

## New 'heir' files claim

By Ferdle de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE GRANDMOTHER of a Filipino child allegedly sired by the late multimillionaire Larry Lee Hillblom filed a paternity and heirship claim yesterday before the Superior Court.

Milagros Feliciano, represented by counsel Charles R. Rotbart, was appointed by Superior Court Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro as guardian for her granddaughter, Mercedita Feliciano in the paternity suit.

Milagros, who is also the guardian for Mercedita in a related heirship claim filed in Manila, Philippines, is the third petitioner who

### Filipina says Hillblom fathered 11-month old baby

sought paternity and heirship claims against Hillblom's \$450-million estate.

In her petition, Milagros, through counsel, said her daughter Mercedes Feliciano gave birth to Mercedita on Dec. 22, 1995 in the Philippines.

Rotbart stated that Mercedita was born more than 13 years after the purported execution of Hillblom's last will and testament, and nearly six months after the late businessman was declared dead.

The will and testament did not provide for Mercedita as an indi-

vidual, or within any designated class or group of beneficiaries, said Rotbart in the petition for declaratory judgment of paternity and heirship.

Rotbart said Mercedita is entitled to a share in the estate because she is a pretermitted (omitted) child under the terms of the

will and testament and pursuant to Commonwealth statute.

Rotbart asked the court to issue an order prohibiting the distribution of assets to any beneficiaries prior to determination of Mercedita's rights concerning the estate.

The lawyer also requested the

court to order the estate's executor "to distribute such share as is rightfully hers (child)."

Court documents showed that the 17-year-old Mercedes was the live-in partner of Hillblom since Jan. 1994.

At the time of Hillblom's death in May 1995, Mercedes was about two months pregnant, the docu-

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## Delineation of functions sought for DPW, mayor



Edward DL Guerrero

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Works Secretary Edward DL Guerrero is proposing that legislation be enacted to delineate the functions of his

office vis-a-vis those of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

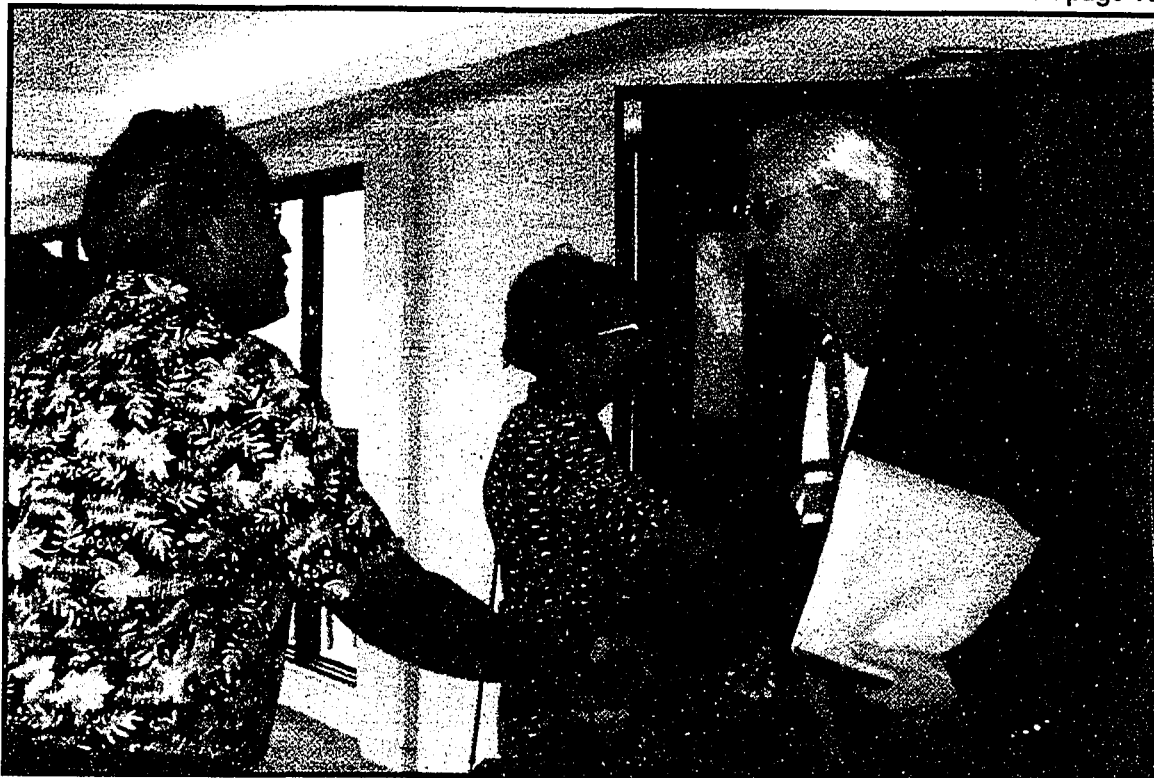
In an interview, Guerrero said there exists a duplication of functions between the two government offices, a situation that has resulted to "unnecessary spending and confusion on the part of constituents."

"We need to clarify these things. We need to come up with a law that specifies roles the DPW has in co-relation with the Mayor's office," he said.

Guerrero said the DPW's mandated functions "are very broad."

"If you look at the Mayor's office's responsibility, you'll notice it overlaps... there's no clear distinction as to what the Mayor's responsibilities are," he

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Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio (left) welcomes Member of US Congress Ralph Hall (D-Texas) upon his arrival at the Saipan International Airport yesterday. The Texas congressman is here on a four-day visit upon the invitation of the CNMI government. Photo courtesy of PIO

## Pierce threatens to quit post if gov't drug policy is delayed



Richard A. Pierce

By Rafael H. Arroyo  
Variety News Staff

RICHARD A. Pierce, the governor's special assistant for drugs and substance abuse, is threatening to resign his post in apparent disgust over delays facing the implementation of the CNMI government's policy against drug and alcohol abuse.

In a memo dated Dec. 13 to acting Attorney General Robert

Dunlap, Pierce lamented how the CNMI Fit For Work Drug and Alcohol Workplace Policy has continued to be stalled despite an order from Gov. Tenorio to have it implemented by last November 30.

Pierce is particularly peeved at how the draft policy, which was submitted to Tenorio since last April has yet to see print in the Commonwealth Register for public comment.

"I am left with little else. We have issued enough memos and directives. Everyone, including the governor, knows little else from me but complaining. I am truly losing the very passion and focus I had nearly two years ago," said Pierce in his memo.

He added that unless the new policy is entered for printing in the January 15 issue of the Commonwealth Register, he will formally enter his letter of resignation to Gov. Tenorio.

He added that should the policy

get stalled further, he will conclude his service with the Tenorio Administration, "unless Gov. Tenorio sees me as being of service to the people of the Commonwealth in another capacity."

The Fit For Work Policy, which was put together by a private

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## Japanese tourist drowns

By Ferdle de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A JAPANESE male tourist drowned at the Aguigan Point in San Antonio Sunday afternoon, police disclosed.

The body of 55-year-old Akira Morishita was recovered by search and rescue teams underwater at Aguigan Point yesterday at 10:50 a.m.

Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said operatives from the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit and Emergency Management Office responded to a reported drowning incident Sunday at 6:46 p.m.

Initial investigation showed

that prior to the incident Morishita with three other male companions went hook line fishing at Aguigan Point.

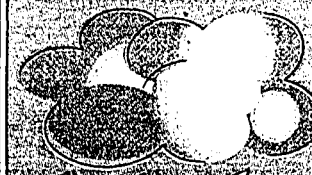
Morishita went down from the cliff to go snorkeling at around 4:30 p.m. but never returned. The victim's companions subsequently sought police assistance.

DPS and EMO rescue team scoured the area until about 9 p.m. The team continued the search early yesterday morning until they found Morishita's body.

The area is considered dangerous for diving because of strong currents and big waves, police said.

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## Weather Outlook



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers

# Chun gets life sentence

By PAUL SHIN  
 SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Finding his 1979 coup legal but unjustified, an appellate court Monday reduced the death sentence of former military strongman Chun Doo-hwan to life in prison.

"Legality does not necessarily mean justification," senior judge Kwon Sung said of a defense argument that a successful coup cannot be punished.

Chun, president from 1980 to 1987, had been sentenced to die by a lower court for the coup and a military crackdown the following year that killed hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators.

The appellate court held that

## Appeals court reduces death penalty for ex-president

even though the coup may have been legal, there is a higher law of "justice and righteousness and the universal principle of law based on peace."

In a verdict that overturned a lower court ruling on Aug. 27, the appellate court also reduced the prison term of another military strongman, Roh Tae-woo, from 22 1/2 years to 17 years.

The appellate court said that while Chun and Roh were guilty of the coup and massacre in the southern city of Kwangju, their contributions to the nation mitigated their

crimes.

Judge Kwon cited their leadership in developing South Korea's economy in the 1980s and Chun's voluntary relinquishment of the presidency to Roh in 1988, the first peaceful transfer of power in the country's modern history.

In sentencing Roh, the judge said: "Although defendant Roh Tae-woo is guilty of similar charges, we have to differentiate between a mastermind and a follower. So I give a 17-year prison sentence."

The two sat silently on wooden chairs as the verdict was announced. Chun looked

upward momentarily and stared at the judges. Roh showed little emotion.

About 20 people, who claimed they were persecuted under the rule of the two ex-army generals, protested angrily outside the court, shouting, "Murderer, murderer Chun Doo-hwan."

"This is unfair. This is obviously a prepared script. My son became handicapped following the Kwangju massacre," one female protester, Lee Keum-soon, shouted, weeping.

The ruling closed a chapter in South Korea's efforts to

come to terms with its bloody and militaristic past. The country was ruled by generals until Kim Young-sam took power in 1992 as the nation's first civilian president in 32 years. Kim has since carried out wide-ranging reforms aimed at eradicating their legacy.

The two ex-presidents denied in court that they plotted the coup to seize power or ordered the military crackdown that killed hundreds of pro-democracy protesters.

Instead, Chun and Roh have always maintained they acted to save the nation from chaos and a renewed threat of invasion by North Korea. They can still appeal to the Supreme Court.

## South Korea, China agree to keep military cooperation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Former wartime enemies China and South Korea have agreed to step up military cooperation and work together to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, the Defense Ministry said Monday.

The agreement came during last week's visit by the highest-ever military delegation from Beijing, the ministry said.

"The military delegations of both sides agreed, as equal partners, to continue their mutual efforts to increase the friendship of the two militaries and to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula," it said in a statement.

They also agreed that continued dialogue and improvement in ties between their militaries will contribute to establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula, it said.

The Chinese delegation,

headed by Maj. Gen. Luo Bin, arrived Dec. 7 for a weeklong visit, during which they met with Defense Minister Kim Dong-jin and other top South Korean military officials.

The delegation also visited defense industry plants and military units.

China and South Korea fought against each other during the 1950-53 Korean War, and established diplomatic ties only four years ago.

China is South Korea's third-largest market with two-way trade reaching \$ 20 billion in 1995. Although economic ties have expanded, military contacts has been limited because of Beijing's close ties with North Korea.

The two Koreas have still not signed a peace treaty, with only a fragile armistice keeping the peace.

## US joins search for bomb; vehicles sink in training

TOKYO (AP) - The U.S. military has joined Japanese navy vessels searching for a 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) bomb Monday that was jettisoned by an American fighter off the coast of Okinawa last week following a failed practice run.

Japan's Maritime Safety Agency has put off limits a 2-kilometer area around where the bomb was dropped last Tuesday by a Marine F/A-18 fighter jet about 100 kilometers (60 miles) off the southern coast of Okinawa, a prefectural state island.

U.S. military officials have expressed concern over the way the accident has been handled, however.

There should be an apology or explanation," he told a regular news conference Monday.

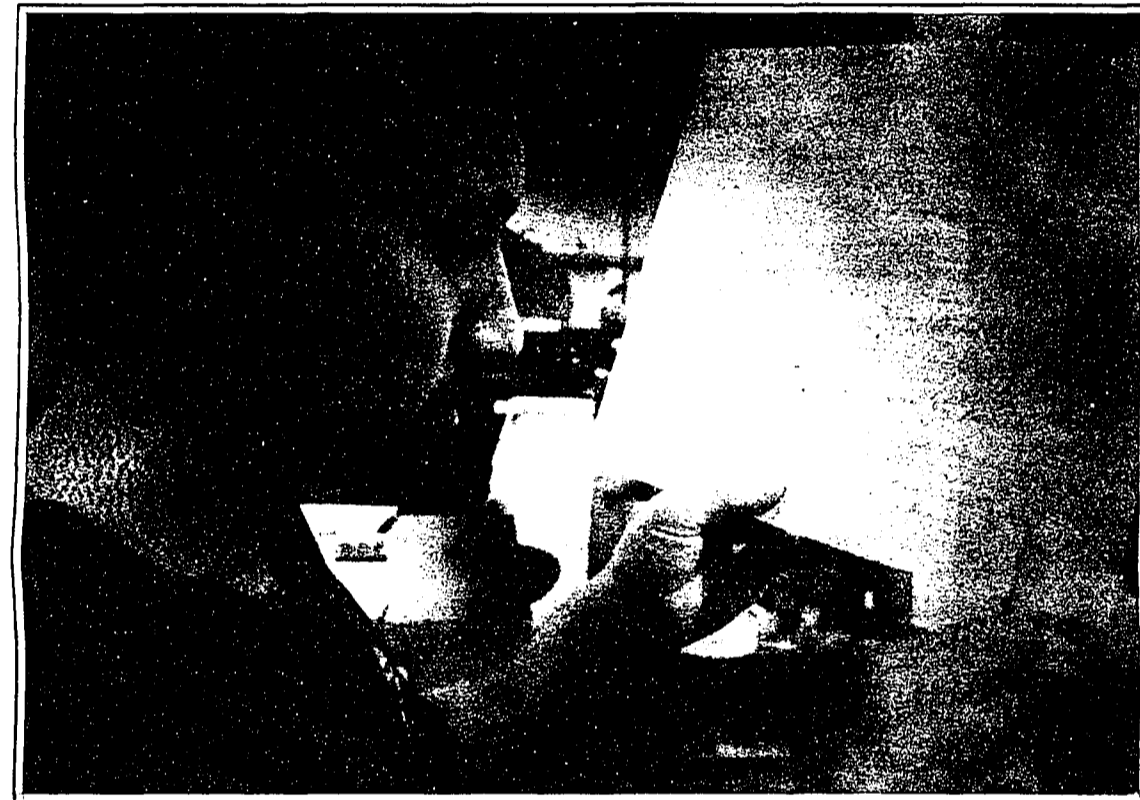
The Japanese Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said it has been notified that two U.S. amphibious vehicles sank off the Marines' Camp Schwab on Okinawa Monday morning.

The Marines were conducting landing training from the amphibious vessels, and all crewmembers aboard were rescued. The Foreign Ministry had no more details on the crew.

U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment.

Nearly 30,000 U.S. troops are stationed on Okinawa, the largest in a string of islands located on Japan's southern fringe.

The military presence has been the focus of intense scrutiny since the rape of a local schoolgirl by three American servicemen in September last year.



John Neville, a press operator at Excelsior Process & Engraving, Inc., checks an invitation to President Bill Clinton's Inauguration at the plant in North Adams, Mass. Excelsior started printing a run of 553,000 copies for Clinton's Inauguration in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Jan. 29, 1997. AP Photo

## Palestinians, Israel to resume negotiations despite tensions

By KARIN LAUB  
 JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel and the Palestinians have decided to resume peace talks despite tensions over Israel's decision to pump large sums of money into Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday.

Arafat's statement came after he spoke by telephone to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday night and met with a Netanyahu adviser at his Gaza City headquarters.

Arafat's conciliatory tone suggested that the two sides were moving away from a confrontation that appeared inevitable after the Israeli Cabinet voted Friday to grant benefits worth millions of dollars to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The subsidies will lure more Israelis to the disputed lands where the Palestinians hope to set up an independent state. Some 145,000 settlers now live amid 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arafat's Cabinet denounced Israel's decision as a declaration of war on the peace process and warned of new Pal-

estinian riots should Israel go through with it. Israeli security officials, in turn, accused Arafat of plotting protests and only waiting for a good opportunity to set off street violence.

The renewed contacts Sunday night between Israel and the Palestinians reportedly came at the urging of the United States.

Arafat agreed to meet with Netanyahu's attorney, Yizhak Molcho, after having refused for several days to receive the prime minister's advisers. After the meeting, Arafat called Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

A statement by Netanyahu's office said the prime minister asked Arafat to do more to contain Palestinian militants, especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The group has claimed responsibility for a drive-by shooting last week in which a Jewish settler and her 12-year-old son were killed in the West Bank.

Netanyahu also told Arafat on Sunday night that an agreement on an Israeli troop pullback in the West Bank town of Hebron could be reached

quickly. "We are committed to the peace agreements, and both sides have to honor their commitments," Netanyahu told Arafat.

Arafat responded that he agreed with Netanyahu's remarks, the statement said.

Asked Monday about his contacts with the Israelis, Arafat told reporters: "The most important thing concerning the meeting is the continuation of the negotiations. We are insisting to continue the negotiations."

He said talks would resume not only on the issue of Hebron, but also concerning the other elements of the peace agreements that have yet to be carried out.

The Hebron talks have been deadlocked despite two months of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Under an agreement signed by Israel's previous government, troops were to leave four-fifths of the city of 130,000 Palestinians by last March, and redeploy in the downtown area to protect 500 Jewish settlers.

# Hall says he's here to help

By Zaldy Dandan  
 Variety News Staff  
 UNITED STATES Congressman Ralph M. Hall yesterday said he is visiting in Washington, D.C. as a "very valued member of the family."

"We're very fond of this part of the world, and we're aware of the potentials here," he said.

Hall said he will look mostly into the CNMI's economy.

The CNMI's potentials are "unlimited," he said, but added that a growing economy will mean "more and more problems."

"You know you have the same problem as we have in Washington. That's the problem of how to shoot an arrow that hits the taxpayers and misses the voters. I don't know if you're going to be able to do that or not."

Hall is a ranking Democratic member of the House Energy and Commerce Committees, and was chair of the Space Committee for

tough years and we certainly intend to stand by them."

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many years.

Hall is the first member of Congress since February to visit the CNMI.

The governor's Public Information Officer mark Broadhurst on Sunday said the congressman will meet with people from both the public and private sectors, and will be "briefed" on the CNMI by administration officials.

Last February, U.S. Senators Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) visited the CNMI on a "fact-finding" mission.

Congressional staffers and think-tank policy analysts have also visited the CNMI and were, in general, impressed with the Commonwealth's economy.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio with visiting U.S. Congressman Ralph M. Hall shortly after the latter's arrival yesterday at Saipan International Airport. Hall, a senior House Democrat, said he will try to find how Washington, D.C. can help the CNMI help itself. Photo courtesy of the Governor's PIO.

## Governor's message to US Congress: 'Leave us alone'

By Zaldy Dandan  
 Variety News Staff  
 GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday urged the Legislature to challenge in court his line-item veto of the fiscal year 1997 budget bill.

The Legislature, he said, does not have the 2/3 majority vote for a veto override.

When told that some legislators are confident of getting the required number of votes, Tenorio said, "I say they don't have it."

"What they should do is not override but challenge it in court," he said. "There is a lot of things happening and nobody is sure who is right, the Legislature or the executive branch."

"This is one example of it," House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, who was asked by the governor to join in what would be an "impromptu" press conference, said he agrees with Tenorio.

(The two were among the CNMI officials who attended yesterday's state funeral at the Multi-Purpose Center for the former Trust Territory deputy high commissioner Juan A. Sablan.)

"I think it's time to challenge (the

line-item veto)," Benavente said.

He added that he doubts whether there are enough members in the House willing to vote for an override.

"But I understand that the Senate is looking at it seriously and I hope that they do (vote for an override)."

Benavente said he himself will urge for a veto override on the \$175,000 appropriation for the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB).

"Our commitment to participate in PIDB is still there and therefore I would like the Legislature to do something, possibly an override," he said.

The governor told the speaker, however, that "I don't think you have support on PIDB."

"The governor should know that," Benavente replied, chuckling.

Tenorio in his line-item veto letter said PIDB "has served no useful purpose" for the CNMI and its business enterprises.

The governor yesterday said that he will even help the Legislature fund their court challenge.

Benavente, for his part, said he will try to ask the governor and the Attorney General's Office to "clarify" the line-

## Tenorio prefers that Legislature take him to court than override item-veto

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Benavente, for his part, said he will try to ask the governor and the Attorney General's Office to "clarify" the line-

item veto.

"Hopefully we can try to resolve this through this communication if the administration can clarify it."

In separate interviews last week, ranking members of the Senate said they will go for an override of the line-item veto while at the same time challenging its constitutionality in court.

Senate legal counsel Stephen Woodruff, however, has advised the Senate leaders that to override is to "legitimize" the "illegal" line-item veto.

Tenorio, he said, crossed out administrative provisions without vetoing the funding governed by such provisions.

"What he did was keep the money and do away with the restrictions," Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona said in an earlier interview.

He cited, as an example, the crossing out of the last sentence of item (6), subsection (a) of the budget bill's section 501, under Chapter V, "Administration of Appropriated Funds."

Woodruff said section 501 contains the administrative guidelines for the entire budget.

Tenorio disagrees.

"As far as I'm concerned, the most important thing is the amount. Once we veto the amount we have to veto the administrative provisions," he said yesterday.

"But what if the provisions apply to nine items and I veto only three of those items?"

"The way I look at it is that we have to veto the administrative provisions because I vetoed the three items, but I still (think) that the provisions are still good for the other six."

The Legislature, he said, is to be blamed for the "mess."

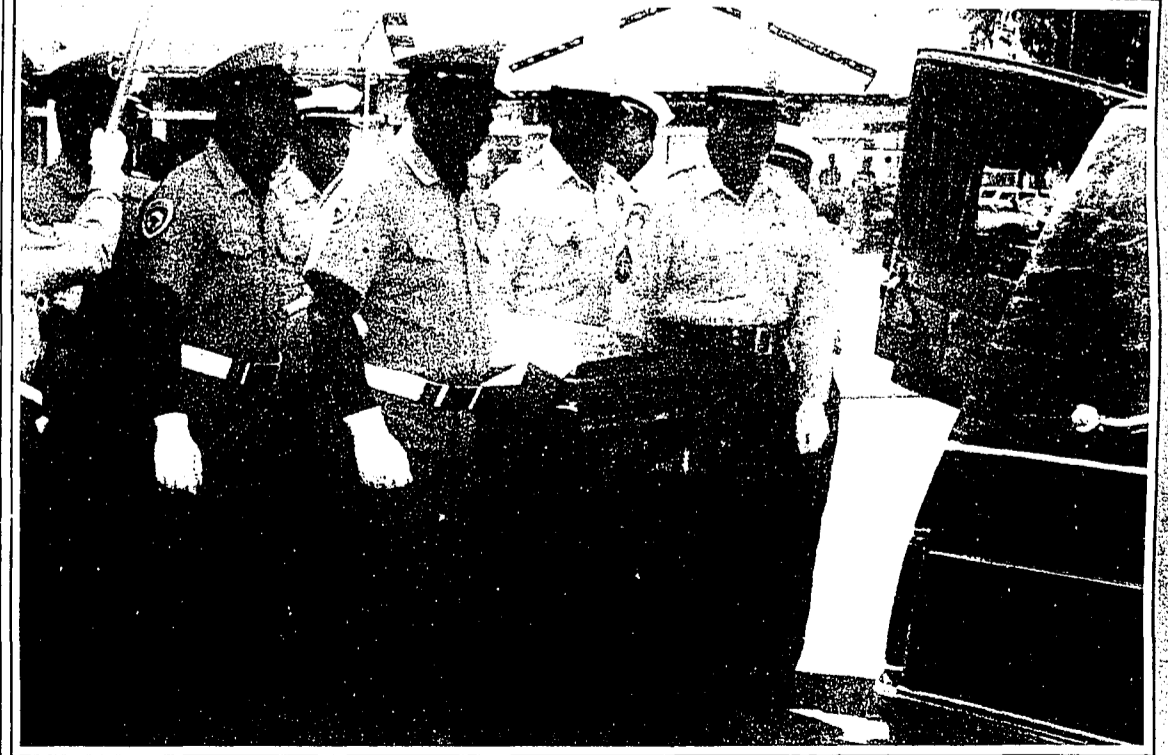
"(They still) don't know how to draft a budget bill. They have to be careful with administrative provisions."

The CNMI Constitution's article II, section 7, in part, reads:

"The governor may veto an item, section, or part in an appropriation bill and sign the remainder of the bill; provided that the governor may not veto an item, section, or part governing the manner in which an appropriation may be expended if any appropriation affected by the item, section, or part is approved."

Tenorio last week signed into law the more than \$204 million budget bill, but line-item vetoed 21 sections, most of which dealt with administrative provisions.

## Ex-deputy high commissioner laid to rest



Palibearers carry the casket bearing the remains of former Trust Territory Deputy High Commissioner Juan A. Sablan during state funeral rites. The late statesman was laid to his eternal rest yesterday.

FORMER Trust Territory official Juan Atalig Sablan, who died of natural cause last Dec. 7, was laid to rest yesterday.

His remains were buried in Chalan Kanoa cemetery, following a state memorial service at the Multi-purpose center attended by top government officials.

Sablan, 60, was married to Agnes Skilang by whom he had seven children: Henry, Gerald, Michael, Virginia, Catherine, Benigno (deceased) and Daisy.

Sablan devoted his entire life to public service, starting his career in various positions during the Naval Administration on Saipan.

He started as a clerical assistant in 1953.

He sat at the Saipan Municipal Congress from 1963 to 1965.

Then US President Jimmy Carter appointed him in 1978 as Deputy High Commissioner in 1978, the highest executive position ever held by a Micronesian.

After his retirement from government service in 1981, Sablan served as special assistant to the director of the Pacific Islands Development Program as the East West Center in Honolulu.

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

**TR's Marianas**  
by: John DelRosario

## Bente años deste matuge' Konstitusion

I ginen Lt. Governor as Señor Francisco C. Ada guiya i bisitan i delegado siha guine gi mapos na Lunes 'nai guaha dinaña pot selesbrasion bente años deste ke matuge' i Konstitusion iya Marianas. Guaha siha sustansiao na asunto ha diskute si Señor Ada na mauleg ta hahasso gi hiniyoñg este yan hinalom otro sakan.

**Asunto Konstitusion:** I asunto siha ni madibate bente años malofan nu i 39 na delegado ha inkluso organisasion yan minedoñg gobietno, proteksion interes minoria, kontribusion tax yan mapatteña, dibision yan responsabilidad entalo' munisipalidad yan sentro na gobietno yan representasion gi lehislatura. Este siha na asunto i mismo attiukulo ni madiskute nu i primet na delegadon Estados Unidos de Amerika ni matuge' gi 1787. Esta pago makontinunua diniskuten mismo asunto.

**Tinilaika giya Marianas:** Taya' dinida na iya Marianas ha adbansague' espesiatmente gi bandan sositat yan ekonomia. Bula tinilaika ni umaffekta linalata gi todo manera. I suedo ginen sinkuenta sientemos gi ora, kuatro pesos gi dia, pago kumahulo' kanaha' ocho buettas. Antes siha ta tufoñg i manbonito siha na guma', pago un' nesesa ayudo mamfoñg pot este.

Iya Marianas fitme na pisu 'nai tumotohe ginen inestablesen gobietno gi papa' banderan Amerikano ya megai kometsiante ginen hioyñg mankinembida halom. Mas abundansia appottunidad ekonomia yan manbenefisia i taotaota gi megai manera. Megai man felis hinanao niha gi hilo' nuebo na suetten niha finkas salape', lao guaha ha 'lokue' ti fumatinas. I tendan dikiki' siha gi señoñg ni manmama' ganansia mantinilaika nu i kometsianten ginen hioyñg. I hagas tallie' siha na naan gi tendan natibo, otro liñguage pago naan niha.

**Inadisgusto gi halom Familia:** Yangin guaha chinat-komprende gi halom familia, i tata osino mas amko' man agañg dinaña ya ha diskute hafa i problema. Todo atos patida mafaisen na una' ma'agimue' kosake siña mapula' i ginadon. Memegaiña na inadisgusto masatba gi hilo' i pasifiko na kustumbreta. Lao este na kustumbreta tinilaika nu i mas gastadot na hugete 'nai man akehaye i familia gi kotte. I mangana ha chule' todo i makontetesta na attikulo. I mapede, dimalas. I fitme na pogse' natibo ni hagas sumustene hit todos ha tutuhon kumalo. Tafa' kustumbre i para ta satba problemata gi menan i kotte.

Ha apunta huyoñg si Señor Ada na i manmasusesede siha na ihemplo anog klaro haf' taimano i tinilaika siha gi tiempo 'nai ha affekta sensian morat natibo, sensian morat ni appruobao na finanaguen mañainata pot tradision familia. Mauleg ta sañgan huyoñg dibuenamente este siha na finatso kosake todos siña manman huñgog ya tafañaonao todos gi masatban este siha na problema taimano finanaguen guelo. Siña ha 'taigue esta i hagas mañge siha na tiempo, lao siña ta guot' fitme i sensian appruobao na morat natibo pot para ta reskata i tetehnan na man-mauleg siha na tradision tano'.

**Kuestion para Sudadano:** Ha sañgan lokue' si Señor Ada na i tiempo sumen propio 'nai siña man deskansan ñañon hit pot para ta faisen maisa hit mismo nu i sigiente siha na kuestion: Kao nahoñg bidata pot para ta adelanta mas i linala' taotaota? Osino, kao guaha siha na patte 'nai manfatsot hit 'nai siña mohon deste tutuhon ta aregla antes de u destrosia i komunidatta? Siña ha' buente mampos hit man tinane' sumoyo' taotao hioyñg na u fan manbisita mage pot para tafan mama' salape' ya gi mismo tiempo man-malefa hit nu i otro siha pareho impottante na asunto gi haanita.

**Afanielos, este siha 'nos kuantos punto ni ha diskute i ginen Lt. Governor as Señor Ada.** Hu atogta muna' saonao guine na patte gi gaseta sa' sumen presiso na ta tutuhon umaregla i halom gima'ta antes de u sala'. Menhalom na señor gi asuntion linahyan ya siempre gi otro biahe (Huebes) baiho na' komplido i tetehnan siha na attikulo ni ha diskute guihe na dinaña. Hahasso este siha na asunto duranten i haanen gupot siha yan antes de u huyoñg este na sakan. Mauleg hita mismo ta guot' i kañgiloñg torun problema ya ta onse gi sagaña antes de u lachai hit tumogcha' sin presiso pot diskuido. Sen mas Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN  
**WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**

## Good intentions don't pay U.N. bills

**UNITED NATIONS** — Energized by his re-election, President Clinton can be expected to press Congress on several issues that laid dormant during the campaign. Getting Congress to ante up the \$1.4 billion that America owes the United Nations is at the top of the list.

The subject of U.N. funding was a touchy one during the campaign. Clinton hardly mentioned it, while Bob Dole took a few political swipes at the issue. One of Dole's biggest applause lines was his Pat Buchanan-style attack on the U.N. and its secretary general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, feeding into fears that American soldiers would soon be serving under foreign command.

Those feelings are amplified in the Republican Congress, which considers the U.N. one of the last beggars in line for American dollars, especially these days, when balancing the budget is priority No. 1 on Capitol Hill.

The Clinton administration will have an uphill road to climb if it hopes to convince Congress that the U.N. is deserving of more money. For the world body is a haven for waste and abuse, constantly giving its critics a reason to withhold funding. As our associate Dale Van Atta has learned, even the most successful U.N. projects are often rife with mismanagement and mistakes.

In Cambodia, for example, the U.N. is justifiably proud of itself for restoring peace after two decades of civil war. A peace treaty brokered by the United States, China and the Soviet Union in 1991 ended 21 years of hostilities between three rival guerrilla factions that claimed more than a million lives.

To help ensure the peaceful transition to democracy, the U.N. created the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), its most extensive and expensive peacekeeping operation ever. The goal was to complete the mission in less than two years, using more than 20,000 peacekeepers and personnel at a cost of \$1.7 billion. Yet even this well-intentioned plan met with some embarrassing failures.

As part of its nation-building efforts, U.N.

bureaucrats planned to turn Cambodia into an agricultural wonderland. Some 370,000 refugees returning from camps on Thailand's border were each promised five acres of arable land.

But the U.N. brass relied on faulty assessments in making that promise. They didn't know that there wasn't enough land to go around, and that much of the available land was littered with land mines. So UNTAC simply forked over cash to make up for the broken promises: \$50 per adult, \$25 per child.

Even the free elections, held in May 1993, came with a steep price tag. About 90 percent of Cambodia's 4.7 million eligible voters courageously went to the polls, despite threats from guerrilla groups that voting might cost them their lives. In U.N. terms, the \$100 million price tag was almost a bargain—an average of \$23 per voter.

Money was also wasted when the U.N. tried building a water purification system—a vital project in a part of the world where poor-quality drinking water often contributes to disease and malnutrition. U.N. bureaucrats failed to account for the expensive chemicals that were needed to run the system. As a result, once the initial supply ran out, the new facilities stood idle. Ordering new supplies became difficult, because some of the chemicals were hard to obtain.

So instead of relying on the new systems, the peacekeepers made do with UNTAC-supplied bottled water while the local citizens were left to their own devices.

In another case of good intentions gone awry, UNTAC ordered more than 1,000 electrical generators. But at least 337 of the generators were never used, according to an internal U.N. audit, a waste of \$3.2 million. In the meantime, the \$234.5 million budgeted for "premises and accommodation" for the peacekeeping forces ended up inflating local real estate prices to the point where many natives could barely afford to live in their own country.

Some of that money went for the care and feeding of UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi, who required more than \$100,000 to refurbish his own house to his taste.

# New hotel seeks CRM permit

**By Rick Alberto**  
Variety News Staff  
A NEW hotel project has applied for a permit from the Coastal Resources Management.

The proposed Prince Hotel will consist of two two-story structures each with a penthouse having three bedrooms.

The hotel will have a total of 22

single rooms and three units with two bedrooms each. It will also have a swimming pool.

The hotel will be located in Sadog Tasi across the Charlie Dock and behind the Shell gas station. Its 3,354-square-meter site is a privately leased land.

Owner June Ha estimates the entire cost of the project to be

\$1.12 million.

The hotel aims to answer partly the need for more hotel rooms on Saipan.

"The proposed Prince Hotel development will not meet the present and future room demands, but the additional number of rooms for tourists can be counted as a significant contribution towards meeting the demands," the

project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) stated.

The EIA says the hotel offers an environment to visitors who seek serenity.

The hotel would be the first in the Sadog Tasi area.

Project proponents admit that the hotel project is small, but they see it as contributing to the en-

hancement of the tourism industry.

If all the necessary permits are secured before the year ends, project proponents see the hotel completed in mid-1999.

When finished, the hotel intends to hire local employees "whenever possible" to fill management, front desk, room service, and other positions.

## Conservationist Corner

### Farmers told of EQUIP

**By Pamela M. Sablan**  
For the Variety

ATTENTION farmers, ranchers and other landusers, there is a new program called Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) that can be of assistance to your monetary need for the protection and conservation of your lands and natural resources.

First of all, what is EQUIP? Well, EQUIP is a program that was established in the 1996 Farm Bill. It provides a single, voluntary conservation program for all landusers.

This will be used to address the significant needs and objectives of our precious natural resources. It also provides technical, educational, and financial assistance in which half of this is focused on natural resources related to livestock. Other means of conservation priorities are covered by the other half. With certain conservation practices, cost-sharing may pay up to 75% for the costs. To encourage landusers to have better management on their lands, an incentive payment be made.

Who is eligible? This program is limited only to those who are engaged in livestock and agricultural production.

Croplands, pasture lands, rangelands, and forestlands are the lands eligible for this program. Also, USDA will ensure that only small and medium sized livestock will get the cost share assistance. Large confined livestock are not eligible for assistance for waste storage and other treatment facilities, but are technical and financial assistance may be provided for other conservation practices.

Where does their funding come from and where does it go? The EQUIP funds come from the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, in which other USDA conservation programs are also funded. For fiscal year 1997 the budget for EQUIP is set at \$130 million. \$200 million is authorized per year through year 2002.

Cost-sharing and incentives payments offer 5 to 10 year contracts for conservation practices needed at the site. Conservation practices for natural resources related to livestock production will get 50% of the funding. Funding is limited on cost-share and incentive payments to \$10,000 per person per year, and \$50,000 over the length of the contract.

For further information please call NRCS/Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District at 233-3415/0650.

All NRCS programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, political status or belief, sex, age, marital or familial status, handicap.

## Formerly known as the CHC LABORATORY

Clinical Laboratories of the CNMI began operations as a private company in December 1995, in partnership with Clinical Laboratories of Hawaii, Inc., one of the largest medical laboratories in the State of Hawaii. Our mission at CL-CNMI is to provide convenient, timely, accurate and affordable medical laboratory testing services for all of our patients. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that effective December 13, 1996, Clinical Laboratories accepts STAYWELL INSURANCE for payment.

Although Clinical Laboratories as all health care providers, is caught in an ever tightening spiral of high cost and decreasing reimbursement, we believe that the quality and timeliness of laboratory services must not be compromised. Through resourceful management, Clinical Laboratories continues in its commitment to all our patients and welcomes this opportunity to provide for STAYWELL INSURED clients.



Potential CNMI visitors look over handouts at the Marianas Visitors Bureau booth during World Travel Fair '96 held last week. More than 80,000 travel industry professionals and would-be travelers toured the event.

**It's Duck Season at THE CHINESE RESTAURANT**

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For reservations or inquiries, please call 234-1234 ext. 26

# Christmas dawn masses begin

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE nine-day countdown to Christmas started yesterday with the dawn Masses, or what Filipinos call "simbang gabi," in Saipan's churches.

The 4 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel cathedral was celebrated by Bishop Tomas Camacho and two other priests.

The Mass was sponsored by the Filipino community, which

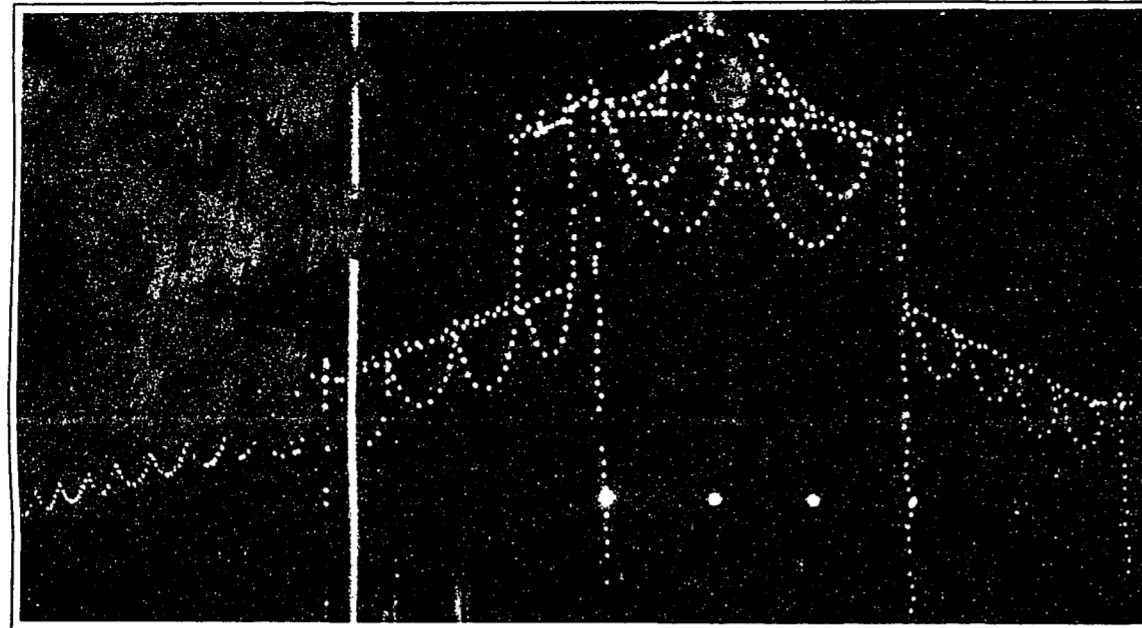
filled the cathedral to overcapacity.

Some people left their homes as early as 3 a.m. to get choice seats.

A 6 a.m. Mass is said in Carolinian.

The "simbang gabi" tradition had been anticipated by Filipinos on Saipan.

For Filipinos the first "simbang gabi" signals the start of the Christmas season proper.



Mount Carmel Cathedral all lighted up for the Christmas dawn masses which started yesterday.



The Nativity scene complete with a real, well-behaved baby, was depicted in one of several floats in a Christmas parade last Saturday.

After the Mass, they usually partake of rice cakes called puto which are washed down by ginger ale, coffee or tea.

The Mass novena culminates on Christmas eve when Masses are usually held between 10 p.m. and 12 midnight.

Some Filipinos who attended yesterday's first "simbang gabi" commented that they missed the Christmas songs which they said should have helped them feel

more the Christmas spirit.

The Chamorros and other locals in the CNMI share the Catholic faith with Filipinos and somehow they have acquired the

dawn Mass practice. Chamorros call the dawn Mass Misan Aguinatdo.

Simbang gabi is also held at the San Roque parish church at 4:30 a.m.

## CUC announces new power outage schedule

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday some areas covered by power lines Feeder 3 and Feeder 1 will suffer from brownouts on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

An announcement from the CUC said the Thursday brown-out from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. will affect parts of Chalan Laulau, parts of Chalan Kiya, San Jose/Oleai, Susupe, and parts of Chalan Kanoa, which are all served by Feeder 3.

The Saturday and Sunday outages will occur between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in main Navy Hill and parts of Lower Navy Hill, which are both served by Feeder 1.

According to the CUC, the outage on Thursday will be

caused by the relocation of the existing primary power poles adjacent to the new Judicial Complex.

The relocation is necessitated by the widening and paving of the road in the area.

The CUC requested the Department of Public Safety's traffic division to field men to direct the traffic during the scheduled outage at the triangle intersection in front of the Microl Toyota.

The Saturday and Sunday outages, on the other hand, will occur when power lines are transferred from the old power poles to new ones and existing power lines are upgraded.

The CUC ended last Saturday one and one-half months of rotated outages caused by engine breakdowns as results of defective spare parts.

## Parolee charged anew for 'beating up' wife

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A MAN who was convicted in connection with a 1992 murder case but released on parole was charged anew for allegedly assaulting his wife last June.

Efrain M. Reyes Jr. of As Lito was charged with assault and battery, criminal coercion, and criminal contempt before the Superior Court.

According to a complaint filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross M. Buchholz, Reyes forced his forearm to his wife's neck and slapped her on the face.

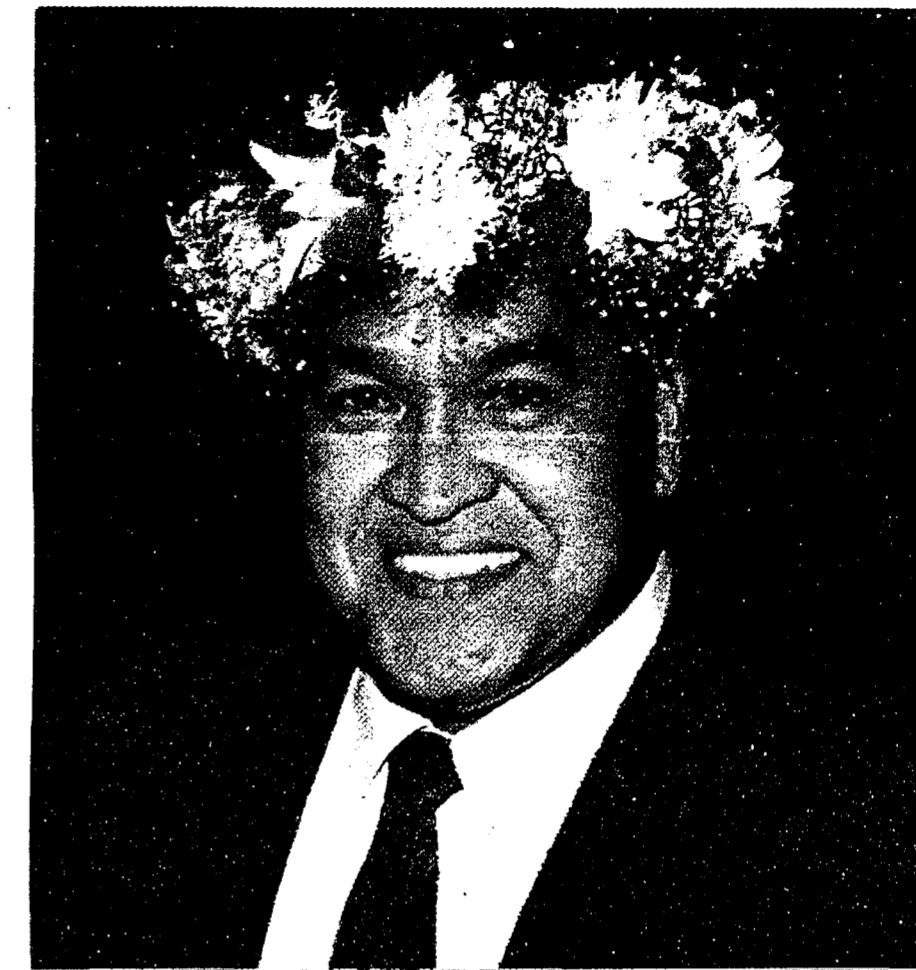
Reyes struck the victim and threatened to beat her in the event she reported violations of his parole to his parole officer, said Buchholz in the complaint.

The prosecutor stated that in committing assault and battery, the defendant failed to comply with court's order by violating the terms and conditions of his parole release.

Reyes was granted parole but was required, among other things, to obey all criminal laws in the CNMI.

Reyes was among the six persons who beat Filipino carpenter Eladio Laude and companion Nilo Rivera on Nov. 5, 1992. Laude was then brutally killed.

Reyes and three persons were given lenient punishment because they entered into a plea agreement with the government and agreed to testify against the convicted Joseph Anthony Bowie and Mario Muna Reyes.



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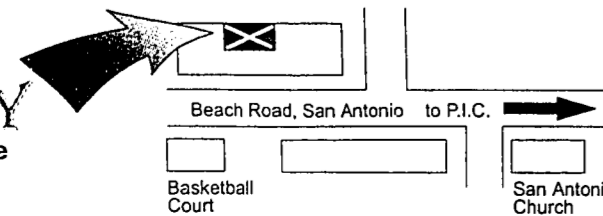


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# AG: Tinian case nears end

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

ACTING Attorney General Robert Dunlap yesterday said that police investigation on the \$23,000 Tinian burglary case is "close to being finalized."

"The case has been well under investigation, but we're just not going to make any reports to the press of what's been going on with that," he said.

Lawyer Bruce Jorgensen should know, Dunlap added, "that we don't make comments on ongoing investigation."

"That's ridiculous."

Jorgensen, in an earlier interview, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation's help is needed to solve the case, which occurred more than seven months ago.

Jorgensen, who is the lawyer of the burglary victims, has alleged that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Attorney General's Office (AGO) are neither prosecuting the suspects nor taking other steps to solve the burglary case.

He said that the civil rights of

his clients have been violated by the CNMI government's "misconduct."

According to Dunlap, however, DPS has been "responding" to the case since it happened.

Asked why the case is still unsolved more than seven months after it happened, Dunlap said, "Do you want us to catch the right guy or do you want us to just catch somebody?"

DPS Commissioner Jose M. Castro, in an earlier interview, said the police is "doing a good job" on the Tinian burglary case in which Jose and Mary Charfauros lost jewelry valued at around \$13,000 and some \$10,000 cash.

Loren Sutton, the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division chief, has said that the case is not the only one yet to be solved.

"Sometimes you just can't get the things you need (to solve cases quickly)," Sutton said.

He said that the police is so

far doing a good job on the case. "But, if Jorgensen talks too much he may screw it all up."

For Jorgensen, however, DPS is not "doing a good job."

He said he has not been updated by DPS on the investigation's "progress," and "prior communications have amounted to little more than

foot-dragging and excuses."

DPS, he added, was given the "facts, evidence and names" seven months ago.

Jorgensen said Sutton should be "aware" that "on his watch, less than 5 out of 100 Saipan burglars" have even been arrested during the past year.

"Ignoring the facts will not make those facts disappear. Misdirected hostility (from Sutton) at persons, like Mr. Charfauros, other victims, or myself, for citing facts as grounds for concern and FBI intervention will not make those facts disappear."

"Solutions are needed."

## Saipan's Bangladeshi community celebrates national 'Victory Day'

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

SOME 300 Bangladeshis on Saipan congregated at the Diamond Hotel Hall yesterday to celebrate their nation's 25th Victory Day anniversary.

On Dec. 16, 1971, Bangladesh emerged victorious from a nine-month battle with Pakistan, with the help of India.

The war started after Pakistan invaded Bangladesh (which used to be East Pakistan) after it had proclaimed its independence from the Pakistan national government on March 26, 1971. The present Pakistan occupies what was once known as West Pakistan.

Yesterday's celebration was

marked by speeches by a battery of speakers from the local Bangladeshi community.

These speakers were led by Convenor Kamal Hossain.

Hossain also led the audience including guests from federal agencies in observing a one-minute silence in remembrance of the "freedom fighters" who died for their motherland.

At least seven of these freedom fighters are here on Saipan. Five of them were identified as Ferdous "Bud" Bhuiyem, Jelil Ahmed, Jene Noor, Sala Uddin, and Monoar Hossein.

As many as 3 million Bangladeshis are believed to have died during that war.

The celebration also featured sing-

ing of patriotic songs by a group led by Mahabub Noni, who played the harmonium as accompaniment.

The Bangladeshi community on Saipan comprises from 700 to 1,000 people, who are mostly contract workers employed as security guards and construction workers. A few of them have become entrepreneurs engaged in the taxicab and apparel businesses, among others.

Bangladesh has a population of 128 million; 98 percent are Bengali. Majority of its people are Muslim and minority Hindu.

With a parliamentary democracy type of government, Bangladesh has an area of 57,295 square miles.



**CELEBRATING VICTORY.** A group of Bangladeshis sing patriotic songs during the cultural part of the program yesterday in celebration of Victory Day at the Diamond Hotel. Mahabub Noni (third from right), playing the harmonium, provides accompaniment.

## Guerrero to Tudela: 'Let's work together'



Edward DL Guerrero

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Works Secretary Edward DL Guerrero yesterday stressed his endorsement as the Democratic Party's official candidate for the Saipan mayoralty race was not a result of "maneuvers" even as he urged losing aspirant Juan Borja Tudela to work with him in case the former won in next year's election.

"We are one family. He [Tudela] is part of it. If there are any plans or programs that Mr. Tudela is interested in implementing, I'll be more than happy to sit down with him [in

case I won]," said Guerrero.

"If he [Tudela] wants to be part of that implementation I'll be more than happy to sit down again with him," he added.

Tudela has cried foul over Guerrero's nomination saying the Public Works chief, aided by supporters, "manipulated" a recent CEC reorganizational meeting into suspending certain provisions of the organization's by laws and have him voted as the standard bearer.

Guerrero said there was only one DPW staff who also happened to be a CEC member.

Tudela said he was not informed there were going to be such "moves" during the meeting conducted last Dec 5. He alleged Guerrero's group conspired on the matter.

"It [allegations] is not true. There were only two of us with the DPW there at the CEC. And then when the motion [to suspend deadlines on letter of intent and primary] was raised, I disqualified myself... I left the place... the chairman said I'm out so I couldn't vote," Guerrero explained.

Six CEC members voted in favor of the motion. Another six voted



Juan Borja Tudela

against. Party chairman Benigno Sablan broke the deadlock and voted in favor of the motion because, he said, "it was legal."

Guerrero said he was out of the floor during deliberations and the subsequent voting session the result of which showed him winning by 12 points [and not 9 as Sablan has earlier told this paper] over Tudela.

Sablan, in an earlier interview, has said the "moves" were done to enable the party to remain on schedule with next year's electoral exercise.

## FAA to CPA: Check pilot requirements of Gabaldon

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL Aviation Administration has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to conduct an airport ramp inspection on Guy Gabaldon following complaints about the latter allegedly flying his plane on an expired medical certificate.

Gabaldon regularly flies school boys to his Youth Camp on Aguiñan Island on weekends supposedly as part of his anti-drug abuse advocacy program.

In his Dec. 12 letter to CPA Executive Director Carlos A. Shoda, Hawaii-based FAA Aviation Safety Inspector Scott E. Allen requested that CPA examine Gabaldon's medical certificate for possible violations of federal regulations.

"We request that the authorities provide us with a brief written statement that they witnessed Mr. Gabaldon operating an aircraft in flight, noting and naming any passengers, listing the aircraft side numbers and date and

time of flight," the letter read.

"Additionally, pertinent information from Mr. Gabaldon's pilot and medical certificates should be noted. In particular, the date on his medical certificate is important," it further stated.

Allen also requested the CPA to have him sent the FAA a copy of the medical certificate.

"If his medical certificate has expired, please remind him that there has been complaints to that effect and that the FAA advises him to obtain a new medical certificate or stop flying to prevent him from being fined or incurring additional penalties," his letter said.

Gabaldon refused to comment on the matter. He faxed a copy of his medical certificate though, and it indicated that the World War II veteran's most recent check up was on Dec 3, 1993.

The certificate, which stated that Gabaldon was in a good state of health, was signed by Aviation Medical Examiner, Dr. Anthony R. Stearns.

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**Your Health** (A public service project by the staff of the Commonwealth Health Center)  
By Dr. Stephen Sullivan

### For Ladies Only

WHEN a woman enters menopause her ovaries stop producing a hormone called estrogen. This is a natural event and the hot flashes, night sweats and mood swings which may occur will pass. Most women do not need hormones to treat those symptoms. Vaginal dryness and bladder irritations or infections can be prevented with an estrogen cream. So what are the benefits of using hormone pills or patches, a treatment called HRT or hormone replacement therapy, to treat the menopause?

A woman who uses HRT is less likely to suffer from the following:

- Broken Bones. When a woman enters menopause her bones rapidly lose calcium and may become weak and more easily broken. The risk of fractures of the both the wrist and hip is reduced by 50-60% in women who begin HRT within the first three years of menopause and then continue treatment for 6 to 9 years. The risk of fractures of the spine is also reduced. There also seems to be less chance of developing arthritis of the hip.
- Heart attacks. HRT lowers cholesterol levels and reduces the chances of having a heart attack. A menopausal woman who has already had a heart attack can reduce her chance of having a second heart attack by starting HRT.
- Strokes. HRT can reduce the chance of having a second stroke by 40%.
- Alzheimer's disease. Women who use HRT are 30-40% less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and even if they do get Alzheimer's it starts later in life.

What are the risks of HRT?

For a few months after starting HRT some women experience nausea, headaches, bleeding and breast tenderness. These problems usually go away with time or when the dosage is changed.

There appears to be a small increase in the chance of developing blood clots in the leg, veins, perhaps about 1-2:10,000.

If estrogen is taken alone the lining of the uterus, the endometrium, may overgrow and become cancerous. This can be prevented by taking a drug called medroxyprogesterone or Provera.

The biggest worry has been whether or not HRT can increase the chance of developing breast cancer. The experts still are undecided. Based on our current knowledge, it can be said that after 15 years of HRT there may be an increased risk of developing breast cancer. However, the risk of dying of breast cancer is very small in comparison to the benefits of HRT in preventing death from heart attacks, strokes or the complications of a broken hip.

Except for women with premature menopause the aim of HRT is not to produce normal hormonal cycles but to provide the lowest and safest dose that will protect against the complications of menopause. Based on current knowledge that dose is 0.625 mg/day of conjugated equine estrogen, often sold as the trade name Premarin. Women who still have a uterus should also take at least 2.5 mg per day of medroxyprogesterone or Provera to prevent over growth of the lining of the uterus and the possible development of cancer of the uterus. There may be some bleeding for the first few months after starting HRT but after a year 95% of women on the combination of Premarin and Provera will no longer have any bleeding. If bleeding does occur later you should see your doctor.

If you have questions of there are topics you would like covered in this column please write to: CHC Medical Staff, Commonwealth Health Center, PO Box 409CK, MP 96950.

## Mayor: Road repairs done by yearend

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Mayor Jesus Deleon Guerrero promised yesterday that all roads in the island will be repaired before the end of the year.

However, Guerrero said, his self-imposed deadline will also depend on the availability of money.

"With Gov. (Froilan C.) Tenorio's signing of the 1997 budget, we hope that money

would be made available to us soon. I'm glad we're not among the agencies affected by his line-item veto," Guerrero said.

Guerrero said he will be meeting with the governor tomorrow to discuss budget matters.

The Mayor's Office, according to Guerrero, needs some \$8,000 for road pavement projects in San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville and San Antonio.

Ongoing road repairs were funded through separate appropriations measures, totaling about \$6,500, Guerrero said.

So far, he said, road repair activities which began last year is about 70 percent complete.

For the remaining road repair activities, Guerrero said, he would request that surplus from previous fiscal year's budget be reprogrammed to road pavements.



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### Two men charged for 'beating' women

A MAN was arrested for allegedly striking a woman with a piece of lumber on the head yesterday.

Isidoro Ilel was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery before the Superior Court.

According to the complaint filed Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross Buchholz, Ilel swung a 2X2 piece of lumber at the victim's head.

No other details were available as of press time.

A bail hearing was scheduled yesterday afternoon.

In other court story, a man was also arrested and charged for beating a woman last Sunday.

Rayland A. Towai was charged with assault and battery.

It was not clear yet whether the victim was related to Towai. (FDT)

Alot on free food provision for workers:

# 'CNMI gov't not obligated'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE government cannot mandate Commonwealth employers to provide free food and housing to Filipino workers, the governor's legal consultant said yesterday.

"Philippine laws cannot be enforced here, just as the CNMI law cannot be enforced in the Philippines," said C. Sebastian Alot.

The free food and housing provisions for Filipino workers are contained in the 1995 Migrant Workers Act.

In the CNMI, enforcement of such provisions is optional, by virtue of what the Philippine officials called an "informal moratorium."

The "informal moratorium," which according to Labor Attache Jesus Varela expires by the end of the year, was forged some months ago when CNMI and Philippine officials were negotiating for the lifting of the workers ban.

Varela earlier said the Philippine Overseas Workers Administration will begin enforcing the food and housing provision upon expiration of



Sebastian Alot

commonwealth," Alot said.

In other countries, he added, employers that provide free lodging and full medical benefits offer lower salaries.

"The issue is whether one can enforce those laws consistently and still attempt to accommodate the legitimate interest of another country which is closely related to the Commonwealth," said Alot who joined Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio in his trip to Manila last week.

The CNMI government hopes to resolve the dilemma by establishing closer ties with the Philippines, Alot said.

"One of the things we could develop is actually a close relationship between the governor and President (Fidel) Ramos," Alot said.

"(Ramos) sees the Commonwealth not as an inferior part of the United States but a member of the families of Asia."

He said Ramos wants his government and the CNMI's to forge a relation beyond reliance on Filipino workers, and anchored instead on bilateral investments.

In the United States, he added, foreign workers don't get full medical coverage.

the "moratorium."

"One of the problems is both the CNMI and the United States laws permit employers to deduct a portion of each month's salary for food and lodging if they're provided that," Alot said.

The Filipino workers in the CNMI are governed by these laws because they are in the Commonwealth and US jurisdiction, Alot said.

In the United States, he added, foreign workers don't get full medical coverage.

"It is unique to the Com-

## Regional Update

### Fiji bank hands over files

SUVA (PNS)—The Reserve Bank of Fiji finally gave in Thursday and surrendered to police demands allowing them access to files regarding transfer of National Bank of Fiji funds overseas.

The breakthrough came after two days of talks between police and senior managers of RBF, the Daily Post reports.

Police Commander Isikia Savua had threatened to issue a search warrant against the bank if it continued to deny police access to the files.

However, by Thursday night a special police fraud squad team

was studying the files released by RBF.

The files contained names of companies and individuals who had transferred funds worth millions of dollars.

A police source says these files would give them an opportunity to determine whether funds that were transferred overseas had anything to do with the NBF fraud scandal.

The source did not rule out the possibility that other commercial banks would also be investigated if they had anything to do with the NBF fraud.

### Tuvalu records surplus

MELBOURNE (PNS)—Tuvalu's Trust Fund - set up to give the country a measure of independence from aid donors - has had its best year yet recording a surplus of over three-million US dollars.

The result is twice last year's surplus, Radio Australia reports.

The Trust fund, set up originally with donations from Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Japan and South Korea and a small contribution from the government of Tuvalu, was designed to give Tuvalu an income stream it could

use to balance its budget.

Finance Minister Koloa Talake says this year's 3.06 million dollar surplus was achieved after the fund had discharged its commitments to the budget and its own capital maintenance.

The money will be placed in the government's Consolidation Investment Fund until early next year when it will be used to make a major re-investment in the 35.3-million dollar Trust Fund, achieving the government's long-standing goal of becoming the biggest contributor.

### Tonga tourism doing good

NUKU'ALOFA (PNS)—Tonga experienced a visible trade deficit of 6.9 million pa'anga (\$US5.4 million) in its foreign trade for the month of September 1996.

This is a result of excess Imports over Exports according to statistics from the deficit recorded in August, Radio Tonga reports.

This was due to a drop of about 25 percent in Imports and a corresponding increase in export by 20 percent comparing the deficit in September to August.

Food and live animals dominated the imported commodities with 1.9 million pa'anga (\$US1.5

million) second was manufactured goods by materials worth 1.4 million (\$US1.1 million), a fall by almost 30 percent.

Domestic export for September were predominantly food commodities amounting to 300-thousand pa'anga (\$US237,000).

Principal items of imports were motor spirit, mutton and distilled fuels. For exports were kava, yam, water melons and fishery products.

New Zealand and Australia continue to be Tonga's major trading partner both in imports and exports.

### SIBC in financial crisis

HONIARA (PNS)—Solomon Islands' state-owned radio, the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, has been forced to take drastic cost-cutting measures because of financial problems.

The SIBC's general manager, James Kilua, says the Corporation's board has decided to close down the broadcasting functions of its two regional stations and lay off a number of employees.

Kilua says as of January 15, the Gizo station in Western Province and Lata station in the eastern

Temotu Province will be reduced to office level.

He said the Corporation's financial crisis is further compounded by the government's failure to pay up its annual subvention of 105,000 US dollars to the SIBC.

Kilua says so far only 17,000 dollars of the subvention has been paid.

He says the retrenchment exercise and downgrading of the regional broadcasting stations are part of the Corporation's plans to strengthen its revenue base and reduce costs.

# Palau lauds CHC donation

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE PALAU Ministry of Health has extended its appreciation to the Commonwealth Health Center for donating, among other things, four hemodialysis machines, to Belau National Hospital.

Health Minister Masao M. Ueda hailed CHC for providing Belau National Hospital during the past months with hemodialysis machines, and medicines such as 185 cases



Masao M. Ueda

of nephrosol liquid acetate, 96 cases of nephrosol liquid acetate, and 32 cases of dextrose.

Ueda told Department of Public Health Services Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham that three of the dialysis machines are working and will be put to use after they have been rinsed.

The other machine, Ueda said, has missing some parts,

but they will try to have it equipped into operable condition.

"Thank you very much for your support and ready assistance whenever we have emergency needs," said the health minister in his letter.

Abraham earlier stated that DPHS would offer its resources in future research and training health services to other territories in the Pacific

Basin. CNMI and Palau are among the members of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) which has been organized to assist in the territories in the Pacific Basin.

PIHOA is also composed of board of directors from Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, Guam, and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

### PSS official seeks pay raises for service-related personnel

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

A PUBLIC School System official proposes an increase in the salaries of personnel doing related services for special education program.

Barbara Rudy, coordinator for PSS Special Education Program, said the program needs more specialists, but PSS is having a hard time trying to convince those from off islands to work in the CNMI.

"The problem is not lack of funds but the low salaries. People who do these jobs won't come out here," Rudy said. "The salaries have to be increased before we could hire them."

When PSS ran the vacancy announcement for positions in the special education program, several aspirants in the mainland U.S. had re-

sponded, but they backed out upon learning of the salaries PSS is offering, Rudy said.

This year, she said, there are about 400 students with disabilities enrolled in public schools. This year's figure shows an increase of 50 students from last year's, Rudy said.

She said the increase in the number of students with disabilities requires the enhancement of the special education program which comes with an increase in the number of personnel doing related services.

The government has raised the salaries of teachers and teacher aides, and Rudy suggests that special education specialists be given a raise also.

"We need to offer salaries rates that are as competitive as they are in the U.S. mainland," Rudy said.

### 'Dugong' importer sentenced to six-month probation

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

FEDERAL District Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced on Thursday an importer of an endangered species to a six-month probation, but said he may not complete the term if he complies fully with several special conditions, including giving oral presentations before students on the protection of endangered species.

Toribiong N. Tell, who appeared without a counsel, pleaded guilty to importation of 24 lbs. of dugong meat from Palau way back on Nov. 26 last year.

According to the information submitted by Assistant US Atty. David T. Wood, Tell violated the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Tell had claimed the meat belonged to a saltwater crocodile, also an endangered wildlife species.

An examination made by the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory found the meat to be that of the endangered dug-

ong. Accordingly a US import permit and a valid foreign export permit/re-export certificate should have been obtained first by Tell.

One of the special conditions of supervision imposed by Munson was for Tell to write a 10-page report on the importance of protecting endangered species, particularly dugong, which should be typewritten, double-spaced.

The deadline for the submission of the report is Jan. 23 next year.

In addition, Tell must give a 15-minute oral presentation on the protection of endangered species to at least five elementary schools or five classrooms in one school in Saipan.

Tell is to submit a verification of the completion of the classroom presentations by Feb. 7 next year.

"Upon presentation of a certification that the presentations have all been made, the remaining term of probation will be terminated," Munson said in his sentence order.



### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking a STAFF PRODUCT MANAGER (Guam)

Develop and manage non-toll products and services for MTC & GTE, including CPE (business and residence), local network services (basic and enhanced voice and data, video) and cellular business of GTE, Guam, and future international markets for international commercial, international government, and overseas U.S. government customers.

Manage the development and/or modification of comprehensive non-toll product plans and programs that direct the support requirements of marketing, operations, billing, training, financial, and other functional groups. Product plans will minimally document target market, outline distribution channel, promotional and pricing strategies, identify unit/financial objectives, and outline technical and operational procedures.

Minimum bachelor's degree in business or engineering. Master's degree preferred. Seven combined years' experience in product management, sales, advertising, engineering, and/or marketing required. Strong verbal, analytical and written skills required. Specialized technical knowledge of network services/operations required. Financial analysis skills important.

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### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking a MANAGER - CUSTOMER SERVICE (Saipan)

This position is responsible to the General Manager in providing a full range of high quality services to the Company's customers while maintaining overall control in a cost effective manner. On-going planning is performed to assure the establishment of policies, procedures, and controls to support MTC's service requirements, consistent with the company's requirements. Directs the Customer Services work groups to address MTC's operational requirements for CSOC, and CBC. Plans are formulated and monitored with report progress towards these ends. Training is administered; departmental budgeting with budget reporting and controls is performed.

A college background in Business Administration or related field of study combined with experience as first line supervisor in CSOC and CBC. Seven to ten years experience in one or more customer service function. Minimum of five years experience with GTE customer service operations line management. Minimum of five years experience in CSOC, CBC. Must have strong supervisory and managerial skills.

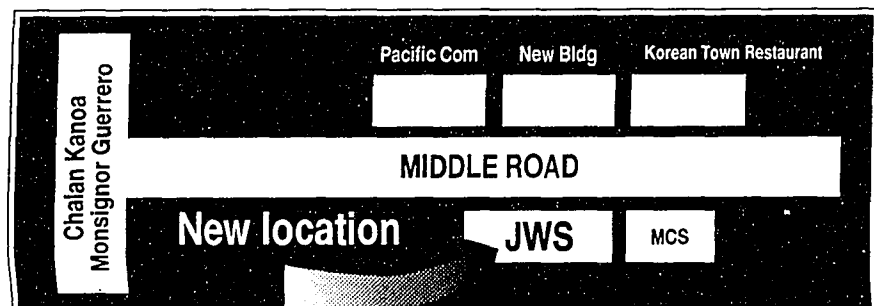
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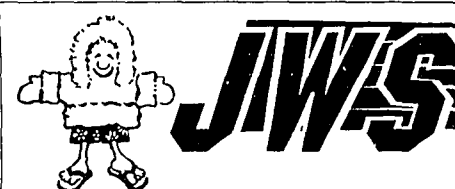


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## Buckle-up - Saipan

# Albright faces rumors, unease

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG  
WASHINGTON (AP) - The rumor races through the streets of the Arab world: Madeleine Albright is Jewish. It is accepted regardless of the fact that President Bill Clinton's choice for secretary of state was born a Catholic and is now an Episcopalian.

The religion rumor is one more sign of what lies ahead as Albright takes up the task of trying to

breathe new life into the Middle East peace process. At the same time, authorities on the region do not think she will have difficulty because of who she is. Or, in the case of the rumor, who she is not.

"Any secretary of state would have a hard time simply because of the issues," said Richard Haass, who was director of Middle East affairs on the National Security Council during the Bush admin-

istration. "The peace process is in real danger of unraveling and our policies both toward Iran and Iraq are coming under pressure."

Edward Djerejian, who served as U.S. ambassador to Syria and later to Israel, said the rumors reflect the fact the Middle East peace process is at a standstill.

"Therefore, worst-case scenarios and conspiracy theories are coming to the fore," he said.

"What I think you're seeing is simply an expression of Arab frustration over U.S. Middle East policy," said Haass.

Albright was never seen as a friend of the Arab cause and it was only a short step for extremists in the Middle East to take up the cry that she was not only a supporter of Israel but Jewish as well.

As ambassador to the United Nations, Albright blocked Arab efforts to push the Security Council to condemn Israel for the shelling of a U.N. base in south Lebanon that killed at least 91 civilians. She also vetoed a resolution declaring invalid Israel's expropriation of Arab-owned land in east Jerusalem.



Madeleine Albright

"The appointment of Albright will virtually make Tel Aviv the capital of the United States, and not Washington," columnist Moustafa Amin wrote in the Egyptian newspaper As-Sharq Al-Awsat.

Fueling the unease was the fact that the same day President Clinton named Albright to be secretary of state, he announced that Sen. William Cohen was his choice for defense secretary. Cohen's father was Jewish, but the senator was raised a Unitarian.

"What is of high concern for us is that the new appointees are people who are well-known for their allegiance and connections with the Zionist lobby," said a commentary in the Islamic-oriented Cairo newspaper Al-Shaab. Given the perception of Albright as pro-Israel, what sort of reception is she likely to receive when she travels to Damascus as secretary of state to meet with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad?

"I think Assad will receive her officially and well," said Djerejian, who recently met with Assad during a trip to the Middle East. "The Syrians are very professional in this. They deal with the people in power."

## Officials: Insurance accord important to improve ties

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
WASHINGTON (AP) - While it didn't generate the headlines of last year's auto fight, the new U.S.-Japan insurance deal may prove in the long run to be far more significant in terms of improving trade ties between the world's two largest economies.

Unlike the auto agreement, which was attacked as being too vague to generate much in sales for American companies, U.S. trade specialists said the insurance deal reached Sunday appears to be a breakthrough in deregulating the Japanese economy.

The United States had set Sunday as the deadline for reaching an agreement, with the threat of possible economic sanctions looming if no deal had been reached. Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton had pledged earlier to reach an agreement by June 31, but negotiators missed that deadline.

"We are very pleased with the outcome," Barshefsky told reporters in Washington. "Once you break the back of the (insurance) cartel so that companies can come in and offer differentiated rates and various products, there is no question that our companies will be very successful."

This is an indication that the Japanese are serious about deregulation. It should be viewed as a very positive step," said Clyde Prestowitz, who was the Reagan administration's chief trade negotiator with Tokyo.

Under terms of the agreement, Japan promised to open up its \$341 billion insurance market, the world's second largest, to U.S. and other foreign companies through a series of steps. One of the most significant will be ending the practice of allowing industry councils to set premium costs.

In addition, the agreement will streamline the introduction of new insurance products and allow auto insurance companies to establish rate schedules based on such variables as the driver's age or accident record. Now, there is no leeway on what a driver can be charged for insurance.

The final details of the agree-

ment were resolved in a telephone call Sunday between Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka and acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who had been in Tokyo until the day before trying to negotiate a deal.

In Tokyo, the government hailed Sunday's agreement as the first fruits of Hashimoto's drive for financial deregulation. Last month, the prime minister established 2001 as a target date for a "big bang" for Japan similar to the liberalization of London's markets in the 1980s.

Finance minister Mitsuzuka called the insurance deal a "plus for consumers, as policy holders will have freedom of choice and new products will become available as a result of greater competition."

# Military takes full control

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - Burma's military regime appeared to have reasserted full control of the capital Monday, having sent nearly all students back to their homes in the countryside following a week of street demonstrations.

The students had staged the largest protests since the nationwide democracy uprising eight years ago, demanding an end to police brutality, the right to form a students union and

## Gov't sends protesting students back to their homes

more civil liberties.

The government lifted heavy security around a downtown Rangoon medical school Sunday as students were leaving the capital for outlying areas. There were no signs of protest Monday and security was reduced in several areas.

Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whom the government has accused of fomenting the recent unrest, was still confined to her home Sunday, disappointing about 200 of her followers who hoped she would appear on the streets and speak to them. Students have denied any link to Suu Kyi or her political party.

Medical University No. 1, where security was lifted Sunday, was the site of several sit-ins during the last few days. Students said police had arrested three of them and the students were demanding their release.

Burma's military government responded to the weeklong demonstrations by closing most schools, arresting some students and members of Suu Kyi's party, sending students back home, blocking off roads with troops and riot police and stationing tanks in downtown Rangoon.

Despite some skirmishes with students during protests around the city last week in which rocks were thrown and some youngsters were beaten, the military's response was mild compared with the brutality it unleashed in 1988, gunning down more than 3,000 protesters, jailing thousands and closing schools for three years.

Some analysts, while giving the

military credit for restraining itself, still cautioned against assuming its leaders had changed their ways.

But with schools closed, students on their way home and protest leaders hiding, under surveillance or in jail, the military seems to have succeeded in stopping the civil disobedience for the time being.

The challenge for the military now is to open schools as soon as possible without facing a recurrence of the demonstrations.

The regime's insistence on blaming Suu Kyi for the protests, and confining her as punishment, is pushing some Western governments to consider punitive action against the regime.



Crown Princess Masako speaks during a news conference at the Togu Palace in Tokyo. Prior to her 33rd birthday last Dec. 9, the princess met the press without Crown Prince Naruhito at her side for the first time since their wedding. (AP Photo)

## Mother Teresa's heartbeat irregular

CALCUTTA, India (AP) - Mother Teresa's heart resumed beating irregularly overnight, and doctors on Monday were planning to deliver a second mild shock to correct it.

The doctors, in a statement released by B.M. Birla Heart Research Center, said Mother Teresa's condition was otherwise stable and the irregular beat was having no immediate effect on her heart's performance. They had not yet decided when to

administer a shock to her heart, a procedure known as electrical cardioversion.

Doctors had been on the alert for a return to irregular beating, which presents a risk of stroke, since administering a shock to the 86-year-old nun's heart last Wednesday.

She was described as alert and talkative Monday.

Mother Teresa has suffered repeated setbacks followed by recover-



Mother Teresa

## Singapore conglomerate thinks of name changes

SINGAPORE (AP) - The Keppel Corp. conglomerate is renaming six of its listed companies in Singapore and the Philippines, the company announced Monday.

In Singapore, Keppel's property arm, Straits Steamship Land Ltd., will be renamed Keppel Land Ltd., while ship-repairer Singmarine Industries Ltd. will be known as Keppel Marine Industries Ltd.

Steamers Maritime Ltd., will become Keppel Telecommunica-

tions and Transportation Ltd., which more accurately reflects its activities in shipping, logistics and telecommunications, Keppel said.

The rig-building arm, Far East Livingston Shipbuilding Ltd., or FELS, will be known as Keppel FELS Ltd.

In the Philippines, Keppel Shipyard Inc. will be renamed Keppel Batangas Dockyard Inc., while Cebu Shipyard and Engineering Works Inc. will become Keppel Cebu Shipyard and Engineering Inc.

ies that surprised even her doctors since being hospitalized Nov. 22 after suffering a mild heart attack.

A week after entering the hospital she underwent angioplasty to remove blockages from two arteries. Her recovery has been slowed down by bronchitis, pneumonia and kidney problems.

Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her service to the poor. Her Missionaries of Charity operates 517 orphanages, homes for the poor, AIDS hospices and other charity centers around the world.



### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking three ACCOUNT MANAGER (Guam)

Accountable and responsible for the maintenance of the existing revenue stream as well as new revenue generation of major accounts through the sale of network services, toll services, and terminal equipment (CPE). This position has total responsibility for initiating, maintaining and growing these accounts to ensure MTC's and GTE's prominence as the customer's telecommunications vendor of choice.

B.A./B.S. degree. MBA highly desirable. Five years successful sales experience, five years of telecommunications experience with specialized knowledge of PBX systems, advanced network designs, data/OA, packet switching, IBS, and toll services. Salary dependent upon qualifications with commission.

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### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking a STAFF ADMINISTRATOR - MARKETING (Guam)

This position is responsible to implement marketing communications plans and programs, consistent with approved MTC strategies and plans for MTC's toll and non-toll products and services to ensure that market share, sales, revenue and profitability objectives are achieved. Ensure consistency of communication with product management strategies for GTE's international unit and GTE Telops.

Plans and implement corporate image communications programs in support of MTC external affairs strategies, strengthening MTC's effectiveness as one of the major corporate influences in the CNMI economy and ensuring that corporate communications contribute to attaining MTC corporate image improvement objectives.

Bachelor's degree in communications or business desirable. Two years sales and/or marketing experience. Excellent writing skills essential. Strong oral and verbal communications skill essential. Basic telephony understanding desirable.

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# Somalia fighting: 80 dead

By HAROUN HASSAN  
**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)** - More than 80 people were believed killed Sunday and dozens wounded in some of the worst factional fighting in months in the divided Somali capital, witnesses said.

Mogadishu in an area controlled by faction leader Hussein Aidid. Among the fatalities were 20 women selling jewelry, and most of the others were also civilians. Many of the bodies were mutilated by shrapnel, and the market had pools of blood. At least 150 wounded passersby were taken to nearby hospitals.

In an area called Medina, also in south Mogadishu, about 40 people were believed killed in fighting, said sources at Ali Hassan hospital. Residents contacted by phone reported that 23 of the dead were lying on the main market street. Many of the deaths came from shelling after forces loyal to Aidid with dozens of battle wagons -

trucks mounted with heavy weapons - attacked supporters of a rival faction led by Ali Mahdi Mohamed. Shells that hit the Bakara market apparently came in retaliation for an attack by Aidid's forces. Both sides suffered casualties. Among the dead in Medina were seven brothers - aged between six months and 14 - who died when a mortar round landed on their house. Hospital workers were treating both parents who survived. Aidid's supporters, who control a part of south Mogadishu, have laid siege to Medina, but all previous attempts to dislodge members of Ali Mahdi's Abgal subclan from the southern district have failed.

Gunfire and loud explosions continued throughout the day Sunday. Medina lies on the so-called green line dividing the two halves of war-torn Mogadishu, since the country - and the capital - disintegrated into a fiefdom of warring clans in 1991. Aidid's forces were said to have made a considerable advance in Medina before a faction allied with Ali Mahdi joined in and pushed them back. Somalia has had no functioning central government since 1991. The civil war followed the ouster of late dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

## Zoo tiger mauls woman to death

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)** - A 59-year old Malaysian school teacher was mauled to death by a chained tiger in a zoo, police said Monday. The animal pounced moments after she had touched it while posing for a photograph. Ngai Hong Choe suffered serious injuries to the neck and died on the way to hospital after she was attacked Thursday at the Taman Safari Indonesia in the mountain resort of Puncak, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Jakarta, police said.

Animals at the Taman Safari roam freely in the wild while visitors watch from the safety of their cars. For a 1,500 rupiah (60 U.S. cent) - fee, visitors also are allowed to take pictures with animals chained in a special cage. Ngai, a Malaysian teacher, slipped and fell twice near the tiger, which pounced and bit her neck, said police officer, Tete Suryana, contacted by telephone. Ngai was visiting Indonesia with a group of 40 teachers and

former teachers from a Chinese school in the Malaysian state of Malacca. Singapore newspapers Monday published a picture of Ngai with the tiger minutes before the attack. It showed her nervously smiling while sitting near the backside of the sprawled tiger, with one hand on the animal's back and the other on its leg. Once the picture was taken, she hurried down the platform but slipped twice on the wet ground, upsetting the tiger that appeared to be agitated by the photo-sessions that began with eight previous tourists. One of Ngai's companions hit the tiger's stomach with an umbrella, forcing the beast to loosen its grip on the woman's throat, Singapore's New Paper tabloid reported. The area was closed to tourists and police are investigating. Last June, an American boy was also attacked by a baby tiger in the same park. The 9-year-old Aaron Baker suffered light injuries to his face.



### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking a SERVICE ORDER SPECIALIST (DISPATCH)

Successful applicant will accept customer requests for telephone installation. Prepare service agreements with customers and cut service orders to telephone service. Update pending service orders, ensuring all service order applications are current. Performs other related duties as assigned by the superior.

Applicant must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, have good written and oral communication skills, ability to communicate with individuals of different nationalities. Three years experience in telephone company business desirable.

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### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking three STAFF ASSISTANT (Guam)

This position is responsible to provide administrative and secretarial support to one or more department managers with expediency, professionalism and confidentiality. Answer customer inquiries to ensure satisfactory resolution through referrals to appropriate managers or through responses on company services (international toll, cellular, etc.) that can avoid customer hand-off.

High school graduate or equivalent. Prefer secretarial sciences education. One to three years of general office/administrative experience. Solid administrative skills with word processing knowledge. Good verbal and written communication skills. Ability to file.

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### Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking two ASSISTANT - SALES SUPPORT (Guam)

This position is responsible to provide sales and administrative support to the Major Account Executive and Account Manager. To collect information and program the customer data base on all PBX and Centranet jobs.

To train the end users upon the completion of each new installation of large business systems and train designated customer representatives how to perform limited recent change software moves and changes on their system through lecture, demonstrate, and hands on sessions.

Technical knowledge of PBX (specifically NTI Meridian) and Centranet product line. Customer relations training and experience. Strong oral and written communications skills.

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## SECOND ANNIVERSARY MASS

We, the families of the late  
**JUAN SEMAN VILLAGOMEZ**  
 (Juan Kiyu/Juan Chana)



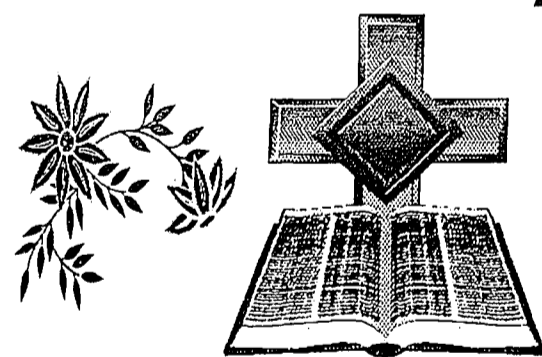
Invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Second Anniversary of passage unto eternal life of our beloved.

Daily Mass will be offered every 6:00 a.m. from December 10 to December 18, 1996, at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, except on Sunday, December 15, (mass will be at 9:00 a.m.)

On the final day, December 18, 1996 after the Mass, we invite everyone to join us for breakfast behind the Cathedral.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
 Ginen I Familia

## Fifth Year ANNIVERSARY



**Santiago C. Tenorio**

We, the family of the late SANTIAGO C. TENORIO, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers for our beloved one. Daily masses will be offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral as follows:

MASS OF INTENTION:					
Tuesday	December 10	6:00 A.M.	Saturday	December 14	6:00 A.M.
Wednesday	December 11	6:00 A.M.	Sunday	December 15	6:00 A.M.
Thursday	December 12	6:00 A.M.	Monday	December 16	6:00 A.M.
Friday	December 13	6:00 A.M.	Tuesday	December 17	6:00 A.M.
			Wednesday	December 18	6:00 A.M.

Nightly rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, December 10, 1996 at the family's residence in CHALAN KANOA, DISTRICT #2. On the final day, Wednesday, December 18, 1996, rosary will be said at 12:00 noon and MASS OF INTENTION will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. DINNER will follow immediately after the mass. Your prayers and attendance will be most appreciated.

Si Yu'us MAASE,  
 Mrs. MARIA S. TENORIO and Children

## Rebels release photos of 'mortar attack victims'

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** - Secessionists on the copper-rich island of Bougainville Monday released photographs they claim are evidence that Papua New Guinea troops killed nine civilians and injured five others in a mortar attack on a Roman Catholic church last month. The pictures show corpses of several victims, some with large wounds.

Papua New Guinea defense force commander Brig. Jerry Singirok has denied any knowledge of the Nov. 28 attack.

The rebels' self-styled Bougainville interim government, which wants independence for the island from Papua New Guinea, said several long range mortar bombs hit the church at Malabita, on the southern end of the island, during an early morning mass.

Three men, three women and three children were killed. Another two men, two women and a two-year-old boy were also injured, the rebels said.

They said the pictures of the victims were taken by a commander of the rebel's Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

The film was later smuggled out of Bougainville, about 1,200 kilometers (800 miles) northeast of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital.

The island has been wracked by guerrilla war since 1988.

No official casualty figures have been published, but some observers estimate more than 1,000 people have been killed in the violence.

Both sides in the conflict often accuse the other of committing atrocities against civilians.

## Bishop backs campaign for East Timor asylum-seekers

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** - The head of one of the country's largest churches today endorsed a campaign to give sanctuary to East Timorese people who fled the strife torn Indonesian province only to be refused political asylum in Australia.

About 1,400 East Timorese are fighting to stay in Australia after the Immigration Department recently ruled that they should instead seek asylum in Portugal, their homeland's former colonial master.

The Australian government has said the East Timorese can claim Portuguese citizenship. Many came to Australia on tourist visas and now face deportation.

The ruling has been disputed and is currently before the Federal Court.

The head of Australia's Anglican Church, Archbishop

Keith Rayner, said Monday he is supporting the campaign to help the East Timorese.

Rayner accused the Australian government of hypocrisy in arguing the Timorese had Portuguese nationality, given that Australia recognizes Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor and could not therefore consider its people had any other nationality.

The campaign to assist the asylum seekers was started several months ago by a group of other clergy.

They say they have received more than 5,000 offers to hide those facing deportation.

Indonesia invaded east Timor in 1975 and annexed it a year later. The United Nations does not recognize the annexation and Indonesia has been accused of widespread human rights abuses in the territory since the invasion.

## Philip Morris sought youth smoking data?

**RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)** - Tobacco giant Philip Morris, which denies ever targeting children, used pollsters to quiz U.S. youngsters about their smoking habits in the 1970s, internal company documents show.

A lawyer for the United States' largest tobacco company dismissed the studies as old material released by anti-tobacco lawyers to influence judges and potential jurors.

The documents were given to the Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper by plaintiff's lawyers who are suing the tobacco industry. Anti-smoking activists contend the studies support their charge that Philip Morris and other tobacco companies have spent decades studying the youth smoking market.

"These documents are the strongest evidence that Philip Morris was looking at children as a key to the Marlboro market," said Matthew Myers of the National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Company officials deny the charge and say the leaking of internal memos is part of a lobbying effort to pressure the industry to settle the hundreds of lawsuits that have been filed against it.

The fact is, this company doesn't market to kids," Michael York, an attorney for Philip Morris, told the

newspaper. The Associated Press could not reach anyone at company headquarters for further comment on Sunday.

The newspaper said the company memos from 1970 to 1988 show how Philip Morris dug for data about smoking and buying habits of American young people. "True answers on smoking habits might be difficult to elicit in the presence of parents," said a June 12, 1970, memo to Philip Morris from Roper Researchers Associates of New York.

"We recommend interviewing young people at summer recreation centers (at beaches, public pools, lakes, etc.)," Roper told Philip Morris. The target group was as young as 14, the memo says.

Top company officials were on the memos' distribution lists. In 1974, company pollsters tried to find out why competing brands, such as Kool, were slowing Marlboro's growth among young smokers.

A 1981 study investigated the link between pricing and smoking levels.

A 1988 report on "Smoking Among High School Seniors" suggested fewer youngsters were smoking in the early 1980s because participation in athletic programs was increasing.

## Quake jolts N. Taiwan

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** - An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.1 shook northern Taiwan early Monday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The Central Weather Bureau said the quake struck at 2:56 a.m. (1856 GMT), 23.4 kilometers

(14.5 miles) west of Hualien city on Taiwan's east coast. Hualien is 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of the capital, Taipei.

It was Taiwan's 38th earthquake this year. None has caused serious damage, though a quake of magnitude 5 is capable of causing considerable damage.

# 2 rhinos on loan to zoo die

By DANA CALVO  
SAN DIEGO (AP) - Two white rhinos on loan from the San Diego Zoological Society to China's Chengdu Zoo died of exposure and dehydration several hundred miles from Chengdu, according to officials here.

The mature male and female rhinos should have been transported via railway from the Shanghai Airport to Chengdu, according to Tom Hanscomb, spokesman for the San Diego Zoological Society. That trip would have taken 48 hours.

Instead, Chinese officials boarded the mammals on a truck, which may or may not have been covered, and em-

barked on an open-ended 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) journey in Shanghai's oppressive, summer heat, Hanscomb said Sunday evening.

"Contrary to original arrangement agreed upon by the Zoological Society of San Diego and Chengdu Zoo, the animals were loaded in Shanghai aboard truck for the thousand mile journey to Chengdu," he said.

The rhinos arrived in Shanghai in good health on July 17, according to a cable from the director of the Shanghai Zoo.

But by July 21, they had been felled by the elements, Hanscomb said. "They were on the road in the summer and

apparently did not receive sufficient attention during the transport," Hanscomb said. Chinese officials told Hanscomb the animals died from exposure and dehydration.

It is unclear why officials here did not release information about the rhinos at the time of their death. The first

news accounts emerged last week from the Chinese government's news agency, Hanscomb said.

There are only 6,000 white rhinos in the world, and the search for this particular pair began nearly five years ago. According to Hanscomb, officials at Chengdu asked the San Diego Zoological Society for

assistance in rounding out their white rhino program. With only three rhinos of their own, the Chinese were hoping for at least one other pair, Hanscomb said.

San Diego officials located a pair of healthy white Rhinos who were strong and fertile for an international trade at the Pittsburgh Zoo, Hanscomb said.

## Australia condemns Japan, Norway plans to increase minke whale kills

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - Australia has condemned plans by Japan and Norway to increase their catches of minke whales.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Environment Minister Robert Hill said Monday both countries were stepping up their kills of the whales and accused the two nations of floating international opinion.

At a meeting of the International Whaling Commission in June, Australia was among a number of countries to vote overwhelmingly against issuing permits for the killing of more minke whales in either

the Southern Ocean Sanctuary or in the North Pacific.

The Australian ministers said the commission had also strongly advised Japan to pursue its scientific objectives through non-lethal means.

"Japanese whaling vessels are moving into waters in the Southern Ocean to commence killing up to 440 minke whales for supposedly scientific purposes, despite strong international support for the protection of whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary," Downer and Hill said in a statement.

would increase its whale kill from 425 this year to up to 580 in 1997.

"We deeply regret that Norway continues to ignore international opinion," Downer and Hill said.

Norway, which objected to a 1982 moratorium on commercial whaling, is not technically bound by that decision.

Japanese authorities argue that whale hunting for research is needed to accurately gauge whale populations, ages and migrations. They say data obtained from whaling has been passed on each year to the International Whaling Commission.

## Pierce...

Continued from page 1

management consulting firm, was recommended in SADS's initial "first 90-day report to the governor" filed in June 1995.

On July 5 of this year, Tenorio issued a directive ordering all ex-

ecutive branch offices to have the policy implemented by November 30.

According to Pierce, the governor last July 22 directed the AG's Office and the Public Defender's Office to issue a joint legal analysis of the policy by July 31st. The joint analysis was reportedly not submitted, although an interim report was filed with the governor on Sept. 10.

Pierce's frustration was apparently aggravated when the parties involved in the review process decided during a meeting last Dec. 6 that the policy was not ready for submission to the Commonwealth Register for printing.

When asked for comment, acting AG Dunlap said his office is a hundred percent in favor of implementing a drug policy for the Administration but that "it had to be done right."

Saying people nowadays sue over the most frivolous things, Dunlap said caution has to be taken especially since "this is an area that is just developing, a most fertile one that hasn't been attempted on such a broad scale."

"We want to do it fast but we want to do it right. I understand Mr. Pierce's frustration. We want to

help him in this," said the acting AG.

Pierce in his memo expressed concern that the delays in the implementation of the policy brings to light three possibilities: "Either I am ineffective as an administrator; we are incapable of implementing this policy; or there are a thousand possibilities why we are institutionally unwilling to get this job done."

"If I'm the problem, then I don't belong here. If we're incapable then we'll learn the hard way by watching our fellow workers' pained and hollowed eyes. And if we're unwilling, then we deserve whatever happens to us," Pierce said.

Insisting that he refuses to accept the standard excuses, Pierce said he wants action and that he is sure the governor feels the same.

"I honestly believe that Gov. Tenorio is serious about his promise to the people of the Commonwealth to do something about the horrible situation caused by drug and substance abuse prevalence in our community," said the CNMI "drug czar."

## Japanese...

Continued from page 1

Last Oct. 29, an American pediatric dentist also drowned while snorkeling at the Forbidden Island. The dentist's body was never found.

Meanwhile, two Japanese tourists were injured when they were side-swiped by a car while crossing Beach Road in Susupe Saturday night.

Police said a 34-year-old man suffered injuries on the forehead and legs while his six-year-old daughter sustained contusions to the knees. Both were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Investigation showed that the two victims were crossing the highway on their way to Golden Lobster Restaurant when a car traveling northward on the inner lane driven by a 17-year-old boy struck them.

The case was placed under further investigation.

## Delineation... Continued from page 1

He said he is looking into the possibility of having secondary and village roads and placed under the mayor's office with DPW given jurisdiction over main roads and frequently used secondary ones.

"The Mayor's office should be given the task of the village roads and perhaps some secondary roads towards the farms where the people are staying," he said.

Delineating the Mayor's office, Guerrero said, will also enable the DPW to attend to other functions including the maintenance of main roads.

"The DPW plays a big important role now in maintaining infrastructure. We used to help each other on road projects," he said.

"Now we have major paved roads that need constant maintenance," he added.

The DPW, Guerrero said, also used to shoulder public utilities and ports concerns.

"But a separate body has now been formed to attend to this," he said.

Funding for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority are still derived from the DPW.

**Marianas Variety News & Views**

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DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

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### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP97-0027  
FOR: PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND CALIBRATION SERVICES

OPENING DATE: JANUARY 15, 1997  
TIME: 3:00 PM.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO and LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND CALIBRATION SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS  
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

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In Re The Matter of Guardianship of ANTONIETTE AGNES A. DELA CRUZ  
DORIS ANN A. DELA CRUZ  
Minor Children  
By: FRANCISCO M. DELA CRUZ  
ANITA N. ATOIGUE  
Petitioner  
Civil Action No. 96-1305

### NOTICE OF HEARING

You are hereby notified that the above-entitled matter has been set for a hearing on the 27th day of December, 1996, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at the SUPERIOR COURT in Tinian. If you have any interest in the above-entitled case, you are advised to appear on the date and time mentioned above.

Dated this 6th day of December, 1996.

by: Clerk of Court  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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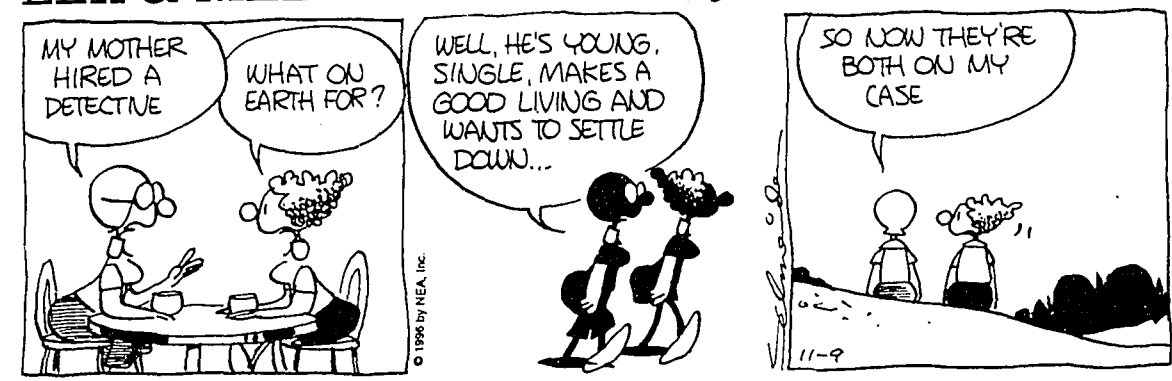
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graph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — If you concentrate on financial matters today, you should be able to ward off any serious cash shortages.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Family matters will predominate today, but you should still have one last chance to pursue a private interest. Your focus may be split.

CLOSERS

The basic monetary unit of China is the yuan, and its chief fractional unit is the fen. More than 1 million American teenagers become pregnant each year.

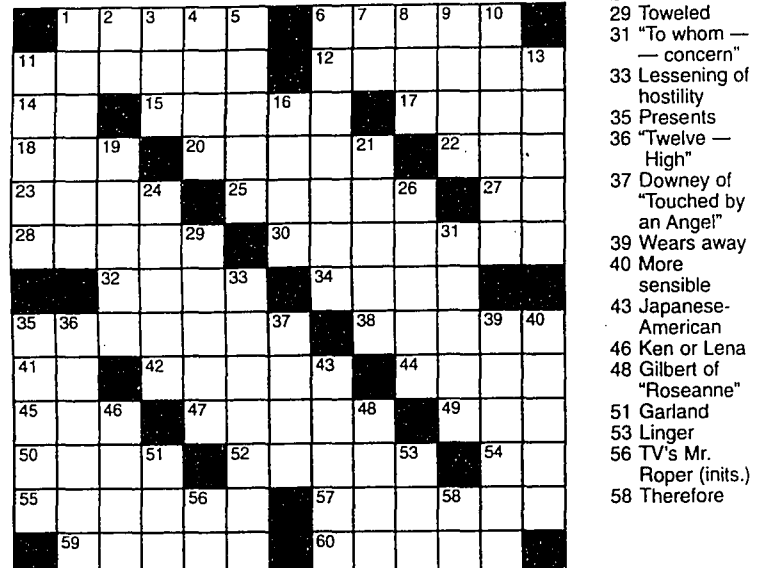
Persia and Rome lasted seven years. In spring, Russian farmers sprinkle coal dust over snow-covered fields to melt the snow and make the fields ready to plant sooner.

Twenty years ago producing a ton of steel in an hour required 12 steelworkers. Today it takes fewer than five. The average American taxpayer spends 27 hours per year on tax matters.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 Stallone film 6 Following 11 Filmmaker's Power 12 Florida city 14 TV's Louise Jefferson (init.) 15 TV attorney 17 Husband of Connie Sellecca 18 Broke bread 20 Fork prongs 22 Roman 102 23 Verne hero 25 'The Professor' 27 Pottier ID 28 Inclination 30 Dire 32 Aromatic aintment 34 Orient 35 More holy 38 Ten-cent pieces 41 Roman 99 42 Pretend (2

DOWN 1 Seafood 2 Grad-to-be 3 Together (prefix) 4 Body sci. 5 Varnish ingredient 6 Famous Mouseketeer 7 Sun god 8 Make a choice 9 Baldwin of 'Heaven's Prisoners' 10 Strive against 11 Former pitcher Luis 13 Vessels 16 Burden 19 Correct 21 Valuable violin 24 — fours (crawling) 26 — Arafat 29 Toweled American 31 'To whom — concern' 33 Lessening of hostility 35 Presents 36 'Twelve — High' 37 'Downy of Touched by an Angel' 39 Wears away 40 More sensible 43 Japanese-American 46 Ken or Lena 48 Gilbert of 'Roseanne' 51 Garland 53 Linger 56 TV's Mr. Roper (init.) 58 Therefore



National Football League NFC playoff race settled

By BARRY WILNER NEW YORK (AP) - With one week left in the U.S. National Football League season, only the matchups for the playoffs in the National Football Conference need to be settled. The six qualifiers were determined Sunday as Dallas, Philadelphia and Minnesota joined Green Bay, Carolina and San Francisco.

Minnesota moved into the playoffs when it beat Tampa Bay 21-10 and Washington lost at Arizona 27-26. The Redskins' defeat also pushed Philadelphia into the playoffs. The Eagles beat the New York Jets 21-20 on Saturday. And when the Giants lost to New Orleans 17-3 Sunday, they did a favor for the Jets. The Saints improved to 3-12 and that clinched the first overall draft pick for the Jets (1-14) for the second successive year.

On Saturday, it was Chicago over San Diego 27-14. Vikings 21, Buccaneers 10 At Minnesota, the Vikings (9-6) held Tampa Bay to eight first downs, just one in the first half, and used two touchdown runs by Leroy Hoard. The Bucs (5-10) lost for only the second time in their last six games. Cardinals 27, Redskins 26 Washington (8-7) started the season 7-1, but its spiral was capped by another wild loss to Arizona (7-8) in Tempe, Arizona. The Cardinals also won 37-34 in overtime at Washington this year. Kevin Butler's 28-yard field goal with no time left lifted the Cardinals. Butler's winning kick capped a 15-play, 69-yard drive that consumed the final 7:02. Colts 24, Chiefs 19 In Kansas City, Missouri, rookie Marvin Harrison took advantage of an injury-depleted secondary and caught three touchdown passes from Jim Harbaugh. Quarterback Steve Bono, who came in for an injured Rich Gannon in the second quarter, hit Kimble Anders for a 5-yard TD with 1:17 to play to make it 24-19. The Chiefs (9-6) recovered an onside kick, and Bono passed them to the Indy 13 with 18 seconds left. But on fourth down, Detric Mathis broke up Bono's pass in the end zone. Bengals 21, Oilers 13

In Houston, James Francis intercepted two passes, one for a 42-yard touchdown, and the Bengals moved to 6-2 under coach Bruce Coslet. Broncos 24, Raiders 19 In Denver, the Raiders (7-8) set a team record with 20 penalties for 157 yards and committed four turnovers, leading to 17 Denver points. Oakland, which entered the game averaging 73 penalty yards per game, fell two penalties shy of the NFL record of 22, set in 1944. The victory capped a perfect home season for the Broncos (13-2) and gave John Elway an NFL-best 126 career victories, one more than Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton. Panthers 27, Ravens 16 At Charlotte, North Carolina, Carolina (11-4) improved to 7-0 at Ericsson Stadium. In the second half, the Panthers have scored 83 points at home, while holding the visitors to 13. 49ers 25, Steelers 15 At Pittsburgh, the San Francisco 49ers (11-4) became the first visitors to win in 13 games at Three Rivers Stadium. Steve Young threw three first-half TD passes the first against Pittsburgh's defense at home in 13 quarters. Packers 31, Lions 3 At Pontiac, Michigan, Desmond Howard returned a punt 92 yards for a touchdown, his third runback for a score this season for the Packers (12-3). The host Lions (5-10) lost for the eighth time in the last nine games. Saints 17, Giants 3 At East Rutherford, New Jersey, the most significant thing about this game was the determination that the Jets would wind up with the top draft pick. The Saints made sure of that by breaking a seven-game slide under interim coach Rick Venturi. Mario Bates and Lorenzo Neal ran for touchdowns and the Saints defense limited New York (6-9) to 138 yards - just 36 in the second half. Rams 34, Falcons 27 At Atlanta, it was sloppy work as these teams combined for 11 turnovers. Quarterback Tony Banks fumbled four times and threw an interception for St. Louis (5-10), while Bobby Hebert was picked off six times for host Atlanta (3-12). Keith Lyle had three of the interceptions. Jaguars 20, Seahawks 13 At Jacksonville, the second-year Jaguars (8-7) won their fourth straight. If Miami beats Buffalo, the Jaguars will make the playoffs with a win next Sunday and any tie between the Bills and Chiefs in Buffalo. Tony Brackens had an interception, a sack and four blocked passes for the Jaguars. Seattle (6-9) have lost four of the last five.

National Basketball Association Rockets blast Blazers

Rockets 99, Trail Blazers 89 In Portland, Oregon, Charles Barkley was out with a sprained right ankle, Hakeem Olajuwon had 26 points and 10 rebounds as the Houston Rockets improved their NBA best record with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers. The Rockets (21-2), coming off an emotional 109-100 victory over the SuperSonics in Seattle on Saturday night, are 11-1 on the road. Olajuwon sank a soaring hook shot over Rasheed Wallace, who fouled and made the free throw for a three-point play with 1:59 remaining to put Houston ahead 87-80. Olajuwon fouled out with 1:43 to play, and Wallace, just 3-for-8 from the foul line, made one of two free throws to make it 87-81. Bullets 110, Warriors 102 SAN JOSE, California (AP) Rod Strickland scored 22 points and helped Washington pull away in the third quarter, and Chris Webber scored a triple double as the Bullets beat the Golden State Warriors 110-102. Latrell Sprewell scored a career-high 43 points for the Warriors on Sunday, but it wasn't enough to keep them in the game. Strickland had 12 points in the third quarter, and the Bullets won 110-102. Strickland also had 15 assists, while John Howard scored 22 points in Washington's third straight win. Webber had 19 points, 12 re-

Strikers... Continued from page 20

playoff after a forfeit loss by the Hot Peppers in the first game. In the next game, the Power Raiders came back to score their second win for the day by denying the winless Mixers their final chance to win a game in the tournament. Power Raiders scored a 27-7 rout in five innings against the Mixers. Nally Rose Telei and Dela Napoleon scored four runs apiece while Lovey Alfonso, Yvonne Tutil and Elsie Ngrirabai added nine more as the Power Raiders displayed their offensive might. The victory tied Power Raiders with Sakau for the second spot with identical 7-3 slates. In the tie breaker, Sakau rode on an 11 run blitz in the second inning enroute to 17-3 drubbing of Power Raiders to win the tournament's number two seeding. Bertha Sablan homered and scored twice while Dolores Yanneris scored a triple and the rest of Sakau had at least one hit in overpowering the Raiders. Ore'o will face the Strikers in the first game while Sakau and the Power Raiders will have another rematch in the start of the best of three semifinals this coming Sunday, Dec. 22.

Macaroni... Continued from page 20

average of 29 points per game. The Nails is second best defensive team with a 32.0 average points allowed in every outing. Aside from being the best offensive team, the Island Girls are also doing pretty well in defense. The Island Girls are tied with Mwera in the best defensive category by allowing their opponents to score 31 points per game against them. In the individual category, Brian Karasek of league leading Macaroni, is the current Master Blaster by scoring six aces, six xunks, 16 kees and five goals for a total of 62 points. Karasek is averaging 15.5 points per outing. Karasek is also the tournament's leading player in most kees and xunks scored with 16 and six respectively. Asty Suda of the Nails is second with seven aces, three xunks, 12 kees and five goals for 59 points. Suda is averaging 14.75 points or just .75 point behind Karasek. Suda is the current leader in most goals and is tied with John Rebueng of the Spakers with most aces scored with seven. In the distaff side, Donella

Somol and teammate Sharma Iginoeff have scored 60 and 33 points respectively for an Island Girls' 1-2 ranking in the scoring category. Somol has scored 18 aces, two xunks, 2 kees, and four goals while Iginoeff has eight aces, five xunks, two kees and one goal. Somol is the only player in the tournament who has scored all types of roccball's offensive and defensive scoring techniques. Leading players in the different scoring categories: Men's Division Aces Asty Suda, Nails and John Rebueng, Spakers, 7 Xunks Brian Karasek, Macaroni, 6 Kees Brian Karasek, Macaroni, 16 Goals Asty Suda, Nails, 5 Jams Asar Elamento, Bazooka, 2 Girls' Division Aces Donella Somol, Island Girls (IG), 18 Xunks Sharma Iginoeff, IG, 5 Kees Lorna Ogumoro, IG, and Yurei Petros, Mwera, 3 Goals Donella Somol, IG, 4 Jams Donella Somol, IG, 1

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# SPORTS



## OTRYC's Hobie and Prindle beach cat race

# Stearns, McCullough win regatta

By Erel A. Cabatbat  
Variety News Staff

THE TEAM of Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough won the Over the Reef Yacht Club's (OTRYC) Hobie Cat and Prindle Beach Cat Regatta last Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Saipan Lagoon.

Stearns and McCullough, sailing in a Hobie Cat, finished the four-race sailing event ahead of eight other boats.

The duo of John Neville and

Tyce Mister also did well despite racing the regatta's lone Prindle cat entry.

Two teams from Diamond Hotel, one from Pacific Islands, and the team of Mark Thomson and David Manahem finished in the top six positions.

The regatta, which was aimed to introduce the sailing season for the smaller beach cats in the island, drew one of the biggest number of participants in recent years.

Seven Hobie Cats, one Prindle and one Laser Sailboat participated in the sailing event.

"The race was one of the largest for a local regatta in recent years," Mark Thomson, an OTRYC member, said.

All boats sailed in four events covering the half-a-mile small course set in the lagoon once in the 1st and 4th races.

For the 2nd and 3rd races, the boats had to go twice around the

course.

"The competition between the first six teams was close," Thomson added.

Two boats helmed by beginners arrived last in the race. Despite finishing at the tail end of the regatta, the two crews, however, learned valuable and good experience in sailing in the regatta.

For the club's next sailing events, Thomson said that OTRYC has scheduled three races next year.

"We will hold a big boat regatta on

the Jan. 26 and another Small Beach Cat regatta on Feb. 2. Then on Feb. 15 and 16, the club will conduct its largest event of the year, which is the Laguna Regatta for Hobie Cat and Prindle Cat."

A meeting regarding the club's 1997 sailing season will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 1997, 7 p.m. at Rudolphos, Sadog Tasi.

"Everyone is encouraged to come and attend the meeting," Thomson added.

### Strikers complete semifinal cast

Team Standings	W	L
Oreo's	9	1
Sakau	8	3*
Power Raiders	7	4*
Strikers	4	6
Hot Peppers	3	7
Mixers	0	10

\* includes tie breaking match

By Erel A. Cabatbat  
Variety News Staff

FOR THE second straight week, Hot Peppers lost another game by forfeit giving the last semifinal seat to the Strikers in the last day of the elimination round in the 1996 Palau Women's Slowpitch Softball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Ball Field.

Behind by half a game for the last playoff berth, Hot Peppers still have a remote chance to tie Strikers for the last semis seat but only seven players showed up in its first game encounter against Sakau.

The loss dropped the team to 3-7 win loss slate and giving Strikers the free ride to the next round.

In the second game, the Oreo's romped off to their ninth consecutive win by trouncing winless Mixers, 15-4. Emy Quitugua two homeruns and a game high seven rbis in leading the pennant winners. Annie Emiliano also had a good offensive output by nailing a homer and a triple for the title favorite Oreo's in scoring the abbreviated win against the determined Mixers. Ligo Ligo Faa'asa went 2 for 3 for the Mixers.

The Power Raiders won their sixth win as they edged the Strikers, 10-6. Polly Omechelang doubled and tripled and Bego Odoshi added two more hits to lead their team against the Strikers. Despite the loss, the Strikers clinched the last slot in the

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OFF THEY GO—Participants in the 1996 Marlboro Micronesia Kart Championship try to outdistance each other during the first heat of the karting event last Sunday at the racetrack of the Mariana Resort Hotel. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

### Talavera wins "Bowler of the Month" tilt

By Erel A. Cabatbat  
Variety News Staff

ROBERT Talavera stopped Richard Sana's giant killings ways in the final match to win the Saipan Bowling Center's "December Bowler of the Month" last Saturday, Dec. 14 at the bowling center.

Talavera, the scoring champion of the recently concluded Adam and Eve Mixed Tournament with an average of 188.64 pins per game, prevailed over Sana, 230-211, in the last stepladder matchup to win the top prize of \$100 and a trophy.

Talavera likewise earned a slot in the Bowler of the Year Tournament scheduled joining early winners Roberto Eparwa (July), Jose Delacruz Tenorio (August), Simon Manacop (September), Kim Kang Hee (October), and November qualifier Pastor Gagarin.

In the first game of the stepladder format, Sana defeated Rosalinda Cal by seven pins, 200-193. In the

next round, the fourth seeded Sana routed an obviously out of form Jess Rebusada, 205-168.

Sana continued its upset run by posting another runaway victory against number 2 seed Med Magtipon, 213-187 to arrange a title showdown with the top seeded Talavera.

In his fourth game of the day, Sana ran out of steam as Talavera justified his number one ranking by posting a 19 pin victory, 230-211.

The monthly bowling event was sponsored by SBC, FHP Health Care, B&K Enterprises and the Saipan Cable TV, features the top five bowlers who posted the best scores with handicap in the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Leagues.

The next Bowler of the Month Tournament is scheduled on January 25 next year.

The qualifying round is slated to be held a week earlier on January 19 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

### 14th Annual World Organized Rocball

#### Macaroni, Island Girls best in offense

Team Standings	W	L
<b>Men's Division</b>		
Macaroni	4	0
Nails	3	1
Brotherhood	2	1
Spankers	1	3
Bazooka	1	3
Ronics*	0	2
Doar Doulul*	0	1
<b>Girls' Division</b>		
Island Girls	3	1
Snappers	2	1
Mwera	0	3

\*currently off track, will resume play by January next year

By Erel A. Cabatbat  
Variety News Staff  
TEAM MACARONI and the Island Girls are the leading offensive teams after four games in the men's and girls' divisions of the 14th Annual World Organized Rocball Tournament at the Pagan Court at Marianas High School.

Macaroni, a team composed of faculty members of MHS, leads all teams in the heavy hitting category with 20 aces, 12 xunks, 35 kees, six goals and one jam for a total of 153 points on an average of 41 points per game.

The Spankers are next with 135 points or a 33.75 average per game. Just one point behind the Nails team with 134 points or a 33.50 average.

In the girls' division, the Island Girls are on top with 151 points on account of 44 aces, 11 xunks, 10 kees, and seven goals. The Island Girls are so dominant in the girls' side that no other team in the scoring department is 80 points behind.

In the defense, the Brotherhood leads all team by allowing its opponents score just an

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