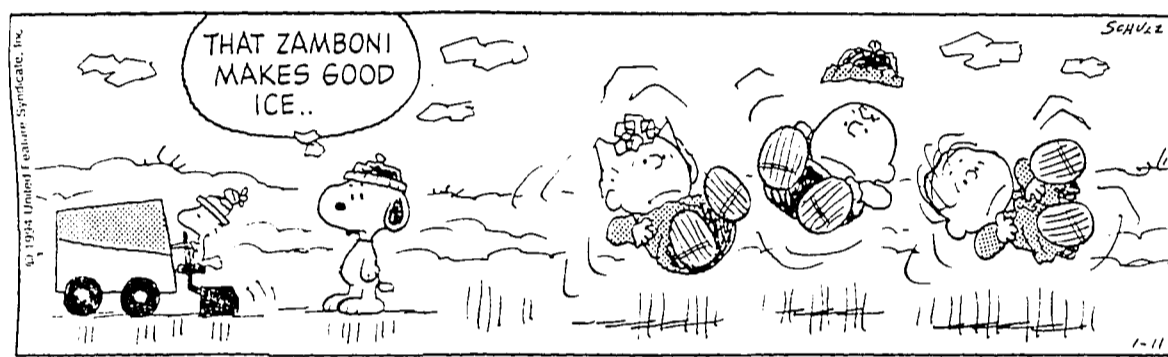
EKK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

MONDAY

Born today, you have great tenacity and staying power, and you know how to bounce back from the most serious setbacks with grace and style. You are never one to stay down very long, but just long enough to assess what has happened, correct any mistakes and formulate a plan to avoid a repeat performance in the future. You live your life with a unique kind of rational foresight; you know that chance and fate must play a role, and yet you are quite adept at planning for the unexpected and working well with the cards you are dealt at any given time.

You are one of those individuals who is likely to know precisely what he or she wants at all times, and you will stop at nothing to reach your goals. You recognize that success is a privilege that is earned, not a right to be taken for granted, and you are always learning.

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, APR. 7

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Put your trust in those who have come through for you in the past and you can turn what might have been a failure into a sure-fire success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — A loved one will be

surprised at the news you have to share today. Be sure that you are honest and yet sensitive in your reporting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today, you may be torn between loyalty, friendship and the desire to do what is right, regardless of your personal feelings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may be surprised to learn that not everyone agrees with your assessment of a difficult situation. Indeed, a loved one is quite critical.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — What you thought would offer a good time to all involved may prove to be much more complicated than expected. Tensions may mount at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It won't take you long to decide just where to start today. Once you have a few pieces of the puzzle in place, instinct is sure to take over.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It is not always easy for you to make the right choice, but today things are likely to fall into place quite automatically.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your insight into a difficult situation can benefit those with whom you share it today. Do not hold back; do what you can to help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You won't have to go out

of your way today in order to help someone in need. You can provide a good deal of support simply as a matter of course.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You are going to have to negotiate carefully today in order to assemble the right team for a group effort that is just around the corner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Progress is made slowly at first today, but you can pick up the pace without sacrificing results during afternoon hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You won't be able to anticipate all the reactions to your decisions today; strive only to be true to your ideals and intentions.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS: 1 Extraneous, 6 Transports, 11 Deranged, 12 Bearlike, 14 Brood, 15 Bill of fare, 17 — Cummings, 18 Edmund O'Brien TV series, 19 Actress, 20 Sun. talk, 21 At home, 22 Copenhagen natives, 23 Spelling or Amos, 24 Helps, 26 Lie detector reading, 27 Horse fodder, 28 Polynesian cloth, 29 "Cheers" waitress, 31 Barite or quartz, 34 Makes a mistake, 35 Populace, 36 You and I, 37 Equals 24 hours, 38 Temptress, 39 Criticize sharply, 40 Borgnine ID, 41 Lover, 42 — of Berry, 43 Expand, 45 Overtures, 47 Game for two players, 48 Carries by hand, 4 — garde, 5 Withdraws, 6 Tosses, 7 Comedian, 8 Utilize, 9 Roman, 10 Scoffs, 11 New Delhi's locale, 13 Scary, 16 Saloon drinks, 19 — la vista, baby!, 20 — system, 22 Uses the phone, 23 Records, 25 Expression of apology, 26 Maniple, 28 Fiest period (hyp. wd.), 29 Surrendered, 30 — numeral, 31 Only, 32 Trophies, 33 Offers temporarily, 35 2 of these coins will equal 20 cents, 38 Drunkards, 39 — cone, 41 "Norma —", 42 Wager, 44 Hampton ID, 46 Italian river.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

5 ACROSS: 6+3=, 2 DOWN, 4 DOWN, 7 DOWN, 9 ACROSS. DOWN: 1 BANANA, 2 SPOON, 3 TURTLE, 6 INK, 7 EEL, 8 CAN, 9 EYE.

FINAL WEEK!

TITANIC

THE MOVIE HOUSE SHOWTIMES 2, 4, 6 PM
Wed, Thu, Fri 7:00 Sat 12:00-4:00-8:00 Sun 12:00-4:00-8:00

Heat beats Hornets, 101-88

MIAMI (AP) — Tim Hardaway scored 29 points as the undermanned Miami Heat beat the Charlotte Hornets 101-88.

It was Miami's first victory over Charlotte in four meetings this season.

Mark Strickland, filling in for injured Miami forward P.J. Brown, scored 15 points in Saturday's game. Duane Causwell, starting for injured center Alonzo Mourning, grabbed a season-high 14 rebounds for the Heat.

Charlotte's Glen Rice, who had been averaging 32 points against his former team this year, scored just two on 1-of-6 shooting from the field. Vlade Divac led the Hornets with 18 points, while Anthony Mason added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Charlotte trailed by 40 points in the third quarter before going on a 27-5 run that cut Miami's lead to 86-68 with 9:52 left in the game.

Nets 97, Knicks 94

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Sam Cassell had 30 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, and Keith Van Horn added 25 points as the Nets beat the New York Knicks to boost their playoff chances.

Kerry Kittles blocked Charlie Ward's 3-point attempt as time ran out to preserve the victory for the Nets, who held on to eighth place in the Eastern Conference, one game ahead of Orlando and Washington for the final playoff spot.

Allan Houston scored 29 points for the Knicks who had their two-game winning streak snapped. New York is seventh in the East, 1 1/2 games behind Cleveland.

Spurs 88, Warriors 80, OT

In San Antonio, David Robinson had 24 points, 18 rebounds and seven blocks as the Spurs recovered after blowing a big fourth-quarter lead to beat the Golden State Warriors in

overtime.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who won their fifth straight.

San Antonio trails the Los Angeles Lakers by 2 1/2 games for the fourth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

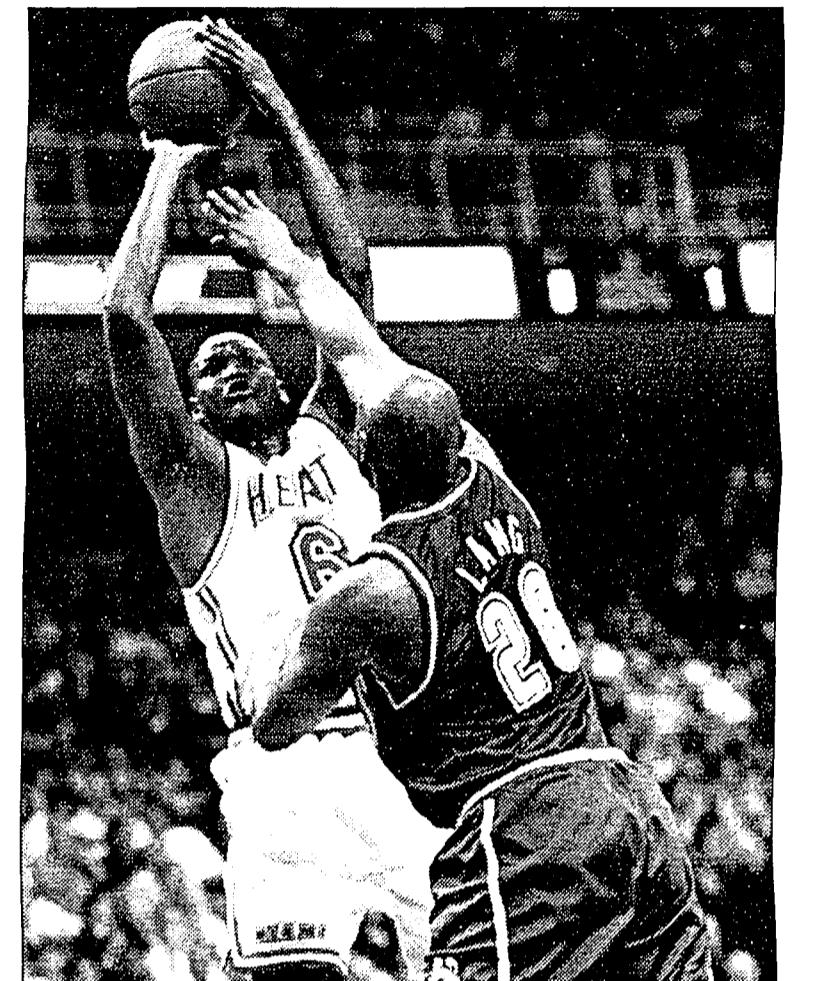
Jimmy Jackson scored 16 points for Golden State, which has been eliminated from playoff contention.

Suns 90, Trail Blazers 83

In Phoenix, Antonio McDyess scored 23 points and Jason Kidd sparked a late fourth-quarter run as the Phoenix Suns won their fourth straight.

Phoenix, which snapped a four-game home losing streak to Portland, trails the San Antonio Spurs by 2 1/2 games for the No. 4 playoff spot in the West.

Isiah Rider and Brian Grant each had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have lost two of their last three games.



Miami Heat forward Terry Mills (6) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Lang (28) in Miami. AP

Kwan sweeps to 2nd World Title

By BARRY WILNER
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Once again, it wasn't her best. This time, it was good enough.

Michelle Kwan didn't quite nail everything Saturday night in the free skate at the World Figure Skating Championships.

With Tara Lipinski and Lu Chen,

the other medalists from the Olympics not on hand, Kwan's performance still swept the judging panel.

Kwan won her second world championship in three years with a so-so free skate marred by two errors. The 17-year-old American did display some of the passion she lacked in her long program at Nagano, where she

was runner-up to Lipinski.

But it wasn't close to her near-perfect program at nationals in January. Perhaps Kwan sensed that neither of the Russians who finished behind her, Irina Slutskaya or Maria Butyrskaya, presented much of a challenge.

Nordid Poland's Anna Rechnio, who slipped from second after the short program to fifth. Or France's Laetitia Hubert, who dropped from third to fourth.

"During my performance, it was four minutes of thinking," Kwan said. "After I made two mistakes, I knew I had no more options but to do everything else."

Kwan had one 6.0 for artistry in her short program Friday. She got seven 5.9s this time, but a fall on a double axel and a triple salchow she cut to a double actually left room for one of her competitors to fly past her.

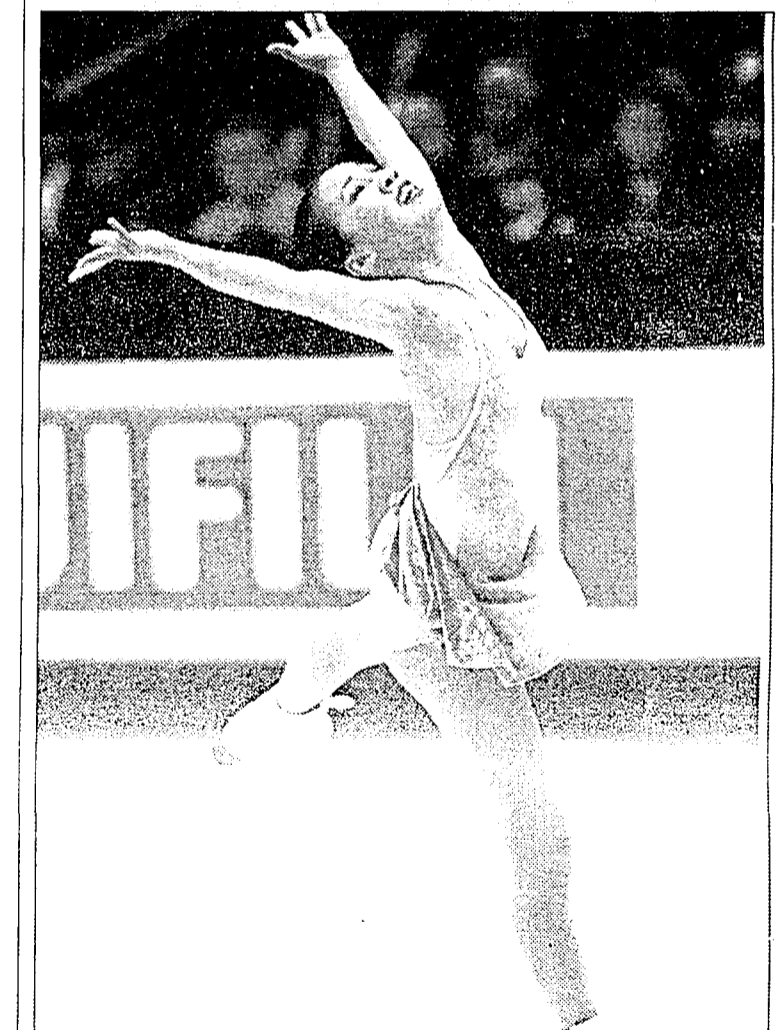
Instead of flying, though, most of them were crashing.

The other American, Tonia Kwiatkowski — the replacement for Lipinski, who missed worlds with fatigue and a viral infection — was sixth. It was Kwiatkowski's final appearance before turning pro.

The combined finish for Kwan and Kwiatkowski assured the United States three women's spots in next year's worlds at Helsinki. The Americans also will have three men and three pairs, but only one dance team.

Kwan was the only American champion at worlds. Russia won the other three disciplines.

"I did win the world title in 1996 and it's nice to win it back in the home country," she said.



American Michelle Kwan performs during the free skate program at the World Figure Skating Championships in Minneapolis. Kwan finished first for a gold medal. AP

US . . .

Continued from page 24

los). The Americans won their first five matches en route to a 21-10 victory over Cuba. Henson started the dual by upsetting world champion Wilfredo Garcia, 3-2 in overtime, and Erikson ended it with a pin of

world silver medalist Alexis Rodriguez.

Russia made it through the first day with a 3-0 record, beating Germany, Japan and Cuba.

Russia won all eight matches against Japan, including falls by Andrei Kasiev at 167 1/2 pounds (76 kilos) and Andrei Shumilin at heavy-weight.

Teymuraz Orousov added a fall at 152 pounds (69 kilos) in the dual

against Germany, although Shumilin needed a referee's decision to win his match.

Iran was 2-1 after the first day, while Cuba was 1-2, Germany was 1-3 and Japan was 0-4.

The United States will wrestle Russia and Japan on Sunday, when the round-robin event concludes.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the teams and individuals with the best records.

Indians beat Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Bartolo Colon pitched a four-hitter for his first complete-game victory, striking out 10 Saturday night as the Cleveland Indians beat the Anaheim Angels 11-0 and remained undefeated in four games.

Colon (1-0), who retired 13 of his final 14 batters, was just 1-3 in six starts last season but had an impressive 35-11 record in his minor league career.

His only previous complete game was a 2-0 loss against the Angels last July 28. His prior strikeout high was six against Minnesota on Sept. 29.

Kenny Lofton had four hits and drove in three runs, and Travis Fryman

added a pair of solo homers for the Indians, off to their best start since the 1966 team went 10-0.

Allen Watson (0-1) gave up seven runs — six earned — and seven hits in three-plus innings.

Lofton and Omar Vizquel began the first with singles. David Justice hit an RBI groundout and Manny Ramirez's sacrifice fly made it 2-0.

Cleveland scored twice in the second on Fryman's first home run and Lofton's RBI double.

Geronimo Berroa made it 5-0 in the third with a triple after Ramirez reached on third baseman Dave Hollins' throwing error.

the ninth for the win.

Johnny Damon matched his career high with four hits for the Royals.

Twins 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Paul Molitor hit a sac batted triple off Kelvin Escobar, the Atlanta Braves' pitcher, to tie the game.

Escobar (0-1) relieved Pat Hentgen at the start of the inning with a 2-0 lead but gave up a two-out single to Pat Meares and Otis Nixon, then walked Matt Lawton.

Molitor fouled off several 3-2 pitches, then tripled off the glove of Felipe Cespino in left.

Eddie Guardado's 1-0 was the winner and Rick Aguilera got the save.

Rangers 20, White Sox 4

In Arlington, Texas, Juan Gonzalez's grand slam capped a 10-run, seventh-inning and Texas set a club record with 23 hits.

Five of the hits were homers, with Kevin Elster, Mike Simms, Ivan Rodriguez and Lee Stevens also homering for the Rangers, who scored their most runs since getting 26 against Baltimore on April 19, 1996.

SPORTS



Zimbabwe shocks Australia

MILDURA, Australia (AP) — Brothers Byron and Wayne Black led Zimbabwe to a shock victory over Australia on Sunday in the country's first appearance in the Davis Cup World Group.

The duo played all of the tie

and both won reverse singles contests Sunday after Australia led 2-1 following Friday's singles and Saturday's doubles.

Australia's U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter, beaten by Byron Black on Friday, with-

drew before the start of play Sunday because of a virus.

He was replaced by doubles specialist Mark Woodforde, who was beaten by Wayne Black, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4.

Byron Black then downed

Jason Stoltenberg 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to give the Africans a famous victory over last year's semifinalist.

"I'm still trying to take it all in right now," said an emotional Byron Black. "We came here not expecting too much — I think we did the impossible."

Australia ranks second behind

the United States for Davis Cup victories and was favored for an easy victory on its preferred grass courts.

"I want to cry right now," said Wayne Black. "It's just magic, magic."

Zimbabwe will play the winner of the Italy-India tie in the next round.



Brazilian players Jaime Oncins and Gustavo Kuerten react after winning the doubles match against Spanish players Alex Corretja and Javier Sanchez Saturday in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The Brazilian team defeated the Spanish team 6-1, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 Saturday to give Brazil a 2-1 lead in their first-round, Davis Cup World Group tie. AP

South Korea, Uzbekistan split Davis Cup openers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and Uzbekistan split the opening singles in the semifinals of Davis Cup's Asia-Oceania Group 1 competition in Seoul on Friday.

Vadim Kutsenko, 21, of Uzbekistan won the first singles match by defeating South Korea's national champion Yoon Yong-il 3-1 (4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2).

South Korea's No. 2 player Lee Hyung-taek took the other opening-day singles by beating Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov in straight sets (7-5, 6-2, 6-4).

Yoon, 24, will team up with national college champion Kim Dong-hyun, 19, to meet Uzbekistan's Ogorodov and Dmitri Tomashevich in the doubles match on Saturday.

Yoon will meet Ogorodov and Lee will take on Kutsenko in the reverse singles on Sunday.

Red Sox stop Athletics

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Mo Vaughn singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 6-3 for a season-opening two-game sweep.

Nomar Garciaparra had two hits, including an RBI single in the eighth. John Wasdin (1-0) got the win Thursday in relief of Tim Wakefield.

Kenny Rogers, acquired in an offseason trade with the New York Yankees, had control problems in his first start for Oakland. He walked five and hit a batter in 5 1-3 innings, allowing three runs and four hits.

Billy Taylor (0-1) relieved and got out of the sixth with the score 3-

all when first baseman Jason Giambi made a running catch of pinch-hitter Reggie Jefferson's pop foul, then wheeled to throw out Damon Buford at the plate.

But Garciaparra and John Valentin singled in the seventh and Vaughn singled off Buddy Groom for a 4-3 lead.

Jim Leyritz singled in another run later in the inning, and Garciaparra drove in a run in the eighth.

Tom Gordon pitched a perfect ninth for his second save. Wakefield, 12-15 last season, allowed three runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Devil Rays 7, Tigers 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Mike DiFelice tripled with the bases loaded

to break a seventh-inning tie and Tampa Bay became only the fifth expansion team to win its initial series.

Tampa Bay, which won two straight against the Tigers after losing the opener, joined Houston (1962), Kansas City (1969), San Diego (1969) and Toronto (1977) as the only expansion teams to finish their first series over .500.

Tony Saunders and Esteban Yan (1-0) combined on a five-hitter, with Yan getting his first major league win.

Yan pitched three hitless innings, striking out and walking two. Saunders, the first pick in the ex-

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US wins at World Cup Wrestling

STILLWATER, Oklahoma (AP) — The United States overcame an early deficit to beat Iran 16-12 and sweep its first three dual meets at the World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling.

After Iran won the first two matches, Cary Kolat started a run of four straight U.S. victories Saturday by beating world champion

Abbas Haji Kenari on a referee's decision at 138 3/4 pounds (67 kilos).

The United States led 13-12 going into the heavyweight match, and Tom Erikson secured the dual with a 3-0 overtime victory over Ali Reza Rezae.

"I think our team will come back and wrestle even better tomorrow against Russia," U.S. coach Mike McArthur said.

"If we are as ready tomorrow as we were today, I don't see us having much trouble."

The United States opened the tournament by beating Germany 20-8 getting a technical fall from San Henson at 119 pounds (54 kilos) and a fall from Lincoln McIlravy at 152 pounds (69 ki-

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IBF Welterweight challenger Mahange Zulu, from Zaire, is held up by the referee as he removes his mouthpiece after a knock-out punch by defending champion Felix "Tito" Trinidad from Puerto Rico 2:20 into the fourth round of the title fight held Friday in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. Trinidad ran his unbeaten record to 33-0 with 29 KOs. AP