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News & Views

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Cochran withdraws

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

JOHNNIE L. Cochran Jr. and his associate lawyer pulled out yesterday their application to be admitted as counsels for Kaelani Kinney in the heirship claim against Larry Hillbloom's \$450-million estate.

Cochran and Atty. Eric G. Ferrer, however, hinted they may reapply for admission to assist Kinney's son, Junior Larry Hillbloom, in his paternity suit.

Cochran and Ferrer submitted their withdrawal motion before the Superior Court through local counsel David A. Wiseman, a new member of Kinney's legal team.

The lower court issued an order last Aug. 5 temporarily holding the application of the two lawyers pending the outcome of a hearing on a

Noted O.J. Simpson lawyer calls Lujan 'childish'



Johnnie L. Cochran Jr.

motion filed by Hillbloom's grandmother, Naoko Imeong.

In his affidavit, the O.J. Simpson lead counsel cited David J. Lujan and the Family & Immigration Law Clinic as the reasons that prompted him to take back his application.

Cochran called Lujan "childish" and who is driven "by maniacal egocentricity to hold on to this case even to the detriment of Junior

(Hillbloom)."

"He (Lujan) has absolutely no idea of the work, effort, or skill that went into the O.J. Simpson case but he somehow feels competent to comment on it," Cochran said. "The quality of that work and the result speaks for itself and needs no further comment."

Cochran said although Lujan has no idea of the number of cases that

he has tried both criminal and civil over the past 33 years, the Guam lawyer implied he has more experience than him.

"All of this is reminiscent of some pre-pubescent challenge in a school yard and will not be dignified by me," he said. "What Mr. Lujan forgets is that I was not brought into this case at his behest nor did I need his blessings for the same."

Cochran said his job has never

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Congress may bring up delegate bill next month



Juan N. Babauta

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE BILL that would give the CNMI a non-voting delegate in Congress is not yet "dead," Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta said yesterday.

"(U.S. House Committee on Resources) Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) indicated that he was unhappy about the bill's defeat,

and that he will reintroduce the bill some future time, which is probably when Congress returns from its recess in September" Babauta said.

He said the prospect for the bill is still "very promising."

"As long as we have the support of key House Resources Committee members the issue is very much alive."

Babauta attributed the bill's defeat to Rep. George Miller's (D-California) statement to the committee alleging that the CNMI has not done anything to resolve its labor abuse problems.

Miller, according to Babauta, said the CNMI should not have a delegate because it continues to defy congressional calls for reform.

Representatives from predominantly labor-districts voted "No" with Miller, Babauta said.

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PIO: Palacios' methods almost led to litigation

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE LEGISLATORS believe former labor official Herman Palacios did a "job well done," but administration spokesperson Mark Broadhurst thinks otherwise.

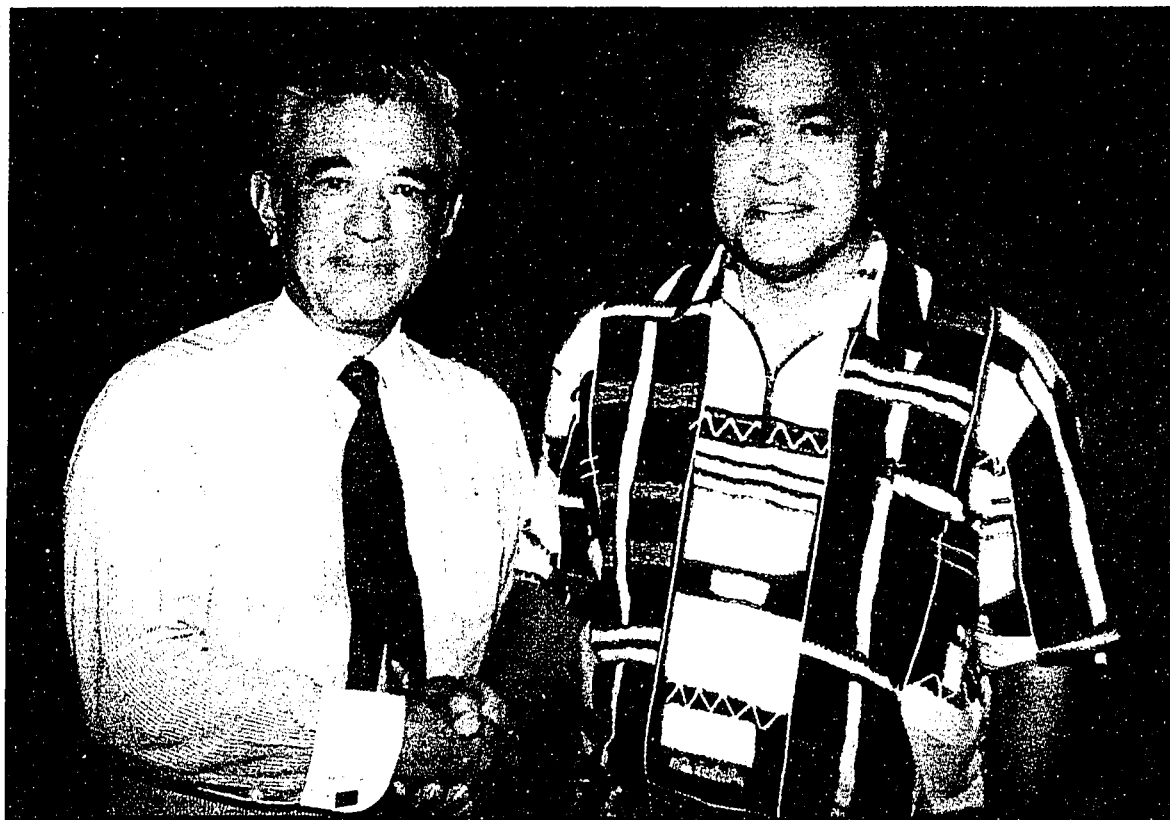
Broadhurst said Palacios almost invited constitutional suits when he was deputy secretary of the Department of Labor and Immigration.

"Some of the means (he employed) in tracking illegal aliens, and interrogating nonresident workers really challenged the Constitution," Broadhurst said.

"There was a potential for violation of rights provided in the CNMI Constitution and it was too much of risk for someone who is not a sworn officer of peace," Broadhurst added.

Palacios got the job a day after receiving a commendation for "a

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Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio shakes hands with visiting Member of Japanese Diet Masaaki Nakayama during a reception he hosted for the latter at the Coral Ocean Point Wednesday. The prominent Japanese member of Parliament was here on a two-day visit. (See story on page 3).

Retirement Fund says no to bill proposing increases in pensions



Edward H. Manglona

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund "strongly opposes" the passage of a bill that would increase the minimum pension for government retirees from \$6,000 to \$12,000, Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona said yesterday.

Manglona, in a letter to the bill's author, Rep. Crispin I.D.L. Guerrero (R-Saipan), said House Bill 10-275 proposes a flat dollar amount that "has no bearing on service or employee contributions."

Such a proposal invalidates a retirement system's primary purpose, which is "to fairly recognize" an employee's length of service, Manglona said.

He said raising the minimum pension would also cost the government an additional \$11.2 million each year.

The "unfunded accrued liability" would increase by \$96 million, which would bring the total to \$371 million.

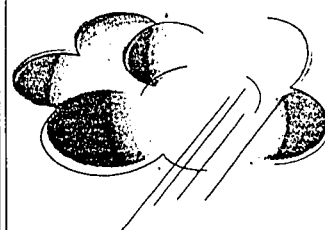
Although the bill would remove the cap on the number of licensed poker and pachinko machines, Manglona said "we do not see a surge in the number of machines to fully pay for the additional cost to be incurred."

To depend on the license fees for new poker and pachinko machines is a grave mistake, he said.

"We realize that you may have believed the funding provisions in the bill will prevent any increase in government cost or the unfunded

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Weather Outlook



Mostly cloudy with occasional showers

Clinton to overhaul welfare

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton is signing into law a historic overhaul of America's welfare system that compels welfare recipients to go to work and ends six decades of guaranteed cash assistance to the poor.

Keeping a centerpiece promise of his 1992 campaign to "end wel-

fare as we know it," the president is making new promises to create the jobs needed for the controversial new system to succeed.

The ceremony, in the Rose Garden of the White House Thursday, is the president's third effort in as many days to take the headlines away from Republican rival Bob Dole by giving a dramatic send-off

to high-profile legislation.

On Tuesday the president signed a bill raising the minimum wage, and on Wednesday he approved a new law that ends the practice of denying health insurance coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and ensures workers access to health insurance when they change jobs.

The welfare transformation ends a federal guarantee to the poor that has existed since the days of President Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s and 1940s. It was denounced by many erstwhile Clinton allies.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, called Clinton's action a "moment of shame ... the biggest betrayal of children and the poor."

The new welfare law is also opposed by Catholic bishops and urban groups. But it is expected to appeal to a broad range of moderate to conservative voters.

Clinton is considering a package of proposals intended to ease the burden on welfare recipients. It includes a possible tax break for companies that hire people off welfare rolls and a series of economic development ideas aimed at areas with large shares of welfare recipients.

The proposals will be unveiled next week at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as part of Clinton's list of initiatives and goals for a second White



Bill Clinton

House term.

Clinton twice vetoed Republican welfare proposals, denouncing them as "extremist" plans that would hurt children.

But he agreed to sign the third version, even though it contained provisions he opposed, including deep cuts in child nutrition programs and tough restrictions on granting welfare to legal aliens and their families.

Clinton vows to work to repeal these provisions if he wins a second term.

The new law ends the open-ended guarantee of aid to the poor, saving an estimated \$54 billion over six years.

It sets a lifetime limit of five years of welfare for each family. It requires all able-bodied adults to work after two years of welfare checks, but has a hardship escape hatch for up to 20 percent of recipients.

Under its terms, the states would take over management responsibilities, receiving federal block grants to run welfare programs, as well as authority to set most of the rules.

Standoff is big test for French gov't

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
PARIS (AP) - France's melting pot is near the boiling point.

Within the next few days, the government says it will decide how to end its high-stakes standoff with 300 illegal African immigrants, including 10 who began the 49th day of a hunger strike Thursday.

A cauldron of immigration laws and ethics has bubbled over into a full-fledged crisis for the conservative government of President Jacques Chirac.

If France deports the immigrants, as it has vowed to do, the world watches by the glare of television lights. If it lets them stay, the government loses credibility in its fight against illegals and 12.5 percent unemployment. The longer it does nothing, it risks being undermined by its own indecision.

And the far-right National Front, which has stirred up enough anti-immigrant sentiment to force Chirac to crack down on undocumented aliens, is losing patience.

"The government said its attitude was one of firmness. So why isn't anything happening?" Front secretary-general Bruno Gollnisch asked Wednesday on French television.

'Palacios estimate too high'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

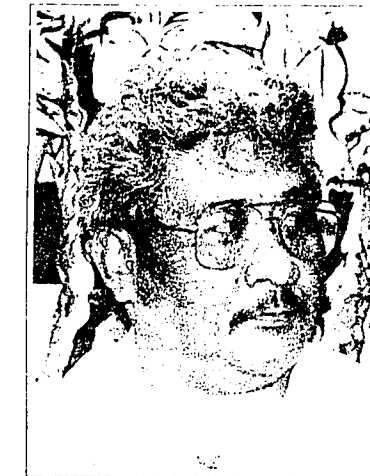
FORMER Labor official Herman Palacios "grossly overestimated" the number of illegal aliens in the CNMI, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas Sablan said yesterday. The figure, Sablan said, could only reach between 2,000 and 3,000.

Palacios warned Wednesday that the problem of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth continues to worsen "like a cancer that might soon go beyond our control."

He has said the number of illegal aliens could be estimated between 10,000 and 12,000.

"How did he come up with that figure when he always says that nobody in the labor and immigration department

Sablan says illegal aliens only 2,000 to 3,000



Thomas Sablan

knows the real number?" administration spokesperson Mark Broadhurst asked. "His estimate is grossly exaggerated."

Sablan, for his part, said immigration agents and investigators have been active in tracking down undocumented aliens.

"We get most of our information from calls, and we're happy that the public has been responsive to our calls for cooperation," Sablan said.

Many undocumented aliens, Sablan said, come to the department to seek amnesty.

Sablan admitted that the department presently does not have a record that would indicate the number of undocumented aliens, but identifying them, he said, would be easier "as soon as our computer system is fully implemented."

Broadhurst, meanwhile, said the resignation of Palacios did

not hamper the department's campaign against illegal aliens.

"The number of deportations continue to increase," Broadhurst said.

The presence of illegal aliens in the CNMI, Broadhurst said "is an important concern of this administration because our system is taxed by people who are staying here legally."



Herman Palacios

Tinian school opens today -- rain or shine

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

SCHOOL administrators will not allow weather to hamper anew the scheduled opening of Tinian High School today.

"Rain or shine, we will definitely open the school tomorrow," principal James Wedding said yesterday. "It's a long-awaited project. We can't wait another week."

Tinian students will go back to classes on Monday to start school year 1996-1997.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will start at 11 a.m.

If it rain, Wedding said, the ceremony will be held at the cafeteria.

The school facility was originally scheduled to open last Tuesday, but bad weather forced the postponement of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new school is located across the campus that has been shared by Tinian High, and Tinian Elementary/Junior High.

Coinciding with the Tinian event is another ribbon-cutting ceremony for Koblerville Elementary School's new perimeter fence and newly paved campus road.

3 juveniles steal car

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THREE teenaged boys were arrested for allegedly stealing a car in Garapan Wednesday morning.

Acting Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said arrested for theft were boys aged 14, 15, and 16.

Babauta said a man and his family got off from their car in a parking lot and went inside an apartment in Garapan.

The man then noticed that the car was gone, prompting him to seek police assistance.

The police later spotted the vehicle driven by the arrestees travelling north-

ward along Beach Road in Susupe.

In other police report, a fire of unknown cause hit the former Saipan Cable TV building in San Jose Wednesday night.

Firefighters immediately extinguished the blaze which reportedly burned the bathroom of the abandoned building.

In Susupe, burglars broke again into the cafeteria of the Marianas High School Wednesday morning.

Police said the responsible, however, did not steal anything, but only ate the foods inside the refrigerator.

The cafeteria was recently burglarized and some items, including a wristwatch, were taken away.



Vehicles pass by a flooded portion of Beach Road near Susupe. Heavy rains all throughout yesterday morning and afternoon flooded low-lying areas.

Buckle-up Saipan

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio is establishing contacts with a prominent member of Japanese parliament hoping to get support for a planned retirement housing complex in the CNMI.

In an interview during a reception he hosted Wednesday evening in honor of Member of Japanese Diet Masaaki Nakayama, Tenorio said he was assured by the visiting Japanese official of some backing on the governor's plans for a Silvertown retirement complex on Saipan.

"We were talking to him about the Silvertown concept. Some investors would put up housing complexes including hospitals and clinics for senior citizens who have money and who would want to retire over here," said Tenorio.

According to the governor, the ministry Nakayama once headed has several programs that could be helpful to his plans.

Tenorio has long been planning to offer Saipan to the Japanese as a retirement destination, especially for the upscale market. Currently, Japan is the biggest source of tourists for the CNMI.

In his meeting with Nakayama, Tenorio said he was assured by the visiting lawmaker of help in his retirement complex plan.

"He (Nakayama) said he is going to talk to one of his former secretaries to see whether funding could be used to help us in promoting that kind of development over here. I think there is room in there for them to help us," said Tenorio.

Nakayama, a member of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, arrived Wednesday for a two-day good-

will visit with some of his supporters from Hirakata City.

The Japanese lawmaker was former Minister of Post and Communication and Minister of General Affairs.

One of Nakayama's assistants, Mr. Miyazaki, is a member of the Governor's Economic Council of Advisers, a panel of local and Japanese business experts that helps the governor on the policy and advisory levels.

Mike Imai, a member of the Council, said Nakayama's visit makes a strong impact as far as goodwill is concerned.

"He's a very powerful congressman in Japan. His visit is good for promotion, good for investment and good for the relationship between Japan and the CNMI," said Imai.

"Before, we don't have a channel for the governor to meet with

Prime Minister Hashimoto. But through Mr. Nakayama, that can be a possibility," said Imai.

Meeting over lunch Wednesday, the governor said he and Nakayama also touched on some of the financial assistance Japan is providing to foreign countries as Palau, FSM and the Marshall.

"He acknowledged that because of our relationship with the US, they could not give us money. I suggested ways for them to do it and is for the money to be channeled through a foundation or some kind of organization or association. We'll be glad to take it," said Tenorio.

"These people, they're concerned about the safety of their citizens here and so they like to help us in that area."

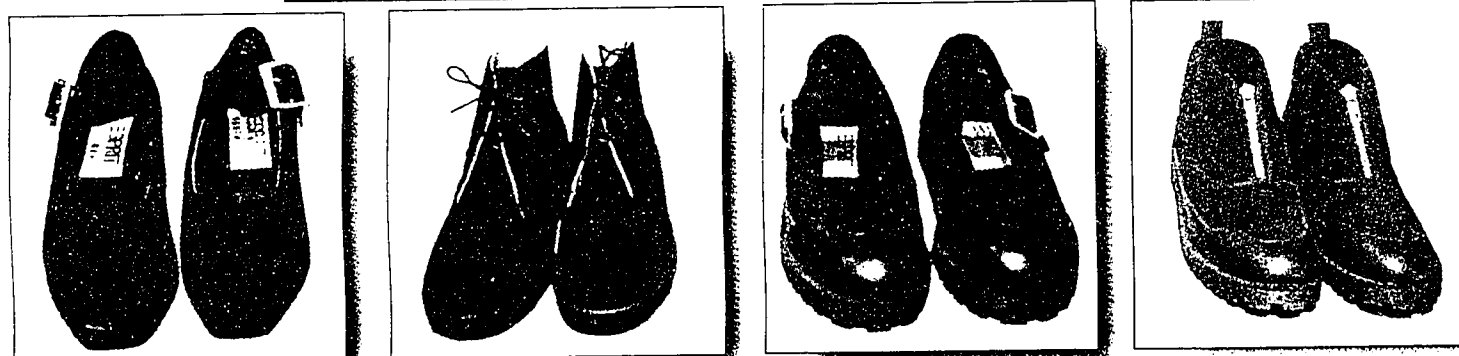
For example, Tenorio said Japanese officials feel that the Saipan

government must provide more police officers in hotel row and that at one time, they were concerned about the quality of water here.

"So they want to give us money to improve our water so their people won't get sick when they go here. Same thing with the sewer system. They are very concerned and I am glad because if somebody gets sick because of cholera or whatever, that may be the end of our tourism industry over here," said Tenorio.

"These are areas that with his connections, we can hope address and I talked to him about our problems. Earlier, he asked me if I have met Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, I told him I haven't. So I don't know whether there is a plan for me to meet with him," said the governor.

ESPRIT SHOE SALE This Weekend



Chadwick Was \$94.00 Now \$55.00
Duchess/Suede Was \$75.00 Now \$55.00
Madison Was \$52.00 Now \$35.00
Ralph/Suede Was \$57.00 Now \$35.00



Windsor Was \$75.00 Now \$52.00
Esprit Men's Suede Was \$138.00 Now \$96.60
Esprit Men's Leather Was \$136.00 Now \$95.20

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EDITORIAL

Gung-ho approach needed

THE STATEMENTS made by former Congressman and Labor official Herman T. Palacios after being honored by his former colleagues at the Legislature struck a raw nerve within the Administration.

He touched on the very sensitive subject of labor reform, the very issue that is the focus of US scrutiny and attention over the last six years.

Minutes after getting a pat on the back for his exploits as deputy secretary of labor and immigration, Palacios told the media he believes there is a growing number of illegals out there and that something as drastic as his methodology is needed to root out the problem.

The remark got the Administration howling in disagreement, with no less than two top ranking officials scrambling with a response.

First, Sec. Thomas O. Sablan, his former boss, attacked Palacios' figures, saying there is no way that the number of illegal aliens climb close to 10,000. Some 2,000 to 3,000 is the better figure, says the good DOLI secretary.

On the other hand, Public Information Officer and official Froilan Tenorio spokesman Mark Broadhurst also came out smoking with a response, apparently not one to pass on a good chance to refute a perceived Administration critic.

Palacios was no hero, he said adamantly, despite the praises from the legislative branch.

Broadhurst clarified that Palacios could have even caused trouble for the CNMI government, in the form of constitutional infractions, due to his gung-ho style of tracking and apprehending overstaying aliens.

True, Palacios' means of achieving his ends may have been too drastic and that he could have invited costly human rights litigation.

But the question that needs to be asked is whether such a risk is worth taking.

From indications, the problem of illegal aliens is something that can wholly be solved only through extraordinary means. How could the law catch up with illegal aliens when most of the time these people conveniently take on the constitutional cloak so as to escape the long arm of the law.

It seems that the Legislature in applauding Palacios was more for a pragmatic approach than a legal one.

They wanted to see results, and Palacios methods may have shown that. As if to say that he was correct all along, the former lawmaker then surmised—the number of illegal aliens have ballooned.

In this regard, the response from both Sablan and Broadhurst is understandable. Palacios' statements could be an uncanny manifestation that the whole reform effort is a failure. Considering that the CNMI government has been riding the crest of labor reform, it is imperative for the Administration to defend its labor reform record, everytime it goes challenged here or in the national government.

One must remember that the federal government and US Congress has been always on our backs on this particular issue and we have long argued substantial progress has been achieved.

Losing handle on this issue is detrimental to the CNMI in as much as impression is all that counts.

So even if Palacios has long been counted down and out, it seems the Administration had to grapple for an answer to his tirades.

For how could the Administration go on claiming progress in reforming the labor system when there are thousands of illegal aliens still lurking behind closed barracks doors and hiding behind constitutional protections, as Palacios points out.

Nevertheless, Palacios confidence that the problem is still far from being solved should make the department more vigilant in its efforts to find solutions to the problems.

A concerted effort no less is needed. A better way, a tougher approach against illegals, should be employed if only to silence this plaque-bearing critic.

He had a view of the problem and thinks he was doing better. It should now be up to the other officials to prove there is a more proper formula than his.

Otherwise, Mr. Palacios will continue to be held as a hero while the Administration the opposite.



When we are our own worst enemy!

I've read so much about American fear of Chinese competition in the regional or local market place. The question that comes to mind is whether such fear is real or perceived and whether justice is served by pointing our fingers at the wrong people. Why risk ruining healthy business competition by turning it unnecessarily into a racial issue?

Who do we blame for the survival or demise of businesses who can't fathom the rigorous requirements of competition from within?

We all are privy to news accounts of how an American Company (K-Mart) has given traditional business establishments on Guam a run for their money. I'm sure some must have shut down as a result of complacency, therefore, the lack of preparation for the new reality in the market place. It's a vicious cycle and only those who have kept abreast with shifts in the market place will be poised take advantage of what's ahead regardless of the color of your skin.

It is encouraging, however, how traditional establishments have retained marketing specialists to explore how they could secure their share of profit out of the same dollar. They had to make the necessary changes to stay their ground in what has become a highly competitive market. The net result is a reduction in prices of basic food commodities, a plus to consumers. None has the luxury to court complacency. Otherwise, K-Mart would simply breeze through it all and corner the entire market. Yes, K-Mart's entry into the business community on Guam has brought competition to a new level, a level that also meant you either do your homework or watch your own demise.

Therefore, it was competition from a huge American food chain that has jerked complacency among island businesses in a market it had taken for granted for nearly five decades. It had nothing to do with the Chinese, Japanese or Korean businessman. K-Mart is huge and orders food commodities and other items in large volumes. Therefore, its price for most items are well below what other merchants have been or are selling. This enables it to move its inventory off the shelves quicker than most other establishments. If I may reiterate, it had nothing to do with slid eyes, pigmentation or creed. It is pure competition, no more, no less.

If there's anything universal about consumer behavior, it is the fact that they really don't care

about the politics of world or regional trade or country of origin of consumable products. They want quality products with prices which falls within the range of their hard earned dollar. They'd buy it whether it is made in the USA, Japan, Taiwan, China, Australia or the Philippines a combination of components from all these countries. They are deaf and blind to the politics of global trade when it comes down to their pocketbooks. For all we know, the American car we drive is comprised of parts that are made separately in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Australia, and China. It goes without saying that traditional production has been transformed into sole-sourcing all aimed at reducing the cost of production per unit of consumable products. In short, manufacturing and trade has become a global matter and knows no philosophical or religious beliefs.

If you will, China, a sleeping giant, has awakened. It is up and around trying to feel its way in the several trading blocks at the global village. The industrial west has found out that with 100 Million up and coming affluent Chinese out of a population of 1.2 billion people, it can no longer use such lofty excuses as "human rights abuses" against a sovereign country whose Confucian culture is far removed and unique from that of Anglo-Saxons. In short, how do you teach an Irish American to be Chinese? In other words, we simply must learn to respect the "ways" of others. Until we do so, there never will be true partnership in attending to the task of meeting the needs of the entire global population, a single most challenging task in the next millennium.

Interesting that major American companies have sought ways to enter the Chinese market to capture a portion of the billions of dollars in auto and airline manufacturing. I am sure they never considered that it was China they'd be dealing with. It's profit motive, economics and the opportunity to take a portion of the billions of projects in that country. The only way they could be allowed to engage in business is when they (American Companies) agree to establish more factories there, transferring precious technology and skills. China expects to spend some \$185 billion on commercial aircrafts over the next 20 years.

This phenomenon, however, also meant that some 500,000 US industrial workers will lose their jobs. A study by the liberal Economic Policy Institute in Washington predicts that over the next four years, 250,000 more jobs in the US aerospace industry alone will be lost to China. Boeing has no choice in this case given that China will spend about \$185 billion in aircraft manufacturing over the next two decades. Well we can't blame China for such a grand opportunity "to defend the interests of some American shareholders over the interests of some American workers".



Zaldy Dandan

Mari Mar, aaaiii!

PHILIPPINE TV's most popular show today is a Mexican soap opera dubbed into Filipino.

An uncharacteristically gushing Associated Press calls the show's star, a Philippine national obsession who has "hit" the country "with the force of a typhoon in the current monsoon season."

The show's star is as irresistible as the urge to spill cliches?

Based on the ratings, however, it seemed that the Filipino TV audience has really been blown away like never before.

In an entertainment scene usually dominated by all things U.S., *Mari Mar's* popularity among the same people who used to go gaga over *Dallas*, *Knots Landing* and *Dynasty* is really quite something.

It also tells a lot about the Filipino's, well, *weltanschauung*, one that James Fallows in his *Looking at the Sun* pointed out, sanctimoniously at that, as a symptom of a "damaged culture." (Reminds me of a rapist who, when told he has to marry his victim, said he won't because she's no longer a virgin.) Though that's another story.

The titillating Thalia, *Mari Mar's* 23-year old star, visited Manila recently and was hailed by President Ramos as "the modern bridge" between the Philippines and Mexico.

Thalia, probably still dazed by the ceaseless flashing of cameras that has hounded her since arriving in Manila, even received a history lesson from the president on the Galleon trade between Mexico and the Philippines that lasted for two centuries.

During that same period, the Philippines was actually ruled by the Spaniards through Mexico, which was also another Spanish colony at that time.

Two hundred years later and a vavavoomish-looking woman has seemingly reestablished Mexican domination, at least on prime time TV.

The last time a non-U.S. program was this popular was during 1978-79 when such Japanese cartoons as *Voltes V*, *Mazinger Z*, *Mekanda Robot*, *Daimos*, *UFO-Grendaizer* were supreme—or so we fifth graders thought at that time.

However, from what I've seen during my vacation back home, and from what I'm now reading from Manila news stories, *Mari Mar's* popularity is indeed unheard of.

It's almost like an epidemic outbreak.

Says an AP report: "People leave work early to watch her. Parents name their girls after her. Authorities told the power company to make sure there are no blackouts while she's on. And a Manila man gave his life for her, stabbed because he wouldn't change the channel."

Some two months after *Mari Mar* was launched last March, kids can already be heard singing snatches from the show's bouncy Latin-flavored theme song, which is in Spanish.

A congressman recently cited the show in a bill to "strengthen" the artistic and technical quality of Filipino films and telemovies.

And as those of you who have it on cable TV realize by now, the once proud and haughty ABS-CBN had to do some reformatting of its programs. Its hour-long *TV Patrol* was cut to 30 minutes and its team of five newscasters reduced to one. In what has turned out to be a failed attempt to clash head on with Thalia's resplendence, ABS-CBN pulled out its four-year old local soap drama *Mara Clara* from the afternoon prime time slot and placed it on the same time slot as *Mari Mar's*.

And of course, Manila's op-ed writers continue to turn out "analyses" on why the show has managed to reschedule the lives of millions of Filipinos just so they could watch it from 6:30 to 7:30 in the evening.

Mari Mar's plot is classic soap material. A poor, naive beautiful young woman wronged by the cruel rich turns out to be the only daughter of a dying multi-millionaire. Now monied, sophisticated and more ravishing than ever, the heroine sets out for revenge and, in the process, will win back her beau, debonair and rich, of course, though somewhat stupid.

But like most soap operas in the Philippines, *Mari Mar* has the same flat cinematography, the same ridiculous dialogue, over acting actors and unbelievable plot situations.

So why do we—for I have seen it myself and only a pre-announced apocalypse could have pried me off the TV—why do we love it?

Mainly because it's fast-paced; first aired last March, it is scheduled to end in October. And every female actor seems straight out of a Ms Universe semi-finals. All usually dressed in tight-fitting clothes with generous, god-bless-the-fashion-world, skirt slits.

Unlike the local cry-till-you-get-dry soaps, *Mari Mar's* opening credits feature that salsaesque theme song—"Mari Mar, aaaiii! una poca de gracia whatever—which plays on while Thalia emerges from the sea ala Venus, glistening skin dripping with sea water, topless, her chest unfortunately covered by her arms.

How can you possibly beat that with a tearjerker orphan-out-to-look-for-her-parents soap with a hand-me-the-bag theme song?

As it is, Philippine television will have to reassess its programming strategies. ABS-CBN is already airing a 1992 soap for which Thalia won two best actress awards. And there are talks of a movie pairing her with the popular Filipino actor Richard Gomez who, let me be clear on this, is *not* my twin.

So. Anyone newly-arrived from Manila who had the good sense to bring along some *Mari Mar* video tapes?

CORRECTION: In last week's column, the paragraph that begins with "A disappointed Zhirinovsky responded with a letter that says," should have continued "among other things..." instead of "among others..." Anyone selling whips out there?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reyes writes on weird encounters

Dear Editor:
Kindly publish this letter.

As legislators and public servants, we are expected to be thick-skinned because receiving criticism, both fairly and unfairly, is part of our job. We have trained ourselves to survive in a world full of contradictions, because, politics after all, is the pillar of not only contradictions, but controversies. Many times, we are exposed to the most strange and ridiculous circumstances which will drive other people nuts, yet we manage to squeeze out, rescue ourselves, and end up sane, and not in some mental asylum walking around like chicken with no head.

Over the past several weeks, I personally experienced some weird encounters, and perhaps some of you have as well.

First to appear was Mr. Tomas Concepcion, a self-proclaimed expert of our Chamorro history who said that we evolved from an ancestry of cotton-picking thieves who ransacked Magellan's cholera infested ship on its way to the Philippines. I believed that Mr. Concepcion was generalizing about the entire Mariana Islands, including Guam.

But I guess he was cockeyed from too much booze; so true to the definition of a drunk. Mr. Concepcion knew what he was saying and what he would be getting into. Frankly, he didn't give a damn what he said or did.

Well, I took strong exception to that imbecile's remarks, because I am a Chamorro and to label us as thieves and of a low culture is an insult to our ancestors and an affront to us as a people, as Chamorros. I stand to condemn Mr. Concepcion, and I want the record to show that I do not associate his remarks with the thousands of his countrymen residing in the CNMI who have had to hold their heads to the ground as a sign of remorse and apology for the rash and irresponsible statement made by Mr. Concepcion. We should not blame the Filipinos who are living with us here for Mr. Concepcion's mental breakdown. Instead, we must help each other to condemn Mr. Concepcion through official channels with the Philippine government and the organizations that M r.

Concepcion is associated with.

Then, there is Mr. Ecret. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the fiber optic project, and specifically, certain statements made by Mr. Ecret, the governor's advisor for telecommunications.

I'm concerned about the tremendous miscommunication on this issue. However, I'm happy H.B.10-226 has been signed into law and this matter can finally be put to rest because of so much double-talk going on. During the meeting with GST and MTC at the House Chamber, Mr. Ecret made a statement on the record that GTE Hawaiian Tel was granted an exclusive right to lay its undersea cable in the State of Hawaii and that the moratorium on the installation of other undersea fiber optic cables was also granted. As a result of that statement, I requested verification and received a letter from Mr. Yukio Naito (Chairman of the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission), dated March 8, 1996, indicating that the "Commission has not granted GTE Hawaiian Tel any exclusive right to lay its undersea cable". In other words, GTE Hawaiian Tel is required to compete openly. Again Mr. Ecret was caught lying. In an effort to further confuse the issue, Mr. Ecret announced through the media that MTC does not have the FCC authority needed to lay its cable. He confuses the issue by saying MTC just filed a public notice for an FCC 214 permit and that is what MTC needed to use the fiber optic cable. Again, verification directly from Mr. Troy F. Tanner, Chief, Policy & Facilities Branch, Telecommunications Division wrote "Because the authorization" from the CNMI Government delayed construction of the cable, the 36 month construction period requirement of Section 63.05 of the Commission's Rules did not begin until this necessary authorization was received. In addition, as of June 13, 1996, Section 63.05 has been amended to remove the construction period requirement for all international facility construction. Therefore, there is no longer an expiration date to the above-referenced cable landing license and Section 214 authorization of MTC". Mr. Bill Santos on his June 28, 1996 letter to the Senate and the House expressed sur-

prise that Mr. Ecret continues to confuse the issue. Whether intentional or not, this information is incorrect and misleading. Again, Mr. Ecret is caught lying. On one day Mr. Ecret told the House members that the administration will support the removal of the three-year moratorium for GST. Then on the next day he said the opposite to the Senate. On another instance, Mr. Ecret confirmed that Mr. Juan S. Tenorio did not fully understand Ecret's proposal on the establishment of the telecommunication commission featured on the April 15, 1996 Marianas Variety's front page story entitled: "Ecret's proposal for a new telecom Commission nixed". In fact, he hinted to enlist my assistance to introduce legislation to undermine Mr. Juan S. Tenorio's position on the establishment of the Commission. Because I agreed with Mr. Tenorio, I wanted no part of his request.

I also want to expound on Mr. Ecret's recent remarks where he was making pre-determined positions that MTC will not be granted approval to lay their cable in CNMI waters. I want to caution Mr. Ecret that we are governed by laws, not men, and the law is clear.

If MTC complies with all the necessary regulations, they cannot be denied access or right-of-way under the law by anyone. Mr. Ecret, in making those statements, may have acted outside the scope of his employment and could be personally liable in damages if MTC ends being denied the opportunity to proceed with their project and sues the government. So, Mr. Speaker, contrary to what Ecret says to the news media, they just simply cannot obstruct the clear rights of

anyone, or any party such as MTC, under the law.

Then finally comes Senator Frank Murkowski: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words about remarks recently made by Senator Frank Murkowski, the illustrious chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, you and some other CNMI government officials were in the Senate hearing when Senator Murkowski belittled our island government by practically scolding us like little kids threatening us to get out

Continued on page 46

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE PRESIDENTIAL OLYMPICS...



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•Commentary

English only? No way, Jose!

By Mark C. Goniwiecha
For the Variety

The English-only movement has gained momentum nationally in the last decade. But although English-only laws have been approved in numerous U.S. states, such laws constitute an infringement, abridgement and denial of our First Amendment rights.

The current legislation, approved August 1 in the U.S. House of Representatives, and now in process in the Senate, is only contemptible election-year pandering by political prostitutes in high places.

The bill is unlikely to make it through the more reasonable Senate, and besides, President Clinton has suggested that he might veto it if it arrives on his desk in the form passed in the House.

The First Amendment to the U.S. constitution guarantees Americans freedom of speech and of the press, the rights to speak and print. These rights are part of our intellectual freedom.

The complex intellectual process intertwines daydreaming, imagining, remembering, planning, projecting, speaking, verbalizing, articulating, praying, reading, writing, drawing, painting, composing, playing, sculpting—the creative process continuum that makes us human beings.

These processes involve words, and each of us uses words in our own language. We have the right to think before we speak, just as we have the right to read what is printed. These "corollary" rights, which the U.S. Supreme Court has inferred from the

First Amendment, are established in case law.

The language which a person speaks most comfortably, one's first or native language, is the language used in conceptualizing, dreaming and thinking. Constraints on use of any individual's language represent an abridgement or denial of that person's intellectual freedom.

The attempts by the governments of Spain, Japan, and then the United States to force the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands to change their language constituted repressive censorship.

When more than 15 states approved English-only laws, those voters and legislators tried to abridge the intellectual freedom of their neighbors.

English-only laws make it unlawful for governments to spend public monies on materials or services in languages other than English, such as ballots and voting instructions, bilingual and multicultural educational services, school counseling and library materials, public transit and social services.

In one jurisdiction in Florida, an English-only law was misconstrued with a perverted policy which forbade children from speaking Spanish on the school bus! English-only laws are racist, discriminatory and intolerant.

They constitute censorship! Alien immigrants are not the only Americans who speak languages other than English. In many parts of the United States, there are indigenous Americans whose first language is not

This op-ed piece contributed by Mr. Goniwiecha touches on a proposed legislation currently being hotly debated in US Congress. The views of the author are solely his and does not reflect those of the Variety and its editorial staff.-Ed.

English, such as Native American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts, Puerto Ricans, Samoans, Hawaiians and Chamorros. Even second- or third-generation descendants of immigrants, such as some Hispanic Americans, European Americans and Asian Americans, speak the language of their ancestors at home and in church, then learn English later in school and at work.

Obviously, it is in the best interest of every American to learn English for personal enrichment, economic improvement, career advancement and civic and political involvement. Legislation to make English the official U.S. language is unnecessary because the great majority of Americans already speaks English. Immigrants learn English with time and toil, and research shows that, by the second or third generation, immigrant families assimilate into the melting pot. Use of the English language is not threatened! Americans who feel threatened by newcomers who speak other languages are truly insecure and intellectually impoverished. Those people ought to study another language, or help an immigrant learn English.

In a nation of immigrants, English-only laws are divisive, mean-spirited and unneighborly. Such laws encour-

age bashing the underdogs. Linguistic pluralism helps ethnic groups to retain their language, culture, customs and cuisine during the difficult acculturation period.

When would-be leaders be little multilingualism, as Senator Robert Dole did when he addressed the American Legion convention in September 1995, it mortifies me.

I am proud that Congressman Robert Underwood was named the "Citizen of the Year" by the National Association for Bilingual Education in March 1996. When Dr. Underwood speaks against ridiculous language proposals on the floor of Congress, and works to exempt indigenous languages, he reminds lawmakers that citizens in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Samoa, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, and other American jurisdictions may speak English second. His efforts reflect well on him and his constituents. It's a good message for Guam to send and one that America needs to hear.

Goniwiecha, associate professor of library science at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, University of Guam, serves as Guam Library Association's representative to the Council of the American Library Association.

PSS eyes phonic instruction

*Funds allocated for
10 elementary schools*

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System has allocated a total of \$73,635 for 10 elementary schools to cover the costs of materials needed for the new instructional system adopted recently by the Board of Education.

The new system called phonic-based instruction will be used in early reading intervention programs.

"The additional instruction shall be the reading component of after school programs, tailored to the special needs of kindergarten through third grade students," PSS Commissioner William Torres said in a memorandum issued yesterday.

The implementation of the phonic-based instruction is part of the PSS program called "War for Literacy 1996-1997."

Torres has instructed the Instructional Division to provide technical assistance to schools in implementing and assessing the impact of the phonic-based instruction.

The allocated funds will be distributed among elementary schools of

GTC, Tanapag, Garapan, San Vicente, Oleai, WSR, San Antonio, Koblerville, Tinian and Rota.

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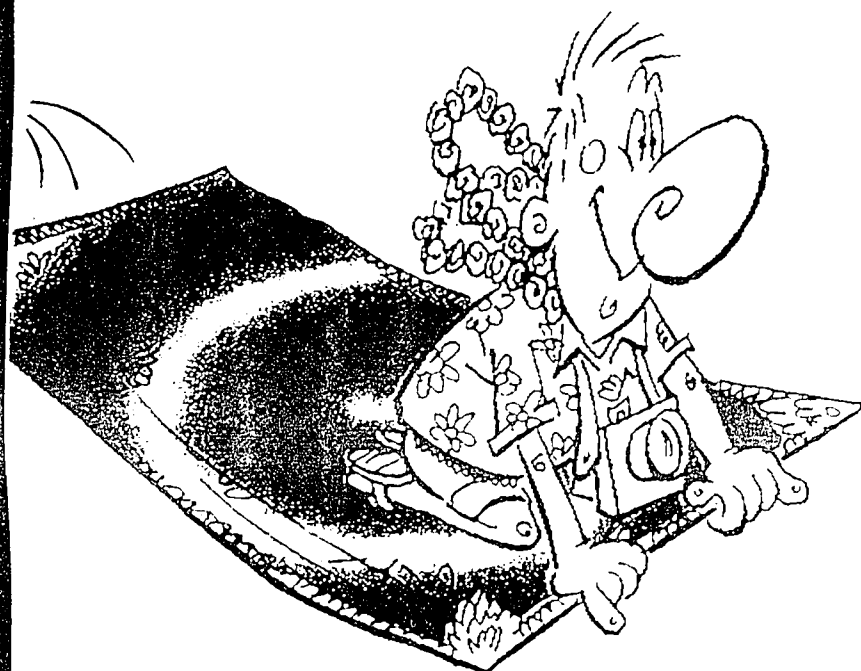
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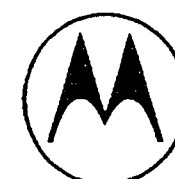
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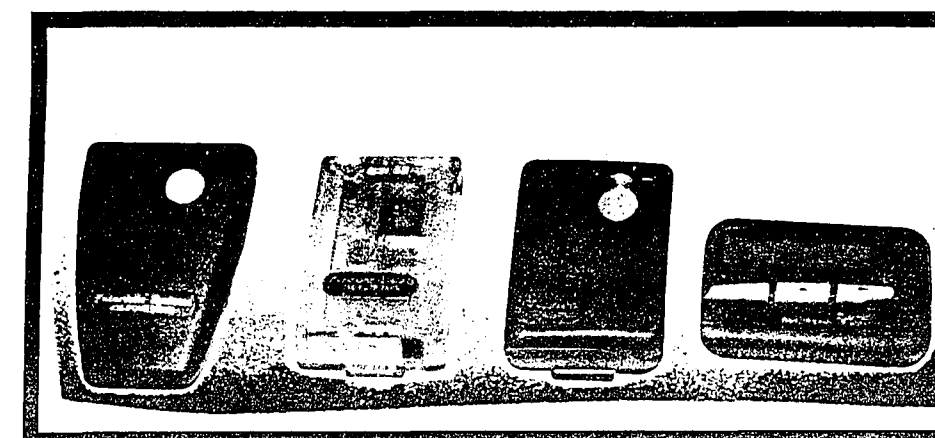
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Can tourism 'replace' garments?

THE PERSONAL views expressed here-in are those of the author alone and may not necessarily represent those of the Marianas Variety, the government or the private business sector.

By William H. Stewart
Economist

Forecasting is very difficult espe-

A look into effect of possible departure of factories

cially if its about the future. For this reason, he who earns a living by a crystal ball learns to eat ground glass.

I would like to pose a hypothetical question - "what number of additional tourist arrivals over

those recorded in 1995 would be needed in the Commonwealth to make up the revenues lost as a result of the possible departure of the garment industry?"

The question is quite complicated. In order to arrive at an

estimate one must first evaluate the contribution to the economy of both the garment industry and the tourism sector. To decide which of these sectors to evaluate first is a little like trying to determine which side of a slice of bread to butter. The industry assessment is particularly difficult since the "multiplier effect" of the garment sector's expenditures within the Commonwealth economy must be determined. This multiplier is described below.

In 1992, I made a study of the garment industry based on a questionnaire which was sent to each firm requesting their voluntary cooperation in providing data relative to expenditures within the economy. They were informed that no individual information would ever be divulged as it related to the identity of a particular firm. Only an aggregate reflecting the totals for each question would be revealed. Their combined replies provide some indication of the magnitude of this sector's contribution to the economy.

Using these 1992 data to evaluate the multiplier effect together with the most recent wage and salary information ('94) and the most recent revenue generated by the user's fee placed on the declared export value of garments at 3.5 percent for only a portion of FY 1995, the user fees paid by the industry totaled \$13.9 million.

Additionally, it appears that approximately \$110.4 million circulates through the economy, a portion of which is fugitive as "leakage", or that amount that leaves after the first round of local expenditures has been placed in circulation by the industry as local payments for such items as: insurance premiums, bank charges, water, power and sewer charges, housing and barracks expenses, food costs for employees, land lease payments, telecommunications, sea and air freight in and out of the CNMI, fuel purchases, building maintenance costs, local employee transportation, charity contributions, and so on. The "leakage" out of the economy includes employee remittances abroad from their wages, air tickets, equipment replacement, raw material purchases, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (OSHA), fines, etc., (more about OSHA later).

It has been estimated that approximately \$21.8 million in payments are made to the government in one form or another such as: the Business Gross Revenue Tax, (BGRT) on manufactured products sold within the CNMI, user's fees, (a form of export tax), payroll taxes, immigration, hospital, vehicle registration fees, land lease payments and excise fees on imported material to mention the more significant payments. Approximately 27,100 additional visitors should generate expenditures in the economy equal to this amount.



Bill Stewart

The multiplier effect of the garment industry as it relates to only the "first round" of their total annual expenditures within the economy is quite large. We have no way of knowing the dispersion of the "second round", that is the expenditures in the economy by the recipients of payments for such items as: land lease expenditures, food purchases, etc., and after that - the "third round" - and so on. The recipient of each round of income presumably pays the BGRT on his or her income received.

On the tourism side of the equation, the Marianas Visitors Bureau estimates that the average daily expenditure of the tourist which arrives by air is \$230 per day per person with an average length of stay of 3.5 days or \$805 per person per stay. This is probably conservative. It should be kept in mind that while the expenditure of \$805 is taxable on the part of those businesses that receive the visitor's money, it is not, however, tax revenue, for that we have to take 5 percent of the first round expenditure as the BGRT, or \$40.25 per visitor stay. This amount (\$805) also has a multiplier effect as it passes through the economy, up and down, in and out of various businesses each of which pays 5 percent BGRT on the income received as the expenditure passes from one business to another. This can best be illustrated when a visitor rents a vehicle, the vehicle needs fuel, the service station that provides the fuel has employees to pay, the employee must purchase food, the food store must purchase power, the utility agency must purchase oil - and on and on, in and out, up and down the multiplier effect moves through the economy generating income for a variety of businesses always paying the BGRT at each level. It is very difficult to determine the actual effect of the multiplier but sooner or later the money leaves the Commonwealth as the food store orders a resupply of inventory, the utility agency reorders fuel, etc., almost all items purchased outside the Commonwealth and thus imported. At which point the imported item, if they are to be resold, starts the cycle all over again. The whole thing is like the "Generalized Iceberg Theorem" which states, "seven eighths of everything can't

Can...

Continued from page 8

be seen."

In 1994, (the most recent year for which data are available), the total reported business gross revenue for all sectors of the economy was \$1.5 billion at which time imports equaled \$513.7 million. Economists refer to this sometimes as "leakage." But not all leakage is detrimental as a portion of this fugitive money has a positive effect as it is used to purchase and resupply additional inventory for sale to island consumers.

Assuming in the future that the visitor's average daily expenditure per person per day, and the average length of stay of 3.5 days, remains equal to that estimated for 1995, then 17,300 visitors (an increase of 2.7 percent of the 1995 air arrivals) will generate \$13.9 million in visitor expenditures and 137,100 visitors (an increase of 21.2 percent over 1995) will generate approximately \$110.4 million. This further assumes that additional hotel rooms will be available to accommodate this increase in arrivals. In 1995 the Commonwealth recorded 646,550 air arrivals and the hotel inventory consisted of 3,560 rooms. To accommodate the additional visitors another 1,660 rooms will be required at which time the total annual visitor expenditures have been estimated at approximately \$630.9 million. Assuming an average annual hotel occupancy of 80 percent we can expect an average daily tourist population of 7,500.

Some may not have given it much thought, but in terms of the average daily population of the Commonwealth in 1995, the garment industry required some 5,000 employees per day and the hotel industry an equal number. The 5,000 garment workers is more or less constant, however, the hotel industry, by the very nature of the industry, generates an average of another 6,100 persons, (we call them tourists) on island on any given day. So, in terms of generating population, the score is: garment industry - 5,000 versus the hotel industry - 11,100.

The tourist multiplier issue is further complicated by the use of coupons which are purchased in Japan in yen and later redeemed at a particular business for goods or services provided in the CNMI and then remitted back to Japan at some point. The extent to which coupons are used in the Commonwealth is unknown, (unless you are in the coupon business).

The above is a cursory review of a very complex issue and is provided as being "indicative" only. It should be realized that should the garment industry ever leave the Commonwealth for whatever reason, their departure will have an adverse economic impact on certain sectors of the economy which additional tourist arrivals will not entirely alleviate since the symbiotic relationship of the garment industry to certain business sectors is not comparable to the relationship the tourist sector has with its counter-

parts. In other words, the relationship of the garment industry to their local suppliers is not the same as that of the tourist sector and its interlocking business relationships. For example, in terms of the garment industry, bank charges, hospital fees, land lease payments, etc., would be foregone. The industry's departure will result in a significant modification and restructuring of the Commonwealth's economy.

In summary, it is estimated that an additional 17,300 visitors would be required to generate the income needed to cover the \$13.9 million in user fees, (total annual visitors of 663,800); another 6,300 visitors to equal the \$5.1 million paid in wage and salary taxes, (total visitors 670,150) and 137,100 additional visitors needed to generate income equal to the total estimated garment contribution to the economy of \$110.4 million, (total annual visitors of 783,700 including the level of 1995 entries of 646,550).

There are two scenarios for the growth of air arrivals - a low and high projection. The low projection indicates that we should reach 678,875 visitors this year ('96). By 1998 we should reach 784,100 visi-

tors, (low proj.). The high projection indicates that we should reach 782,325 by '97 and 899,675 by '98. It therefore appears that in 1998 we should achieve the level of visitors necessary to cover any revenue deficiency resulting from the loss of the garment industry as relates to the "first round" of expenditures.

And there you have it - each problem solved introduces new unsolved problems - which by their very nature - keep economist employed.

Returning to the matter of "battered bread" mentioned earlier, the story is told about the man whose bread fell and landed battered side up. He ran straight away to an economist friend and reported this deviance from one of the basic laws of the universe and finally convinced his friend that it had actually happened. After weeks of pondering this strange event the economist reasoned that the bread must have been battered on the wrong side.

Author's note: A word about the term "average" which economist frequently use. It is similar to the following definition: "when you stand with your feet in a bucket of ice water with your head

placed in a lighted oven - on the 'average' you feel fine." With respect to the use of "assumptions" I am reminded of "Burn's Law" which states, "If assumptions are wrong, the conclusions aren't likely to be very good." This principle refers to the late comedian Robert Burns and his method for weighing hogs. He obtained a perfectly symmetrical plank and balanced it across a sawhorse. He would place the hog on one end of the plank and begin piling rocks on the other end until the plank was perfectly balanced. At this point he would guess the weight of the rocks. Economists use a similar line of reasoning sometimes. It is a bit like the application of the "Rule of Accuracy" which states, "when working toward the solution of a problem, it is helpful if you know the answer providing, of course, you know there is a problem." As for "estimates" none are ever complete failures since they can always be used as bad examples.

After long years of meticulous study my own observation is "any theory can be made to fit any facts by means of appropriate additional assumptions." This is be-

cause some matters are of such gravity that they must be considered in relation to all the relevant factors involved. If an examination of these factors should show it to be desirable to take one course rather than the other, then it would perhaps be best to do so. If, on the other hand, such examination shows the better wisdom to lie in some other course, then it is possible that the other course would have to be followed. It should be one's intention to study all pertinent factors before determining whether it should be one course, or the other, which should be followed and if at first you don't succeed, just transform the data set. I hope the reader will remember that to err is human but to really foul up requires a computer. **Editor's Comment:** Bill Stewart is the author of several books of which the pages of one he once observed on the floor of an "out house" in Yap. Bill's next essay will deal with the Puerto Rico dump and his postulate that "one bag of groceries is equal to 2 bags of trash." This will be followed shortly thereafter with his comments on the OSHA discovery that "wet manure is slippery."

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AG hit for Atalig accusations

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER for the Supreme Court Associate Justice Pedro M. Atalig has asked the Superior Court to send a message to the Attorney General's Office that the latter is not free to abuse immunity of the judicial process.

Juan T. Lizama said the scandalous accusations against Atalig should be stricken as a message to AGO that "he is not at liberty to abuse the immunity of the judicial process to baselessly defame and otherwise assassinate the good character and reputation of a prominent community member."

Lizama expressed disappointment with AGO as counsel for Atalig in a lawsuit filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Clifford over alleged fraudulent acquisition of public land on Rota.

In his reply to Clifford's opposition to Atalig's motion to strike, Lizama argued that it is scandalous to "baselessly



Juan T. Lizama

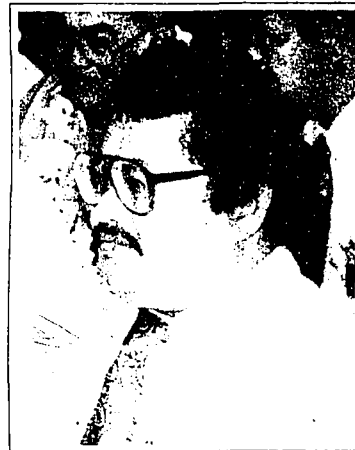
accuse an upstanding pillar of the community, one who has through good reputation and hard work, risen to the position of a Supreme Court justice, of engaging in egregious acts of fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud."

The lawyer said AGO has done nothing to amend the complaint to show that the cited scandalous accusations are even relevant.

As shown more fully in

Atalig's motion to dismiss for failure to plead fraud with particularity, Lizama said the scandalous portions do not even properly state a claim against the associate justice.

"Plaintiff in no way addresses the proposition that, even if relevant, the passages' relevance may be weighed against the manifest harm to the defendant or tendency to confuse the real issues of the complaint in the decision of whether to strike such allegations," Lizama said.



Pedro M. Atalig

Atalig was among the seven persons named in the \$4-million suit filed by the government over an alleged land grab in Rota.

Atalig said the scandalous and unfounded allegations in the suit, implicating his participation in fraud or conspiracy to commit fraud, hinder him to function effectively at the High Tribunal.

In his opposition, Clifford said the allegations against Atalig are well founded "on public records and Atalig's own words."

Guam warns about possibility of snake colonies reaching NMI

By Mary Rose S. Tigulo
For the Variety

GUAM - There is a possibility that a colony of brown tree snakes can make its way to Guam's neighbors such as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana, Mike Kuhlmann, director of the Department of Agriculture said.

However, he said for a colony of snakes to be established in the CNMI, two things either have to happen. One of these would be that a female snake must be impregnated already upon getting to the islands. The other option would be a female snake must find a male partner to start a colony.

Kuhlmann said that the latter factor is "not zero but is also not high."

As of now, Kuhlmann said that there have been twenty-five reported sightings of snakes in a matter of ten years in Saipan. The sightings, however, are

not necessarily of the brown tree snake species, Boiga irregularis.

He also said that the most used way that the brown tree snakes or any snakes can travel from one place to the other is by transporting cargo.

He added that officials at the CNMI have requested "extraordinary inspections" such as the checking of cargo pieces by pieces to avoid the migration of the brown tree snakes to the CNMI.

But, Kuhlmann said that the agency can only do as much and although some shippers have cooperated in complying with the inspections the ultimate responsibility in making sure that the cargo is snake-free would be with the receiving party.

"We are willing to cooperate with the CNMI to control the migration of the brown tree snakes," he said.

Benjie Estampador, operations manager of the Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Shipping Agency, said

that shippers have been asked to submit copies of container listings for departing cargo, especially if the destination is to the CNMI.

"We submit a copy to USDA and they bring in specialized dogs to inspect for snakes in the cargo," Estampador said.

He added that inspections are especially necessary for break bulk pieces or loose cargo such as carts and pallets because snakes are known to be always found in these.

Just recently, the Department of Agriculture on Guam launched their first ever offensive attack on the brown tree snakes. Kuhlmann said that the agency issued out snake traps to interested businesses and residents in order to catch the snakes.

Kuhlmann said that it does not matter if the snakes caught are already dead. He said that he urges the public to bring in the snakes dead or alive so that their remains will be used for further research.

Tenorio seeks to met Borja



Froilan C. Tenorio Jesus C. Borja

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio said he would like to meet with Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja prior to officially announcing he is running for a second term of office in next year's gubernatorial elections.

In an interview Wednesday evening, Tenorio said he wants to see Borja, not so much to argue who is going to run for governor but mostly just for courtesy purposes.

"I have to meet with him soon on this matter. I mentioned earlier that there is no need for me to rush or talk to him about it but now, I think I need to meet with him," said Tenorio.

"I would like to talk to Jessie before I officially announce my

Prior to official declaration of '97 candidacy

candidacy, he added. Tenorio and Borja have been observed to be at odds ever since they have both indicated they will run for governor under the Democratic Party banner.

Tenorio had earlier said he would not be seeking a second term of office prompting Borja to declare himself as candidate. But the governor has since changed his mind and is now setting his sights to November 1997 although he has not made any formal declarations.

"I have been saying that I will be a candidate but even now, people are still asking me trying to confirm whether I am running or not. I guess this means that many people still don't believe that I am running again," said Tenorio.

"So I feel that maybe, I have to officially declare my candidacy, meaning, I have to write to the party and let them know that I will be a candidate for

governor next year," said the governor.

Asked if he is still hopeful Borja will run tandem with him, Tenorio said he acknowledges

the observation that they have stronger chances as a team.

"That makes a lot of sense. But because he has already announced his candidacy for gov-

ernor, I don't think it's fair for me to ask him to step down and accept the number 2 spot. Basically, the meeting is just to let him know that I will be announcing my candidacy," the chief executive said.

Cing eyes Tapioca export to Japan

By Zaidy Dandan
Variety News Staff

CNMI farmers can export tapioca to Japan, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) said in a letter Tuesday to Japanese Consul Yoshikuni Kono.

Cing said tapioca is a pest- and disease-free crop that does not require fumigation.

"The farm producers in the Commonwealth are desirous of exporting tapioca to Japan, and stand prepared to do so," he said.

Japan, however, does not accept agricultural imports from the CNMI.

"It is my understanding that the basis for the ban is the risk of introduction of pests and diseases into Japan," Cing said.

Root crops, he said, "do not pose

such a risk."

Cing, in an earlier interview, said he will ask Japanese agricultural officials to consider importing at least one CNMI crop that would not be infested by fruit flies.

According to the CNMI Economic Development Strategy, published in 1993 by the Office of Planning and Budget, agriculture in the CNMI "figure prominently in the small economies of Rota and Tinian but to a much lesser extent on Saipan."

"Currently only several thousand acres are being farmed compared with the 40,000 acres under cultivation before World War II," the publication noted.

Rota is considered the Northern Mariana's principal farming island.



David M. Cing

Among its major crops are taro, sweet potato, cucumber, cabbage, beans, melons and fruit.

CHC volunteers to mark 10th year anniversary

THE COMMONWEALTH Health Center Volunteers Association has announced it will be holding its 10th Year Anniversary celebration Friday, September 27.

The anniversary dinner will be at the Pacific Islands' Club starting at 6:30 p.m. For \$50.00 a person, the evening promises to be one of the greatest events in 1996, the association said in a press release.

From the poignant voice of Chamorro opera singer Joseph Flores to the traditional melodies of Chamolinian music, the Volunteers anniversary night will be an evening to remember.

Hurry now and buy your tickets at the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association Gift Shop.

The Volunteers Association strongly advocates better health care for a better society. Among the recent items the Association donated to the hospital are a clothes dryer (compliments of YCO Corporation) for the Psychiatric Unit, prizes for the Health Education Program's Walk-a-thon, and others.

The Association was recently approached by hospital staff to help purchase a Stenoscopy Surgical C-arm System, a \$140,000 x-ray machine that is specifically designed for the surgical environment.

The CHC Volunteers Association hopes to collect enough funds from their Anniversary dinner celebration to purchase this needed equipment.

Proceeds from other fundraising activities currently in planning will add to the "Better health care for better society" drive.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Please give in the spirit of charity and good will. Buy your tickets for the 10th Anniversary Celebration at the PIC on Friday, September 27, 1996.

Tickets are available at the CHC Gift Shop. Buy your tickets and help the Volunteers raise the needed funds to improve health care services for all.

Moylan's names Daga-Borja as Marketing representative



Bobbie Daga-Borja

THE APPOINTMENT of Bobbie Daga-Borja to the position of Marketing Representative for Moylan's Multicover

Health Plans has been announced by the Plan Administrator Frank J. Campillo.

"We are pleased to welcome an enthusiastic professional with health care experience to our customer-oriented staff," Campillo said. Multicover is underwritten by Atlantic Southern Insurance Company and administered locally by Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

Daga-Borja, who has three years of marketing experience on Saipan, is a graduate of Marianas High School and Western Pacific Business College. She is married with two children and lives in Kagman Village.

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MANILA NEWSBRIEFS

(as culled by Philippine Consulate)

\$1.2B spent for oil imports in 1st half

THE country spent some \$1.228 billion for its oil imports during the first half of the year, slightly by 1.215 billion for the same period in 1995.

In a report, the Department of Energy (DOE) said that local consumption of petroleum products also grew slightly during the first semester by 4.9 percent to 65.776 million barrels (MB) from year-ago level of 62.711 MB.

The DOE said the increased consumption was reflective of the country's accelerating economic performance. The total consumption translates to an average of 361,000 barrels per day, which was 4.3 percent higher against previous year's level of 346,000 barrels a day.

Malaya

Singapore to help modernize RP army

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Artura Enrile said on Tuesday that Singapore has agreed to help modernize the Philippine Army by selling its weapons and helping upgrade its army.

Enrile told reporters that defense ties, which nearly broke down in the furor over the March 1995 hanging of Filipina Maid Flor Contemplacion for double-murder, are now, "better than before."

The Philippines was also seeking technical support to upgrade its tanks and armored cars and had proposed the creation of joint venture companies for the manufacture of items as automatic rifles and armored personnel carriers.

The Manila Chronicle

Changes in peace pact pushed

BOTH the majority and minority blocs in the Senate yesterday pressed for changes in the proposed peace agreement scheduled for signing next month by President Ramos and Moro National Liberation Front leader Nur Misuari.

Senators in both blocs warned that the people of Mindanao would likely reject the agreement if its controversial provisions were not amended.

Without the support of Mindanaoans the agreement cannot secure the peace it hopes to achieve in Southern Philippines, they said.

The majority, led by Senate President Neptali Gonzales, proposes eight modifications.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Buckle Up Saipan!

RP kidnappings on the rise, police say

MANILA, Philippines (AP) -

More people were kidnapped in the Philippines in the first seven months of this year than in all of 1995, the police said Thursday.

Rome Pena, chief of the Philippine National Police directorate for investigation, said 92 people were kidnapped from January to July, compared with 89 last year.

However, there have been only 30 ransom kidnapping cases so far this year, compared with 51 for all of last year, Pena said.

Police and citizens groups say ransom kidnapping has become a flourishing business because many victims, particularly wealthy Filipino-Chinese families, pay quickly. Ineffective policing is also blamed.

Anti-crime crusaders estimate the actual number of ransom kidnappings last year at 200. Many families refuse to report kidnappings to police in the belief that current or former police officers are involved in kidnap gangs.

This year, victims' families have paid at least 43.3 million pesos (\$ 1.66 million) in ransom, Pena said. Two of

the victims were killed, including the nephew of a former Philippine finance secretary.

In May, a survey of expatriate business executives by

the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. rated the Philippines as the most dangerous place in Asia to conduct business.

23 percent of RP's APEC hosting budget is for security

DAVAO, Philippines (AP) - Twenty-three percent of the government budget for hosting this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit is going to security, officials said Wednesday.

The government is budgeting 387.5 million pesos (\$ 14.9 million) for the Nov. 25 summit of leaders from 18 Asian rim nations, to be held at a former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay north-west of Manila.

The security efforts will cost 91.5 million pesos (\$ 3.5 million), making them the largest ever undertaken by the Philippine police and military. They are expected to involve 100,000 officers over the course of the year, APEC officials say.

The summit is the culmination of a yearlong series of APEC meetings hosted by the Philippines in its capacity as this year's APEC chairman. Senior APEC

officials are currently meeting in Davao in the southern Philippines.

The government has warned of reports of possible threats by leftists or foreign terrorists against the summit, but has offered little evidence.

After the recent crash of a TWA jetliner near New York and the bomb explosion at the Atlanta Olympics, Philippine President Fidel Ramos announced that heads of government attending the APEC summit will be welcome to bring their own extensive security detachments.

The largest portion of the APEC hosting budget - 135.68 million pesos (\$ 5.2 million) - is going to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the APEC National Organizing Committee. The Metro Manila Development Authority is receiving 25 million pesos (\$ 961,000) for city beautification projects.

Cory rallies support for peace

By OLIVER TEVES

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Former President Corazon Aquino, once criticized for being too soft on Muslim separatists, on Wednesday urged Filipinos to support a new

peace agreement with the rebels.

President Fidel Ramos and Nur Misuari, chairman of the rebel Moro National Liberation Front, have announced that the final agreement will

be signed Sept. 2 in Manila.

"We should give peace a chance," Mrs. Aquino said. "We should support President Ramos to bring about peace... There is no substitute for peace."

Mrs. Aquino spoke at a forum on politics and governance at the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of her husband, former Senator Benigno Aquino. He is considered a martyr in the struggle against the strongman rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

As she was speaking, opponents of the agreement called another transport strike, which crippled the southern city of Iligan, an industrial center of 280,000 people on Mindanao island, for the third time since July.

About 7,000 people held a rally where an effigy of Ramos was made to stand in a mock trial on charges of violating the constitution for pushing a transitional rebel-led council that will oversee peace and



Corazon Aquino

development projects in 14 southern provinces.

After finding Ramos "guilty," one protester punched the effigy's face and dozens of others pelted it with ripe and green tomatoes before it was burned.

Mrs. Aquino tried to broker a peace agreement with the rebels starting in 1986, but peace talks bogged down on the rebels' insistence on creating their own provisional government. A truce also was often broken by sporadic clashes between government troops and the rebels.

Critics said the effort actually revived Misuari's rebel movement, which some military officials had dismissed as a "spent force."

Shortly after taking office, Ramos resumed talks with Misuari, and a breakthrough was reached in June. Both sides agreed to a preliminary peace pact to end the fighting, which has killed more than 150,000 people and held back economic development in the south.

Filipinos generally welcomed the pact, but tens of thousands of citizens in southern cities dominated by Christians warn that the pact would give the rebels too much power.

The assassination of Mrs. Aquino's husband in August 1983 unleashed massive protests against Marcos, whom she blamed for the murder. The protests led to the "people power" revolt in February 1986 that toppled Marcos and installed Mrs. Aquino as president. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.



Philippine President Fidel Ramos, right, and secessionist Moro National Liberation Front leader Nur Misuari release white doves to symbolize peace during a rally Monday in Malabang town, 840 miles south of Manila. Ramos and Misuari met for the first time in ten years following a peace agreement to formally end the almost 30 years of conflict in southern Philippines which has killed tens of thousands of people.

AP Photo

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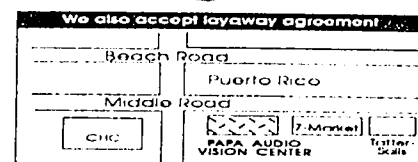
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Sewer funds still on hold

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE local bill appropriating \$1,153,335.82 for the sewerage system project of Chinatown, Lower Navy Hill and Gualo Rai was referred back Wednesday to the Saipan Legislative Delegation Ways and Means Committee.

It was found out that only \$700,000 were left available for the project which was supposed to be funded by Developer Infrastructure Tax proceeds.

"It's very disappointing," Rep. Crispin I.D.L. Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday. "Chinatown is already a 23-year old homestead and Gualo

Rai has been here even before the war, and yet both still have no water and sewerage systems."

He said Chinatown and Gualo Rai residents are now paying as high as \$50 per thousand of gallons, when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is charging only 50 cents.

Residents also had to hire "honey

wagons" to clean their sewers, he said.

During Wednesday's session, Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan) agreed to refer back his bill to the Ways and Means Committee.

The Saipan delegation decided that the remaining \$700,000 will be earmarked as matching funds for capital improvement projects (CIP).

Guerrero, in a privilege speech Wednesday, said in return for his colleagues' support for the bill's intent, he will back up any other election precinct or area in the CNMI that needs adequate power and sewerage systems.

House Local Bill 10-8 would appropriate \$153,335.82 for the construction of a sewerage system at



Crispin I.D.L. Guerrero

Lower Navy Hill; \$500,000 for Chinatown's; and \$500,000 for Gualo Rai's.

Guam Savings awarded

THE OFFICE of Thrift Supervision has completed its review of Guam Savings and has once again awarded the bank with an "Outstanding" Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) rating for the second consecutive year, the highest rating offered by the Office of Thrift Supervision, Guam Savings said in a news release.

The CRA was implemented in 1977 and obligates all federal financial institutions to meet the credit needs of the communities they serve.

Over the past year, Guam Savings

has teamed with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation in the CNMI and developed residential loan packages for affordable housing.

Guam Savings has also successfully developed and negotiated a loan purchase agreement program for commercial and residential loans with the Palau National Development Bank.

Guam Savings was founded in 1954 and operates five offices located on Guam and Saipan. Guam Savings will soon open its sixth office in Koror, Palau.

BPL issues notice

THE BOARD of Professional Licensing hereby notifies the General Public that it propose to amend its Regulations for Harbot Pilots.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the proposed amendments from the Board of Profes-

sional Licensing office located on the 2nd Floor of ICC Building, Gualo Rai.

Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed amendments may do so within 30 days from the date it was published (8/15/96).

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Disease affects betel nut palms

A BETELNUT palm disease survey will begin on Saipan early Monday morning, August 26, the Northern Marianas College announced.

Two teams composed of agricultural researchers and extensionists from NMC Land Grant Programs will be covering the island visiting grow-

ers and plantations to observe and record disease systems.

Growers and landowners are asked for their assistance during the survey by permitting the teams to inspect the plantations, take samples of plants showing disease systems, and by providing information to the teams regarding origin of

the plants, dieback, discoloration, or distortion of their palms," the program said in a news release.

This survey is part of the ongoing monitoring of the disease complex currently affecting our betelnut palms in the Commonwealth.

The disease has also infected Royal palms on Saipan.

Betelnut palms have also been affected on Rota and Tinian, which are also part of the territorial survey. No symptoms have been observed on coconut on any of the three islands at this time.

The survey is expected to last several weeks. Growers wishing further information or requesting a specific appointment to inspect their plantation should contact Dr. Diana Greenough or Mr. Sid Cabrera at NMC-Land Grant Programs, 234-9025.

The betelnut disease is new to the Commonwealth and appears to be caused by several

genera of bacteria. The disease symptoms are leaf dieback in both young and mature producing trees.

The disease spreads into the crown area of the tree, moving into the trunk and literally rotting the tree from inside.

Usually there is a foul smelling liquid or ooze found in the affected plant parts. Unfortunately, by the time the symptoms appear, the tree is severely in-

fectured and little can be done. Chemical treatment has not proven effective for this disease.

Affected trees should be removed and burned to avoid continued infection to healthy trees, the release said.

Identification of a casual agent, method of infection, and disease development are being investigated by the Plant Pathology Research team at NMC Land Grant Programs.

Cing: Higher tax for cucumber imports

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SEN. DAVID M. Cing (D-Tinian) yesterday said the CNMI should levy high taxes on selected imported agricultural products to boost local production.

"I'm looking for a commodity that we could easily grow here like cucumber which we

buy from the mainland United States," he said.

"We will then tax it high enough so that people here would prefer buying local produce."

Cing said such policy would give local farmers a guaranteed market. "I will also ask Japanese agricultural officials to consider importing at least one crop we could grow here that would not be infested by fruit flies," he said.

Agriculture in the CNMI "figure prominently in the small economies of Rota and Tinian but to a much lesser extent on Saipan," according to the CNMI Economic Development Strategy, published in 1993 by the Office of Planning and Budget.

"Currently only several thousand acres are being farmed compared with the 40,000 acres under cultivation before World War II," the publication noted.

Rota is considered the Northern Marianas's principal farming island.

Among its major crops are taro, sweet potato, cucumber, cabbage, beans, melons and fruit.

Clean up the World Week

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—FSM Vice President Jacob Nena issued on August 13, 1996, on behalf of President Bailey Olter, a proclamation designating September 16 to 22, 1996, as Clean Up the World Week, throughout the Federated States of Micronesia.

Over one hundred countries throughout the world will participate in the 1996 Clean up the World Week, an event that the FSM has participated in the past years, acknowledging the fragility of the FSM's ecosystem needing protection and preservation for future generations.

By this proclamation, all citizens, residents, businesses, state and FSM government and agencies are urged to take part in this event to ensure its success throughout the FSM.

Copies of the proclamation were forwarded to the governor of each of the four FSM States.

Elsewhere in the Pacific PM Korman sacks one more cabinet minister

PORT VILA (PNS)—Vanuatu's prime minister, Maxime Carlot Korman, has dismissed one more cabinet minister and accepted the resignation of another.

This comes as the opposition consolidates its position ahead of Monday's extraordinary session of parliament. Carlot Korman today sacked Minister of Lands Albert

Ravutia and accepted the resignation of Tourism Minister William Edgel, Radio Vanuatu reported.

The prime minister's first secretary, Yvette Sam, said Carlot Korman decided to terminate the appointment of Ravutia because he continued to negotiate with the opposition group which claims it now has the numbers to form a new government during next week's session of parliament.

Today's moves bring to four the number of cabinet ministers who have left the government. Last week and early this week the prime minister sacked Agriculture Minister Vincent Boulekone and Commerce Minister Barak Sope for the same reason. Sope was also implicated in the 100-million

US dollars bank guarantee scam.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Willie Jimmy has written to the head of state, President Jean-Marie Leye Lenelgau, calling on him not to dissolve parliament.

Jimmy's two-page letter follows claims that approach had been made to the president following the political crisis facing the country to dissolve parliament.

However, the State Office denied having received such a request. The 50-member house was elected last November and has been plagued by political infighting since.

Under the constitution parliament cannot be dissolved until 12 months after the general elections....Pacnews

Niue enacts new laws vs bribery and corruption

WELLINGTON (PNS)—Niue has introduced new anti-corruption and bribery laws aimed at blocking a loophole in existing legislation. The loophole was highlighted in a recent Niue Court of Appeal decision against the prosecution of former Finance Minister Sani Lakatani, RNZI reported.

The new laws impose prison sentences of up to 14 years for bribery or corruption of judicial officers, ministers of the crown, members of parliament, police officers and government officials.

Niue's parliament was told the new laws were required to keep up with the historical developments of the islands political and government systems....Pacnews

Solomons clarifies exercises

HONIARA (PNS)—The Office of the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands said a joint military exercise now underway in the country is not going to take place at the border with Papua New Guinea.

The office issued a statement today "to clarify misunderstanding expressed by PNG Foreign Secretary Gabriel Dusava over the exercise."

The statement said the exercise, code-named Tropic Twilight, involving about 130 military personnel from the Solomon Islands National Reconnaissance and Surveillance Force (SINRSF), New Zealand Army and Fiji, is taking place on Guadalcanal from August 20 to September 23.

It said the New Zealand group involved in the exercise is a Logistics Regiment and it will be doing civic tasks such as repairing vehicles, outboard motors, schools, and bridges.

Another fact-finding mission from US here

A GROUP from the US mainland is now in the CNMI for yet another fact-finding job.

The group, called the National Legal and Policy Center, came to the Commonwealth on their own initiative, according to public information officer Mark Broadhurst.

Labor secretary Thomas Sablan said members of the group met with him and other department officials yesterday.

He said labor director Frank Camacho "made a good presentation to them about the development in labor system."

Sablan and Broadhurst would not give details. Broadhurst promised to introduce the group today through the media.

The National Legal and Policy Center is the fourth fact-finding mission to come to the Commonwealth since February this year. (MCM)

CARMEN'S BABY NEWS

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 <p>Graco Fun Zone Play Area with built in interactive toys #0302011317 Price \$115</p> <p>Sale \$89</p>	 <p>Graco Stealth Lite Rider #0302011322 Price \$79</p> <p>Sale \$59</p>

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 <p>KELVINATOR WASHER 3 CYCLE, WATER LEVEL & TEMPERATURE SETTING HEAVY DUTY</p> <p>\$589</p>	 <p>KELVINATOR FREEZER 18 CUBIC FT. 5 YEARS RUST FREE WARRANTY</p> <p>\$675</p>	 <p>KELVINATOR DRYER #0103017803</p> <p>\$499</p>



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BUSINESS HOUR:
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USP students worry over increase in fees

SUVA (PNS)—Students of the University of the South Pacific at the Laucala Bay campus in Suva, Fiji have expressed concern over the proposed fee increase announced last week.

The increase were agreed to at a meeting of the Ministers of Finance of member nations of the university, the Fiji Times reported.

Student Coordinator Alfred Schuster stressed it was not the students' fault that the university enrolled more students than it was prepared to cater for.

The enrollment for this year was 5,139 compared to the

3,941 prediction made in the last University Grants Committee report in 1994.

Schuster said government sponsored students would also be affected because governments would have to pay more for tuition and four percent more in their share of contributions to the university.

Meanwhile, the president of the University of the South Pacific Students Association (USPSA), Josateki Vunisa, has met with the University's Vice-Chancellor, Eskia Solofa, to voice the student's concerns, especially those of private students...Pacnews

Bank warned not to victimize union men

SUVA (PNS)—The Fiji Bank Employees Union has threatened to take strong action if its members are victimized by the NBF management.

The secretary of the bank's employees union, Diwan Shankar, said the agreement on redundancy payments between the bank and the union included a "no victimization" clause, the Fiji Times reported.

Shankar says the bank had agreed to allow 180 workers to opt for voluntary redundancy under the agreement which was signed early this month, and the union is yet to

get a confirmation from the bank on the exact number of employees it would make redundant.

However, Shankar said the union was told by sources that the bank was asking some of its employees opting for redundancy not to do so because it saw them as useful than some of those who had opted to remain.

He said the bank was also allowing workers who had not gone on strike to choose which option they wanted.

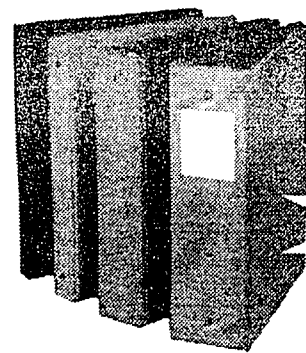
Shankar said this would result in an additional 130 workers being made redundant in the next two years...Pacnews

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Full-scale search for 12 missing persons on

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—A full scale search is underway today in Papua New Guinea for twelve people missing between the Duke of York Islands and the west coast of New Ireland province since Monday.

The Post Courier newspaper said that the twelve were among sixteen people who set out from the Duke of York islands in a six-meter banana boat to Kabanut village in the

FTUC slams gov't bank agreement

SUVA (PNS)—The general secretary of the Fiji Trades Union Congress, Pratap Chand, has criticized the government for signing an agreement to allow the French development bank-Caisse Francaise de Development-into Fiji.

Chand said this action could be seen as a move on the part of the French government to extend its check-book diplomacy to silence the Fiji government on the issue of continued French colonial rule of the Kanak people of New Caledonia, the Fiji Times reported.

He said it is also a step to avoid the Fiji government in its open criticism of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

But Senator Adi Finau Tabakauoro, who actively opposed France's nuclear tests in the Pacific, said if this bank is a commercial one, then it would be a good development bank for Fiji. Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewani Taukei General Secretary Dr. Filimone Wainiqolo said it is a good idea financially...Pacnews

Namatanai coast Monday.

One person from the group is dead and three have been found. According to police reports the party of sixteen, including four children, was on its way to attend a funeral service when disaster occurred.

PNG National Disaster and Emergency Services Director General Leith Anderson, said that the body of the dead person was picked up by a copra

boat, but it was not clear where it had been taken.

Police reports also said that a woman believed to be the mother of some of the children was rescued, and the boat operator with another person were rescued by a search party from the Duke of York Island.

Anderson expressed strong concern about an apparent overloading of the boat...Pacnews

Landowners demand equity in oil project

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—Landowners in Papua New Guinea have demanded a ten-percent free equity in the Gobe oil project in the Southern Highlands province.

The demand was made in a petition to the PNG government and developer Chevron Niugini, the National reported.

The landowners also threatened to boycott the Gobe Development Forum scheduled to be held in Port Moresby later this month if their demands were not met.

President of Gobe Landowners Association Philip Gende said they

felt landowners were not treated fairly by Chevron Niugini and the PNG government in allowing them to participate in the project.

Gende also said that they are satisfied with the developer for giving priority to non-landowners to award contracts in the second phase of the project.

Gende said landowners are demanding that the government give them ten-percent free equity and the first option to purchase the remaining 12.5 percent share in the Gobe oil project, before selling it overseas...Pacnews

Cooks gov't shuns subsidy for islands' electricity needs

WELLINGTON (PNS)—The Cook Islands government can no longer afford to subsidize electricity for the outer islands and has had to heavily reduce it in order to continue providing health and education service.

The government paid out a 1.5 million US dollars sub-

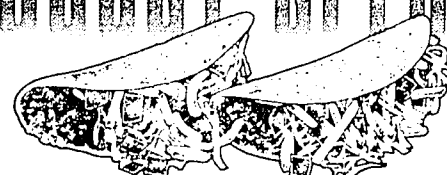
sidy last year. This year it has been reduced to 0.4 million dollars, RNZI reported.

This will mean outer islands will pay over 340-thousand dollars more for their power. Outer islands already have to cope with a cost of living that is five times higher than the capital island, Rarotonga...Pacnews



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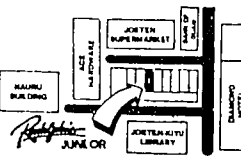


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New Yellow Pages out soon

WHAT do a handful of CNMI women and one determined man have in common? They're all working at a furious pace to publish a telephone directory they're touting to be like no other. Release deadline: December 31st, 1996 — just in time for the 1997 business year. Your deadline: August 31st, 1996, just in time to get a space while it's still hot!

"We hired a very hard-working, creative team of professionals to deliver an attractive, number-accurate publication with special features available nowhere else in the Northern Marianas," says Northern Marianas Yellow Pages publisher Felicidad "Daling" Ogomoro. As a full-time philanthropist, Ogomoro knew she couldn't handle all of the important details of publishing alone, so she made some critical decisions about staffing this year.

"It's hard to believe we've come this far in such a short time," says NMYP Assistant Director of Marketing Jeff Marcheseault.

What the former TV anchorman and his co-workers at Saipan's Pacific Information Bank are attempting to do is enhance the image of a business telephone directory that has suffered low distribution and declining recognition for the last several years — prospects that could seal the fate of any company left in the hands of those with any less resolve to beat the odds.

"I can still hear the words of a local merchant who said he 'felt' for me after politely declining to buy advertising in our upcoming 1997 Edition. 'Maybe next year,' has become a tired but humorous refrain. The fact of the matter is



The people behind the new Northern Marianas Yellow Pages phone book due for release in December. From left, Jireena Blas, Felicidad Ogomoro, Jeff Marcheseault, Betty Guerrero and Therese Ogomoro.

we've scrambled daily to earn the confidence of our advertisers through faith, determination, and a commitment to customer service. I've discovered that our conviction for the quality of the 1997 Edition has really paid off," says Marcheseault.

But customer service stretches far beyond the multiple appointments he and his sales staff have been willing to make with their clients since hitting the streets in April.

After months of research, grueling all-night sessions on the computer, countless efforts to hone their product to the wants and needs of the business community, the group is confident the 1997 Edition of the Northern

Marianas Yellow Pages will quell a lot of the popular concerns about the quality of CNMI business directories.

"People rightfully complain because their phonebooks don't come out till March or April every year in the CNMI. Well, never fear, because the 1997 Edition of the Northern Marianas Yellow Pages will be released by the end of '96. Our customers will get twelve full months of advertising, rather than the typical eight or nine per year," says Marcheseault.

The Northern Marianas Yellow Pages production team has obtained the latest business listings from the Statistics Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce

and is double-checking these numbers for updates and accuracy.

"About the only hurdle here is that Statistics gave us an IBM disc when the reality is — we use Macintosh! So that calls for a computer compatibility transfer, but I don't mind the extra work it takes to bring phonebook users the quality they deserve. It's a labor of love," says Felicidad's younger sister, NMYP Production Manager Therese Ogomoro.

The overall creative concept for the 1997 Edition started with a few potent ideas drawn up by Marketing Director Jireena Blas.

Building on a strong foundation of unique features like full-color gloss CNMI and Palau Market Place sections, larger print, thicker, more durable pages, and post box listings, it was Blas who suggested that the book be sent back off island for high quality mass production and that distribution be increased to a minimum of 15,000 for the first printing.

"Then it dawned on me that we

had to do something to make this publication more than just a telephone book. It had to be 'extraordinary' if we wanted to compete in this age of computer interactivity," recalls Blas.

And with thinking like that, it's little wonder why NMYP advertising contracts reserve space for E-mail addresses.

More often than not, extraordinary results require masterful planning and herculean effort. Shortly after joining the company on April 1st, Blas approached an out-of-work Marcheseault. She knew the kind of skills the investigative reporter had been using for the past two and a half years as a journalist could pay off big if he focussed all that ceaseless, meticulous energy on helping her format the book, fight sleep, and close accounts.

After a month of training under Blas and helping her fine-tune a series of creative new concepts that include Postcard Inserts and a Daily Planner, Marcheseault struck out on his own and is now handling tens of thousands of dollars in accounts receivable. "My personal list of clients comprise just a small part of the overall revenue picture. We've got a month to go before the sales season ends and we have to concentrate solely on production and customer follow-up," says Marcheseault.

While the company strives to provide island dialers with the most up-to-date phone numbers in the region, Marcheseault says it's important to keep one thing in mind: "No phonebook can be 100% accurate all year long. Phone numbers are always changing. The best we can do is to make sure the numbers are accurate when we send the book off island for printing. After that, we encourage you to phone us at the Pacific Information Bank when telephone numbers do change — or, worse, if the listings are just

Continued on page 2

PIC honors its top employees



Nagatomo (left) and Vasquez.

PACIFIC Islands Club has honored Masako Nagatomo and Francis Vasquez as July's Employees of the Month.

Masako Nagatomo started working at PIC in February, 1996. Masako, a Japanese national, began working as a Clubmate in Sports, Entertainment, and Activities (SEA) department teach-

ing water aerobics, dancing and other special activities to hundreds of tourists.

"Masako makes a substantial contribution to the continued operation and growth of the department, PIC management said in a news release.

Francis Vasquez, from the Philippines, is a painter in the Engi-

neering Department.

In his 2 years with PIC he has proven himself to be a very knowledgeable, committed, and moti-

vated employee. Through his hard work and dedication, Francis has earned the trust and respect of his fellow workers, said the release.

coming true. As the friendly folks at White Coconut Computers showed us at the annual computer fair at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saipan last spring, it's now possible to watch your favorite TV show while using the same screen to work on that business report that just can't wait. We intend to continue being a part of such evolving technology. The time for an alternative to ink and paper listings has come," says Marcheseault.

As Felicidad points out, Pacific Information Bank's formula for success involves hiring high-caliber employees committed to helping the local company meet its goals and carry out its mission. That's why NMYP recently recruited account executive Betty Guerrero. "Betty has shown the kind of qualities we look for from the moment she stepped on board. She shows up to work early every morning, and — aside from a few helpful sales tips from management — has really taught herself the ropes," says Blas.

But Guerrero isn't complain-

ing about flying solo. She understands the limitations of a growing company. "It's hard work, and I've had to remind myself every day that it will only pay off if I do everything in my power to hang in there. Sure, I get turned down for sales every day — that's just part of the business. Besides, I know in my heart that every 'no' brings me that much closer to a big 'yes,' so I keep my appointments and make many calls each day."

Getting back to phone numbers, Northern Marianas Yellow Pages' are 322-3348 and 322-0870. But you've only got till the end of the month to reserve your space. Betty's waiting to take your call. Chances are you're going to drop what you're doing anyway and dial these numbers when you next hear the final line of that catchy Yellow Pages jingle: "...So let your ad do the talking and let them fingers do the walking'...Northern Marianas Yellow Pages, it's Like No Other Phone Book In The World!"

Pacific Gardenia Hotel 10th ANNIVERSARY Special

Filipino Star Concert



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Giselle Sanchez

Lailani Navarro

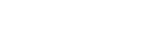
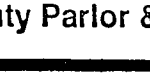
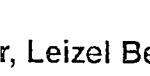
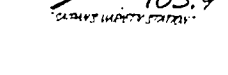
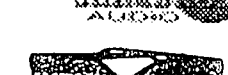
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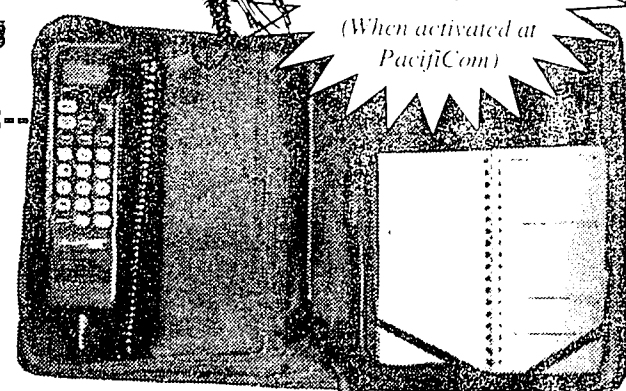
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US crackdown on tobacco looms

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton is poised to approve the nation's toughest crackdown on tobacco, possibly by Friday, in a bid to build momentum for his re-election campaign despite cries of protest from Southern Democrats.

The long-anticipated move aims to curb teen-age smoking by officially classifying nicotine as an addictive drug, allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the advertising and availability of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

Anti-smoking activists pressured the White House to act, buying sobering newspaper ads that will greet the Democratic National Convention when it opens Monday in Chicago: While they meet, the ads say, "12,000 kids will start smoking."

Tobacco will kill 4,000 of them." Democrats from tobacco-producing states, expressing fears their own re-election efforts will suffer, have urged the White House to delay acting on the regulations. They reacted furiously Wednesday to news of the planned announcement.

"They are sacrificing the Kentucky ... farmers for the benefit of political gain in places like California," fumed Rep. Scotty Baesler, a Kentucky Democrat. "I find that offensive."

Republican lawmakers also were angry.

"The president is in effect declaring war on 76,000 North Carolinians who gain their livelihood in one form or another from tobacco," said Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour called Clinton's



Bill Clinton

tobacco move "a transparent, cynical effort to change the subject away from his administration's abysmal record on drug enforcement."

The White House leaked in-

formation about Clinton's plans on the tobacco regulations after Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole, citing a new government report, called a doubling of teen-age drug use since 1992 "a national tragedy."

Declaring teen smoking a national health hazard, Clinton proposed regulations a year ago to severely curb tobacco advertising, ban vending machine sales and require tobacco com-

panies to pay \$150 million a year educating teen-agers to avoid their products.

The idea was to limit advertising images in magazines read by teens, at sports events, on T-shirts or on billboards near schools.

Rolling out the regulations would provide a splashy cap to the week sandwiched between the Republican and Democratic conventions.

Atlanta mayor says flaw in emergency call system did not add to bomb toll

By DICK PETTYS
ATLANTA (AP) - Atlanta's mayor has acknowledged that the city's emergency call system was flawed the night of the Olympic bombing, but he denied that a 10-minute delay in handling the bomb threat contributed to the bomb's toll.

The delay "clearly is a problem," Mayor Bill Campbell told reporters. "That problem, however, did not cause any resulting damage to persons or property because the bomb had already been discovered."

Officers at Centennial Olympic Park had spotted the knapsack-bomb and were trying to clear people away when it exploded July 27, killing one concert-goer and injuring dozens.

The operator who received the call waited 10 minutes before reporting it to a dispatcher because she could not find the park's address. The computer system requires an address for each report, although there is a bypass system she could have used.

Because the caller did not specify where within the 22-acre (9 hectares) park the bomb was placed, Campbell said it is unlikely state police would have done anything differently even if they had known of the call.

As only one of scores of threats during the games, the telephone warning "would not have warranted an evacuation" of the park, and if one had been ordered, more people might have been injured in a rush for the exits, Campbell said.

Gary McConnell, head of the State Olympic Law Enforcement Command, declined comment, but referred reporters to a report he distributed last week showing state officers weren't told of the call until two hours after the blast.

Campbell retorted that the state also did not alert the city that it had found the bomb.

City council member Robb Pitts said the mayor's assessment was premature "until all the facts are in."

At Pitts' urging, a city council committee held a three-hour hearing into problems with the system Wednesday. Campbell supporters claimed it was a political attempt to embarrass the mayor.

GIRL SCOUT COORDINATOR

NEEDED

A Girl Scout coordinator is needed to develop and coordinate programs for CNMI Girl Scouts; attend meetings of leaders and members; review and present Girl Scout plans and needs, and prepare and submit to the Special Assistant for Youth regular reports and summaries of Girl Scout programs and activities. Duties may also include other tasks as may be required by the Special Assistant for Youth. Must be energetic and a self-starter. College graduate preferred with youth or community-related experience. Please submit an up-to-date resume to the Governor's Office of Youth Affairs at Afetna Square in San Antonio, tel. no. 235-2397. For more information, call the Governor's Office of Youth Affairs at 235-2397, or visit their office at Afetna Square in San Antonio.

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A collection of dishes which we're sure will please your palate

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DM SWEET WHOLE PICKLES 12oz

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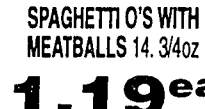
PLANTERS CHEEZ BALLS 5oz

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DM YELLOW CLING PEACH HALVES 20oz

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SPAGHETTI O'S WITH MEATBALLS 14.34oz

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japanese foods

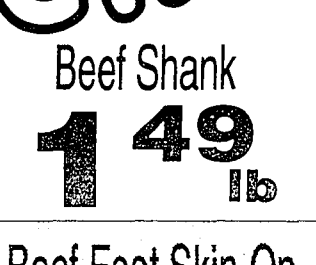
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Beef Spare Ribs

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Beef Feet Skin-On

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Ground Beef Patty

2.59 ea

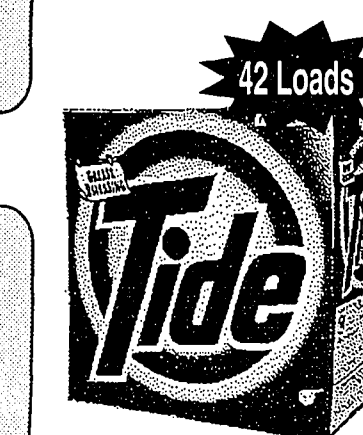


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TWA investigators determine thru manifest:

Missing were from Rows 17-28

By PAT MILTON
SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) - Most of the missing victims from TWA Flight 800 were seated in rows 17 through 28, where an investigator has said the explosion took place, documents obtained Wednesday show.

The largest concentration of bodies that have not been found were assigned to rows 22 through 24, the coach section in the middle part of the plane, according to airline records obtained by The Associated Press.

The records, including a seating chart and passenger manifest, are being closely studied by investigators for clues to the July 17 midair explosion that knocked the Paris-bound jet out of the sky.

A source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday that if it was a bomb, investigators speculate that it may have been placed on the floor above the center fuel tank.

"There are large portions of aircraft missing from that midsection," including many of the passenger seats from those rows, the source said. "We are hoping we can find it. It's probably in the ocean."

The crash 10 miles (16 kms) off the Long Island coast killed 230 people, 22 of whom had not been recovered by Wednesday as the search by 160 divers for wreck-

age and body parts continued into its second month.

Of those who are missing, 12 were assigned to rows 18 through 28, n of anonymity Wednesday, said it was doubtful many would have changed their seats during the plane's steep rise in the first 11 minutes of the flight, while the "fasten seat belt" sign was on.

However, the plane was nearly an hour late in taking off, and some people could have moved around during the time on the ground.

The seating chart shows that four of 10 people who were given seats in rows 22 to 24 have not been found. In addition, nine of those missing were assigned seats in rows 18 to 24.

Most of the bodies of the 78 passengers who were supposed to be seated in rows 18 to 28 were found by rescue crews within hours of the crash floating in the Atlantic Ocean. Since the plane split in that area, the passengers who were recovered appear to have been thrown from the plane.

Authorities have blamed the crash on an explosion that occurred toward the front of the midsection of the Boeing 747, splitting the aircraft into at least two pieces.

They have said the explosion resulted from a mechanical malfunction, a missile or a bomb.

Structural engineers are rebuilding the center fuel tank and the portion of the plane including rows 17 to 28 in an effort to find the source of the explosion and its exact location.

Investigators speculate that if a bomb was placed on the plane it was either in carry-on luggage placed underneath a seat or in a food cart.

A galley is located at the beginning of the coach section at row 17, portions of which remained unrecovered Wednesday and prevented authorities from ruling out the food cart as a possible hiding place for a bomb, the source said.

Right behind the middle section of row 28 there are two lavatories. The source said they were also looking at the possibility of something hidden there.

Meanwhile, teams of investigators are cataloging the wounds of the victims and feeding the information to a computer in pursuit of a pattern that might help define what blew up the plane, the source said.

"We are hopeful that the bodies in those sections can tell us something," said the source.

FAA to propose changes in flight controls for Boeing 737s

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. federal regulators are preparing to require changes in the flight controls systems of the Boeing 737, one of the world's most widely used airliners.

The Federal Aviation Administration plans to publish a series of new requirements for the airliner, which became the focus of concern following unexplained crashes in Colorado and Pennsylvania.

A USAir 737 crash near Pittsburgh on Sept. 8, 1994, killed 132 people, and a United Airlines crash in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on March 3, 1991, killed 25.

Investigators have been un-

able to determine the cause of either crash, though weather may have been a factor in the earlier one and there has been speculation about rudder control problems on the planes.

A five-month investigation last year into the control design of the twin-jet plane found no flaws that could be blamed for the accidents, the FAA said.

The study produced several recommendations for changes, though none was considered urgent.

Details of the new requirements were not immediately available, but a Transportation Department source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said as many as nine notices of proposed rule-making

may be announced.

One recommendation of the 1995 study called for improved design of the yaw damper, a device that automatically adjusts the rudder to reduce fishtailing. It is considered to improve passenger comfort, particularly for people sitting in the rear of an airplane.

There have been several failures of the damper, but all have been dealt with by the pilot adjusting controls, the FAA reported.

The report urged a study of whether yaw damper failure could cause excessive rudder movement, prompting the plane to turn suddenly and possibly affecting control.

US Marines arrive in Haiti

By MICHAEL NORTON
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - What was called a routine training mission for U.S. Marines became a symbolic show of force Wednesday, after two political assassinations and the threat of more violence in Haiti.

U.S. Ambassador William

Swing greeted 49 newly arrived troops from the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, at the Port-au-Prince airport. The Marines will train for 10 days with 80 members of a rapid-reaction unit permanently stationed in Haiti.

U.S. Embassy officials said

Operation Fair Winds was a routine, monthly reinforcement of security for 300 American combat engineers building roads, schools and hospitals in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

"They are not part of the U.N. (peacekeeping) mission, nor are they there to provide a secure and stable environment in Haiti," said

Cmdr. Joe March, a Pentagon spokesman.

But another Defense Department spokesman said Tuesday that the Marines' presence should make its own point to opponents of Haiti's struggling democracy, restored by a U.S. military intervention in September 1994.

Government opponents "should

realize that not only the United States but also the United Nations and other nations in the hemisphere are watching very closely what's going on," said Capt. Michael Doubleday.

Haiti has been rocked this week by the arrest of 20 ex-soldiers accused of plotting to attack the National Palis.

US Navy stations USS Missouri in Honolulu

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
WASHINGTON (AP) - The USS Missouri, the battleship where the Japanese surrendered to Gen. Douglas MacArthur ending World War II, will be permanently docked in Honolulu, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday. Honolulu had vied with Bremerton, Washington and the California cities of Long Beach and San Francisco in seeking the decommissioned battleship for use as a non-profit museum.

Navy Secretary John Dalton said he decided in favor of Honolulu after evaluating the technical, financial, historical and public interest aspects of the varied proposals.

"This was a very tough decision, since all the proposals were so excellent and impressive," he said. "I'm genuinely sorry the Navy doesn't have a USS Missouri to give to each of these cities."

The Missouri's teak decks were where, on Sept. 2, 1945, Japanese Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu surrendered on behalf of his country to end the war in the Pacific.

The mighty ship also saw action in the Persian Gulf War,

pounding Iraq in anticipation of the ground offensive against Saddam Hussein's troops. Since its decommissioning in 1992, it has been docked at Bremerton.

The battleship is being given to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, which hopes to have it brought to Honolulu and ready for visitors by Oct. 1, association spokesman Ed Carter said.

Plans call for docking the Missouri on the spot it first occupied when it was deployed as part of the Pacific fleet - opposite the monument to the USS Arizona, sunk in Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Battleships were once considered the stars of the U.S. Navy's fleet, able to fling shells weighing up to 2,700 pounds (1,215 kilograms) more than 25 miles (40 kilometers) from their huge, 16-inch (41 cms) guns. But despite their 16-inch (41 cms) armor plating, they were deemed vulnerable to submarine and missile attack.

And the range of their guns proved of little value with the arrival of the Tomahawk, the cruise missiles that could be launched from hundreds of miles away from a target.

Paramedics rescue pregnant woman from coiling snake

By MATTHEW FORDAHL
SAN DIEGO (AP) - Paramedics sawed off the head of a family's pet python after the nine-foot (2.7-meter) snake coiled itself around a pregnant woman's stomach and entangled her husband as well.

Mary Anne Carter, who is eight-months' pregnant, woke up Wednesday to find Calena, a Burmese python, wrapped around her stomach and biting her buttocks, said police spokesman Bill Robinson. Her husband, Brad, tried to free her using a small knife, but he too became ensnared.

"It totally locked up the right side of my body," Brad Carter. Then a police officer joined in. No luck.

"We used a crowbar to try to get its mouth off her. We had a good 15 minute struggle. It was two grown men and we weren't getting no where with it."

Paramedics finally used a hacksaw to remove the animal's head and release its grip, Robinson said.

City regulations don't prohibit snakes as pets, although it probably should have been kept in a cage, Robinson said. The case has been sent to the city attorney's office for review.

Mrs. Carter declined medical treatment on the scene, although her husband said she was later checked out by a doctor. Tests were scheduled for Thursday to determine if the snake bite affected her baby, he said.

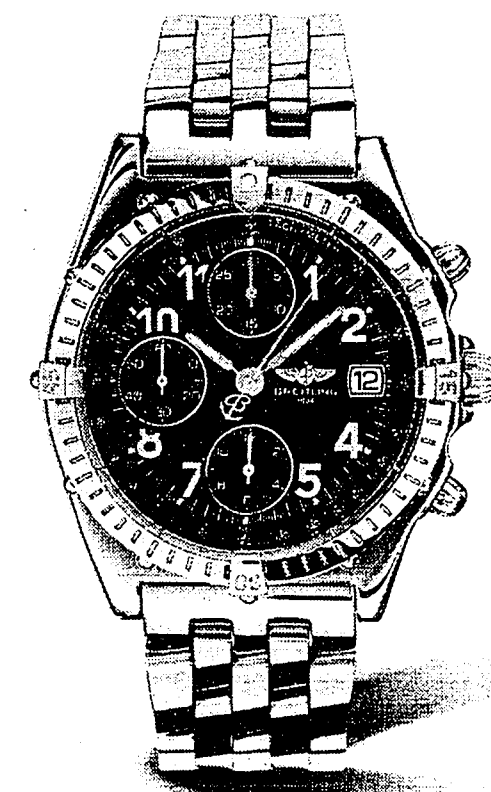
The Carters' two children - ages 4 and 5 - witnessed the ordeal inside the single-room apartment at a downtown resident motel, and police called crisis counselors because they witnessed the snake's decapitation.



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Pete P. Tenorio (Teno) - Governor

and

Jess R. Sablan (Pepero) - Lt. Governor

Dr. Jose T. Villagomez
Chairman

Fire rages on across West

By KARYN HUNT

A GROUP of historic homesteader cabins, a grove of ancient sequoias and a condor habitat in California were all threatened as this year's feisty fire season continued to rage across the Western states.

A stubborn wildfire eating its way around Clear Lake, a popular vacation spot 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco, still threatened at least one community and was

just 30 percent contained.

Many of the 200 to 300 people evacuated were allowed to return home Tuesday night, but some were told their houses were still in too much danger.

More than 4,000 firefighters from as far away as Alaska and Alabama - including 600 3rd Brigade combat soldiers from Colorado - worked the fire.

Forests, brush and grass also were

burning elsewhere in California and in parts of Arizona, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Colorado.

About 200 miles (320 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco, U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt donned a flame-proof suit to sweat alongside firefighters battling a blaze sparked by cars left idling over dry grass.

The blaze, which has cost \$3 million to fight thus far, was threaten-

ing a \$140 million stand of giant sequoias. The flames Wednesday were nine miles (14 kilometers) from the historic General Sherman tree, which is 275 feet (83 meters) tall and at least 3,000 years old.

Flames also swept through the Los Padres National Forest near San Luis Obispo, burning a cabin where biologists kept an eye on

17 zoo-hatched condors. None of the birds or researchers were hurt because it was unoccupied at the time.

Rangers said the fire actually could benefit efforts to reintroduce wild condors to the landscape because the area's heavy brush usually hides their food and makes landing and taking off difficult.

Dolly moving to Gulf of Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) - After slowly crossing the Yucatan Peninsula, the storm called Dolly gained strength and once again became a tropical storm as it swept into the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

A U.S. hurricane hunter plane located it late Wednesday in Campeche Sound, on the east side of the Gulf, 80 miles (128 kilometers) west of Campeche, capital of the state of the same name.

In Miami, the National Weather Service hurricane tracking center said Dolly was moving west-northwest at 8 miles (13 kms) an hour, with

sustained winds of 40 mph (64 kph), gusting to 51 mph (82 kph).

"Further strengthening is expected during the next 24 hours," the hurricane center said. Cyclonic storms tend to disintegrate when they move over land and pick up strength when they hit warm water.

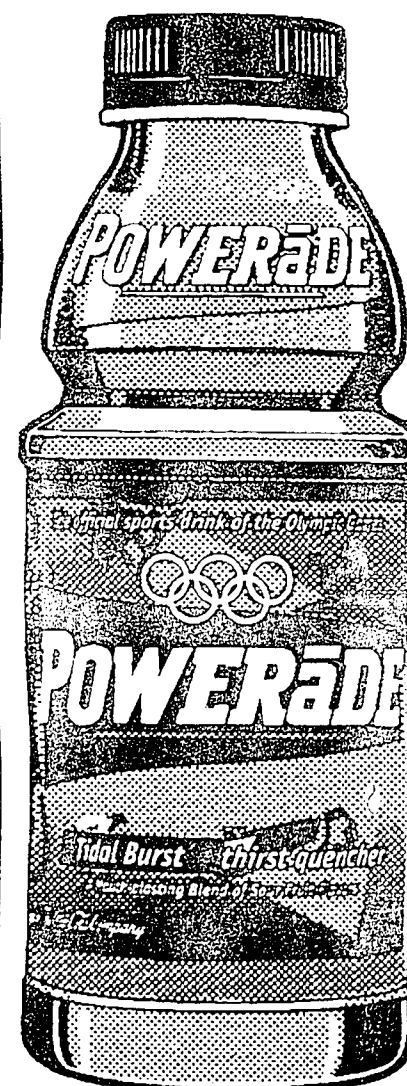
Storm alerts and warnings were up all along the upper coast of the Gulf of Mexico, including Veracruz and Tamaulipas states. Officials there warned small craft to return to port and prepared shelters for people in low lying areas who might have to evacuate.

Dolly hit the eastern shore of the Yucatan on Tuesday with winds just over hurricane force of 74 mph (119 kph), but rapidly weakened as crossed the peninsula.

There have been no confirmed deaths, but at least two fishermen were still reported missing. There was minor flooding with minimal damage in the Yucatan. Rain was reported in many places in Tamaulipas and part of Veracruz.

The state oil monopoly, Petroleos Mexicanos, had evacuated dozens of its offshore oil and gas wells in Campeche Bay as a precaution.

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Zach Strenkert, 17-month-old son of Laurine Strenkert, stands with his mother's help at their Bloomingburg, N.Y. home in this June 28, file photo. At seventeen months Zach weighed nearly 68 pounds. Zack's doctor says Zack just needs to be put on a diet but Zack's mom feared he has a glandular disorder. AP Photo

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Israeli troops losing motivation?

By DAN PERRY

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) - On a recent visit with army recruits, Israel's defense minister was startled to hear those heading into one of the most gung-ho combat forces in the world unabashedly asking for non-combat duty.

Yitzhak Mordechai's embarrassing televised encounter underscored concerns that Israel's army is becoming soft in the middle, with soldiers caring more for the good life than the good of their country.

"There is a problem," said Mordechai, a career army officer and reserve major general. "Part of the public believes we have already reached a time of peace and relaxation, that the threats are over and each of us can take care of his own needs."

Declining motivation and attempts to evade reserve duty - about a month annually for men up to age 49 - have reached "plague proportions," Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, the army chief of staff, told the Maariv daily.

The problem is particularly inopportune, because some experts fear the chance of war with Syria is rising. Zeev Maoz, head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, warned in the daily Haaretz that without a policy change the government must prepare Israelis for war.

In one tactic to boost morale, Mordechai, Shahak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited troops at the Lebanese border Monday. Netanyahu, a former commando unit captain, asked soldiers what was on their minds.

The soldiers said they wanted to serve, but felt society wasn't fully behind them.

Other soldiers wanted extra pay for combat duty. They complained their stipend,

about \$100 a month, was not enough for risking their lives against the Hezbollah militia in the south Lebanon enclave Israel controls. Eighteen Israeli soldiers died in Lebanon this year.

Netanyahu cited two main problems: the natural, gradual shift of a richer society becoming more focused on the individual, and the assumption that the peace process has reached "safe ground."

"The opposite is true," he said of the latter. "Anyone who wants peace must have a strong army and an army willing to defend its country at any time."

Israel has a mandatory draft at age 18, with most soldiers serving three years then going on reserve duty. Combat soldiers spend more time than non-combat soldiers in the reserves.

The number of conscripts requesting non-combat duty has steadily increased in recent years, a top military official said on condition of anonymity. No exact numbers are available.

Military officials claim the proportion of those volunteering for dangerous assignments has declined only slightly, but say the volunteers increasingly are poorer and less-educated.

Still, former chief army psychologist Col. Moshe Even-Chen warned that "In the future, it will be necessary to send soldiers by force to units that are (today) volunteer-based."

There are other indications that the army is no longer sacred as it once was in Israel, including increasing scrutiny of soldiers' actions.

Israelis were shocked by recent reports that several soldiers walked away from their post in Lebanon after a dispute with an officer. Two months ago, there was widespread criticism that poorly trained soldiers responded

badly in a clash with infiltrators in the Jordan Valley that killed three soldiers.

Even Finance Ministry officials took shots at the military last month. Trying to justify a \$260 million cut in Israel's \$9 billion military budget, they released shockingly high salary and pension figures. The


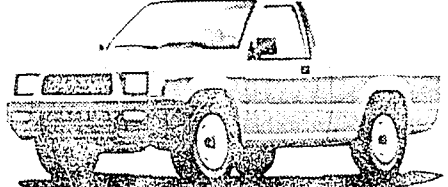
army claims they were inflated.

Reserve Col. Shalom Ben-Moshe, the army's former chief education officer, said the 1987-93 Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza reduced Israeli troops to chasing stone-throwing children and climbing electrical

poles to remove Palestinian flags.

"Since the (uprising), the army is dealing with activity that is no longer within the consensus," he told Maariv. "If the army is not acting in accord with the consensus, good people refuse to invest in it."

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Activist killer meted death

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A man found guilty of killing a prominent rural activist last year has been sentenced to death, local newspapers reported Wednesday.

The provincial court in the northern

province of Loei sentenced Lek Khattiya to death for killing Prawian Boonnak, a leader of the Assembly of Small-Scale Farmers of the North-east.

Lek had confessed to shooting

Prawian because of a personal grudge.

But other social activists claimed that Prawian had been murdered because he led protests by villagers against blasting at a quarry that was believed to be hazardous to people's health and environmentally unsound.

"The masterminds of the murder can always escape justice because they have both economic and politi-

cal influence," said Nitirat Sapsomboon, a spokesman for the Forum of the Poor, an alliance of social activist groups.

"In this case the investigation process was not transparent. The case should be reviewed so that the real murderer is punished," Nitirat said, according to a report in the newspaper The Nation.

Violence and intimidation are common in Thailand's rural areas, where businessmen often form de facto alliances with corrupt local authorities to protect their interests.

A number of prominent environmental activists in upcountry areas have been murdered in the past year, but police have shown little inclination to investigate the killings closely.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Building Safety Code, Public Law 6-45, was approved on February 02, 1990. The Code applies to the location, design, material, construction, enlargement, maintenance, use, occupancy and moving of any building or structure within the Commonwealth. The Rules and Regulations governing the administrative procedure of the Building Safety Code, were published in the Commonwealth Register (Volume 12, No. 9) on September 15, 1990.

The Developer Infrastructure Tax Act of 1993, Public Law 8-23, was approved on July 19, 1993. The Emergency Developer Tax Regulations were published in the Commonwealth Register (Volume 15, No. 12) on December 15, 1993. The Act applies to all new development which had not received a building permit as of the effective date. The Act also amended two (2) sections of the Code:

Section 7131(a). Before a person commences construction, enlargement, or removal of any building or structure, or engages in new development as defined by law, such person shall first pay any applicable developer tax to the Secretary of Finance and obtain from the Building Safety Official a separate permit for each building or structure.

Section 7134. The Building Safety Code Division shall not issue a building permit to a developer unless the developer has paid to the Department of Finance the total of the developer tax due.

The Department of Public Works is notifying all owners, contractors, developers, architects and engineers that the Code and Act and their respective rules and regulations apply to Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Aguigan and the Northern Islands.

Enforcement of these laws and regulations for Rota and Tinian is through the respective DPW offices on these islands, and applies to all projects except as exempted by law or regulations.

Dated this 18th day of July, 1996.

Department of Public Works
/s/EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID DPW96-ITB-022

The Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Marianas Visitors Bureau, is soliciting separate sealed bids for the Construction of Pavilion and Toilet Facilities, Rota, MP 96951 and/or Construction of Toilet Facilities, Tinian, MP 96952. Bids in duplicate will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m. local time, September 20, 1996 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Plans and specifications for the project will be available on or after August 13, 1996 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of \$200.00 is required for each set, payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer, Credit Account No. 4466.

Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Lower Base, at 2:00 p.m., local time, September 3, 1996.

A bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check, cashier's check, bid bond, or other form acceptable to the government, made payable to the CNMI Treasurer.

The bidder is required to submit with the bid a copy of their business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Attention is called to the Labor Standards for Wage Rate Determination in accordance with the project specifications and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages must be paid as set forth in the Wage Rate Determination.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bid bonds, certified checks or cashier's checks which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications section titled "Instructions to Bidders", Section 5 Bid Guarantees.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Reviewed by:
/s/EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works
Date: 8/6/96

/s/ANICIA Q. TOMOKANE
Managing Director, MVB
Date: 8/6/96

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Procurement & Supply
Date: 8/6/96

S. Africa to ban guns in public

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - The government will act next week to ban the carrying of firearms by the public at gatherings and demonstrations, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufumadi told Parliament.

He spoke after a month of increased violence between a predominantly Muslim group, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, known as Pagad, and gangs in Cape Town's mixed-race suburbs.

On Aug. 4, Pagad members executed an alleged drug dealer by

burning him to death. Gangsters have sworn to take revenge.

Pagad has been on a campaign of marching through Cape Town's gang areas and visiting the homes of alleged drug traffickers to order them to stop drug trafficking.

Marchers have openly displayed weapons, usually revolvers, but also automatic rifles and shotguns.

The movement has clashed with the police and has accused them of siding with the gangsters.

So far one leader of the Muslim group has been arrested and faces

charges of sedition.

South Africans of mixed-race descent, many of them Muslim, are concentrated in some of Cape Town's poorest neighborhoods as a result of discriminatory apartheid policies.

For decades, gangs have attracted young men with little hope of jobs or education. A recent upsurge in drug trafficking has made the gangs more powerful and vicious.

Most mixed-race South Africans in Cape Town trace their

ancestry to Muslim slaves who were brought to the country from Malaysia in the 19th century.

Islam in South Africa contains a strong conservative element that

believes in tough punishment. Those beliefs, coupled with frustration over the seeming inability of the police to combat crime, have fueled the vigilante campaign.

Former president questioned by S. African Truth Commission

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - The refusal of minority whites to yield power led to human rights abuses and forced apartheid's opponents to desperate action, former President F.W. de Klerk admitted.

Under questioning by a truth commission investigating apartheid-era atrocities, de Klerk denied such abuses but admitted apartheid's policies created the atmosphere for them to occur.

Commission deputy chairman Alex Boraine pressed the former leader of white minority South Africa to admit if he understood why the African National Congress and other parties resorted to guerrilla attacks.

"With hindsight, yes, doors should have been opened which were closed," de Klerk answered.

The National Party, which oversaw apartheid from 1948 until reforms began in 1990, and other parties were appearing before the commission this week to give their versions of history.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of the governing ANC was to appear Thursday.

On Wednesday, about 400 people filled the auditorium to listen to de Klerk present a 30-page submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with helping South Africans understand their past, finding ways to compensate victims of political crimes and recommending amnesty for some of those who confess to atrocities.

A few protesters with signs reading, "Apartheid. Never Again," stood outside the auditorium Wednesday. In nearby St.

George's Cathedral, members of the ANC Women's League held a daylong prayer and fasting vigil.

"We will not forget, but forgive if De Klerk tells the truth," said Thandi Ngamlana, a Women's League leader. The commission has said it will study this week's submissions and could call back party leaders for further questioning. The commission, which held its first hearings in April, was to complete its work with a comprehensive report due in 1997.

The commission has struggled to balance its responsibilities. Some critics say it has put too much weight on reconciliation, and complain that perpetrators of human rights abuses should be tried and punished, not offered a chance at amnesty.

Others fear the commission will only fan racial hatred by publicizing past horrors.

In his testimony, de Klerk acknowledged his National Party's apartheid policies caused pain and suffering to millions of South Africans, and said leaders were "genuinely repentant."

De Klerk, who was president from 1989 until 1994, said he had never himself authorized human rights abuses, but could not control or be aware of all that was being done by lower-ranking officials who may have felt National Party policy justified their actions.

Steps taken to preserve white minority rule - such as allowing detention without trial, muzzling the press and bringing in the army to put down protests - created "an atmosphere which was conducive to many of the abuses and transgressions against human rights which form the basis of the commission's investigation."

Mother Theresa hospitalized

CALCUTTA, India (AP) - Mother Teresa has been hospitalized with a fever and cardiac problems, but is in stable condition, her doctor said Thursday.

Mother Teresa developed a fever Tuesday night and was immediately admitted to the Woodlands Nursing Home in Calcutta. She then developed cardiac problems and was put on artificial respirators, said a doctor.

In 1983, she suffered a heart

attack while she was meeting Pope John Paul II in Rome. In 1989, a second heart attack nearly killed her and she received a permanent pacemaker.

At age 18, she left for Dublin, Ireland where she took her vows and became a nun of Loretto, a teaching order that ran convent schools in India.

She took the name "Sister Teresa" after Saint Teresa of Lisieux, the patroness of missionaries.



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U96-094	1990	CADILLAC FLTWD, BRGHM.	AAV-892	10995
U96-151	1989	OLD'S 88	AAS-590	3995
U96-074	1985	MR2	AAK-368	3795
U96-133	1992	CAMRY LE	AAW-746	10995
U96-130	1992	CAMRY LE	AAV-784	10995
U96-157	1991	CAMRY	AAZ-932	6595
U96-160	1991	CAMRY	AAN-848	6995
U96-082	1992	CAMRY WAGON	ABP-311	12595
U96-149	1994	COROLLA	ABA-694	10495
U96-123	1993	TERCEL	ABN-252	8495
U96-128	1993	TERCEL	AAY-928	7995
U96-156	1990	SENTRA	AAS-935	4995
U96-135	1994	MAXIMA	AAY-859	14995
U96-081	1990	MAZDA 929	AAT-975	6695
U96-079	1991	SUBARU LOYALE	AAS-347	4995
U96-069	1991	SUBARU LEGACY	AAT-214	4995
U96-138	1991	SUBARU LEGACY LS	AAU-028	6495
U96-023	1990	HONDA ACCORD	AAY-750	5495
U96-042	1992	HYUNDAI SONATA	AAP-559	4995
U96-029	1992	SONATA	ABH-372	5995

STOCK #	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	PRICE
U96-136	1988	4X4	AAB-624	4995
U96-122	1990	4X2 X-CAB	ABA-706	5995
U95-191	1991	MAZDA 4X4	ABD-464	7995
U96-022	1992	MAZDA 4X2	ABJ-142	7495
U96-028	1991	4-RUNNER	AAZ-902	11995
U96-091	1990	4-RUNNER	AAO-115	10495
U96-111	1990	4-RUNNER	AAZ-389	12495
C96-005	1994	4-RUNNER	ABR-582	18495
U96-096	1991	LANDCRUISER	AAZ-982	21995
U96-158	1991	LANDCRUISER	AAZ-612	21995
U96-162	1991	LANDCRUISER	AAZ-681	21995
U95-248	1988	PATHFINDER	AAH-572	5695
U96-119	1991	PATHFINDER	ABB-991	11495
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•Training
•Evaluating Safety & Health Programs

Schedule/Information: Workshop conducted at Northern Marianas College Room A8 September 5, 1996, 8:30am-4:00pm (Registration 7:30am - 8:30am at the door) •Call NMC's Safety and Health Training Office at 234-5498 to reserve your seat. Begins 26 August. Fee: FREE

This Outreach & Training Program is a cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Department of Interior, and the Northern Marianas College.

UN: Burundi military was behind 1993 assassination

By LOUIS MEIXLER
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Top officers of the Burundian army were apparently behind the 1993 assassination of the country's first Hutu president, a U.N. report has concluded.

The report, a copy of which was obtained Wednesday by the Associated Press, said "the planning and execution of the coup was carried out by officers highly placed in the line of command of the Burundian army."

The report was sent to the Security Council after Burundi's Tutsi-led military ousted the government last month and put in power a Tutsi major, Pierre Buyoya. The report was considered so sensitive that the council at first suppressed its release, fearing it could lead to increased ethnic tensions.

The council decided Friday to make the findings public later this month, after it appeared that fears of an explosion of ethnic

violence in Burundi were unwarranted.

According to the report, army chief of staff Jean Bikomagu ordered the head of the president's bodyguards to Mauritius before the 1993 coup attempt and dismissed reports of unrest among the military units that would later carry out the overthrow.

On Tuesday, Buyoya sacked Bikomagu, the chief of the national police and the head of presidential security.

Bikomagu apparently separated President Melchior Ndadaye from his wife and children after Ndadaye was brought to an army base.

According to Mrs. Ndadaye, Bikomagu told soldiers: "This is the man you want. Do whatever you want with him." Bikomagu denied saying those words.

Mrs. Ndadaye and her children were then put in Bikomagu's chauffeured jeep and driven to the French embassy, the report

said.

Ndadaye was brought to another base where two soldiers apparently held a cord around his neck as another stabbed to death, the report said.

Burundian military officers told the commission that the assassination was carried out by rebel soldiers who threatened to kill their superiors if they did not cooperate.

The report noted, however, that the officers' testimony was filled with contradictions and the panel was not permitted to interview many enlisted men and was denied access to military records.

The coup attempt and the subsequent murder of leading Hutus led to ethnic slaughter in which at least 150,000 people died, most of them Hutus.

The commission was established last year to investigate the assassination and the ensuing massacres, interviewed 667 witnesses.

India fears no fallout after defiant nuke stand

By ASHOK SHARMA
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India expects no economic punishment from Western countries as a result of its rejection of a global nuclear test ban treaty, the finance minister said Wednesday.

India refused to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Geneva after the five nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, France, England and China - refused to commit themselves to a timetable for eliminating their arsenals. The accord is now expected to be presented to the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

"I have been assured that we don't expect any economic fallout," Finance Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club. He didn't say who had assured him.

Later in the day, Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda said India will not yield to any pressure on the nuclear issue whatever be the consequences.

"There is no question of any

change in our position even if we get isolated," Press Trust of India news agency quoted Gowda as saying in Bombay, India's financial capital.

Chidambaram also predicted that developed countries wouldn't punish India by blocking financial assistance from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

His government, he said, will continue the economic liberalization program that began in India in 1991, but it is not prepared yet to make the Indian rupee fully convertible.

He said that could result in "a flight of capital, given the level of India's foreign exchange reserves (\$22 billion)."

On another topic, Chidambaram said a bribery scandal involving a former communications minister will not delay the opening of India's telecommunications market to private and foreign companies. "The telecom privatization process is very high on the agenda of the new government," he said.

The finance minister said he expects \$10 billion in foreign direct investment in India this year and said he hopes to achieve a target of \$10 billion over a period of three to four years.

New Delhi residents told: Take garbage out or face stiff penalties

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - Take out the garbage every day or you'll be fined. And dump it in the garbage bin, not on the street.

The New Delhi municipal authorities took out advertisements in Thursday's papers urging the capital's 10 million people to keep their city clean.

Residents who throw trash on the road or keep it at home for more than a day will be fined 50 rupees (dhs 1.40) while shops and businesses will be fined twice that amount, the ads said. It was not clear how the government hopes to implement the rule.

The move comes after India's Supreme Court hearing a public interest lawsuit ordered civic authorities to remove garbage from large roadside bins every day and improve overall hygiene in the city.

Sanitation is appalling in New Delhi, like in most Indian cities. Bins overflow with trash, stray cattle feed on rotting vegetables and hundreds of poor people root through the waste, looking for things to recycle or sell.

New Delhi produces about 17 million tonnes of garbage daily and less than half is collected by municipal trucks. The rest is left lying on the road, according to numerous studies.

In recent months, several Indian and foreign companies have come up with proposals to turn the garbage into compost or produce electricity for the power-starved city.

Teeners 'lured' via Internet

SPARTANBURG, South Carolina (AP) - Two teen-age girls who have been missing for a week were last seen getting into the car of a man they met on the Internet whose computer name was "The Dark One."

Summer Nix, 13, of Spartanburg and 15-year-old Casey Thompson of Pauline met Cash Morriss of Sparks, Nevada, last spring through messages on a computer bulletin board.

"I can show you fear in a handful of dust," Morriss wrote the girls.

The girls were last seen Aug. 13 getting into the 18-year-old man's car here, investigators said Tuesday. Authorities believe the girls are in the Sparks, Nevada, area.

Spartanburg County sheriff's spokeswoman Heidi Owen said Sparks investigators reported that Morriss called family members in his hometown late Tuesday and said he was nearby.

Summer's mother, Connie Nix, said Summer's friends told her Casey and Morriss were dating online and had planned to run away together.

"My daughter only went along as loyalty to her friend," Ms. Nix said.

A friend who saw Summer get into Morriss' car later gave the girl's grandmother a note that read: "Dear Mom. Hey, I'm sorry. This is not because of you. I love you, and I will be back. Love, Summer."

Ms. Nix said she has read the Internet messages from "The Dark One" and "The Goblin King."

Authorities said "The Dark One" is Morriss, but have not said whether "The Goblin King" is another person or Morriss' second online identity.

Casey's grandmother, Gayle

McCraw, is checking computer messages for clues on the girls' whereabouts. The girls accessed the Internet through Casey's computer.

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said there have been about 30 similar cases nationwide in the past two years.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP-NMHC-05/96

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), formerly the Mariana Islands Housing Authority (MIHA), is soliciting sealed bid for the Rehabilitation of the Section 8 Housing Units in Rota, "Exclusively Labor Cost Only". Bid must be in duplicate, must be marked RFP-NMHC-05/96 and must be submitted to the Corporate Director at the NMHC office at Garapan, Saipan, until 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, September 20, 1996, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security bond may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond made payable to the NMHC. The bidder is required to submit the following documents with the proposal (1) a copy of his/her business permits in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; (2) current financial statement; (3) a listing of existing and past projects, including dates of completion; (4) a listing of manpower with copies of employee's CNMI issued work permits; and (5) a completed listing of equipments.

Plans and scope of work of the project is available at the respective NMHC offices at Garapan, Saipan or at Songsong Village, Rota. A non-refundable payment of \$150.00 is required for each set of the plan and scope of work. Check should be made payable to "NMHC". The bidder is required to submit with his/her proposal, name(s) of employee(s) and their title(s) who are designated and authorized by the company to inspect the individual housing units for the purpose of submitting bid estimates. This list shall be submitted upon payment of the \$150.00 for the plans and scope of work.

The NMHC hereby notifies all qualified bidders that minority and business enterprises will be accorded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this request for proposal and bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, and national origin in consideration for an award.

Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 2:00 p.m., local time, September 6, 1996, at the NMHC Office, at Garapan in Saipan. Questions concerning the plans, scope of work and Special Provisions should be submitted prior to the conference.

The NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the NMHC.

Mary Lou Ada Sirok
Corporate Director

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BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

The applicant should hold a bachelor's degree in accounting with a five-year experience in governmental or financial accounting. The applicant must have hands on knowledge of MAS90 computerized accounting programs and be a U.S. Certified Public Accountant.

CLOSING DATE:

Interested applicants must submit his or her employment application to the CDA Office located in Wakin's Bldg. on or before Monday, September 9, 1996. If the application is sent by mail, it must be received by September 9, 1996.

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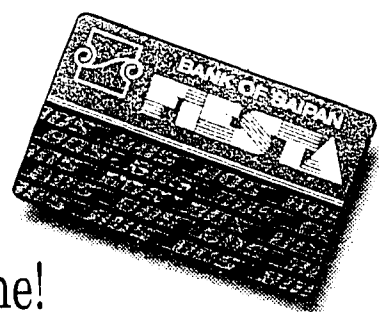
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Auntie Mag's Diner	Jade Garden	Saban Bookseller
Bali Emporium	Jihan Corporation	Saban Enterprises
Bliss Collection	Joeten Department Stores	Saipan 7th Day Adventist
Blossoms Floral Shop	Kevin's Video	Shell Gas Station Dan Dan
Carmen's Baby News	Koblenville Mobil Gas Station	Shell Gas Station Middle Road
Carmen's Hair Salon	Las Vegas Golf Shop	Shell Gas Station Puerto Rico
China House Restaurant	Laulau Bay Market	Shoe Avenue/Gallery
C-Mart	Liberty Plaza	Sunset Bar & Grill
Corral Ocean Point Hotel	Lifestyles	Taro Sue Store
Country House Restaurant	Lolipops	Tapo Shopping
Dr. Jack's Bar & Grill	Lucky Star Corporation	Tires To Go
Esther Fashion	Meena's Corporation	Town & Country Rest/Video
El Segundo Restaurant	Micro Pacific, Inc.	Treasure chest
First Floral	Mike's Jewelry	Transamerica
Fishing Tackle Sporting Goods	Mobil Gas Station Middle Road	Unity Trade
Floral Lane	Monika's Gallery	Video Land
Futuristic Systems	Mother & Child Care	Watch Discount & Repair
Getaway Travel	National Office Supply	White House/Photo Lab
Glory Market	New Fresh Market	WST Auto Shop
Golden Lobster Restaurant	Orchids Club	YCO Corporation
Haina's Kitchen	Pacific Basin Insurance	
Happy Market	Pacific Gardenia Hotel	

US lawmaker arrives on North Korea mission

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A U.S. congressman arrived in North Korea on Wednesday, leading a humanitarian mission to look into food shortages there, the country's official media reported.

The one-sentence dispatch by the North's Korea Central News Agency did not give details, but Rep. Tony Hall had said earlier he would try to measure the extent of the shortages and check whether U.S. food aid is reaching the hungry.

The isolated communist country was hit by severe floods last summer that destroyed large stretches of farm land and left a half million people homeless. It suffered floods again this summer that it said caused \$1.7 billion in damage.

Hall hoped to gather data to help the decisions of government officials and private charities who want to help the North Koreans.

He also planned to raise questions about 8,100 U.S. servicemen who remain unaccounted for

from the 1950-53 Korean War.

Calls for international relief for the North were issued in September 1995 and again in June, and the United States joined South Korea, Japan and other nations by sending millions of dollars in food aid for the flood victims.

A new shipment of U.S. food aid, consisting of 13,000 tons of rice, corn meal and corn soya blend, is due to arrive in North Korea on Friday.

Hall will return to the United States on Saturday.

Exiled democracy leader calls for sanctions against homeland

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - An exiled Burmese democracy leader Thursday called for sanctions against his homeland and said constructive engagement by Asian countries with its military leaders won't deliver improved human rights.

Sein Win said the situation in Burma is deteriorating as the military seeks political legitimacy through foreign investment and loans.

Much of this comes from countries of the seven-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Instead of ostracizing Burma,

ASEAN follows a strategy of trade, investment and dialogue to encourage its generals to ease their civil crackdown.

"We do not agree that this policy will bring a change with this military regime," Win told the National Press Club.

"Our experience since 1988 is that it is not getting better. It is getting worse."

Win heads the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, a government-in-exile based in Washington.

The coalition claims to be the legitimate government of Burma,

where power has been held by the military's State Law and Order Restoration Council since it canceled the 1990 election victory of the National League for Democracy, led by his cousin Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Win urged Australia and other democracies to step up pressure on the Burmese junta.

He said Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has expressed strong support for human rights and democracy in Burma, but has stopped short of offering sanctions to support those causes.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 96-0037

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF 3 MGD REVERSE OSMOSIS DESALINATION PLANT AUGUST 23, 1996

The Governor's Water Emergency Task Force (WETF) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for design and construction of a 3 million gallon per day (MGD) reverse osmosis desalination plant. This plant is to be constructed in the Sadog Tasi or Lower Base area of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in accordance with the Saipan Water Master Plan.

The Contractor shall be required to perform, on a turnkey basis, the following tasks:

1. Design, engineer and erect a seawater reverse osmosis plant capable of producing not less than 3.0 million gallons of desalinated water per day.
2. Perform all civil works including construction of sea water wells or intake, connection to the existing distribution system including foundations and structures and possible rehabilitation of an existing 9 million gallon underground storage reservoir and/or construction of new storage tanks.
3. Submit, as Option No. 1, construction of a 1 MGD reverse osmosis plant capable of expansion to 3 MGD. Submit, as Option No. 2, construction of a 3 MGD reverse osmosis plant with financing schemes and a minimum repayment term of five (5) years. Present options to build and operate the plant, train operators and transfer operation and/or ownership of the plant over to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) at one, two or three years.
4. Provide and install all hardware, equipment and devices needed. Upon completion, the plant shall be fully functional.
5. The plant and all water produced by the plant must meet all Environmental Protection Agency, other U.S. and CNMI codes and standards applicable to design, construction and operation of the plant, including a chloride level of less than 250 milligrams per liter. All codes and standards must be of the latest revision in effect at time of transfer to CUC.
6. The plant shall undergo a 180 day continuous acceptance test at full output.
7. All permits required to erect and operate the desalination plant shall be secured by the contractor.
8. A rate analysis, which identifies the consumer's final cost per gallon of water produced including administrative costs, shall be included as part of each proposal.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on experience of firm on related projects (25%), overall plan (20%), quality of materials and membrane warrantee (20%) project schedule (20%) and price and cost to consumer (15%).

A pre-proposal conference will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 1996. All interested persons are strongly urged to attend.

Ten (10) sets of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 96-0037, to Mr. Timothy P. Villagomez, Chairman of the Governor's Water Emergency Task Force, c/o Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, October 3, 1996.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the necessary funding and/or required approval to enter into legally binding arrangements to complete the entire project.

Firms must provide a bid bond equal to 2% of the first year's contract amount, and, upon award, a performance bond equal to 100% of the installed value of the completed facility.

All responses to this RFP should take into account and all taxes that will be charged to the successful bidder in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans and that payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project. 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 for 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.

The Governor's Water Emergency Task Force 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 interests. All proposals shall become the property of the Governor's Water Emergency Task Force.

For further information, please contact Mr. Preston L. Fisher at telephone number (670) 322-9383 or fax (670) 322-9382.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ

Chairman, Governor's Water Emergency Task Force

Euthanasia law cheats death

DARWIN, Australia (AP) - A attempt to repeal a controversial law allowing voluntary euthanasia for terminally ill patients failed in the Northern Territory Parliament on Thursday.

The territory's Legislative Assembly voted 14-11 against repeal at the end of a five-hour, pre-dawn debate.

A separate attempt to narrow the scope of the law also failed in the legislature on Wednesday.

Undeterred, anti-euthanasia politicians are now planning legislation in Australia's federal Parliament to override it.

The constitutionality of law, which allows physicians to help end the lives of terminally ill people, is also being challenged in the High Court, Australia's

highest judicial body.

Thursday morning's vote was the second time the law has survived attack.

In July, the Northern Territory Supreme Court rejected a legal challenge by doctors, pro-life activists, churchmen and some aboriginal elders, who say it breaks tribal law.

The law is the first of its kind to be passed by a legislature anywhere in the world. Euthanasia became legal in the Northern Territory on July 1, more than a year after the territory's parliament enacted it.

But so far doctors have refused to use the law while there's a chance of it being quashed. Some physicians fear they could be charged with murder if the law is

struck down.

At least one man has since died of natural causes after he traveled to the territory hoping in vain that doctors would end his life painlessly and legally.

Voluntary euthanasia legislation in Oregon was approved by a referendum in 1995, but a federal court blocked it from taking effect. Similar measures were defeated in Washington in 1991

and California in 1992.

In the Netherlands euthanasia is technically illegal. However, lawmakers approved guidelines in 1993 that let doctors help patients commit suicide under certain conditions.

South Koreans pulled from freezing river in daring rescue

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) - Rescuers pulled all eight South Korean tourists from a partly-submerged minibus after it skidded off a snow-covered bridge and plunged 12 meters (40 feet) into a fast flowing icy river on Thursday.

Two fishermen used a pocket knife to cut its unconscious driver free from a safety belt as the vehicle filled with near freezing water from the Kaurau River, near Queenstown, a ski resort 360 kilometers (223 miles) southwest of Christchurch.

Other drivers stopped they cars to dragged others from the wreckage.

Some climbed down a cable from the bridge and then administered first aid, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for the male driver.

Police said he and child were airlifted to a nearby hospital in a critical condition.

The other six were also hospitalized, but were not seriously injured. The fishermen used "a pocket knife to cut the driver out of his seat belt," said witness Brian Ahern.

"He and the child were both under water. The driver was unconscious and the child semiconscious when we got them out."

Ahern had been driving a car on the bridge just after the South Koreans' automobile plunged into the river.

He said road conditions were "treacherous." There was ice on the bridge and snow was falling.

Another driver Peter Lawson gave the driver mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while he was still in the river. A rope was lowered and the rescuers pulled the driver up to the bridge.

Police said the eight tourists arrived in New Zealand on vacation three days ago.

Eugene R. Clothier, DVM Saipan Veterinary Hospital PH: (670) 233-7387

Emergency PH: (670) 233-6594

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 96-0036

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT AND HEAVY EQUIPMENTS AUGUST 23, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from vendors for the supply of fuel for its light and heavy equipment on Saipan. CUC requires diesel and unleaded gasoline to be available twenty-four (24) hours a day and during emergency situations.

Selection criteria will be cost (50%), terms (15%), hours of operation (15%), locations of facilities (10%), and accessibility to heavy equipment (10%). The proposal should take into account all taxes that will be charged to the vendor and include an itemization of those taxes to be passed onto CUC.

One (1) original proposal and four (4) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 96-0036 to the Special Advisor for Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than Monday, September 23, 1996, at 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.), local time.

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 any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or 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 defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for PARALLEL TAXIWAY (TAXIWAY A) AT SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP Project No. 3-69-0002-23 will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 1055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until 2:00 P.M., September 20, 1996, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of constructing approximately 1,700 linear feet of connecting taxiway including subbase course, base course, asphaltic concrete pavement, drainage, and lighting at Saipan International Airport all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within two months (2) from the receipt of bids. Depending upon availability of funds, CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for three (3) months from the date of bid opening.

This contract is under and subject to Executive order 11246, as amended, of September 24, 1965, the Federal Labor provisions and the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) provisions as contained in the contract, specifications and bid documents.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-24 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign and furnish, prior to award of the contract (AIP No. 3-69-0002-23) the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities" (See Proposal).

Required Notices for All Contracts.

a. The bidder must supply all the information required by the proposal forms and specifications b. The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, hereby notifies all bidders that they (bidders) must affirmatively insure that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for award.

The bidder's attention is invited to the fact that the proposed contract shall be under and subject to the equal opportunity clause as set forth in part III, Section 302(b) of Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive order 11375 dated October 13, 1966, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, to the contract and labor provisions as set forth in Section 152.55 and Appendix H, part 152, of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the applicable provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252) implemented by Part 21 of the Regulations of the office of the Secretary of Transportation. Also, the proposed contract will be subject to the Contractor's Certification of non-segregated facilities.

The apparent low bidder and any known first tier subcontractor will be subject to a pre-award, equal opportunity compliance review by representatives of the office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of labor, before the award of the contract for the purpose of determining whether the bidder and/or his subcontractors are able to comply with the provisions of the equal opportunity clause.

Contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be examined at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth ports Authority, or can be obtained from this office upon the payment of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) for each set of plan documents. This amount is non-refundable. Payment shall be made by check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING, at 11:00 A.M., Friday, August 30, 1996 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Consultant, in writing, at least five (5) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference, with a copy of same mailed simultaneously to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each prospective bidder shall file with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the above Saipan address, a notice of his intention to bid in a form substantially similar to that supplied herewith, not less than six (6) calendar days prior to the date hereinabove designated for opening of proposals.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, or any of them, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its interest.

/s/ CARLOS A. SHODA

Executive Director

8/14/96

Date

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISING

(INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL/NOTICE TO PROPOSERS)

- The proposed contract is under the subject to Executive order 11246, as amended of September 24, 1965, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.
- All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI law.
- Each proposer must supply all the information required by the proposal documents and specifications.
- The (EEO) requirements, labor provisions and wage rate are included in the specifications and proposal documents and are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.
- Each Proposer must complete, sign and furnish, prior to award of the contract (at submission of the proposal), the Proposer's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause, and the "Certifications of Non-Segregated Facilities" as contained in the Bid Proposals.
- A contractor having 50 or more employees and his subcontractors having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract \$50,000 or more will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications.
- To be eligible for award, each proposer must comply with the affirmative action requirements which are contained in the specifications.
- In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.
- Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards of requirements for this employment of minorities.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) Restaurant/Snack Bar Concession at the Rota International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 1055, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan MP 96950. The proposal packages cost \$30. Checks can be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The pre-bid conference will be held on August 16, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. at the CPA Conference Room located on the Second Floor, Rota ARFF Building, Rota International Airport.

Proposals will be received by the CPA until 2:00 p.m., Friday, September 13, 1996 in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on September 13, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, Second Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals in accordance with Section 3.2.(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Victor B. Hocog, Chairman
CPA Board of Directors

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INVITATION FOR BID

IFB96-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed bidding from firms interested in leasing to P S S a building/ground floor space meeting the following specification:

- The building/ground floor space must have a total of at least 2,400 square ft. of ground floor space for classroom.
 - The building must be within the Dandan geographic location.
 - The building must have a fenced playground area with suitable ground cover to be used for outdoor recreation purposes.
 - Water must be available 24 hours a day. Building must either be connected to a septic tank or a sewer system.
 - Any work whether inside or outside of the building must be completed prior to September 09, 1996 before the commencement of the HeadStart operation.
 - Price quotation can be on a \$ per square foot of the interior space or bulk figure. If bulk figure is given, the available interior space must be given.
 - The lease period must be for one year.
- All bids must be in a sealed envelope facemarked "IFB96-009" and submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., September 23, 1996 at which time and place all bids will be read aloud.
- A non refundable fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the bid. The twenty five dollars may be a certified check or a cashier's check or other forms acceptable by P S S Treasurer and made payable to the P S S Treasurer. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid a copy of his business permit. The P S S has the right to award or reject any or all bids if its to the best interest of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this bid may be directed to Mr. Dino R. Taitano, Director HeadStart Program at telephone numbers 664-3751 or 664-3755.

/S/William S. Torres
Commissioner Of Education

/S/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

Bank security to increase after attacks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Following a spate of Muslim militant attacks on banks, Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfy has approved increasing security for banks and armored cars used to transfer money, newspapers reported Wednesday.

The daily Al-Akbar said el-Alfy met with bankers Tuesday and said security forces were carrying out a special operation to catch extremists who have targeted banks in recent months to finance their operations.

At least six people people have been killed this year in bank heists, which usually occur in the countryside.

El-Alfy said that security in banks was being beefed up with more guards and new electronic equipment. The daily Al-Akbar also said a new private security company has been approved to protect banks.

Muslim militants increased attacks on banks and jewelry shops to finance their activities after police cut off funds coming from abroad.

More than 950 people have been killed since 1992 in the radicals' campaign to overthrow the government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Most of the victims have been militants and police.

Businessman from Tehran sentenced to death for fraud

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - A Tehran businessman who once had people lining up to invest in his company has been convicted of fraud and sentenced to death, a Farsi-language newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Islamic Revolutionary Court on Monday also sentenced Islam Kurd-Lor, the head of the collapsed "Sahar-va-Alika" investment company, to an unspecified number of lashes, the daily Iran reported.

It said the court declared the defendant "corrupt on earth," a designation that under Islamic law calls for the death sentence.

Kurd-Lor, who has appealed the sentence, was charged with "cheating 11,000 simple-minded people, carrying a weapon without a license, writing nearly 70,000 bad checks, bribing government employees, smuggling funds and textiles and trying to defraud people even while under arrest," the newspaper reported.

Kurd-Lor ran a hugely successful pyramid scheme that promised to pay a princely 5 percent interest per month on money invested in his company. At one time, hundreds of people would line up before the company every day to deposit their savings.

Some 50 billion rials (\$ 16.6 million) were invested in the company when it collapsed a few years ago. Most of the money was paid back by seizing Kurd-Lor's assets, but some 15 billion rials (\$ 5 million) still remained unpaid, the newspaper said.

China assails Taiwan, Ukraine

By CHARLES HUTZLER

BEIJING (AP) - China on Wednesday assailed Taiwanese Premier Lien Chan's visit to Ukraine as an attempt to back away from reunification and canceled a high-level mission to Kiev in retaliation.

Although Lien's trip Tuesday was low-key and not announced beforehand, China's Communist rulers have been trying to blunt a campaign by Taiwan's rival Nationalist government to break free

Deng turns 92

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

BEIJING (AP) - China marked the 92nd birthday of its paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, with a poem, essays and other tributes to the man credited with bringing prosperity to the nation after decades of turmoil.

Deng, believed to be in precariously feeble health, has not appeared in public in more than two years. There were no public events to celebrate his birthday.

But the state-run media honored the occasion with praise for the man dubbed the "Great Architect" of China's economic reforms with essays on his philosophy and a report on a 3,000-line epic poem, "Ode to Deng Xiaoping."

The flurry of essays and articles may signal a recognition that this could be the last opportunity to observe Deng's birthday, given his advanced age and poor health.

"Deng Xiaoping had the courage to break the boundaries which were shackling people's minds. That was his great success," said a retired government official who gave only his surname, Lin.

Deng has remained China's most influential political figure despite having relinquished his last official title in 1990. The government rarely comments on Deng's health or whereabouts, and he has not appeared in public since early 1994. A victim of Parkinson's disease, he is thought to be living in quiet retirement in his heavily guarded Beijing courtyard residence.

HK reports 231 refugees

HONG KONG (AP) - Hong Kong deported another 231 Vietnamese to Hanoi on two flights Thursday after their appeal for asylum was turned down.

Most of the 76 men, 56 women, and 99 children had been in Hong Kong detention camps since 1988, the government said.

Hong Kong regards the Vietnamese as job-seekers, not genuine refugees deserving asylum. It has forcibly repatriated 5,035 since November 1991, and more than 50,000 others have gone home voluntarily.

The government wants the 14,000 Vietnamese left in its camps to leave before July 1 next year, when the British colony reverts to Chinese rule.

The Vietnamese are left over from the waves of asylum-seekers who fled their homeland after the U.S.-backed south of Vietnam fell to the communist north in 1975.

of the diplomatic isolation imposed by Beijing.

"Lien Chan's trip to Ukraine for accepting an honorary doctorate degree from Kiev University was obviously made with political purposes," a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said.

The ministry said efforts by Taiwanese leaders to promote the island's independence are "doomed to failure." Reunification has been the stated goal of both sides since the Nationalists fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war in 1949.

To show its displeasure with Kiev, Beijing scrubbed a visit by a delegation headed by Li Tieying, a Cabinet member in charge of economic reforms, due to begin Wednesday.

"It would be very inappropriate and uncomfortable for the delegation to be in Kiev at the same time" as Lien, said Chang Xiao,

spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in the Ukrainian capital.

China has grown alarmed in recent years as an increasingly democratic and economically powerful Taiwan seeks to assert itself internationally.

After Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visited the United States in June 1995, China waged nine months of sporadic missile tests and war games to try to bring the island to heel.

China insists that Taiwanese leaders drop the diplomatic offensive, especially a bid to join the United Nations, if they want to improve relations.

Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang said Tuesday in Taipei that Lien's visit was "entirely private in nature."

Supposedly on his way back from the Dominican Republic on Monday, Lien headed instead to Kiev via Vienna.

After receiving the degree from the Institute of International Relations from Kiev's Shevchenko University, Lien took a brief cruise down the Dnipro River with the institute's director and visited an antique shop.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was lodging a protest with the Ukrainian government for a "serious violation" of their agreement on diplomatic relations. China's ambassador to Ukraine met with Ukrainian Foreign Ministry officials Wednesday, Chang said.

China insists that all nations wanting diplomatic ties with Beijing drop them with Taiwan and recognize Chinese sovereignty over the island. Kiev agreed to do so when it opened formal relations with Beijing in 1992.

A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the ministry had no prior knowledge of the Tai-

wanese premier's visit. President Leonid Kuchma's office frantically denied rumors that he had met with Lien. Kuchma was to meet Beijing's delegation Thursday.

Viktor Skopenko, Shevchenko University rector, said Lien came as a private individual, not as prime minister. China, however, has maintained that all overseas visits by senior Taiwanese leaders are official missions no matter the pretext.

China is Ukraine's second largest trading partner and the former Soviet republic has hosted visits by President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng.

China has been seeking to roll back Taiwanese diplomatic gains, especially in Africa. On Monday, China and Niger restored ties after a four-year break, leaving just 30 countries still holding official relations with Taiwan.

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Grozny braces for assault

By BARRY RENFREW
GROZNY, Russia (AP) - While terrified civilians fled the Chechen capital ahead of a threatened Russian assault, it was unclear Wednesday whether the Kremlin had endorsed the attack and exactly who was in charge.

Russia's military commander in the region has threatened an all-out attack Thursday morning, and promised a safe corridor out of the city until then. But Russian troops attacked the main route out of Grozny on Tuesday, clashing with Chechen separatists while thousands of panicked refugees were caught in the middle.

Russian troops were fighting to encircle Grozny and trap the Chechen rebels inside. Federal reinforcements moved in, and Russian artillery and aircraft fired on various parts of the city Tuesday.

The rebel fighters overran Grozny Aug. 6. Only isolated pockets of Russian soldiers have remained in the city.

With Russian helicopters dropping leaflets over Grozny warning civilians to leave, the flow of refugees turned into a flood. Some carried babies, small children or a few possessions in plastic shopping bags. Others crammed into cars and trucks for a harrowing ride.

Gen. Konstantin Pulikovsky's

threat of a massive attack put him at odds with the man President Boris Yeltsin placed in charge of ending the 20-month war: security chief Alexander Lebed. Just last week Lebed had initiated new peace talks and a shaky cease-fire in the breakaway republic.

On Tuesday, he criticized plans for an assault.

"Air raids even after civilians' evacuation would only expand the conflict," said Lebed, who planned to fly to Grozny on Wednesday to meet with commanders on both sides.

In a statement that cast doubt on who was giving orders, Lebed said the copy he got of a presidential directive Monday to retake Grozny bore only a facsimile of Yeltsin's signature.

Yeltsin's office only added

to the confusion, saying Yeltsin had formulated the latest instructions but that they concerned negotiations.

On Monday, Yeltsin ordered Lebed to return Grozny to the control of federal troops and to continue peace talks.

The president himself has remained largely absent, dogged by reports of serious health problems. Aides said he was visiting a country resort in northern Russia.

Pulikovsky was transferring control of Russia's Chechnya operation on Wednesday to Lt. Gen. Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, who returned Tuesday evening from vacation. Tikhomirov indicated he would stick to the ultimatum.

On Tuesday evening, a second road was opened for refugees out of the city; it was not

clear if it remained open Wednesday.

Fighting raged Tuesday in the forests around the main road out, running southwest, with rebels firing mortars on Russian soldiers. The Russians succeeded in cutting the corridor Tuesday afternoon, but it was unclear if they could hold it.

Russian troops reportedly blew up a bridge outside Grozny along the corridor. More than 100 civilians were killed, the Interfax news agency said Tuesday night.

The rebels' military chief, Aslan Maskhadov, ordered his fighters Wednesday to prepare for the second stage of their "Zero Option" plan to conquer Grozny, Interfax said. Russian commanders said rebel reinforcements had arrived in the city.

Hundreds of Russian soldiers

have died and 1,000 have been wounded in the rebel assault on Grozny. The tally of victims from the entire war, most of them civilians, tops 30,000.

Russian news agencies reported small anti-war rallies Wednesday in towns around Chechnya and other parts of the Russia's North Caucasus.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which had helped arrange and mediate previous peace talks, said it had pulled its mission out of Grozny until the fighting stops, Interfax said.

Some other parts of Russia braced for feared terrorist attacks. Police in Vladivostok, in Russia's Far East, were on high alert, saying they had received a threat of terrorist action by Chechen rebels, Russian news agencies said.

Russian troops desert their unit to escape brutal hazing

MOSCOW (AP) - Thirty Russian Interior Ministry troops deserted their unit to escape brutal hazing and camped in a forest, refusing to return until a top commander guaranteed their safety.

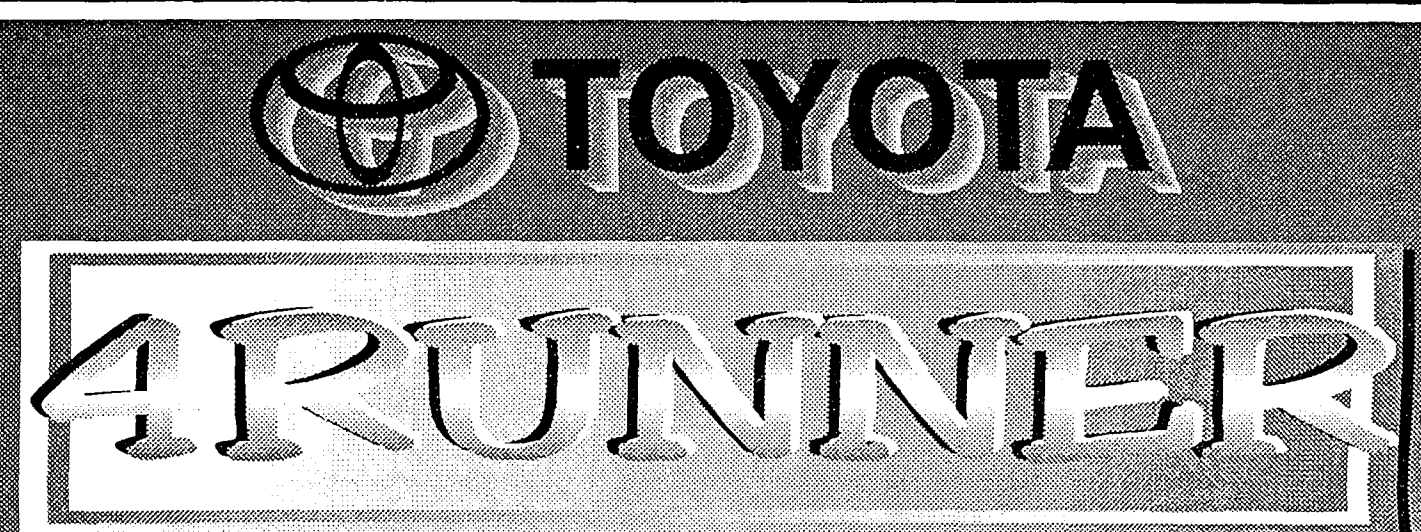
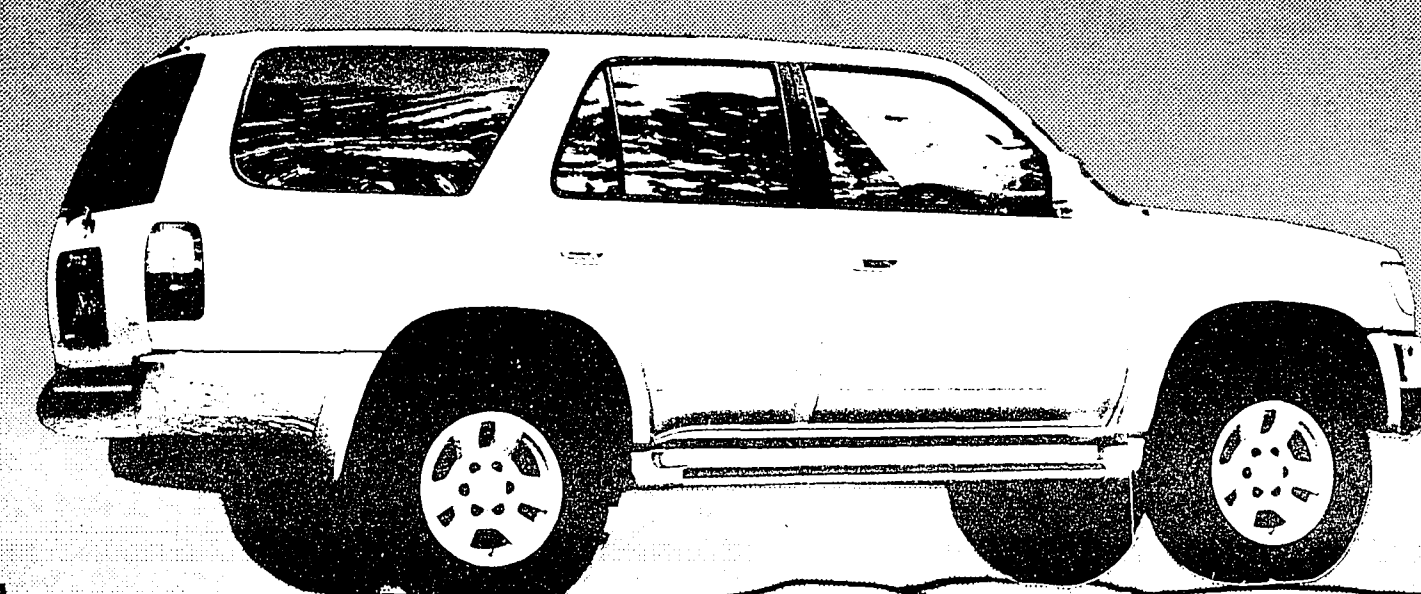
The soldiers got on a truck Sunday and left their base in Solikamsk, about 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of Moscow, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported Wednesday.

Some of the soldiers contacted their mothers in Solikamsk and said they had been driven to desertion because of hazing at the hands of soldiers from Dagestan, a republic in Russia's Caucasus Mountains, the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda wrote.

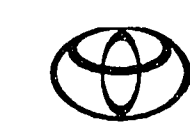
The mothers contacted the district commander of Interior troops, identified in the reports only as Gen. Gordyev, and brought him to a forest where the deserters had made camp, the reports said.

After the general guaranteed the soldiers' safety, they returned to base, ITAR-Tass wrote.

Hazing is a long-standing problem in Russia's army, which is also plagued by severe financial shortages.

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Texan wins Miss Teen USA

LAS CRUCES, New Mexico (AP) - A Texas teen who would like to talk to President Clinton about sex education and thinks parental consent should be required for birth control has been named Miss Teen USA.

Christie Lee Woods covered her face with shaking hands Wednesday night as she heard she had been chosen, and then,

smiling broadly through her tears, she waved to the cheering crowd at the Pan Am Center.

The 18-year-old from Huntsville, Texas, was crowned by the last year's Miss Teen USA, Keylee Sue Sanders of Kansas, during a two-hour show aired live on the CBS television network.

The 5-foot-8-inch (173 cm), brown-eyed, brown-haired student will spend her year-long reign traveling throughout the United States making commercial and civic appearances.

In addition to her crown, Woods won more than \$150,000 in cash and prizes.

"I would discuss with him having mandatory sex education

classes, because if students decided to have sex, they should be practicing safe sex. However, in my opinion, abstinence is always the best way," she said.

While the young women were the ones being judged, featured guest Miss Universe Alicia Machado of Venezuela - who made a brief appearance - has faced a good deal of scrutiny as

well after recent reports that she has been gaining weight.

At 5-foot-9 (175 cm), Machado weighed 113 pounds (51 kilograms) when she won the Miss Universe crown in Las Vegas on May 17. She dropped 18 pounds (8 kilograms) before the competition, but now weighs 130 pounds (59 kilograms).

JOINT ANNIVERSARY ROSARY



SABINA PANGELINAN
DELOS REYES, 24TH



JOSEPHA PANGELINAN
DELOS REYES-SANTOS, 30TH



PABLO VILLAGOMEZ
DELOS SANTOS, 20TH



LUCIA PANGELINAN DELOS REYES,
1ST



JUAN PANGELINAN DELOS SANTOS, 31ST



JOSE PANGELINAN DELOS REYES, 36TH



GREGORIO DELOS REYES, 8TH
PEDRO CABRERA DELOS REYES

We, the families,
would like to invite all
our relatives and friends to join us
for the joint anniversary rosary
of our beloved ones.

Rosary will be said nightly
at the residence of Mr. & Mrs.
Daniel Pangelinan Delos Santos
(Daniel Bolis) at As Lito, commencing
August 24, 1996, at 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, August 31, 1996, mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m.
at San Vicente Church. Dinner will follow at the San Vicente Social Hall behind the church.
Kindly join us.

From The FAMILIES

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Maria Delos Remedios Tudela Sablan Cabrera

DOB: OCTOBER 9, 1921
DOD: AUGUST 19, 1996

was called to her eternal rest at her home at the age of 74 years old

SHE IS PREDECEASED BY HER

Husband : JOSE CAMACHO CABRERA
Son : ANTONIO SABLAN CABRERA
Parents : ANTONIO REYES & RITA RAMIREZ
TUDELA SABLAN
Parents-in-law : RAMON TALSAGUE & CONCEPCION
CAMACHO CABRERA

Brothers, Sisters and Spouses

APOLINIA LG SABLAN/JUAN M. CHARFAURUS
ANA LG SABLAN/VICENTE CABRERA
MARIA LG SABLAN/FRANCISCO DELA CONCEPCION
FLORA LG SABLAN/VIDAL SANTOS
NATIVIDAD (DAIDA) LG SABLAN/JOSE CONCEPCION
ENRIQUE LG SABLAN/MARTHA BARCINAS
FRANCISCO LG SABLAN/ANTONIA C. CAMACHO

SEGUNDO T. SABLAN
JUAN TUDELA SABLAN/EMILIANA B. AGUON
CONSOLACION T. SABLAN/IGNACIO DELA CRUZ/JOSE SANTOS
DOLORES T. SABLAN/JOAQUIN MENDIOLA
ESTAFANIA T. SABLAN/ANTONIO REYES
VICENTE T. SABLAN/SABEL ARTERO
HILDEGARDIA T. SABLAN/JUAN CEPEDA
MARIA T. SABLAN/FELIX ROBERTO
ISIDRO T. SABLAN/ROSA PANGELINAN
BONIFACIO T. SABLAN/MAGDALENA ROSARIO

HER SPIRIT AND MEMORIES WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HER FAMILY:

Daughters/Spouses/Grandchildren
MARGARET C. & FIDEL SN. BABAUTA: GLENDA & VERA
RITA C. & ANTONIO S. GUERRERO: ANTHONY & DEBRA, BETTINA,
JOSEPH, PATRICK & TERESA
MARIA VICTORIA (WICKIE) C. & MIGUEL MATEO JR.: JUSTIN
MICHAEL & JOSEPH
CONCEPCION (CONNIE) SABLAN CABRERA: DAVID, VAUGHN & KIMBERLY

Sons/Spouses/Grandchildren :

EDWARD S. CABRERA & MARGARITA P. RIOS; ANN MERLYN,
SEVRENE & RITA
DAVID S. CABRERA; DARREN & MICHELLE
MARTIN S. CABRERA; LYNETTE

And by 4 Great-Grandchildren

In laws/Spouses
JOSEFINA DUENAS SABLAN (WIDOW OF SEGUNDO T. SABLAN)
ANTONIO C. CABRERA (D)/CARMEN LG CABRERA (GUMBA)
MARIA C./JOAQUIN I. SEMAN (D)
LUCIA C. CABRERA
GREGORIO C./ESCOLASTICA T. CABRERA
CALISTRO C. CABRERA (DOC)
CARMEN C./FRANCISCO ACOSTA
VICENTE/VICTORIA FARJADO SABLAN
MARIANO/ANTONIA B. SABLAN
ROSARIO S./NICOLAS T. PALACIOS

Mass is being offered nightly at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by the rosary.
Last respects will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 1996, starting at 8:00 a.m.. Mass of Christian burial
will be offered at 4:00 p.m. Interment services will follow immediately.
Please pray with us.



Man perishes after going over Niagara Falls waters

NIAGARA FALLS, New York (AP) - As a crowd of horrified tourists looked on, a man perished after he was swept over Niagara Falls.

The man, who has not been identified, went over the massive falls around 7:15 p.m. (2315 GMT) Tuesday. It was unclear

how he got into the water.

According to witness Michael Lelyveld, a crowd of 50 to 75 people saw a man in his 20s in the water about to be swept over the falls.

"(He) looked like he was in panic," said Lelyveld, who said it took about 15 seconds for the

current to sweep the man over the falls.

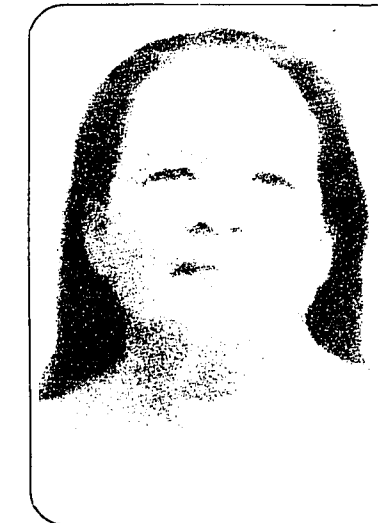
Authorities recovered his body Tuesday night.

The incident marks the fifth time this year a person has gone over the falls on either the American side or the Canadian side, officials said.

Joint Anniversary Rosary

We, the children of the late

Daniel Tudela & Joaquina Santos Borja,



would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in the nightly rosary commemorating the
First Death Anniversary of our beloved father, Daniel
and also the Twentieth Death Anniversary of our beloved mother, Joaquina.
Rosary will be said nightly at 7:00 p.m. beginning on August 29, 1996 at the family residence in Asteco.

On the final day, September 6, 1996, the rosary will be said at 4:00 p.m.
followed by the mass of intention at 5:00 p.m. at the Santa Lourdes Shrine.
Dinner will be served after the mass at the family residence.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Children

Death & Funeral Announcement

ISIDRO IGISONAR SAURES



was called to his eternal rest
on August 17th, 1996, at the age of 44.

His remain will be laid
at their residence in Chalan Laulau
today, Friday, August 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

Funeral mass will be offered
on Saturday, August 24th, 1996
at 2:30 p.m. at San Jose Church
and burial will follow
at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

1st ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

In Loving Memory
Of Our Beloved

JUDAH DAN REKEMESIK



We, the family, would like to
invite all our relatives and
friends to join us in prayers as
we commemorate the first

anniversary of our beloved. Nightly
rosary will start on August 23, 1996 at
7:00 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. Sue
W. Rekemesik in Chinatown.

On the final day, August 31, 1996
(Saturday) at 4:00 p.m. mass will be
offered at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.
Dinner will follow at the family
residence in Chinatown at 6:00 p.m.
Thank You & Kalangan

The Family

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

CARMEN DELEON GUERRERO KING



We, the family of the late
Carmen Deleon Guerrero King
invite all our relatives and
friends for the First Anniversary of Our Loved One.

Nightly Rosary will be said at James & Agnes
Ripple's Residence in San Vicente beginning on
Wednesday, August 28, 1996 at 8:00 p.m.
in the evening.

On the final day, Thursday, September 05, 1996,
rosary will be said at 4:30 p.m. at the San Vicente
Church, followed by the Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner will follow after the mass at the residence
of James & Agnes Ripple in San Vicente.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS

We, the family of the late

MANUEL C. ARRIOLA,



invite all our relatives and friends to join us in
prayer for our beloved. Daily masses will be
offered every 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral
beginning August 26 to September 3rd 1996.

On the final day, September 3rd, after the mass
breakfast will be served.

The Family

Beauty 'industry' helps Venezuela

By BART JONES
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - Beauty pageants may be politically incorrect in some places, but in this South American nation, they're a source of pride.

Two of Venezuela's prettiest three last year went on to be named Miss Universe and Miss World. The third, Carla Steinkopf, flies to Tokyo soon for the Miss International pageant.

Chalk the success up to Venezuela's exotic blend of races and a pageant organization dedicated to preserving the nation's reputation for world class beauties.

All eyes are on the winners, and reports this week that Miss Universe Alicia Machado must drop 20 pounds (9 kilograms) in two weeks or lose her crown created a front-page stir.

At 5 feet 7 inches (1.7 meters), Machado weighed 113 pounds (51 kilograms) when she won her crown in Las Vegas on May 17. She had dropped 18 pounds (8 kilograms) before the competition. Media reports say she now weighs 130 pounds (59 kilograms) and faces the royal boot.

Miss Universe pageant officials denied Tuesday giving any ultimatums.

"I just saw her yesterday and she looked beautiful," spokeswoman Wooten Lee said.

Machado's mother, Marta Fajardo, said her daughter had four wisdom teeth removed a couple of weeks ago, which made her face swell and may have given the impression she had gained weight.

Venezuelans have won nine top international pageants in the past two decades, more than any other nation. After Machado's victory, President Rafael Caldera proclaimed Venezuela "the world center of beauty."

Twice - in 1996 and 1981 - Venezuela has held two of the three top titles in the same year. Only Australia (1972) and India (1994) managed that once.

This year, Venezuela's going for all three, and Steinkopf is confident she's the one to beat Oct. 27.

"It's a huge responsibility I've got in my hands," the 23-year-old model said confidently. "I'm sure I'm going to be successful."

The annual Miss Venezuela pageant has no trouble finding contestants. Thousands literally knock on the door of Miss Venezuela House, the Caracas home of pageant organizers.

"I always knew when I used to watch the contest on TV I was going to be there someday," said Adelaida Pifano, 24. She and 27 other young women vie Sept. 6 for this year's title - and possible fame and fortune.

The vehicle that transforms pretty women into beauty queens is the Miss Venezuela Organization. Its mastermind is Osmel Sousa, a graphic artist who no longer designs his ideal woman in sketch pads.

Sousa recruits, selects and grooms Miss Venezuela contestants, who are not winners of regional beauty contests. He assigns the state banners - Miss Zulia, Miss Federal District - that they wear on the show.

He finds candidates at parties, shopping malls, modeling agencies. He discovered Minorka Mercado, Miss Venezuela 1993, playing volleyball on Venezuela's Caribbean beaches.

"When I look at a girl, I look to see if she is well-proportioned and tall," says Sousa. The face, he says, needn't be perfect - makeup and plastic surgery always are options.

Quite a few young women submit to plastic surgery. Most work is on the nose and breasts;

liposuction smooths the thighs.

Steinkopf, who has breast implants, said there's nothing wrong with a bit of plastic surgery. "If you want to arrange any detail... why not?"

Sousa also discounts criticism of surgically altering contestants. "A girl who puts on makeup also is fabricated," he said. Besides, he said plastic surgery is common in most pageants: "I'm more sincere. I admit it."

The Los Angeles-based Miss Universe Pageant doesn't prohibit plastic surgery, but "they don't encourage it. They think women are naturally beautiful and don't need enhancing," said spokeswoman Wooten Lee.

At Miss Venezuela House, contestants are sequestered for three months before the annual pageant. They are put on crash diets and work out in the gym for several hours a day.

They are taught to walk, talk, sit, stand and dress in certain ways, how to apply makeup and how to answer pageant questions.

Few complain. Winning can be a ticket to a career in television, film, business and even politics.

Irene Saez, Miss Universe 1981, is mayor of a Caracas municipality. Polls show she is the most popular politician in the country, and some think she may run for president in two years.

Natural beauty is given some credit for Venezuela's success. Venezuelans are a blend of native Indians, former African slaves and Europeans from the conquistadors to refugees from 20th century wars.

"Venezuela has a great mix of races," Machado said. "That's why the girls are so pretty."

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

We, the family of the late

Juan Arriola Tenorio

son of Lino Pangelinan and Magdalena Arriola Tenorio (both deceased) cordially invite all our relatives, godchildren, classmates and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the death of our beloved youngest brother.

Mass will be offered daily at 6:00 a.m. beginning Saturday, August 24th, through Sunday, September 1st at Kristo Rai Church.

Nightly rosary will be said at 8:00 p.m. at the family residence in Garapan. On the final day, Sunday, September 1st, the final rosary will be said at 5:00 p.m. at the family residence in Garapan, and will be followed by dinner.

Please join us and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

First Anniversary Rosary



We the family of the late

LAWRENCE P. AQUININGOC

Would like to invite all relatives & friends to join us for the FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY of our beloved one.

Nightly rosary will be held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Pacifico Aquiningoc at Marpo Heights in Tinian beginning on Tuesday, August 20, 1996.

Mass is also being held daily, 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian.

On the final day Wednesday, August 28, 1996, the mass of intention will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian.

Dinner will follow at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Pacifico Aquiningoc.

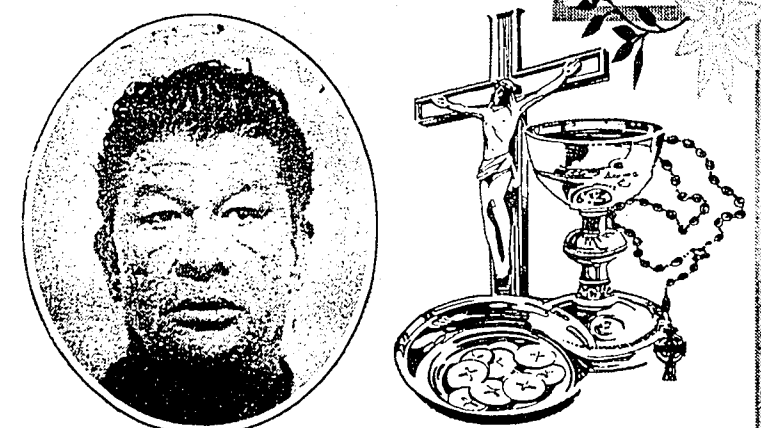
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the family



5th Anniversary Rosary

In memory of our beloved husband, father, grandfather,

ANTONIO PALACIOS DUENAS



we would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating his passage to eternal life, to begin Monday, August 26, 1996. Daily Rosary will be said at 8:00 p.m. at the residence in San Vicente.

On the final day, Tuesday, September 3, 1996, mass will be offered at 5:30 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Dinner will follow at Dolores F. Duenas (Sach) residence in San Vicente.

Kindly join us.

The Family

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PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-0506
IN RE ESTATE OF MARIA CEPEDA DLG. CRUZ, Deceased.

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that Maria DLG. Tomokane of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth Superior Court to be appointed as administratrix of the estate of Maria Cepeda Dlg. Cruz, deceased. The attorney of record is JUAN T. LIZAMA, P.O. Box 1508, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The hearing on the petition is set for 15th day of October, 1996, at 1:30 p.m., at the Commonwealth Superior Court in Saipan. All interested persons should appear at this hearing. All persons having claim against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice. Dated this 19th day of August, 1996.

/s/Dep. Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

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INVITATION TO BID

RFP NO. RFP96-0132
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE W/TRADE-IN

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 1996
TIME: 2:30 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO. ITB96-0133
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 1996
TIME: 3:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO. ITB96-0134
FOR: LEASE OF A VEHICLE W/OPTION TO PURCHASE

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 1996
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS

CNMI PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP96-0135
FOR: TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES INCLUDING INSTALLATIONS

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 1996
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO. ITB96-0131
FOR: LEASE OF A VEHICLE

OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 1996
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS

PIC-Saipan has openings for the following positions: **Reservations Clerk and Administrative Assistant.** Only those applicants with computer experience will be considered. Must be dependable and trustworthy. If qualified, apply in person to Pacific Islands Club, P.O. Box 2370, Saipan, MP 96950. We offer competitive wages and an excellent benefit package, including discounts to all restaurants, use of all facilities and more.

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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.

Job Vacancy Announcement

TERFREE

YOUR BIRTHDAY

An early version of golf was played by the Romans, who called their game "pagancia."

	9	10	11	
	14			
	18			
22				
27				
	31	32	33	
38		39		
	45			
	58	59	60	
64				
67				

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
"MAGNIFICENT! EXTRAORDINARY!"
Coca-Cola, RUTEN FRANK

THE MOVIE HOUSE

Thursday
7:00

Friday
7:00
9:00

Saturday
3:00
5:00
7:00
9:00

Showtimes
234-FILM

***WITH AN EXTRA MATINEE SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

Cochran...

Continued from page 1

been to impress other attorneys who might have high opinions of themselves, but to achieve and fulfill the expectations of his client consistent with the law and substantial justice.

Cochran claimed that a confidential information he received from Kinney regarding Lujan also motivated him to withdraw his application.

He, however, pointed out that with Kinney's permission he would be willing to disclose such information before an open court.

With regards to FILC, Cochran said it is his conclusion that a document entitled "Association of Counsel Agreement" prepared by FILC may not comply with CNMI law.

The document indicated that Cochran's law offices would undertake to assist FILC in the prosecution of the heirship claim. Cochran's legal fees to be paid by FILC were also contained in that document.

Contrary to Lujan's assertion, Cochran said he did not raise this issue with him in any conversations.

"As a consequence, I no longer wish to associate in the above-captioned matter (Hillbloom case) with the Family Law Clinic," he said.

Meanwhile, Cochran said he may reapply for admission to assist Hillbloom depending upon the Superior Court's order of today's scheduled hearing on Imeong's motion.

Imeong, who expressed opposition in hiring Cochran, asked the court to designate her as the lead guardian for her 12-year-old grandson.

Cochran suggested to the court to appoint an independent litigation advisor that could assist in guiding the guardian in the proper performance of their duties considering the complexity of the estate.

"Hopefully, with the appointment of such an advisor future and petty disputes as demonstrated in this matter can be avoided and the court's time can better be utilized in bringing about a fair and reasonable resolution of this matter," he added.

Congress...

Continued from page 1

To increase the chances of the bill getting passed, Babauta said CNMI leaders should clarify the local labor situation to Miller.

CNMI leaders should "de-link" the labor issue from the delegate bill.

Despite the bill's defeat, however, Babauta said the result of the committee's vote is a "major step forward."

In the past, members of Congress would not even sponsor a bill for CNMI delegate.

"This time around, it was a major breakthrough to have the chairman of the full committee, Young, and the chairman of the subcommittee, (Rep. Elton) Gallegly (R-

California) to sponsor an original bill," Babauta said.

He maintained that the CNMI should be represented in Congress, which, he said, continues to pass legislations and policies affecting the Commonwealth.

"And yet we have no one in Congress to defend and protect our interests."

Asked for a comment on Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's continued opposition to the delegate bill, Babauta said "I do not want to have any personal arguments back and forth with the governor. He has his views, I have mine."

By a vote of 13 to 12, the U.S. House Resources Committee rejected last Aug. 2 the CNMI delegate bill introduced early this year by Del. Robert Underwood (D-Guam).

would...result in the Fund's disqualification as a tax-exempt retirement plan. Losing our tax exempt status would require each plan member to pay taxes now on benefits to be received later."

The Fund should instead be given a five-year moratorium in benefit changes to allow it to reduce the accrued unfunded liability and to regain the momentum lost due to past benefit-improvement legislations, Manglona said.

Guerrero, in an earlier interview, said his bill would help CNMI retirees, "who have been suffering as a result of the high cost of living."

Retirement...

Continued from page 1

accrued liability. However...the cost will be even higher than the anticipated revenues that would result if the cap on amusement machines is lifted."

Manglona said the proposed \$12,000 minimum benefit may not even be permitted under Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The proposed increase exceeds the highest salary earned by some retirees, he said.

"To pay this new minimum

aliens.

Broadhurst confirmed Palacios' operations was "the reason why his resignation was accepted" by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

Palacios' absence in the labor department, Broadhurst said "has not deterred the aggressive tracking down of illegal aliens."

"Problems with illegal aliens are being handled appropriately, delicately and aggressively by Sec. (Thomas) Sablan and his crew," Broadhurst said.

PIO...

Continued from page 1

job well done" which was contained in a resolution approved Wednesday by the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation.

Palacios earlier said his resignation last February was prompted by "pressures" from some administration officials who were not happy with the manner by which he conducted his raids against illegal

and working conditions

of garment factory workers, and I know that numerous penalties for violations were assessed in the past, but the garment factories have learned their lessons and have dramatically improved. Which factory will be so stupid to continue to violate OSHA regulations knowing that they will be liable for large monetary penalties.

What I am saying, is that there is a joint cooperation between OSHA, our labor department and the industry to continue to improve whatever is required of the garment industry until full compliance is achieved. I am sick and tired of unfair accusations and the lack of recognition on the part of the federal government to give us credit when credit is due. In the case of Senator Murkowski, while OSHA gave the CNMI credit for a job well done, the Senator attempted to undo the credit and make us look like a bunch of slave drivers.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my sentiments.

Pete P. Reyes

Reyes...

Continued from page 5

act in order or else face the consequences of punishment by the federal government. Senator Murkowski even accused the CNMI of allowing or tolerating "sweatshop" working conditions of garment factories operating in the CNMI. This statement was made despite an official report from OSHA which stated that the Saipan garment factories' working conditions are generally better than the U.S. national average for that industry. The report went on to say that CNMI factories, unlike in the past, did not commit any repeated or willful violations.

Mr. Speaker, the working conditions of the garment workers in Saipan, in my opinion, are far superior to many of our very own government offices and buildings. I cannot understand why Senator Murkowski chose to contradict the official report of OSHA. Is this just another opportunity for bashing us unnecessarily because he is in the position to do just that?

Mr. Speaker, this legislature has tried its best together with the admin-

Saipan...

Continued from page 48

5th Game - The Saipan Stevedore Che'Lus won their third game in four

Another...

Continued from page 48

doesn't mean they are not great ball players," Guim said. "In all probability he is an excellent ball player with major league potential. Cuba is so rich in great

Angels...

Continued from page 48

Lira, Gregg Olson pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Wilson Alvarez, bidding for his 15th

Muster...

Continued from page 48

"This is one of my best wins," said Tillstrom, who defeated Muster at the Australian Open this year. "It was my third top 10 win, so I rank it very high."

Game...

Continued from page 48

had a plus score against him, but only because he wasn't able to play against the two when he was at the height of his powers.

Keene and Divinsky on Fischer's style of play: "Direct, sharp and super-aggressive. Since he is not interested in short draws, almost every one of his games is full of interest. He works extremely hard especially on his opening repertoire."

As every chess aficionado knows, Fischer beat Spassky in that famous match in Reykjavik, only to disappear from the chess scene. The last of his appearances—for which he charged a fee—was in Manila during the 1973 Interzonal tournament.

In 1992, a bald, bearded and potbellied Fischer resurfaced for a "return match" against Spassky. After winning the event, Fischer promptly vanished from the chess world.

The last time he was in the news four years ago, Fischer still spoke with a Brooklyn accent, still hated the Russians, the Jews (he is half-Jewish) and the U.S. government. He is reportedly still single though rumours have it that he almost married a Serbian woman chess master or something. Wanted by the State Department for playing in Serbia during an embargo against that country for waging genocidal war in Bosnia, he is thought to be holed up somewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

Here is his game, dubbed the "Game of the Century," against an older and more experienced U.S. master. The Fischer of this game, it should be noted, was only 13 years old.

Annotations by Irving Chernev: Gruenfeld Defense
D. Byrne-B. Fischer
New York, 1956
1. N-KB3 N-KB3 2. P-QB4 P-KN3 3. N-B3 B-N2 4. P-Q4 O-O 5. B-B4 P-Q4 6. Q-N3 P-P7. QxRP P-B3 8. P-K4 Q-N2 9. R-Q1 N-N3 10. Q-B5 B-N5 11. B-KN5
White gets into trouble with this move. Safer was 11. B-K2 followed by O-O.
11...N-R5! 12. Q-R3 NxN 13. PxN NxP! 14. BxP Q-N3! 15. B-B4 NxQB! 16. B-B5 KR-K1+ 17. K-B1 B-K3!
Queen sac! as Fischer would like to put it himself.
18. BxQ
Forced.
18...BxB+ 19. K-N1 N-K7+ 20. K-B1 NxP+ 21. K-N1

outings and handed the P.D.C. Familia their first defeat with a 9-7 victory. The Familia started out strong taking a 7-3 lead after two innings of play but were shut down the rest of the way as Che'Lus scored the last six runs of the game.

baseball players. You can't put them all on the A team. They split them up!" The Cuban Olympic won the gold medal in the Atlanta Games.

Valdivia has been in Cuba's national program since he was 13, and was a member of the communist country's junior Olympic team in 1993.

win, had a 4-3 lead when he was lifted. The left-hander gave up three runs on eight hits with 10 strikeouts in seven innings.

Lira allowed four runs on eight hits with six strikeouts and a walk in 6 1-3 innings.

Tillstrom next plays Alex O'Brien, one of the hottest players on the ATP Tour.

Other seeds to fall were No. 8 Marc Rosset of Switzerland, No. 11 Alberto Berasategui of Spain, No. 12 Francisco Clavet of Spain and No. 13 Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

If 21. R-Q3 PxR 22. Q-B3 NxN! 23. QxB R-K8#!
21...N-K7+ 22. K-B1 N-B6+ 23. K-N1 PxR 24. Q-N4 R-R5 25. QxP NxR

The rest, as they say, is a matter of technique. But Byrne plays on, still unconvinced that a 13 year old has brilliantly outplayed him.

26. P-KR3 RxP 27. K-R2 NxP 28. R-K1 RxR 29. Q-Q8+ B-B1 30. NxR B-Q4 31. N-B3 N-K5 32. Q-N8 P-QN4 33. P-R4 P-R4 34. N-K5 K-N2 35. K-N1 B-B4+ 36. K-B1 N-N6+ 37. K-K1 B-N5+

Fischer is having fun, or he would shorten the agony by 37...R-K7 followed by mate in three.

38. K-Q1 B-N6+ 39. K-B1 N-K7+ 40. K-N1 N-B6+ 41. K-B1 R-B7#

Puzzler. CUC's Sixto Igisomar, Peat Marwick's Albert Babol, Aqua Resort's Larry Pascual and Bobby Cadillacs' Fred Sproville were the ones who got the correct answer to last week's puzzle: 1. Rd1! the only move that forces mate in two.

Thanks to Ben Songsong Surveying's Ariel Urbano and Glenn Orlina Jr. for sending their own solutions.

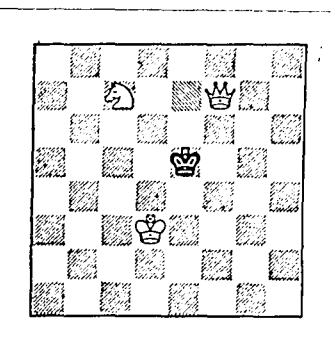
I have another faxed message here from Woosung's Jun Payquen, which says that the solution for the Aug. 9 puzzle was "wrong."

Jun says, "Instead of black bishop takes knight, black moves his pawn to a4."

Which is actually not bad if only pawns could move backwards. However, they do not. The black pawn is actually on a2, which means it is only a move away from its queening square.

Let me repeat myself. White's side is always at the bottom of the diagram. That has been the tradition since the first system of chess notation was invented hundreds of years ago.

For this week, try this:



White to play and mate in three. Answers should be mailed to "64," c/o The Marianas Variety, P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed through 234-9271.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP96-0035 August 2, 1996

The Governor's Water Emergency Task Force is soliciting proposals for the Construction of Kagman III Homestead Waterline Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sealed proposals shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the Request for Proposals number CUC-RFP96-0035. Five (5) copies of each proposal will be accepted at the Office of the Special Advisor to Procurement and Supply, CUC, Lower Base, Saipan until 4:00 p.m. local time on September 3, 1996.

A copy of the respondent's CNMI Business Permit in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands must be submitted with each proposal.

The project is funded by a grant from the Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at 73.3% of the cost and 26.7% matching fund from the CNMI Government. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval by DOI, OIA. The selected contractor will be required to provide 100% performance bond and payment bond.

The project consists in general of installing 12 miles of underground water distribution lines, ranging from 4-inch to 12-inch diameter, including appurtenant valves, fittings, hydrants, air relief valves, service laterals, and meters.

Proposals will be evaluated and selection made based on the (a) experience of the firm on similar projects, (b) qualification of key personnel, (c) availability of equipment, (d) time of completion, and (e) cost of the project.

A non-refundable payment of \$350.00 is required for each set of plans, specifications, and proposals forms, available on or after August 5, 1996 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Lower Base, Saipan. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled at 10:30 a.m., local time, August 13, 1996 at the CUC Conference Room.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans and that payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project.

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 for 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.

The Governor's Water Emergency Task Force reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposals in the interest of the government.

All inquiries shall be directed to Timothy P. Villagomez, Chairman, Governor's Water Emergency Task Force.

/s/TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ

Chairman, Governor's Water Emergency Task Force

SPORTS

South Korea clinches world youth baseball

TOKYO (AP) - Kim Joo-chan's tie-breaking RBI single in the bottom of the seventh inning gave South Korea a 4-3 victory over defending champion Cuba in the final of the World Youth Baseball Championships Wednesday.

In the seventh annual event for boys 13 to 15 years old, Taiwan placed third, followed by Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Japan, the United States, Italy and South Africa. The games only last seven

innings.

South Korean Kwon Yung-keun received the leading batter's prize for an average of .643, with nine hits out of 14 at-bats, while Taiwan's Shen Yu-chieh was named the winner of the best pitcher's award for an earned run average of 0.90.

Also honored were pitcher Yasuaki Kaito of Japan, who was 2-0, Taiwan's Hsu Chin-hua for his leading seven RBIs and Australian Johnston Rikki

for a home run.

The game-ending hit in the seventh inning came after two outs with runners on first and second bases. Kim hit a line drive off reliever Obsek Castillo down the left fieldline.

The final was held at the Marine Stadium in Chiba, 30 kilometers (18 miles) east of Tokyo.

In another game to decide third and fourth places at Chiba Stadium's ballpark, Taiwan beat Mexico 12-2.

Saipan softball men's night league wrap-up

1ST GAME - Wise Asuon went 2 for 3 and scored three times and George Matsuda hit a two-run homer as the Red Torch handed the Happy Market II Enforcers their first defeat with an 8-7 decision.

The win improved Red Torch to 2-2 and the loss dropped the Enforcers to, 1-1.

2nd Game - The Cop Hustlers won their first game of the season and kept the Santos Acres starters winless at 0-3 with a 10-5 victory in the second game. Ray Castro and John San Nicolas both knocked in two runs to lead the Hustlers.

3rd Game - Ray Seman went 3 for 4 with three rbis as he D.F.S. Amigos jumped on top 15-6 after five innings of play enroute to an 18-9 victory over the Toyota Nuts & Bolts to improved their record to 3-2 and dropped the Nuts & Bolts to 0-2.

4th Game - Jojo Attao blasted two homeruns and knocked in six runs as the Bud Bad Boys went on to hammer out six homeruns enroute to a 15-6 blow-out over the previously unbeaten Y.C.O. Servistar. The Bad Boys jumped on top 2-0 on Nick Guerrero two-run homer in the top of the first inning and never trail the rest of the way to improved to 2-1 and dropped the Servistar to 0-2.

'Game of the century'

BUT BEFORE we go into that, here are the pairings for this Sunday's fourth round action at Ramble's Restaurant:

Club Jama vs. Jet Holdings
Saipan Shooting Range vs. Owens Enterprises

Yana Law Office vs. Poor Pawns

Checkmate vs. Essence of Fortune

Juan C. Tenorio takes the bye, which should give its board 2 player Noli Pamamat and tournament director John Villamin enough time to finish their analyses on a prepared variation called "Jama Attack."

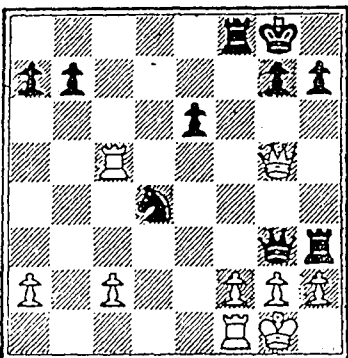
Game of the week. For the past five weeks, we have reviewed the games of five of the seven greatest chess players of the United States—Morphy, Pillsbury, Marshall, Fine, Reshevsky.

This week, we look into one of the many dazzling performances of former world champion (1972-75) Bobby Fischer, arguably one of the two greatest players in history (the other is Kasparov, of course), if not the best of them all.

Keene and Divinsky place him in the class of the immortals Lasker, Capablanca and Botvinnik—Fischer's peak ELO rating of 2785 in 1972 was not surpassed until Kasparov reached 2800 in 1990.

Born in 1943, Fischer won the first of his eight US championship titles in 1957, when he was only 14 years old. Two years later, he was already ranked the sixth strongest player in the world.

At the age of 23, Fischer was on the verge of invincibility. His tournament and match results from 1970 to 1972 were almost phenomenal. To put it quite simply, he mowed down all opposition quickly and easily. Only Tal and Geller



Continued on page 47

Another Cuban baseball player defects to US

MIAMI (AP) - Another Cuban baseball player has abandoned the country's national team for a chance to play in the major leagues.

A spokesman for Miami sports agent Joe Cubas said second baseman Jesus Ramon Valdivia and other players contacted the agent from Guatemala City saying they wanted to defect.

Cubas flew there from Miami and picked up the 21-year-old player, who plays on Cuba's "B-team," said spokesman Rene Guim. The team was playing in an invitational tournament run by the Guatemalan government.

"They are still in Guatemala City ... plans are incomplete," Guim said. "Joe is waiting for the business day to open in Guatemala to then determine what political asylum he is going to try to seek for this young man - whether through the American Embassy or one of the other countries."

Guim said Cuba divides its national team into A, B and C clubs.

"Playing on the B team and C team

Continued on page 47

Tiger Woods wins opener

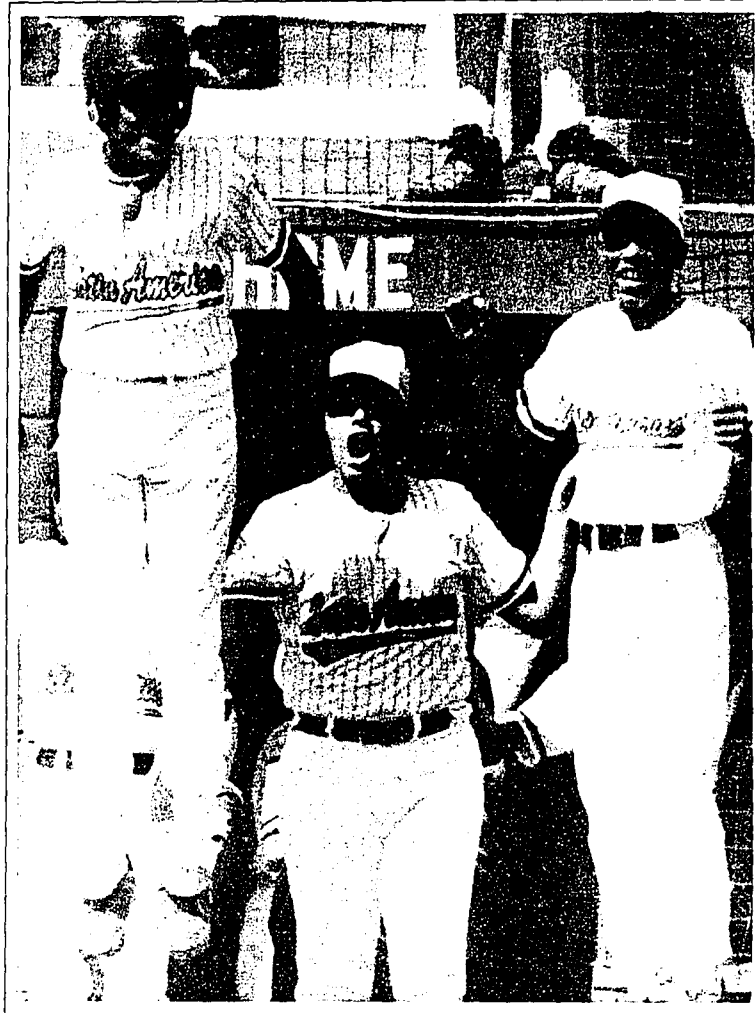
CORNELIUS, Oregon (AP) - One down and five to go. Tiger Woods overpowered the Witch Hollow course at Pumpkin Ridge on Wednesday and dismissed J.D. Manning 3 and 2 to win his first-round match in the U.S. Amateur Championship.

A deadly driver that consistently split fairways 320 yards out made up for a shaky putter early in the match as Woods came back from 1-down after six holes to win the next three holes.

The match ended on the 16th green when Manning missed a birdie putt that could have kept it going.

Woods, trying to become the first player to win three consecutive Amateur titles, plays Jerry Courville, 37, a longtime amateur with the kind of experience that could prove troublesome, in Thursday's second round.

The key shot was a 40-foot (12-meter) chip-in from the back fringe on No. 8 that put Woods 1-up and rattled Manning enough to lead to a bogey on the next hole.



Members of the Dominican Republic Little League team leap with joy out of their dugout to greet a teammate who just hit a three-run home run against Surrey, British Columbia, Canada in the first game of Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. Monday. Dominican Republic won 5-1.

AP photo

Angels rout Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) - Chili Davis hit a pair of two-run homers and Jason Dickson won despite giving up a home run on his first major league pitch as the California Angels beat the Yankees 7-1 Wednesday.

Davis connected in the first off Jimmy Key (9-10) and added his 25th of the season in a five-run ninth, an opposite-field shot to left off Jeff Nelson.

Derek Jeter sent Dickson's first pitch into the left-field seats but that was the only run he allowed. The Yankees, who have lost eight of 12, stranded 11 runners and hit into three double plays, despite outhitting California 13-9.

Dickson gave up 10 hits in 6 1-3 innings, walked two and struck out one. Troy Percival pitched 1 2-3 innings for his 32nd save in 34 chances.

Key allowed five hits in seven innings - matching his longest outing this season - struck out five and walked none.

Tigers 7, White Sox 4

In Detroit, Brad Ausmus' three-run homer capped a four-run eighth inning as the Tigers beat Chicago for just the second time in 10 games this season.

Detroit trailed 4-3 when Travis Fryman walked and Ruben Sierra doubled to start the eighth against Bill Simas (2-8). Mike Bertotti relieved and gave up a game-tying RBI single to Melvin Nieves.

One out later, Ausmus hit his fourth home run into the lower deck in left field.

Jose Lima (4-6) got the win with 1 2-3 innings of relief for starter Felipe

Continued on page 47

Muster, Ivanisevic lose

TORONTO (AP) - Six seeds, led by No. 1 Thomas Muster and No. 2 Goran Ivanisevic, tumbled out of the \$2 million du Maurier Open on Wednesday.

Daniel Nestor of Canada rewarded his home fans with the night's big jolt, a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Muster in the second round that cannot bode well for the Austrian as the U.S. Open approaches.

"I've waited a long time for another moment like this," Nestor said. "I've had other good results, but this is

probably the best since then. And there's nowhere better to do it than home."

Nestor, a doubles specialist ranked 123rd in the world in singles, served and volleyed his way past the world's No. 2 player. It was his biggest win since he beat Stefan Edberg four years ago in the Davis Cup.

Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden pulled another upset earlier in the day, offsetting 32 aces by Ivanisevic to eliminate the Croatian 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-4.

Continued on page 47

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