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Senator insists on ban

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Senator Thomas P. Villagomez remains adamant on the need to control the influx of Chinese nationals to the Commonwealth and said he would not relent on his proposal to impose a moratorium on their entry.

"We should show the US that we mean business when we say that we are going to control our own immigration," said Villagomez in an interview yesterday.

"And part of that effort is to ensure that we protect our ports of entry from those who may be entering for unlawful purposes," said the Saipan senator.

Villagomez is the author of S.B. 10-29, which seeks an across the board moratorium on the entry of citizens from PROC. It was originally proposed on the observation that Chinese nationals have in the past gained entry into the CNMI posing as investors with some ending up as overstaying aliens.

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Camacho wants 'Rota squatters' off property

By Zaldy Dandan
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DIVISION of Public Lands Director Bertha T. Camacho has given six Filipino-Americans until July 15 to vacate a government property at Dadang, Rota.

Camacho, in a strongly-worded letter to Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, said former Rota Mayor Prudencio Manglona exceeded his authority by allowing the six individuals to stay and build their homes on public land.

According to Camacho, when the board of directors of the Division's predecessor, the Marianas Public Lands Corporation, found out about the squatters they decided to give a two-year "grace period" for the six to move out.

At that time, the Filipino-Americans have already built non-permanent residences on the land. "The board wanted to give them a reasonable period of time to find new housing," Camacho said.

She added, however, that this "generous action" may have exceeded the board's legal authority.

"The land in question is...a conservation buffer area and is not supposed to be used for any other purpose," she said. "The six residents are not persons of NMI descent and could not ever have any claim to a homestead."

Despite the expiration of the board's two-year grace period, the six are still on the public land, she said.

Five of the six are still behind in their rental payments.

"(You claim) that they are making good faith efforts to pay, but this does not seem to be true," Camacho said in his letter to Inos. "There were some payments in April, but there have not been any since then."

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The letter was dated May 30.

Camacho also dismissed Inos's claims that the six have made "valuable improvements" to the land, and that "they will suffer hardship if they are forced to leave."

The "improvements," Camacho

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Ex-official complains he was fired for being a 'Republican'

By Rick Alberto
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Antonio T. Salas said he was terminated eight and one-half months before his two-year contract was to end.

Hired as administrative officer grade 3 at the Personnel Office in 1987, Salas was promoted to chief of the administrative services division starting April 1, 1993. His employment as chief was to end March 31 last year.

Salas said he was generally known in Saipan and to the defendant as a member of the Commonwealth Republican Party and supporter of Republican candidates.

Before the November 1993 general elections, he said, a Party pocket meeting was held at his house.

After current governor Froilan C. Tenorio emerged winner in that election, together with the lieutenant governor and other candidates, a government reorganization was set in motion.

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"Our bylaws allow a primary if this kind of situation arises. But it is my opinion that a primary is one thing that should be avoided," said Sablan.

"We will try not to hold a primary. However, if it becomes inevitable, then we consult the bylaws and hold one, but only as a last resort."

The posibility of a primary between Tenorio and Borja looms as both have indicated a strong desire to seek the governorship in the 1997 general elections.

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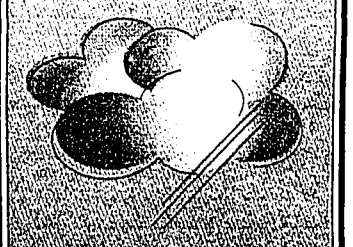
Weather Outlook



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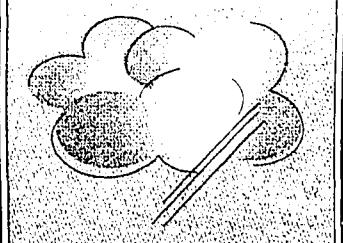

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Minimum wage vote up

By DAVE SKIDMORE

WASHINGTON (AP) - With the U.S. Senate at last set to vote on raising the minimum wage, Democrats focused Monday on defeating a Republican push to exempt millions of newly hired workers and employees of small businesses.

The House-passed bill, scheduled for a Senate vote Tuesday, would raise the federal minimum wage by 90 cents, in two steps - initially from $ 4.25 an hour to $ 4.75 and then to $ 5.15 a year later.

It's paired with a package of tax breaks, mostly for business.

According to Democrats, an amendment by Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Christopher Bond, a Republican, would deny a raise to more than 4 million of the 10 million workers earning less than the proposed new minimum.

While the House bill provides a three-month subminimum training wage only for new hires younger than 20, Bond's amendment would exempt all workers during their first six months on a new job.

It would also exempt employees of businesses with gross revenue of less than $ 500,000 and delay by six months the effective date of each step of the raise.

The minimum wage was first established by Congress in 1938 at 25 cents an hour. It was increased periodically, with the last rise taking effect in April 1991. Democrats say inflation has eroded the wage's purchasing power since then to nearly a 40-year low.

Republicans argue that raising it would discourage employers from hiring low-skill workers who most need jobs - welfare recipients and young people with little experience.

"Increasing the minimum wage will raise the lowest rung of the economic ladder and potentially leave behind those who are looking for a toehold," said Republican Senator Nancy Kassebaum, chairwoman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

But Labor Secretary Robert Reich said Bond's provisions in a bill reaching President Clinton's desk would draw a veto. That would return the Senate to the partisan gridlock that has snarled Senate proceedings for much of the year.

Underscoring the political importance Democrats attach to the issue, Reich challenged Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole to endorse the increase, without the Republican-proposed exemptions.

"It's a sad commentary on where we have come in terms of partisan politics that the other side continues to drag its feet, kicking and screaming and complaining all the way," he said.

In a letter released Monday, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Republican, complained that Democrats were exaggerating the impact of the Bond amendment and defended it as needed to preserve small firms.

"It does not take an economics degree to see that small businesses who stay in business by only the tiniest of margins could be pushed over the edge

by the increased costs of labor," he said.

Daschle said he assumed, but was not sure, all 47 Senate Democrats would vote against the Bond amendment and hoped enough Republican senators - at least three - would side with Democrats to block it.

Clinton officials to face grilling over Saudi blast

William Perry

By JOHN DIAMOND

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton's top military advisers face tough questioning as two Senate committees begin investigations into the June 25 terrorist truck bombing that left 19 U.S. airmen dead in Saudi Arabia.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Monday the inquiries, which also include a separate House committee probe, will examine "whether or not the Clinton administration knew in advance of the danger."

Defense Secretary William Perry; Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Army Gen. Binford Peay, head of the U.S. Central Command, spent part of Monday preparing for Tuesday's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

In a letter sent to Capitol Hill in advance of the hearing, Perry said U.S. military forces based in Saudi Arabia took extensive steps to improve security prior to last month's deadly blast at Dhahran. But in an acknowledgement that more could have been done, Perry also outlined measures ordered after the bombing to protect against terrorism.

The perpetrators of the attack have not been found.

Lawmakers, particularly Republicans, are focusing on questions about missed opportunities prior to the June 25 bombing:

Why was the perimeter around Khobar Towers, the apartment complex in Dhahran where the bombing took place, not extended out to 400 feet (120 meters) as base commanders had requested? A bomb-laden truck was able to drive to within about 100 feet (30 meters) of the apartment complex, where it exploded.

If Saudi officials on the scene failed to grant the request to extend the perimeter, why was the issue not taken higher up the chain of command in the Saudi and U.S. governments?

Why were FBI agents not allowed to question four condemned Saudis before they were executed for involvement in the November 1995 terrorist bombing of a U.S. military facility in Riyadh that killed five Americans and two Indians?

Why did senior intelligence officials fail to anticipate the terrorists would be able to devise a much bigger bomb than the one used last year in Riyadh?

Did top Pentagon decision-makers, including Perry, play a role in the decision to delay application of a blast-resistant coating to the apartment complex's windows.

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which also called a hearing Tuesday on the Saudi bombing, has suggested Perry may have to resign because of the security lapses surrounding the bombing.

Other senators have been more reserved in their evaluation of the defense chief, who remains popular on Capitol Hill among lawmakers from both parties.

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, said Perry has "done a fine job" and said calls for his resignation were premature.

Sensing that some in the U.S. government would like to blame the Saudi government for the lapses, senior Saudi officials and their allies have been on the offensive in Washington this week.

A Saudi official speaking on condition that he not be named said the issues of the wider buffer zone and access to the convicted terrorists never arose in high-level U.S.-Saudi discussions. Only after the bombing did U.S. officials raise these matters as concerns.

Saudi Arabia is ready to assist roughly 5,000 U.S. troops in a move from urban living quarters in Riyadh and Dhahran to remote bases that will be safer from terrorists, the Saudi official said.

Japan, US remain far apart on trade issues, claims Mondale

TOKYO (AP) - Ambassador Walter Mondale said Tuesday that the United States and Japan are not near agreement on any of their four major outstanding trade disputes - photographic film, aviation, insurance and semiconductors.

Speaking at a meeting of the Japan-U.S. Business Conference, an annual meeting of senior executives from both countries, Mondale said: "I can't report we are near agreement on any of them."

Mondale also said that despite a recent downturn, Japan's trade surplus with the United States remains "too high" and its market barriers are still "troubling."

Washington is experiencing "particular frustration" in the insurance talks, which deal with implementation of a 1994 bilateral agreement, Mondale said.

The next set of formal U.S.-Japan insurance talks are scheduled for July 16, but Finance Minister Wataru Kubo was to meet with Mondale later Tuesday to discuss the issue.

Mondale described Japanese markets as still "too closed, too over-regulated and too far resistant to market forces."

One year after a major auto trade accord with Japan, U.S. automakers have seen their business conditions in Japan improve, but the availability of new dealerships is "still disappointing," he added.

The U.S. and Japan have agreed to try to resolve both the insurance and the semiconductor issues by July 31, when a bilateral pact on semiconductor market access is due to expire.

Cisco Licea, left, from Milpitas, Calif., and Everett Robles, from San Jose, hold signs outside of the Santa Clara Country jail in San Jose, Calif., where Richard Allen Davis is held. Davis was convicted of the kidnap and murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas. AP Photo

World's 10th richest man's credit cards get rejected

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - He may be worth a cool $ 7.7 billion, but it just wasn't in the cards for real estate magnate Tan Yu.

The businessman, listed as the 10th richest man in the world, tried to buy $ 1,836 worth of chocolates and liquor Monday at a duty-free shop at Manila's airport. But as he watched and waited - and waited some more - a verification machine repeatedly rejected both his American Express and Visa gold cards.

Edwin Clemente, a sales assistant at the shop, said embarrassed attendants feverishly resubmitted the transaction, without success.

Finally, the staff telephoned an American Express officer, who gave verbal clearance after discovering Tan Yu's identity, Clemente said Tuesday.

"We know him as a regular customer who buys chocolates and liquor at least twice a month at the airport," Clemente said. "That was why we tried to clear the matter with the approving banks."

An airport official who asked not to be identified said the problem could have been due to "credit card fatigue" - damaged magnetic strips on the back of the cards - because Tan Yu was a frequent credit card user.

Forbes magazine recently listed Tan Yu as the world's 10th richest man and estimated the value of his properties in the Philippines, Taiwan, the United States and Canada at $ 7.7 billion.

Tenorio on investment hunt

Governor off to Manila, Osaka, Taipei, Hongkong

Froilan C. Tenorio

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio left Sunday on a trip that would take him to at least four major Asian cities seeking more foreign investment.

According to Tenorio spokesman Mark Broadhurst, the governor's first stop is Manila after which he may be flying to Osaka by Wednesday.

Other destinations are Taipei and Hong Kong, Broadhurst said.

"This trip is another example of the shuttle diplomacy that the governor has become famous for," said Broadhurst.

"He has taken on an investment mission for the CNMI, the result of course is the rapid rebound in the CNMI economy.

Broadhurst refused to speculate on the governor's itinerary but he said the chief executive is likely to meet with prospective developers to try to invite them to invest in the CNMI.

In an interview Saturday, Tenorio told the Variety he was going to Taipei to finalize negotiations with a Taiwanese cement conglomerate to construct a 1,000-room hotel in San Antonio.

According to Tenorio, the Taiwan firm is seeking to take over the lease of public land formerly held by AIBIC Corp. just south of Pacific Islands Club.

Although he said he intends to grant the firm the four-hectare lease, he is still considering offers made by at least three other firms to lease the site for similar hotel resort development projects.

Asiana Airlines is reportedly also eyeing the area for a hotel and so do one other Korean firm and a Guam hotel developer.

Meanwhile, the governor's Hong Kong itinerary is also unknown, but Tenorio told the Variety last Saturday that he has been in contact with another possible casino hotel developer for the island of Tinian.

It was not determined whether the Hong Kong leg of the governor's trip is to follow up on such casino hotel negotiations.

If plans push through, that would bring to two the number of casino developers from Hong Kong seeking to operate gaming enterprises on Tinian.

Currently, Hong Kong Entertainment Investment Overseas is just about ready to construct a 300-room casino resort hotel on Tinian after it recently secured a permit from Coastal Resources Management.

Another company, the Tinian Marine Resort, is also building another 1,000-room casino hotel reputedly worth $500 million.

Munson sends two 'ice' suspects to federal jail

Alex. R. Munson

UNITED STATES District Court Judge Alex. R. Munson yesterday sentenced Larry Bert Ora-Izu to two years imprisonment and Janet H. Byron to eighteen months imprisonment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crystal methamphetamine and concurrently for possession with intent to distribute and distribution of crystal methamphetamine.

The United State Attorney's Office had charged each defendant with two counts of violations of United States drug laws, a news release from the office said.

According to investigation sources, Byron and Ora-Izu had made two trips from Hongkong to Saipan in an attempt to establish a market here for illicit drugs.

In a joint operation between the United States DEA and CNMI Customs and DPS officers using informants and undercover agents, Ora-Izu and Byron were traced to a room in the Sun Inn in early January of this year.

Undercover negotiations were then set up to "purchase" drugs from the pair and after a search warrant was obtained and executed, they were arrested, the release said.

The couple both entered pleas of guilty pursuant to a plea agreement where they cooperated with law enforcement officials.

The Court, in accepting the government's recommended sentences reminded each defendant again that there is a war on drugs in the United States and in the world and punishment of offenders is necessary to deter others who might be tempted to deal in drugs for "easy money" or are themselves addicts.

The Court recommended that the pair be sent to a federal facility which offers a drug treatment program and urge each defendant to take advantage of it and other educational and rehabilitative programs available in federal facilities.

Company building judicial complex sued for 'not paying' tools, services

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A PRIVATE firm filed a lawsuit yesterday against Woosung Construction Co., Ltd. seeking at least $.1 million in damages for alleged nonpayment of equipment and other services relating to the Judicial Complex project.

In a civil suit filed before the Superior Court, TM Corp. demanded for $64,854.41 for breach of contract and $96,045 for anticipatory breach of contract. The total amount sought was $160,899.41.

TM Corp., through counsel Michael W. Dotts, also asked for incidental and consequential damages, and costs and attorney's fees. The amount is to be proven in court.

The complaint stated that on April 22, 1995, TM and Woosung entered into a written contract. Both parties agreed to lease to Woosung equipment and perform other services in connection with the construction of the Judicial Complex in Susupe.

Under the agreement, Woosung agreed to pay by way of monthly progress payments as the work proceeded based upon TM's monthly billing.

TM regularly submitted monthly progress billing to the defendant from May 1995 through April 1996, said the complaint.

The total amount of plaintiff's monthly progress billing from May 1995 to April 1996 reached $219,055.

Woosung refused to pay the full amount of plaintiff's monthly progress billing, the complaint said.

The defendant paid a total of $160,298.59 from May 1995 to April 1996.

Woosung is liable to plaintiff $58,756.41 for the difference between the amount billed and the amount paid.

Last June 6, the complaint stated that TM's counsel wrote to Woosung's general manager, Mr. Hur, seeking assurances that the company would pay the full amount due under the contract.

Last June 18 Woosung's counsel, Antonio M. Atalig notified TM that the company would not pay the amount due.

"By notifying plaintiff that it would not pay the amount due , defendant has repudiated the contract," said Dotts in the complaint.

Because of the repudiation of contract, Dotts claimed that Woosung is liable to plaintiff $96,045 for the difference between the amount billed and the full contract price.

Between April and June 1995, Dotts said TM agreed to lease to defendant certain construction equipment in addition to the items listed in the original contract.

Plaintiff billed Woosung in the amount of $6,098 for the additional equipment.

In its letter, Woosung, through counsel Atalig, explained that TM lacked the necessary equipment to fulfill the needs of the project not to mention the delay that it caused.

Robert J. O'Connor

Atalig told TM's lawyer Robert J. O'Connor that Woosung has informed him of the damages brought about by TM due to delay and lack of equipment. The total amount assessed needed to restore Woosung is $327,603.72.

It can be recalled that the construction of the $10.3 million complex was disrupted last May when some workers from 11 manpower agencies walked out to protest the delay of their salaries.

The two-day protest ended when the protesting workers went back to the jobsite. It was, however, found out during a meeting between Woosung and the agencies that Woosung has been paying on time the billings to the suppliers.

Hopwood teachers speak about 'low morale' in school

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TWENTY-SIX teachers from Hopwood Junior High School have openly expressed concern about what they described as the "very low morale among the teachers and staff of the school."

"The existing low morale among the school staff is a major concern for us because it directly affects the quality of educational services being provided to the students," a letter sent yesterday to Principal David Borja by "Concerned Hopwood Staff" stated.

Borja is reportedly off island.

Together with the letter was a "white paper" dated June 25 and signed by the 26 teachers of whom eight are Chamorros, six Filipinos, five Palauans, three Americans, two Carolinians, one Yapese, and another one Pohnpeian.

The white paper claimed the school administration "has succeeded in almost completely destroying the high staff morale which the previous administration had worked very hard to build."

The previous administration referred to is that of Tomas Pangelinan, who is now chairman of the Board of Education.

The teachers claimed that some teachers complained about being reprimanded in the presence of students.

"The administration has continually used authoritarian, almost dictatorial, practices in its dealing with the staff," the teachers said.

The paper cited one instance whereby Arlene Ng was allegedly "verbally assaulted" by a school official for her supporting the concern of teacher Ernie Alano who objected to the way the school honored departing teachers by giving plaques to the "more deserving" ones and paper certificates to the rest.

The paper said the school was being run like a military camp where the staff were treated "as if they were lowly soldiers who are expected to obey every command of the principal."

There have also been favoritism in selecting teachers for the intersession classes and for substitution during the intersession break, it was alleged. Teachers selected to teach these classes receive additional compensation of $100.

In their letter to Borja, the teachers urged him to take "the necessary corrective actions...as soon as possible."

The signatories to the white paper were Felisa Brel, Henry Yarofalipiy, Mary Rosario, Joseph B. Connolly, Naria Pedro, Stanley Keene;

Ernesto Alano, Emy Quitugua, Arlene Ng, Vicky Eusebio, Crispin A. Santos, Evelyn Reyes, Cecile Taitano, Ignacia Cruz, Tina Palacios, Felix Mresbang;

David Ash, Roger S. Hernandez, Mario Banca, John Gatamngin, Justino M. Boisek, Lester Rekemesik, Alicia Muña, John Pialur, Ramon M. Aldan, and Osaky Keller.

According to one signatory, there were many other teachers who expressed support but were afraid to sign because of possible reprisals from the administration.

This signatory said that by attaching their signatures to the white paper, the 26 teachers took a "big risk" of losing their jobs.

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

JR's Marianas

by: John DelRosario

The CIA in the Marianas

EACH time I visit the family ranch at Mt. Tagpochau, I'd take the entrance at Sadog Tase at the foot of the hill where there used to be a gate and sentry some forty years ago prohibiting the indigenous people from entering CIA land—our land!

The incredible curve rises quickly, opening the breathtaking panoramic view of the blue lagoon that divides at the mouth of Tanapag Harbor. Presto! There's the "San Diego-style suburb, lawns and gardens, smooth streets with concrete curbs, dozens of ranch houses, community club, a post office". It's Capital Hill, an exclusive residential area once the home of the CIA now the residential venue and headquarters of the NMI Government.

A couple of troubling questions came to mind as I made the turn to the old community club (MPLC Office). How many indigenous people were denied use of their land to accommodate the CIA? Were these properties fairly exchanged given the military's notoriety in securing prime property wherever they go? How were nationalist Chinese used against their own blood brothers to protect US oil interest in Vietnam? Was justice served the people of these islands when they were completely shield-off from the rest of the world for nearly twenty years?

Perhaps the most bothersome query was: Given the agenda of the likes of Interior's Allen Stayman to dismantle self-government in the islands, is this a prelude to imposing another Marianas fortification? Is history ready to repeat itself in a slightly different fashion?

My mind kept bouncing back to atrocities employed by the CIA which includes assassinations, torture, kidnapping and murder recently in Guatemala as explained in a Washington Post story. It involves the CIA employing multiple informants who agency officials knew were into atrocious activities to upset local self-government.

These atrocities reminded this scribe of a Time Magazine story (June 24th) about Pham Ninh Ngog, one of ten South Vietnamese soldiers dropped off in North Vietnam in January of 1967 to gather intelligence on supply convoys traveling to the Ho Chi Min Trail. He was caught and jailed, secured to an iron shackle with a stake driven through the flesh of his leg and taken north. In prison he spent hours hanging upside down in the sun with his jaw held shut to a muzzle. "Rats and cockroaches nibbled at the torn flesh on his legs...."

For all the torture, Mr. Ngog suffered something almost as terrible: betrayal. "The US Army officers who recruited him had promised that if he were captured, his mother and father would receive a stipend while he was in prison. But the US reneged on the deal. Officers visited his parents and told them Pham was dead, and his family received nothing during the 16 months he was held by the North Vietnamese".

"Two hundred of the 450 commandos now living in the US have filed a suit asking that all commandos still alive be paid $2,000 for every year they served in prison—an estimated total of $11 million. Two weeks ago, the case broke open when a federal claims court forced the CIA and the Pentagon to declassify secret payroll rosters and memos. The documents show that the US Government had declared the commandos dead even though they knew many were still alive. The money saved by withholding the benefits was used for other operations".

CIA and Pentagon lawyers tried to fend off claims filed by the commandos. However, CIA Director John Deutch finally took responsibility, realizing that the revelations could endanger operations being run today. There's the danger of the CIA losing its credibility. "White House aides quickly cobbled together an amendment that calls for the commandos to be paid; it will be attached to the defense appropriations bill now before Congress. For about the cost of a new Comanche helicopter, the betrayal of Pham Ninh Ngog and his comrades may finally be repented."

When the covert operations burst open to full public view, it not only ruins the credibility of the agency involved, but the credibility of our national government as well. The use by the CIA of blood brothers against each other is but a reinvention of the biblical story of Cain and Abel. Somehow, the domino theory ends up where it began—you know the saying "What goes around comes around". This antique doesn't work anymore for obvious reasons and it brings back a universal law in one of the Ten Commandments: "Do unto others what you want others to do unto you".

But I suppose the various forms of subversive activities will continue for years to come. After all, it is clear that whoever retains control of the world's resources will rule the global village in the next millennium. Can't our national government secure vital resources from the global community without employing assassinations, torture, kidnapping and murder? Indeed, this is the greater challenge for both our national and geo-political leaders.

******

One clear form of human rights abuse—though usually ignored for obvious reasons—is when the employer tosses fidelity out the window and marries his own live-in house maid. I want to do an expose' of this form of friendly and unfriendly though beneficial abuse. But then this would be fodder for former Philippines Senator Tomas Concepcion. Nope! I think I'm going to keep it in the back burner. Or perhaps I should begin with human-interest stories about our friends from the Pearl of the Orient Sea engaging in bigamy. Nah, they'd quickly snap that they're doing it because there are no divorce laws in the Philippines. Hell, you don't need a divorce. You're deep into it already, yeah?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical hostility

Dear Editor:

Recent statements coming out of Manila have caused a great deal of controversy within our island community. While it is easy to understand the frustration Mr. Concepcion must feel after hearing many promises and seeing little change, personal attacks and questioning a people's heritage have no place in an educated debate.

Personal attacks will not improve the plight of the abused worker. Nor, will a vibrant and diverse economy be built on the backs of an impoverished, exploited and underpaid workforce.

Historically, there has existed a great deal of hostility against the alien workers in many parts of the world. Early Italian and Irish immigrants were often made to suffer racial prejudice, discrimination and exploitation, as do the Turkish laborers in Germany and the Algerians in France. Unfortunately, our community is no stranger to this form of injustice. Well publicized racially motivated beatings, murders and rapes in which the aggressors are rarely held accountable only add to the frustration levels shared by many. While some would like to consider labor abuse as a thing of the past, the truth is that recruitment fraud, illegal deductions, confinement and forced prostitution are still very common in our islands.

The fundamental role of responsible society is to ensure justice and equal protection for all members of the community. While it is true that the vast majority of alien laborers are content and well treated, this in no way excuses us from our responsibilities to those whose rights are violated. Few would voice support for the Filipino maid who must attend to the whims of an entire family for $200 per month, or a Chinese woman who is told she can come to America and be a waitress, only to find herself threatened with repatriation and losing thousands of dollars in recruitment fees if she refuses to become a prostitute.

The social costs involved in the continued importation of large numbers of poverty level workers are huge. It is becoming increasingly difficult for young local people to find well paying and secure private sector jobs because of our reliance on low paid alien labor. Cheap imported labor has severely depreciated our earning potential, especially for young Chamorros and Carolinian Americans. Strain on our infrastructure, depletion of precious resources, a rise in organized criminal activity and the proliferation of drug use have all increased dramatically. The huge number of aliens also directly threatens with extinction a unique culture which exists nowhere else in the world.

Recent attempts to improve the Commonwealth's image by recruiting biased think tanks to conduct "impartial" studies, do little to address these concerns and only squander taxpayer money. Elimination of the minimum wage and the importation of yet more alien laborers would surely result in increased economic development, but at what cost?

In his encyclical entitled *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, Pope John Paul II reminds us that development should not be viewed in purely economic terms. Rather, "true development must be based on the love of God and neighbor, and must help promote the relationships between individuals and society." The Pope goes on to warn of "the structures of sin" which are apparent in nearly every society and characterized by "the all-consuming desire for profit" or "the thirst for power." These structures of sin must never blind us as Christians to our duty towards our brothers and sisters and our commitment to the "common good" of the community.

It is only through mutual cooperation and respecting the individual rights of everyone will the Commonwealth truly become a success story for all.

Eric Gregoire
Human Rights Advocate

Incorrect wording?

Dear Editor:

This is to follow up on the controversy and confusion surrounding the newly passed/vetoed/passed minimum wage bill. Apparently, the legislature intended to exempt all existing contracts (including those of maids) from the new law until their contracts expired, or until July 1, 1997. If this is the case, then the wording of Section 1 (c) of the bill is incorrect. Specifically, this section of the bill reads as follows:

"The provisions of Section 9221 (a)(2) and 9221 (b)(2) do not apply for the duration of the contract, with respect to any employee employed under the valid contract of employment on May 6, 1996; provided that the employee is paid the wages required by the contract and such wages are at least $2.75 per hour. This exemption shall expire on July 1, 1997."

Based on my understanding of the language used, this means that existing contracts are to be honored as long as you pay the employee the amount that is in the contract and that amount is at least $2.75 per hour. If it really was the Legislature's intent to honor existing contracts for maids and other exempt categories, then they should have had someone check the wording. Instead, the bill clearly says that they must be paid at least $2.75 per hour which would be about $440 per month, not $200.

Paul Baron

McPhetres issues clarification:

'SCC not backing any delegate candidate'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce (SCC) president Samuel McPhetres said the SCC is not endorsing any candidate, "present or future," for the position of CNMI delegate to Congress.

In a faxed letter to the Variety, McPhetres said the statement he gave to the US House Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs "simply referred to our long standing support for the creation of that office and to our gratitude to Delegate Underwood of Guam for his support for CNMI issues in Congress."

A press release from Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta published by the Variety last July 1 mentioned the "strong support" given by House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) and McPhetres to the proposal to create a CNMI delegate.

Samuel McPhetres

Juan N. Babauta

Two days after its publication, the Variety received a letter to the editor from a J.S. Torres criticizing McPhetres's "support" for Babauta as CNMI delegate to Congress.

"If this is a true statement, then it must be retracted as the (SCC) should be apolitical and must refrain from siding with any...candidate for public office," Torres said in his "open letter" to McPhetres.

But according to McPhetres, "the Chamber is not endorsing any candidate...for (the position of CNMI delegate)."

Babauta, in his press release, said the "strong backing" of Benavente and McPhetres "made a difference."

"We came out of the hearing with new support from (a congressman)," he said, referring to Rep. Dave Kildee (D-Mi).

Since becoming the CNMI's resident representative in 1990, Babauta has been consistently lobbying Congress to create the office of the CNMI delegate.

Just as consistently, the CNMI Legislature has approved resolutions supporting Babauta's proposal.

But Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, himself a former Washington representative, has always maintained that the CNMI does not need a delegate to Congress.

At one point, Tenorio said he would rather strengthen the office of the resident representative than have a Congress delegate.

Babauta, however, said he will "carry on his crusade for a CNMI delegate," with or without Tenorio's support.

"Regardless of politics, procedures and anything else, they all don't matter to me," Babauta told the Variety in a 1994 interview. "All that matters to me is we have to be represented in Congress."

He said the CNMI's not having a delegate is "undemocratic" and "colonialism in the purest sense."

"(Having a delegate) is a basic right we're lacking as Americans, and it is not right not to have a delegate for the CNMI," he said.

DOF sued over decision on video game application

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

AN AMUSEMENT company filed yesterday a petition before the Superior Court requesting a reversal of Finance's administrative order denying the firm's license application of a video game as an amusement machine.

The Pacific Amusement Inc. requested the court's approval of the company's application for license to commercially operate the Cherry Master Video Game.

The PAI, through counsel David A. Wiseman, asked the court to determine the Cherry Master's proper classification for purposes of setting the annual license fees.

The petition said that last Jan. 8, the Department of Finance denied PAI's application after the agency determined that Cherry Master is a gambling device and therefore unlawful.

Finance classified Cherry Master under the statute as "a machine, electronic or mechanical device which awards prizes to the operator based upon the chance matching or alignment of symbols or insignia."

On PAI's appeal, Finance stated that the basis of the denial of PAI's license application was incorrect and that Cherry Master is not a gambling device.

Finance, however, still denied the application on the ground that Cherry Master does not meet the requirement of an amusement machine under the statute.

In the petition, Wiseman said Finance's determination raised an issue whether Cherry Master is a game whose major element is skill and therefore qualifies as an amusement machine.

Wiseman pointed out that the statute provides proper classification of amusement machines for license fee imposition purposes, but, "except for the required payment of the appropriate license fees, it does not provide nor does it imply a ground for denial of an application for license for the commercial operation of amusement machines."

"The respondent (Finance) has determined that the 'Cherry Master' is not a gambling device. It is an amusement machine, whether or not operated or played by reason of skill or by application of the element of chance or both," said the lawyer.

Wiseman added that whether Cherry Master falls under one classification and not the other is not ground for denial of application for licensing.

AG files new charges against convicted man

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office filed yesterday new criminal charges against a man who is currently serving five years' jail term for possession of less than a gram of crystal methamphetamine and a rifle.

The AGO charged Jesus Akiyama Aldan with illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana) and two counts of criminal contempt before the Superior Court.

In the complaint, Assistant Atty. Gen. James Norcross said Aldan was found in possession of less than an ounce of marijuana last Wednesday.

Norcross said on the same day Aldan failed to comply with the court's bail order requiring the defendant to observe a 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily curfew.

Last Thursday, the prosecutor said Aldan also failed to comply with the court's post-trial judgment and commitment order by not reporting to the Department of Public Safety on a daily basis at 10 a.m.

If convicted, Aldan is facing a maximum of one year imprisonment in the new case, Norcross said.

The court has summoned the defendant to appear for a hearing on July 16.

Judge Timothy Bellas sentenced Aldan last June 27 to five years in jail, with no parole, for "ice" and gun possession.

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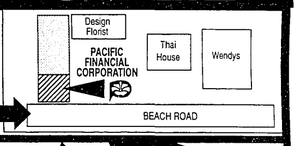

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The Rotary Club of Saipan recently offered assistance to another unfortunate fire victim. Rotary President, David Welch, presented Mrs. Christina Fujinaga a $500.00 credit voucher to help with the rebuilding of the family's Tanapag home.

Tourist loses belongings to snatcher in Garapan

A FEMALE tourist lost her bag and purse containing items to a snatcher in western Garapan Monday morning.

The police said the 24-year-old woman was walking along a road when the suspect grabbed her purse and shopping bag.

The woman said she lost her watch, camera, and other items.

In other police report, a 29-year-old man from Susupe was arrested for shoplifting at Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan Monday afternoon.

The suspect identified as Ferdinand C. Magallanes was charged with theft.

According to the compliant, Magallanes took four Gucci watches and one Escape Men's fragrance in the amount of $250 but less than $20,000.

Also in Garapan, an unidentified person allegedly entered a convenient store near the Koban station and stole a sunglass the other night. (FDT)

Red Cross Club 200 set

THE American Red Cross Northern Marianas chapter is currently selling tickets for its Eigth Annual Club 200 event, a media release said.

The yearly Club 200 is a festive event that raises money to support the Red Cross's assistance programs.

This year's Club 200 will be held at the pool side of the Hyatt Regency on Aug. 31 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Ticket prize is $200.

Prizes include $25,000 in cash, vehicles, trip packages to San Francisco, among others.

For more information on Club 200 tickets and prizes, call the American Red Cross disaster assistance program at 234-3459.

The American Red Cross does not receive any federal funding. It relies on donations and fund raisers for its emergency services which, only recently, provided assistance to a family of six whose house was burned down. The victims were taken to the Red Cross shelter where they were given comfort kits, food and clothing.

Since its reopening last February, the Red Cross emergency shelter have been used by two families whose house were damaged by fire. The renovation and operation of this shelter were made possible by donations from the people of the CNMI.

Younis in UH dean's list anew

Laila C. Younis

LAILA C. Younis, eldest daughter of Variety publisher Abed Younis and Northern Marianas Academy principal Paz Younis, was once again named to the University of Hawaii's dean's list.

A College of Arts and Sciences student, Laila was cited for her outstanding scholastic achievement during the Spring semester of this year.

In his congratulatory letter, University of Hawaii chancellor Kenneth L. Perrin said the high quality of the university's faculty's teaching methods and the rigorous way they teach their courses make Laila's achievement "doubly impressive."

The 22-year old Laila is taking up a bachelors of arts degree course in communications. When she was first named to the dean's list early this year, she excelled in five of six subjects with a grade point average of 3.567 in "current stats" and 3.092 in "cumulative."

Laila is a graduate of the Marianas High School and of the San Vicente Elementary School.

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CNMI joins Fukuoka convention

Joaquin "Jack" Diaz

EIGHT schoolchildren from Saipan and Tinian will represent the Commonwealth in the 8th Asia Pacific Children's Convention held in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 28 to Aug. 6.

The first five days of the convention will be spent on attending seminars and conference sessions participated in by junior ambassadors of goodwill from a total of 42 countries including the United States.

The last five days will be a homestay program where the children will experience living with host families.

This year's convention theme is Energy and Ecology.

The delegates from the CNMI are Joaquin S. Manibusan and Herman C. Cabrera Jr., both of Mount Carmel School, Angelo Francisco T. Odoshi of Oleai Elementary School, Beau Franko Q. Tomokane of Garapan Elementary School, Elizabeth A. Furey of Whispering Palms School, Reyisa Michelle K. Aldan and Ladona Ann H. Borja, both of Tinian Elementary School, and Jasmine Marie M. King of San Vicente Elementary School.

The delegates are aged between 10 and 11, according to their chaperone, Joaquin "Jack" Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

Diaz said the delegates were selected based on such criteria as academic achievement and participation in school activities, as well as interest in meeting people from other countries and cultures.

According to Diaz, participants will brief participants on the energy and ecological situation prevailing in their respective countries.

He said Tomokane and Furey will present a poster that the former rendered and the latter will explain during the convention.—Rick Alberto

DEQ water report

THE DIVISION of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm water drainages this week. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentration of fecal coliform bacteria, which exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

*Micro Beach
*Beach At Dai-Ichi Hotel
*Beach At Hyatt Regency Hotel

High concentrations of Fecal Coliforms may be the result of stormwater runoff due to rain storms. Fecal Coliform bacteria are not usually disease causing. The bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain fecal coliform bacteria from the natural environment. To adequately address the public health concerns, DEQ maintains its policy of advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location within 48 hours of this notice.

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 37 locations on the west side of Saipan each week. DEQ welcomes all inquires as to the quality if beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 234-6114 with any questions concerning this matter.

COP honors employees of month

CORAL Ocean Point Resort Club presented awards recently to its most outstanding employees for May, a media release said.

The employees were Lisa Domingo, "Most Improved Staff"; Valentin Abanag, "Most Honest Staff"; Raul Brondo, "Most Friendly Staff"; Orlando Roque, "Best in Customer Service"; Tom Omisong, "Best in Commu-nication"; and Luisito Oxales, "Most Contribution/Savings."

Each awardee received a special plaque of appreciation and $100 in cash.

SAVE WATER

Workshop on A.D.A. slated

A WORKSHOP on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be held on July 12, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. There will be a $10 admission fee.

Sponsored by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) and the ADA National Backup Center in Austin, Texas, the workshop will focus on ADA implementation and enforcement.

ADA National Backup Center's James C. Harrington will conduct the workshop.

The agenda includes a session on organizing and legal stra-tegies, legal problems, litigation and ethical considerations in ADA cases.

The workshop will also cover the issues of consumers and advocates in the settlement process and enforcement, and the successes and pitfalls of mediation.

Handicapped persons, lawyers, advocates, parents, guardians and friends of those with a handicap, and health and human service providers are encouraged to attend.

A registration form can be picked up from the NMPASI office in Garapan or at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

For more information call or write to Regina Torres or Gus Omar at P.O. Box 3529, Saipan MP 96950 with telephone numbers 235-7273/74 (Voice), 235-7278 (TDD) and 235-7275 (fax).

Mount Carmel School

Mount Carmel School
Tuition & Vacancy Announcement

MCS is now accepting tuition payments for the SY 1996-1997 for all students approved for enrollment.

Why pay tuition now? With start-up costs for the new high school equipment, increased enrollment of over 15%, the need to order more books and supplies, the purchase of new up-to-date science books for grades 6,7 & 8, and the need to order all new workbooks, this means that your tuition payment now helps insure that all educational materials needed to start the school year are here on time. We also need to purchase additional student lockers.

Please assist MCS by paying your child's tuition now.

MCS Vacancies
There are still a few vacancies for students in grades 1,3,5,6, 10 & 11.

UNOFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MCS has been informed by phone that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges has accredited Mount Carmel School for

6 (SIX) years, the highest accreditation level offered.

Thus, MCS becomes the only non-public accredited school in the CNMI. AND, MCS is the ONLY public or non-public accredited grade 1 through 12 school in the CNMI.
A formal announcement will be made shortly.
Mount Carmel School, a school you can count on.

Show of support for Bougainville rebels

Solomons fires at PNG boat

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - A Solomon Islands defense unit fired heavy machine guns at a Papua New Guinea naval boat in a show of continuing Solomon support for Bougainville rebels, the PNG military alleged Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok, the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces commander, said the attack last Saturday confirmed earlier allegations that rebel Bougainville incursions were being helped by Solomon Islands troops.

A defense forces statement alleged a Solomon Islands Field Force unit at Ovau Island fired on the patrol boat when it was on a routine trip in Papua New Guinea waters.

The extent of the damage to the boat was being assessed and there had been no reports of any injuries to soldiers on board.

"This latest confirms (an) earlier report ... where the rebels were alleged to be assisted by the Solomon Islands Field Force to cross into Bougainville and upon contact retreated to Ovau for safety and cover with the Field Force," Singirok said in the statement.

Singirok called on the Solomon Islands Field Force to stop helping rebels.

"My concerns are now confirmed that the rebels will use this opportunity to get the Solomon Islands on their side," he said.

He repeated threats that the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces would use force to stop Bougainville rebels seeking aid from the Solomon Islands.

He said recent talks in Cairns between the Papua New Guinea foreign affairs minister and his Solomon Islands counterpart "should be used to sort out this impending issue.

Lat week, Singirok confirmed that a Papua New Guinean helicopter strafed a boatload of suspected Bougainville separatists in Solomon Islands' waters, killing six people.

The Solomons are located near Papua New Guinea's mineral-rich island of Bougainville, where hundreds of people have been killed during an eight-year secessionist war.

Bougainville rebels often have sought shelter in the Solomons, and their spokesman used to operate from its capital, Honiara.

Papua New Guinea launched a major offensive against Bougainville rebels in June. The 120-mile (200-km) long island is about 500 miles (800 km) northeast of Port Moresby.

Fiscal pressures stalk FSM

SEVERE fiscal pressures are causing the Federated States of Micronesia to reduce national and state government expenditures and to expand efforts to develop private businesses, Hawaii Public Radio reported.

FSM secretary for external affairs Asterio Takesy, during a Honolulu interview with Hawaii Public Radio, said the major business opportunities in Micronesia will continue to be in the fields of fishing, tourism and agriculture.

He added however that new development approaches are necessary including the organization of larger commercial-size businesses. Most FSM businesses now are operated by individuals and families on a very small scale.

The FSM eventually hopes to take over the fishing industry in its own exclusive economic zone waters.

Currently, however the FSM has agreements that involve primarily Asian nations' fleets. The foreign fishermen make cash payments related to the value of thier fish catches. They also provide some jobs and fishing industry training for Micronesias.

Regarding tourims Takesy does not believe the FSM as yet has agreed upon a clear policy regarding the type of tourism is wants to develop. This step must be taken he said before tourism can succeed financially....Pacnews

Opposition calls on leaders in bank scandal to resign

THE opposition in Vanuatu has called for the voluntary resignation of government leaders involved in the 100 million US dollar bank guarantee scandal. Opposition leader Willie Jimmy said in a statement the opposition fully supported the Ombudsman's report and recommendations with regards to breaching of the Leadersip Code, Radio Vanuatu reports.

In her report last week, Ombudsman Marie-Noelle Ferrieru-Patterson revealed that Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman, Finance Minister Barak Sope, his first secretary George Borugu, and Reserve Bank of Vanuatu governor Samson Ngwele, has signed and issued the ten bank guarantees which could bankrup the country. She recommended the dismisal of Sope, Boruru and Ngwele and at least the reprimand of Carlot Korman.

The strongly worded opposition statement says it is obvious the attorney general's advice against the deal was ignored, and that the opposition will not accept that the assets of the people of Vanuatu should be handled so carelessly...Pacnews

Employment creation will be major topic at leaders' conference in Nadi, Fiji

CREATING employment will be the major topic of discussions during this week's meeting of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders in Nadi, Fiji. The heads of government and other officials from 21 Pacific Island countries and territories as well as observers from some 50 development organizations worldwide will be seeking solutions to the severe economic problems facing the Pacific as a result of reduced foreign aid, Hawaii Public Radio reports.

Governments throughout the region are being down-sized, jobs are being made redundant and major efforts are under way to create private sector employment opportunities.

The framework for the leaders' discussion will be presented by Doctor Sitiveni Halapua, director of the Pacific Islands Development Program at Hawaii's East-West Center. PIDP serves as the secretariat and research arm for the Pacific Islands Conference's Standing Committee.

Halapua says there is a tendency when discussing future employment development to concentrate on economic matters to the exclusion of everything else. But he stresses employment policy and strategy must incorporate many aspects of people's everyday lives to succeed including family needs, culture, education and the environment.

In other development, Pacific countries has agreed to set up a regional coordinating center for human rights activities. This was part of the action plan adopted at last weeks regional workshop on human rights education and training held in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The workshop was facilitated by the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat for the member states in the Pacific including Australia and New Zealand.

WB sends final review mission to Port Moresby

A WORLD bank team was due in Papua New Guinea yesterday to review implementation process of structural adjustment program. This will be the final review mission from the bank, *Post-Courier* reported.

The mission will be in Port Moresby for two weeks. After the review the bank will then decide whether to release the second tranche of the government's loan for the economic recovery program.

Earlier this year the Bank issued a 90-day notice to the PNG government to show cause over the failure to implement some programs under the S.A.P.

The notice was issued after the Bank's team left the country in February after having had disagreements with the government over the implementation of the program.

Another team from the Bank visited PNG last month and held talks with government officials. Deputy Prime Minister Chris Haiveta, said then the visit today is the last one....Pacnews

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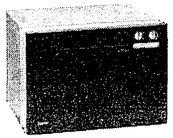

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• Manila newsbriefs

(as culled by Philippine Consulate)

RP inflation manageable

MONETARY authorities reported they were able to contain liquidity in the financial system as the country meets the ceilings under the International Monetary Fund-sponsored economic program.

This means the level of money floating in the system will not be a factor to any increase in the inflation rate.

The target under the test period, which was the last five days of June and the first five days of July, was met despite a 0.3 percentage point difference in the inflation target for June.

The National Statistics Office reported the June inflation at 9.8 percent while the IMF program prescribed a 9.5 percent target.

But with the net reserves adjuster, a flexibility granted by the IMF to the country, the domestic liquidity levels are well under the ceilings.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Ramos orders turbines disposed

PRESIDENT Ramos yesterday ordered the disposal of two 501-F turbines as part of the proceeds from the Westinghouse Settlement Civil Action No. 88-5150 DRD and Arbitrator Case No. 640-/BGD.

The President issued Administrative Order No. 278 directing the National Power Corporation (NPC) to conduct the disposition of the two gas turbines on behalf of the govenment.

"The conduct of disposition shall be in accordance with existing rules and procedures," the President said.

The President said the Department of Finance (DOF) shall have the final approval with respect to the Price and buyer and other terms of the disposition.

Mr. Ramos said the timing of disposition including other specifics of the disposition arrangement between DOF and NPC, shall be contained in a memorandum of agreement between the two offices which shall be submitted to the office of the President for approval within 120 days from receipt of NO. 278.

Manila Standard

Japanese acquitted of abusing Filipino girl

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - A Philippine court on Tuesday acquitted a Japanese tourist of charges he sexually abused a 10-year-old Filipino girl.

The court said there was insufficient evidence against Hisayoshi Maruyama, 44, who identified himself as a doctor from Kanagawa prefecture.

The girl had testified that on Feb. 23, she, an older sister and two cousins were invited by Maruyama to his hotel room where she was undressed, photographed and sexually abused.

News reports said police arrested Maruyama after finding him in the room with the naked girl.

But the court said it had no alternative to acquittal because the prosecution failed to substantiate the girl's claim by presenting statements from her sister and her cousins. The prosecution also did not present a police report of the arrest.

"Conviction cannot be made to rest on an uncorroborated testimony of the complainant on her being abused, except when the same is impeccable and rings true throughout," said Judge Concepcion Vergara.

Prosecution lawyer Jose Vener Ibarra did not explain why the police report was not presented.

"I am innocent in this case that was why I was acquitted," Maruyama told reporters. He said he planned to lodge charges against the social welfare department, which assisted the police in arresting him. "I am a victim here," he said.

Maruyama will remain in jail because he also faces trial in eight separate cases of acts of lasciviousness against children.

He had been deported in 1991 after being charged with nine similar cases.

President Fidel Ramos has stepped up a campaign against child abuse in response to growing reports of foreign pedophiles.

In May, an Australian tourist was acquitted of rape charges but found guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 1993.

He was sentenced by a Filipino court to up to 17 years in jail, the first foreigner punished under a special law against child abuse.

But Sen. Ernesto Herrera, a campaigner for children's rights, said the government is losing the war against foreign child molesters because of weak laws and a lack of political will in enforcing existing laws.

Fake US visa ring gets busted

National Bureau of Investigation Director Santiago Toledo (right) questions one of the suspects in the manufacture and sale of fake travel documents as they were presented to the media at the NBI headquarter in Manila. Some 10,000 fake U.S. visas were confiscated together with fake visas for Japan, Canada and Australia. U.S. embassy Consul General Kevin Herbert (left) assisted in the authentication of the confiscated documents. AP Photo

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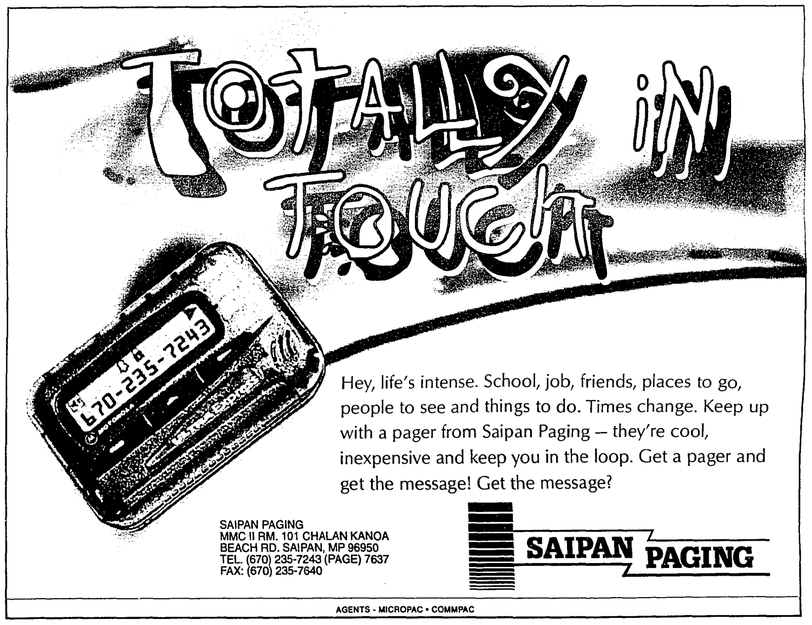

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AGENTS - MICROPAC • COMMPAC

Clinton, Netanyahu to talk peace

By BARRY SCHWEID

WASHINGTON (AP) - Benjamin Netanyahu is looking for President Clinton's support of his hard-line stance toward the Arabs, but the United States wants reassurance that Israel will keep its commitments to peace.

In meetings with Israel's new prime minister on Tuesday, Clinton is expected to show patience as Israel works out a strategy for negotiations with the Arabs, but also a determination that Israel keep its past promises.

Netanyahu says he intends to be more selective in yielding land to Israel's peace partners. The approach seeks to guarantee Israel's security, Netanyahu said before departing Israel on Monday for his first visit to the United States since taking office last month.

Bill Clinton

"We are not willing to accept the deterioration of security as an existing and natural situation," Netanyahu said. He was referring to the last two Israeli governments' acceptance of a long-held U.S. maxim that the Arabs will provide peace only in exchange for land that buffers Israel from attack.

Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who held a warmup meeting with Netanyahu in Jerusalem on June 25, are signaling their sensitivity to Netanyahu's concern, especially in light of terrorist attacks on Americans in Saudi Arabia. Twenty-four Americans were killed in incidents in Riyadh and Dhahran.

"The Israeli government is recently constituted, just getting its bearings," Clinton said at a news conference last month in France. "... It's quite important that both sides in the Middle East, the Arab parties and the Israelis, give each other some room here. A little time needs to pass."

Clinton said the Palestinian Authority, to which past Israeli governments ceded control of Gaza and most of the West Bank, was becoming more capable of controlling law and order. And, the President said, "the commitments Israel has made to date should be kept."

During his meetings with Clinton, Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry, Netanyahu was expected to propose a series of confidence-building measures toward the Palestinians, including a meeting with PLO chief Yasser Arafat and a lowering of the Labor-led government's barriers to entry of Palestinian workers from the territories.

Benjamin Netanyahu

However, Netanyahu is unlikely to show any enthusiasm for negotiating with Syria over the future of the Israeli-held Golan Heights border highland or accepting the principle of a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

On the eve of the talks, the White House said Clinton and Netanyahu saw eye-to-eye on many fundamental aspects of the peace process.

"It is not the position of the United States as a mediator in this process ... to render judgment on the discussions that the parties themselves have to have," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The Jewish Peace Lobby did not show similar patience.

It sent the White House a letter signed by 150 rabbis declaring "now is not the time for a wait-and-see approach." Urging Clinton to speak forcefully to the prime minister, the rabbis said the $ 1.2 billion in annual U.S. economic assistance should be suspended if Netanyahu carried out a campaign pledge to build up Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in Gaza.

"We have seen what Likud policy with respect to negotiations looks like," the group's president, Jerome Segal of Silver Spring, Maryland, said in an interview. "If he pushes ahead with expanding settlements, what that's going to mean for the Palestinians is essentially the end of their struggle for independence."

In two busy days, Netanyahu will speak to Congress, meet with Congressional and American Jewish leaders and address the National Press Club. Later in the week, Netanyahu will elected officials in New York, as well as the heads of major American Jewish organizations.

Meanwhile, Israeli Health Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, in an article in Monday's editions of The Washington Times, said the new government hoped the administration "will agree that we Israelis, who live literally on the front lines of Middle East violence, must take extraordinary measures to stamp out terrorism in our own backyard."

The minister, an adviser to Netanyahu, said he referred particularly to terrorism that is supported, encouraged and tolerated by Israel's Arab negotiating partners.

While some in the past Israeli government were willing to ignore PLO breaches of its accords with Israel for the sake of short-term political gains, "the new government has been elected by an Israeli populace that will not tolerate indifference, laxity or negligence in the face of PLO violations," Hanegbi wrote.

After his meeting last month with Christopher, Netanyahu said he was ready to resume talks with Palestinians and other Arabs but could not be forced to swap land for diplomatic recognition.

Christopher did not publicly insist on a land-for-peace strategy, but State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters: "You can rest assured that is still our position."

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

MEDICAL REFERRAL POLICY & PROCEDURES

WHEN	WHERE	TIME
July 5, 1996	TINIAN(MAYORS CONFERENCE ROOM)	6-9:00 p.m.
July 8, 1996	ROTA (ROTA ROUND HOUSE)	6-9:00 p.m.
July 9, 1996	San Vicente Elem. Sch. Cafeteria	6-9:00 p.m.
July 10, 1996	San Antonio Youth Center	6-9:00 p.m.
July 11, 1996	Carolinian Utt in Garapan	6-9:00 p.m.

/s/Dr. Isamu J. Abraham
Secretary of Health

/s/Joaquin I. Taitano
Medical Referral Director

Sablan . . .

Continued from page 1

On the other hand, Borja said he could not just retract his earlier declaration to run for governor out of commitment to his many supporters, relatives and friends.

Sensing a standoff, the party chairman said he will make the move to get the two protagonists together to discuss possible options but that "I am just waiting for the right time."

"Timing is of the essence here," said Sablan. "It is important to make the move at the right time when things cool down and feelings get better."

"I know I can sense that. When that time comes, I will do my very best to get them to sit down with me if they both so desire. If not, I will try to get them one to one, for the betterment of the party," said Sablan.

He added, "I now understand they don't like to see each other on this. That means I have a tough job to do," said Sablan. "But my belief is that a dialogue should continue and I will do my best."

According to Sablan, the party may be looking at a February 1997 date for a primary, if it would become necessary.

A Tenorio-Borja primary would place the Democrats on even terms with the Republican Party, which has set a similar November 9 contest between former Governors Pedro P. Tenorio and Larry I. Guerrero.

The winner of the GOP primary will battle whoever wins the Democratic nomination. **(RHA)**

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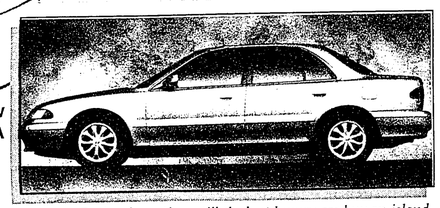

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BETTER DRIVERS BUCKLE UP

AIDS advisers 'criticize' Clinton

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton's handpicked AIDS advisers say his administration may be the best so far in battling AIDS, but it still is "overly timid" in pushing aggressive prevention programs such as needle exchanges for drug addicts.

Overall, the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS endorsed Clinton's efforts. In a report issued Monday, the 30 advisers said he had made "an unprecedented and laudable investment," including increasing AIDS funding by 43 percent and blocking efforts to dismantle government-funded health insurance programs used by half the nation's AIDS patients.

But the report did urge Clinton to display "moral and political courage" in strengthening the fight against AIDS, and criticized a continuing ban on federally funded programs for drug addicts to exchange dirty syringes for clean ones. An estimated one-third of AIDS patients catch the HIV virus through intravenous drug use.

The ban "is not consistent with current knowledge regarding the impact of such programs," the report said.

"Clearly our job is not yet finished, and it won't be as long as there is a single infection, a single diagnosis or a single death," said White House AIDS coordinator Patsy Fleming.

But AIDS activists seized on the report to blast Clinton, who promised in his 1992 campaign to fund needle exchanges. Congress outlawed the programs until they are proved to reduce HIV's spread without increasing illegal drug use - proof the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the independent National Research Council both say is in hand.

"How many men, women and children are now HIV positive, or have AIDS, because of Clinton's cowardice?" asked Steve Michael of ACT-UP, the AIDS activist group. "He's more concerned about winning re-election than saving lives."

But a senior administration official said Monday that Clinton's main holdup is that the law requires proof that needle exchanges reduce drug use. Government-funded studies are under way in an attempt to prove that.

Needle exchanges funded by private or other nonfederal funds already operate in 55 U.S. cities, and some 8 million needles were exchanged in 1994.

Clinton is moving on several of the council's recommendations, the White House said. Among them:

A national AIDS action plan will be released next month.

Clinton is seeking a $ 34 million increase for the CDC's AIDS prevention programs. The House recently approved $ 15 million, but the Senate hasn't acted.

Clinton is preparing to seek at least $ 52 million more in 1997 funding to buy AIDS drugs for the uninsured or patients who don't qualify for Medicaid, the government health insurance program for the poor.

US to guarantee $200M in loans to boost Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corp. announced on Monday that it will guarantee $ 200 million worth of loans in Russia by Chase Manhattan Bank

It will be one of the largest lending facilities in Russia.

The U.S. government guarantee will be part of a $ 400 million pool that Chase Manhattan is arranging to finance joint ventures by U.S. and Russian investors and for Russian subsidiaries of U.S. companies. Under an earlier and similar arrangement, the U.S. group is guaranteeing half of a $ 200 million lending pool operated in Russia by Citicorp, the only other U.S. bank there.

Since 1992, the Overseas Private Investment Corp. has provided about $ 2 billion in financing for 70 Russian projects in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees and insurance. OPIC insurance protects American investors abroad against loss from war, civil strife and other "political risks."

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #3

The CNMI Council for the Humanities seeks proposals from individuals and nonprofit organizations for projects that promote, explore and preserve **FAMILY HERITAGE, FOLKLORE AND FAMILY VALUES.** Projects should demonstrate, illustrate or otherwise exemplify family history, traditions, customs and folklore.

Project goals are to preserve our family history, traditions and customs; to remind us of of our past; and to keep our family values alive and healthy. Suggested formats include: photo exhibits, family portraits, displays of family artifacts, publication of family stories and others.

For more information and an application package, call Ron Barrineau at 235-4785. The CNMI Council for the Humanities is a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Seven people injured by slasher at school

By ROBERT SEELY

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AP) - A man armed with a machete burst into a school tea party on Monday and hacked at nursery age children and adults, injuring seven people before he was chased away.

A 3-year-old boy and one adult were reported in serious condition. Two other children and three adults were less seriously hurt.

Police in this city in central England said they were seeking a nearby resident, Horrett Irving Campbell, 32, in connection with the attack.

Less than four months ago a man armed with four handguns barged into a school in Dunblane, Scotland and killed 16 children and a teacher before killing himself. The March 13 attack raised calls for tighter security at schools.

On Monday, a group of small children was attending a tea party for youngsters expected to start at the St. Luke's Church of England school in the autumn, Wolverhampton Education Authority said.

The attack began with a man and woman in a dispute outside the school gates, a West Midlands police spokeswoman said: "He began attacking the woman with a machete. A teacher inside the school grounds saw what was happening and began ushering the children back into the main school building."

The man entered the school grounds and walked some 10 yards (meters) before leaping a wooden fence surrounding the play area. He began attacking the teacher and the children, she said.

Dr. Simon Walford of New Cross Hospital said one girl was in satisfactory condition after surgery; a boy with serious head and arm injuries was being transferred to the Birmingham Children's Hospital, and girl with facial injuries was facing plastic surgery.

Three adults were admitted to the hospital and a fourth adult was treated and released.

The unidentified father of a girl injured in the incident said the man had been walking around suspiciously and pulled a "two-foot (60 cms) long machete" from its sheath.

A woman with her back to him "was smacked right in the back of the head with it and she fell to the floor. He was lashing around at anything in his way, children, teachers, whatever. The teacher was hit over the head as well," the father told BBC radio.

He said his daughter, who was taken to hospital, was all right. "She's just saying that 'I never want to go to that school again,'" he said.

Another unidentified father told Channel 4 that he went into his son's classroom and tried to grab the man, but failed. He then chased the attacker, who escaped.

Bob Jones, Wolverhampton's education chairman, said the attacker climbed over the fence into a playground, and a mother who was at the school blocked a doorway leading inside.

"We believe he was then chased away by a father of a pupil. If it had not been for those parents, this could have been much worse," Jones said.

The school has 165 pupils aged 3 to 7, six full-time teachers and several part-time assistants, according to Wolverhampton Education Authority. Summer holidays were due to start at the end of this week.

Jones said parents, staff and pupils had been sent home and the school would be closed Tuesday.

Two Marines charged with rape

CHERRY POINT, North Carolina (AP) - Two Marines have been charged with raping a female sailor at a U.S. military base in Iceland, and then lying to investigators to cover it up, the military said Monday.

Two other Marines - a corporal and a staff sergeant, are still being investigated, the Joint Public Affairs Office at Cherry Point said.

Cpls. James R. Goodwin, 21, and Jeremy J. Villa, about 21, allegedly made false accusations to agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

The Marines, now stationed at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, were charged last week in the April 19 attack at Keflavik Naval Air Station in Iceland, said Maj. John Marti.

Both corporals are charged with rape, indecent assault, conspiracy to commit rape and indecent assault, false statements, false swearing and conspiracy to obstruct justice and make false statements.

Goodwin also faces charges of attempted sodomy and adultery, and Villa is charged with obstruction of justice.

The corporals will face a hearing, to determine whether they will be sent to a court martial, sometime this month, Marti said.

Parallels seen between 'Unabomber,' 1907 novel

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal authorities believe Theodore J. Kaczynski, the alleged Unabomber, may have drawn upon "The Secret Agent," a 1907 novel by Joseph Conrad, The Washington Post reported in Tuesday editions.

In the novel, according to the Post, a brilliant but mad professor abandons academia in disgust for the isolation of a tiny room, where, clad in ragged, soiled clothes, he builds a bomb used to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science."

Kaczynski is a former mathematics professor said to be an avid reader of Conrad's books. The Post said FBI agents had noted parallels between Conrad's theme of science as a false icon and the Unabomber's targeting of scientists and technological experts and his condemnation of technology.

They sent the book and other Conrad works to scholars last summer, seeking insights into the mind of the Unabomber, the newspaper said.

Noting the parallels between Kaczynski and the professor in the book, the Post pointed out that Kaczynski left his job as a professor to lead the life of a hermit in a Montana cabin and wrote letters depicting technology as evil.

Federal agents also believe Kaczynski used "Conrad" or "Konrad" as an alias at least three times while staying in Sacramento, where he allegedly went to mail bombs. Coincidentally, the Post said, Kaczynski's full name, Theodore Joseph Kaczynski, is similar to the Polish-born Conrad's original name, which was either Teodore Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski or Jozef Teodore.

Kaczynski told his family in 1984 he was reading Conrad's novels for "about the dozenth time," according to Anthony P. Bisceglie, the lawyer for his mother and brother.

He is charged with killing two people and injuring six in seven bombings and is being held in Sacramento, California, for trial.

Liz Taylor assails US, Canadian governments

VANCOUVER (AP) - Elizabeth Taylor criticized the governments of Canada and the United States for what she called inadequate and even dangerous policies towards the AIDS crisis.

"I understand that here in Canada, the government isn't sure whether they want to fund AIDS research at all," she said Monday in a speech at a reception sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Taylor was referring to Canada's National AIDS Strategy, which began in 1989 and was renewed in 1993. Although it is set to expire in 1998, Health Minister David Dingwall has not committed himself to renewing the program, which has cost the government of Canada dlrs 400 million since it began.

"In a country as wealthy and apparently progressive as Canada, frankly I would have expected something better," Taylor said, as the guests, packed into a section of the Vancouver Art Gallery, erupted in cheers and applause.

Taylor is the founding national chairman of the New York-based organization, which describes itself as the largest non-profit group dedicated to supporting AIDS research.

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Hurricane Bertha intensifies

By KAY JOHNSON

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) - Ripping off roofs and doors and hurling lumber and trash cans through the air, Hurricane Bertha slammed into the Virgin Islands. Torrential rains and winds of 115 mph (184 kph) wreaked havoc on several northeastern Caribbean islands.

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season grew to a 460-mile-wide (736-kilometer-wide) menace Monday as it hit St. Thomas, the main U.S. Virgin Island, bypassed Puerto Rico and headed northwest under renewed steam early Tuesday toward the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

While two surfers drowned in the storm and two others died in storm-related traffic accidents, on the whole residents of the islands that Bertha passed were relieved by the relatively light damage compared to last year's punishing Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn.

"I feel very fortunate," said Tracy Booth of St. Thomas, although she added that her friends lost the roof of their house to the storm.

Bertha passed directly over St. Thomas but came no closer than about 45 miles (72 kilometers) to Puerto Rico. Thousands of people took shelter on the islands, emerging to find destruction - although extensive - far less damaging than they had feared.

Two surfers who challenged Bertha head-on were her first victims. Lilton Jones, 35, of New York City, drowned off Puerto Rico, and a second unidentified surfer died in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Roy L. Schneider said.

Authorities also blamed the hurricane for two traffic deaths on Puerto Rico, in which a car ran off a rain-slick road and hit a tree.

Despite an intense air and sea search, the Coast Guard was unable to locate a ship that amateur radio operators reported adrift in the hurricane.

While the Coast Guard was unable to contact the ship directly, radio operators said they picked up reports that half of the 42 people on board were missing in the storm.

At 3 a.m. EDT (0700 GMT) Tuesday, Bertha was far northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, about 220 miles (352 kilometers) east-southeast of Turks Island, and had strengthened to 115 mph (184 kph) winds. It was moving west-northwest near 17 mph (27 kph) with little further strengthening forecast over the next 24 hours.

Forecasters gave Bertha no more than a 30 percent chance of hitting Florida, but the U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami told southeastern coastal cities to keep an eye on the storm.

Early Tuesday, Bertha was upgraded to a Category Three storm, far more dangerous than Category One or Two storms with heightened wind speed. Its size too makes it formidable, hurricane center director Jerry Jarrell in Miami said.

"This is a huge storm - it's more like Hugo in '89 or Gilbert in '88," Jarrel said. "It's one of those great big ones that in a lot of ways it does more damage than an Andrew, because it spreads thinner damage over a much bigger area."

Evidence of that was all around St. Thomas.

A blue tarpaulin shot through the air in downtown Charlotte Amalie, followed by two pieces of lumber, as Bertha turned someone's temporary roof into lethal projectiles.

"At 90 miles (144 kph) an hour, a person is turned into a leaf" by hurricane winds, said forecaster Matt Bragaw.

An iguana clung desperately to a rocking Flamboyant tree branch on Blackbeard's Hill in Charlotte Amalie, the main city on St. Thomas.

On St. Croix, rising winds whipped up garbage cans and tree branches, whirling trash into the streets. Sheets of rain flooded streets.

The governors of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands put police and troops on alert to prevent the looting that often follows hurricanes.

More than 200 people were holed up in shelters in Fredericksted on St. Croix, said administrator Lawrence Bastian. He said some people refused to leave their unsafe trailers, which were brought in as temporary housing for victims of Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Airlines canceled flights and cruise lines diverted ships to avoid Bertha's winds. American Airlines arranged six flights from San Juan to Miami shortly after daybreak Monday "to get people off that needed to get off," said airline spokeswoman Pat San Pedro in Miami.

But American canceled 107 Caribbean flights and American Eagle dropped all 153 flights in and out of its Puerto Rico hub, Antigua, St. Thomas, St. Maarten and St. Croix.

Earlier Monday, Bertha passed over St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, uprooting trees but doing relatively little damage.

The British Virgin Islands' ZBVI Radio said Bertha tore the roofs of several homes and a government clinic in Tortola.

Also in Bertha's way were Saba, St. Eustatius, Guadeloupe and St. Barthelemy. Most of the islands were hard-hit last year, when Hurricanes Marilyn and Luis struck within days of each other, destroying thousands of homes in the worst Atlantic hurricane season in 60 years.

Eighty percent of homes on St. Thomas were damaged or destroyed by Marilyn and fewer than half have been repaired. On Antigua, 600 families were living in homes made unsafe by Hurricane Luis.

On Dutch St. Maarten, which was nearly flattened by Hurricane Luis, Bertha caused some structural damage and power outages Monday morning.

Some people suffered minor injuries, mainly cuts and abrasions as they boarded up properties.

People living in a tent village since their homes were destroyed by Luis last year were moved to shelters on St. Maarten.

On St. Thomas, nearly all hotel and motel rooms were filled as residents sought shelters more secure than their homes.

Florida officials warn residents to prepare now for hurricane

By KATHERINE HUTT

MIAMI (AP) - As Hurricane Bertha blasted into the eastern Caribbean, U.S. airlines canceled flights to the islands affected and Miami-based cruise lines diverted ships to the west and south.

Florida officials on Monday warned coastal residents to buy batteries and bottled water and make reservations at inland motels.

Late afternoon forecasts indicated a 30 percent chance the storm would hit Florida sometime Wednesday night or Thursday, said Mike Rucker, a meteorologist and spokesman for the state Division of Emergency Management.

Late Monday, National Hurricane Center deputy director Jerry Jarrell said Bertha could threaten much of the state.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see it farther up, maybe as far up as Daytona Beach or something like that. There's a fairly good threat farther up the coast as well as in the south coast. We're not ready to nail it down by any means tonight."

The most vulnerable areas were eastern and southeastern Florida, including Miami and the Florida Keys.

"We're certainly threatened at this time and we're just trying to get people to think preparedness," Rucker said. "Start doing these things today."

If the hurricane continues to threaten the state on Tuesday, the National Hurricane Center will issue a hurricane watch for parts of the Florida coast, Rucker said.

State officials are preparing for a Category 2 storm, which has winds of 95 to 110 mph (152 to 176 kph), Rucker said.

On Monday, Bertha was listed as a Category 1 storm, with maximum sustained winds of about 90 mph (144 kph).

Royal Caribbean Cruises, Carnival Cruise Lines and Dolphin Cruise Line diverted ships carrying thousands of passengers from the eastern Caribbean to Mexico and islands such as Jamaica, Aruba and Grand Cayman.

Also Monday, American Airlines, the U.S. carrier with the most routes to the Caribbean, canceled all 260 American and American Eagle flights to and from the U.S. islands of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix; the Dutch island of St. Maarten; and Antigua.

American's Caribbean hub, the airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, closed shortly after 8 a.m., spokeswoman Pat San Pedro said.

The carrier added a couple of extra early-morning routes out of San Juan and flew six planes out before the closure, San Pedro said.

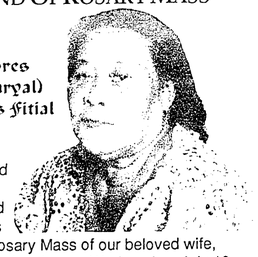
Carnival Air Lines also got two morning flights out of Puerto Rico but canceled the 10 remaining outgoing and incoming flights, spokesman Gabriel Gabor said from the carrier's Fort Lauderdale headquarters.

"Right now we're not flying anything in," Gabor said. "After the storm passes, we'll see what condition the airport is in."

Air service continued to other Caribbean islands not in the storm's projected path, such as Jamaica.

Both airlines said they hoped to resume service on Tuesday.

END OF ROSARY MASS

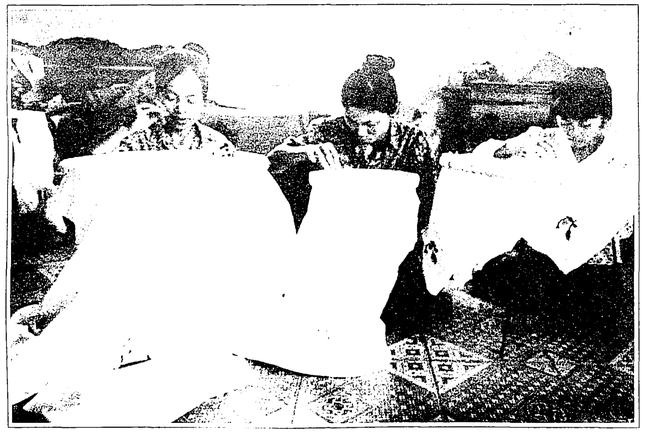


Dolores (Leituyal) Malus Fitial

The family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us for the End of Rosary Mass of our beloved wife, mother, and grandmother on Wednesday, July 10, 1996 at 6pm at San Jose Church in Oleai. Dinner will follow promptly on church grounds. Please join us on this day.

Olomwaay • Si Yuus Maase

Tun Taguf and family.



Three women embroider tablecloths at home to earn extra income during the non-harvest season in Thuong Tin Commune, 17.5 miles south of Hanoi. Almost every family in the village of 3,000 has one or more family members sewing for a Vietnamese gift shop selling embroidered products to tourists in Hanoi. **AP Photo**

Exorcism death ruled homicide

By TERESA S.J. LEE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A South Korean woman who died after a battering inflicted during an exorcism was the victim of a homicide, autopsy results show.

Kyung Jae Chung, 53, died of multiple blunt force trauma, Los Angeles County coroner's spokesman Craig R. Harvey said Monday.

"The mode of death is certified as a homicide," Harvey said. He declined further comment, saying the case remains under investigation by police.

Chung died Thursday after an exorcism involving her husband Jae Whoa Chung, 49; Sung Soo Choi, 41, of Los Angeles; and Jin Hyun Choi, 46, of Glendale, police said.

All three were arrested for investigation of murder. The men were scheduled to be arraigned on murder charges Monday afternoon, but the hearing was postponed until Tuesday.

"This case clearly doesn't warrant any murder charge," said one of Chung's lawyers, Robert Sheahen. "If we're going to have a melting pot in this society, we better understand unusual religious circumstances."

Chung died of massive internal injuries at Century City Hospital, about four hours after paramedics were called to an upscale condominium complex where the exorcism took place.

The ritual began Wednesday after Sung Choi told the woman that he was experienced in performing such rituals, police said.

Chung apparently consented to the exorcism and the men used their bare hands and feet to force the "evil spirits" from her body. The ritual lasted six hours, police said.

Finally, one of the three became worried and called medical emergency personnel, police said, but it was too late to save her.

Prosecutors said the Chungs were living in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as missionaries and visiting Los Angeles on business.

Officials did not believe the couple knew the Chois, who are not related, before arriving.

Jin Hyun Choi is a deacon at Glendale Korean Presbyterian Church and Sung Soo Choi a missionary affiliated with a Koreatown church.

New wave of AIDS infection has stricken young gays worldwide

By DANIEL Q. HANEY

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) - A generation of young gay men across the industrialized world, tragically ignoring the lessons of the AIDS epidemic, risk a new wave of HIV infection by engaging in risky sex, researchers reported Monday.

The trend, first spotted in San Francisco a few years ago, has now been documented across the United States, Europe and Canada.

"The epidemic of HIV among young gay men is not only an individual tragedy but is certainly also a major public health concern," said John de Wit, a psychologist at the University of Ultrecht in the Netherlands.

De Wit said large numbers of gay men are becoming infected with HIV before age 25. In some parts of the United States, as many as one in 10 carries the virus, and the risk seems to be especially high for non-white minorities.

"The figures are high, very high, especially if we consider that these young men have become sexually active in an era in which massive effort was exerted to increase awareness of HIV risk behaviors and to promote safer sex," he said.

De Wit outlined the accumulating evidence of youthful AIDS infection at the 11th International Conference on AIDS.

"The young feel invincible and that they won't get sick from anything," said Dr. Michael L. Rekart, the conference co-chairman.

A variety of surveys have found that about one-third of young gay men in their 20s typically engage in anal sex without condoms, the riskiest form of homosexual behavior.

The research suggests that young gay men are two to three times more likely than older gay men to get infected with HIV, the AIDS virus. In San Francisco, about 3 percent of young homosexuals catch the virus annually.

Surveys in other U.S. cities show that gay black youngsters are about twice as likely as whites the same age to be infected this way.

In the United States and other Western countries, homosexual sex is still the leading cause of HIV infections, although the numbers of gay men getting the virus have fallen dramatically since the start of the epidemic. It now accounts for just under half of all newly reported U.S. AIDS cases.

The trend means that substantial numbers of gay men who came of age after the AIDS epidemic was recognized are already infected, and many more will get the virus in the near future.

At the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, epidemiologist Linda Valleroy has studied gay men in their teens and 20s in seven areas of four states. She found that seven of every 100 are infected. By comparison, the infection rate among youngsters applying for the Job Corps is two per 1,000.

Risky sex fell dramatically among older gay men after the epidemic emerged in the early 1980s. Experts believe one reason this kind of behavior continues among the young is that they have not seen their friends die of the disease.

Also, the behavior is common among the young - it's the same impulse that prompts teen-agers to drive fast or take up smoking.

De Wit said new AIDS prevention strategies should be aimed directly at the young and go beyond simply telling them what's safe and what isn't. One idea is to train young gay men who are influential among their peers to set an example and spread the message.

De Wit said a generation of homosexual men is already being destroyed by HIV. "Let us prevent this from happening to a second generation of gay men," he said.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting applicants for the following position at the Saipan International Airport:

One (1) Gardener/Operator II

The salary for this position is a minimum of $527.06 bi-weekly to a maximum of $900.51 bi-weekly.

The employee is responsible for performing landscaping, gardening and ground maintenance work and procedures of the Landscaping Department.

The minimum qualifications is any combination equivalent to graduation from a high school or GED or trade school with at least two years experience in airport landscaping or ground maintenance, commercial plant nurseries, golf courses, hotel's or resort's landscaping and gardening section.

Application forms are available at the Security Office, First Floor of the Arrival Building or at the Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police clearance. The deadline for submission of applications is 4:30 p.m., July 19, 1996. For more information, please call the Commonwealth Ports Authority at telephone numbers 664-3500 or 664-3501.

/s/ JOSE B. ALDAN
Acting Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund is soliciting bids for the construction of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will be received at the Office of the Retirement Fund at Nauru Building in Susupe until 2:00 pm, July 31, 1996 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read. Any bids received after the above date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A security bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check or cashier's check. Security must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund. The bidder is required to submit along with the bid proposal, a copy of the business license. Attention is called to the Labor Standards Provisions for wage rate determination and must comply with the minimum wage requirement by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

Plans and specifications are available at the Northern Marianas Retirement Office in Susupe upon payment of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00). This payment is non-refundable and checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled for July 10, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. at the Retirement Fund Office, Susupe.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Office with the exception of the bid bonds, which shall be returned to the bidders upon selection of a contractor.

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposals in its interest.

/s/ Edward H. Manglona
Administrator/Contracting Officer

Coastal Resources Management

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-96-X-249 submitted by Triple J Saipan Incorporated for the proposed construction of a (24 hour) operation Shell Service Station just south and adjacent to Ben Franklin Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The proposed project include a two storey commercial building, consisting of a convenience store, fast food outlet, vehicle inspection facility, carwash system, an office space, a conference room, a single bedroom, and four (4) gas dispensing units together with underground fuel storage tanks.

The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria. A second and final notice will be announced at a later date.

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

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

/s/MANUEL C. SABLAN
Director
Coastal Resources Management Office

Drink adds twist to cola wars

By LYNN F. MONAHAN

LIMA, Peru (AP) -Ask for a cola in Peru and you might end up with a sparkling yellow drink that taste like bubble gum.

That's Inca Kola - and it's giving a new twist to the old cola wars.

While the traditional cola giants - Coca-Cola and Pepsi - slug it out in a local price war, this competitor touts itself as the national soft drink and has won a faithful following of many in this Andean country of 24 million.

"It's our own. It's national. That's why I drink it," office worker Manuel Elguerra said after dropping off two returnable bottles and buying another Inca Kola at a local street vendor's stand.

Inca Kola was invented in Peru in 1935 by the Jose R. Lindley e Hijos company, which was started by English immigrants and still run by the family.

The company claims the drink, which many believe is made from a secret lemon grass formula, hasn't changed in 61 years - especially its distinctive taste that many tourists compare to a bubble gum flavor.

"The formula is a combination of essences and fragrances that even I don't know," said Luis Paredes, the company general manager.

This small business has grown outside of its Peruvian borders, and Inca Cola is now made in Ecuador, Bolivia and the United States, and also marketed in Europe and Japan.

But Peru is still home to this fizzy drink, which locals like to gulp down with "criollo" cuisine like ceviche - diced raw fish marinated in lemon juice, and aji de gallina, a plate of shredded chicken in a spicy cream sauce.

That doesn't mean Inca Cola is without competition. In fact, it's now in a war with Coca-Cola as to which dominates the Peru soft-drink market.

Inca Cola claims to dominate the all-important Lima market, which accounts for more than 50 percent of Peruvian soft drink sales, with a 32 to 33 percent share.

But Coca-Cola says it is the top seller with 33.7 percent of the Lima soft drink sales and 33 percent of the national market. Inca Cola concedes Coca-Cola outsells Inca Kola in the rest of the country.

In addition, Coca-Cola and Pepsi are now embroiled in a price war, slashing prices to entice consumers to buy again after an economic slowdown in Peru hurt sales.

So far Inca Kola has resisted reducing its price, relying on Peruvians to drink another 117 million liters (31 million gallons) this year.

At El Mordisco Restaurant, an eatery in a lower-middle class section of the city, head waiter Pedro Lezama said Inca Kola has a slight edge over Coca-Cola.

"Maybe its because its the national flavor, or is tastier perhaps. The people prefer it," Lezama said.

The restaurant sells four 24-bottle cases of Inca Cola a week, compared with two to three of Coca-Cola, and only a case every two weeks of Pepsi, he said.

Miguel Diaz and his wife, Rosa, were finishing off their third bottle of Inca Kola after plates of ceviche and rice with shellfish at the restaurant.

"It's a tradition here. Everybody drinks Inca Kola with criollo food," Miguel Diaz said. "Me, I love Coca-Cola, but when I eat I like Inca Kola."

New electric car geared to US retirement towns

MONTREAL (AP) - Bombardier Inc., the versatile transport company with products ranging from airplanes to snowmobiles, has unveiled a electric car it hopes to sell mainly in U.S. retirement communities.

With a top speed of 40 kph (25 mph) and a maximum range of 60 kilometers (36 miles), the fiberglass Neighborhood Electric Vehicle is more than a golf cart but less than a car.

"It's in between," Pierre Beaudoin, president of Bombardier's Motorized Consumer Products division, said Monday after unveiling the NEV prototype, a previously secret project two years in the making.

"It's got features of a car, and it's got features of a golf cart."

The vehicle, which could cost between U.S. $ 6,500 and $ 7,000, runs on an electric motor fed by rechargeable lead batteries that can be plugged into a 110-volt household outlet.

The doorless two-seater isn't meant for winter climates and isn't competing against the electric auto currently under development for Detroit's Big Three.

Instead, Bombardier wants to sell the vehicle primarily to active retired residents of so-called gated communities in warm-climate states.

"There's a niche that we feel is very interesting for Bombardier," Beaudoin said. "We don't produce cars. Cars is a very different market."

Bombardier still has to do final quality and market tests before it determines manufacturing plans. Those should be finalized by late fall. Initial plans call for the NEV to be produced at Bombardier's plant in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Beaudoin declined to reveal the amount of money sunk into developing the vehicle, nor the potential revenue.

But Bombardier sees a growth potential in the increasing popularity of communities within gates, which Beaudoin said now accounts for 1.3 million U.S. households, as well as in the movement towards clean-air legislation.

The company also sees a promising future for the NEV as a second family car and as a utility vehicle for use on university campuses, airports, public parks and on golf courses.

The company's market research indicated residents of U.S. retirement villages - mainly in Florida, California, and Arizona - want an alternative to the golf cart as they travel from the golf course to the swimming pool to the grocery store.

"They're looking for something a little bit faster, with somewhere to put their groceries, with a lockable trunk," said Marcel Boutin, a division vice-president.

"They want all the benefits without the problems related to a car - no tuneups, no maintenance."

US consumer debt growth rate slows sharply in May

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) - The growth in U.S. consumer debt slowed sharply in May, climbing at an annual rate of just 4.9 percent. Some analysts attributed the slowdown to a tightening of credit standards by lenders worried about rising delinquency rates.

The Federal Reserve said that the May increase in debt followed a 7.2 percent rate of gain in April. Both were the slowest increases since mid-1993. The May advance left total consumer debt, defined as loans not secured by real estate, at $ 1.15 trillion, up $ 4.7 billion from April.

Consumer debt had been rising at double-digit rates for much of the past year as credit card companies competing for business offered attractive enticements for new customers.

But analysts said lenders have become more cautious in recent months as delinquency rates have been on the rise.

"The credit card companies are tightening their standards. They are offering fewer new credit lines than they were just six months ago," said Paul Getman, an economist at Regional Financial Associates in West Chester, Pa.

Getman predicted that consumer spending will begin to slow if lenders continue to tighten credit standards. Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity and has been the major driving force behind the current expansion.

David Wyss, chief financial economist at DRI McGraw Hill Inc. in Lexington, Mass., said he was also looking for consumer spending to slow in coming months but not by a large enough amount to threaten the recovery.

"We are not seeing a major swing in credit habits. We are seeing a minor swing as the consumer becomes a bit more cautious," he said.

The category of consumer credit that includes credit cards rose at an annual rate of 16.1 percent in May, down from an April rate of 20.3 percent. The increase left debt in this category at $ 444.4 billion.

The slowdown was more pronounced for auto loans, which were rising at an annual rate of 3.4 percent in May, compared to an April increase of 10.8 percent. The May advance left auto debt standing at $ 360.5 billion.

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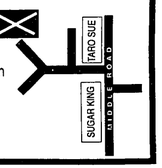

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-705
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DOUBLE M LIMITED, a corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
DANIEL C. AREGIS, and DAHLIA P. AREGIS, a Partnership, d.b.a. D. Aregis Agency, Defendants.

Summons

To: DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint on file herein, a copy of which is served upon you herewith, within Thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Eric S. Basse, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is: PPP-395; P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUMMONS, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

By order of the Above Court.
Date: 6/21/96
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Marianas Variety News & Views

Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

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

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

01 MARKETING SUPERVISOR-Salary:$1,155 per month and $550/housing allowance
Contact: SAIPAN SUNSETCRUISE, INC. (7/02)T61178

01 TOURIST INFORMATION ASSISTANT- Salary: $800-$1,500 per month
Contact: R & C TOURS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 235-3935(7/10)W224721

01 ACCOUNTANT- Salary: $5.20 per hour
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02 GOLDSMITH, JEWELER-Salary: $3.50 per hour
Contact: THE PERFECT SETTING INC. dba The Perfect Setting Tel. 235-6190(7/10)W224724

01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: $2.75 per hour
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01 JANITOR-Salary: $3.00 per hour
Contact: JAC INC. dba Tropical Cleaning Services Tel. 235-5377(7/10)W224726

02 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: $3.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AIR-SERVICE, INC. dba Seoul City Tour Tel. 235-8283/4(7/10)W224730

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Contact: FE A. CEPEDA dba Wiki-Wiki Auto Repair Tel. 235-0380(7/10)W224731

04 JANITOR - Salary: $3.05 per hour
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Contact: SANG YOUNG CORPORATION Tel. 234-7200(7/10)W224734

01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: $2.75 per hour
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02 WAITER (NIGHT CLUB)-Salary: $3.05 per hour
10 WAITRESS (NIGHT CLUB)-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: ROC FACTORY CORPORATION dba Genux Nightclub Tel. 233-7860(7/10)W224722

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: $3.05-$5.00 per hour
01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: $850 - $1,400 per month
Contact: TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC. (7/10)W61293

02 PROJECT MANAGER-Salary: $1,000 per month
02 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary: $3.50 per hour
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01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR - Salary: $2.75 per hour
07 MASON - Salary: $2.75 per hour
03 CARPENTER - Salary: $2.75 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN - Salary: $2.75 per hour
CONTACT: SU CORPORATION. Tel No.: 288-9430 (7/10) W224736

02 TOUR GUIDE- Salary: $2.75 - $3.75 per hour
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01 MACHINE TECHNICIAN-Salary: $800 per month
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01 MANAGER (AUTO SHOP)-Salary: $3.50 per hour
Contact: J.H. CHO CORPORATION dba Cho Auto Repair Shop Tel. 233-6349(7/17)W224788

01 CASHIER-Salary: $2.75 per hour
Contact: ARNALDO G. GUBAN dba Argie Maintenance/Courier Tel. 235-3663(7/17)W224829

02 COOK-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: P & L CORPORATION dba Big Garden Restaurant (7/17)W224827

01 X-RAY TECHNICIAN-Salary: $760 per month
02 PHARMACIST-Salary:$807 per month
Contact: TAGA INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT & MANPOWER AGENCY dba Alan M. Pecorella Tel. 322-4033(7/17)W224826

02 CARPENTER-Salary: $2.75 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$600 per month
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EQ Construction Tel. 234-8827(7/17)W224825

01 JET SKI INSPECTOR-Salary: $3.05 per hour
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02 COUNTER ATTENDANT-Salary: $2.75 per hour
Contact: WINCHELL'S INC. dba Winchell's Donut House Tel. 234-5566(7/17)W224820

01 MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN-Salary: $3.05-$8.00 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS ACQUISITION dba Shell Marianas Tel. 322-5009(7/17)W224815

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER, OPERATION-REAL ESTATE-Salary: $5.25 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary: $3.00-$3.20 per hour
Contact: Niizeki Int'l. Saipan Co., Ltd. Tel. 234-5050 (7/17) W 61393

01 FLOOR SUPERVISOR-Salary:$20,000-$28,000 per year
Plus $425 housing allowance per month
01 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:$6.00-$7.00 per hour. Plus $425 housing allowance per month
Bilingual in the Japanese language to assist sales clerk with the Japanese language when necessary during shopping time.
Contact: DFS SAIPAN LTD. Tel. 234-6615(6/25)T60687

02 JANITOR-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORPORATION (7/24)W224901

01 KITCHEN HELPER SUPERVISOR-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: JUAN Q. IGISAIAR dba J & E Enterprises (7/24)W224900

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:$1,500 per month
Contact:: PACIFIC RESORT ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-5050(7/10)W61479

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$500-$800 per month
Contact: RESORT SYSTEM SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-5050(7/10)W61478

02 GEN. MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary:$275-$377.81 bi-weekly
Contact: GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY dba Grace Christian (7/24)W61467

01 TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:$2.75-$3.50 per hour
Contact: YCO CORPORATION dba YCO Servistar Hardware/Liberty Plaza/Liberty Sportshoppe Tel. 235-6604/05(7/10)W61472

02 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: CHUNG HUA INC (7/24)W224893

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN FITNESS CENTER (7/24)W224890

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$1,000 per month
Contact: C&H SAIPAN, INC. dba A-Z Const. (7/24)W224891

01 PROJECT SUPERVISOR-Salary:$20,000 per year
Contact: BELLENDEN PACIFIC INC. Tel. 234-1939(7/24)W224889

02 AUTO BODY/FENDER REPAIR-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-2700(7/24)W224886

01 ASST. MANAGER-Salary:$1,000 per month
Contact: LINK TWO TRAVEL AGENCY CORP. Tel. 235-8282(7/24)W224885

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAM CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(7/24)W224897

03 TELEVISION (VIDEO) PRODUCER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: TOPIA CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(7/24)W224896

01 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: KWANG SAN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(7/24)W224895

03 COOK-Salary:$2.75 per hour
02 WAITRESS-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: CHUNG HUA INC. dba Chung Hua Restaurant Tel. 234-7768(7/24)W224892

01 MANAGER-Salary:$1,000 per month
04 PHOTOGRAPHER-Salary:$3.50 per hour
Contact: LANDMARK STUDIO Tel. 233-1058(7/24)W224884

01 BARTENDER-Salary:$2.75 per hour
05 WAITRESS-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: AMERIANA CORPORATION dba Club Happiness (7/24)W224898

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
04 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARI SAI, INC. dba Saipan Gold Beach Hotel (7/24)W224899

01 MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary:$3.10 per hour
Contact: ANTONIA V. TAITANO dba Maac Enterprises Tel. 235-7602(7/24)W224905

01 CUTTER, MACHINE-Salary:$6.00-$10.00 per hour
Contact: HANSAE (SPN), INC. dba New Star Corp. Tel. 234-5296/7(7/24)W224904

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$6.00 per hour
Contact: DAVID J. BURGER, C.P.A. Tel. 235-8722(7/24)W224903

04 MASON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary:$3.05-$5.00 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: TITO C. BANSIL dba A.B. Enterprises Tel. 322-9997(7/24)W224902

02 MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary:$2.75 per hour
Contact: RENATO G. AZUCENAS dba Myra's Trading, Const. & Manpower Service Tel. 234-3193(7/10,11,12)

WANTED
BEACH FRONT PROPERTY FOR LEASE.
ONE(1) TO TEN (10) ACRES.
ALSO PROPERTY FOR QUARRY USE.
PLS. CONTACT JESSICA AT 235-5259

MARIANAS CLEANERS
would like to employ an
Accounting Clerk
if you are high school graduate with skills in typing, calculator and office procedure, come and see us.
We offer a complete benefit package, vacation/sick leave, holidays, medical and dental.
LOCAL HIRE ONLY
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR
Moylan's Insurance is in need of a qualified Health Administrator. The lucky candidate will oversee the Multicover Health Insurance operation on Saipan. Nursing and/or Medical background is a must. Salary $1,040.00 per month plus benefits.
MOYLAN'S

Wanted Full Time Worker
1 Auto Body Fender/1 Auto Body Painter
Salary $3.00-$3.50 per hour
Includes free housing with goodwater power. Will transfer you if you have labor case pending. Please call MAGS Saipan at tel. no.235-0077, ask for Ken & leave message.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL CASE NO. 96-759
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND
CYNTHIA M. FLEMING,
v.
RAYMOND M. ALVAREZ,
Defendant.

FIRST AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to serve any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, within (30) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, by delivering or mailing a copy of your answer to LONG & BROWN, Attorneys-at-Law, whose address is AAA 1797, Caller Box 10001, Oleai, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing. Its not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to serve an answer in accordance with the Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
By order of the above Court.
DATED this 27th day of June, 1996.

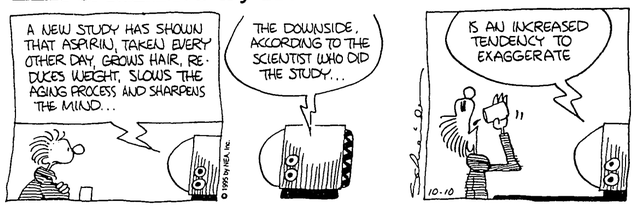
/s/Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-390
ALEX TUDELA and NICOLAS C. SABLAN
Plaintiffs
v.
FROILAN C. TENORIO
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and L&T GROUP OF COMPANIES.
Defendants.
NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT and NOTICE OF COURT HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-entitled taxpayers action involving the lease of public land located on Lower Navy Hill to L&T Group of Companies is presently scheduled for a public settlement hearing on July 29, 1996, at 9:00 am. at the Superior Court , Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands before Judge Edward Manibusan. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair and reasonable. The parties to the law suit have entered into a proposed settlement which would guarantee that the CNMI Government receive a minimum rent over the term of the 25 year lease of $11.5 million. L&T intends to construct a mall project at the site. A copy of the proposed settlement is available at the Clerk of Superior Court's Office in Susupe, Saipan. Written comments, including objections or favorable comments, shall be submitted to the Court on or before July 19, 1996.

DATED this 18th day of June, 1996.

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis

PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are always on the lookout for something more interesting than the subjects which currently attract your attention. This does not mean, however, that you do not spend enough time on each activity. On the contrary, you know how to dedicate yourself to an endeavor in a way that is inimitable and sure to bring you great success. No matter how successful and satisfied you may be, there will always be a part of you which will keep you alert for new opportunities. In addition, you know that those new opportunities are found most often in unexpected places.

You are often on the cutting edge in your line of work and even in your social life, but you will make mistakes. Still, no one knows how to turn his or her mistakes around the way you do. You can turn even the most crushing blow into an advantage.

Also born on this date are: Marcel Proust, author; James Whistler, painter; Arthur Ashe, tennis player; David Brinkley, journalist; Roger Craig, football player; David Dinkins, New York mayor.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 11

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — What seems unimportant as the day begins may play a pivotal role when all is said and done. Timing will be essential today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You may not have the ability to accomplish everything on your agenda today, so you must make sure to prioritize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A new alliance will develop throughout the day, and as a result you should be able to maximize your gains in a new way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — If you can maintain a positive outlook during the day, you'll be ready for anything that happens tonight. You may benefit from a secret that will be revealed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — It will be your responsibility to put yourself in the best possible position to receive maximum gains today. Pay attention to your competition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You should try to focus only on the areas of your life which cause you the greatest amount of concern today. Avoid distractions of any kind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You will know how to promote yourself at this time, but it may be necessary to take a back seat temporarily. Wait your turn!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You can make subtle changes in your game plan today and improve your standing considerably as a result. You must not hesitate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can achieve something for the first time today, but you can't take all the credit. You must be willing to share rewards with others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — The more willing you are to look at things from a new and different perspective today, the more likely you are to maintain a positive outlook.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Concentrate more on your own affairs today than on the affairs of your rivals. You can't afford to split your focus at this time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Even the most routine news can affect you in a profound manner today. Everything will depend on how you look at the world around you. Open your eyes!

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DATE BOOK

July 10, 1996

Today is the 192nd day of 1996 and the 21st day of summer.

S M T W T F S
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

On this day in 1985, one person was killed when French agents bombed and sank the Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand; the ship was operated by the Greenpeace environmental group.

On this day in 1991, Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office in Russia, becoming the first popularly elected president in the nation's 1,000-year history.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Calvin (1509-1564), theologian; James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903), artist; Marcel Proust (1871-1922), writer; Saul Bellow (1915-), writer, is 81; David Brinkley (1920-), broadcast journalist, is 76; Arthur Ashe (1943-1993), tennis great; Arlo Guthrie (1947-), singer-song writer, is 49; Andre Dawson (1954-), baseball star, is 42.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1962, American scuba diver Fred Baldasare became the first person to swim the English Channel underwater.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To say of a picture, as is often said in its praise, that it shows great and earnest labor, is to say that it is incomplete and unfit for view." — James McNeill Whistler

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1936, a heat wave pushed the temperature to 112 degrees at Martinsburg, W.Va.

SOURCE: 1996 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter (July 7) and new moon (July 15).

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On July 4, 1776, King George III of England wrote in his diary that nothing important had happened that day.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Hawaiian food fish
5 "Sense and Sensibility" director
9 Move from side to side
12 Ashes of seaweed
13 Sonny in "The Godfather"
14 Conceit
15 Nile nation
17 Pierced with a knife
19 Furtive
21 Warren Beatty film
22 — -daisy
24 Old pronoun
25 Douglas — (tree)
26 Ms. West
27 Cybill Shepherd role
29 Tubman ID
31 — poetica
32 Overhead railway
33 At home
34 St. Anthony's cross
35 Selenium symbol
36 Funeral car
38 "On My —"
39 Aged (Latin abbr.)
40 Carney ID
41 — College (New Rochelle, NY)
42 Ms. Gilbert
44 Quantity
46 "The —" (Paul Newman film)
48 Coin-toss word
51 Year (Sp.)
52 "The —" (Brandon Lee film)
54 Broadway light
55 Large mound (abbr.)
56 Fashion
57 Catch sight of

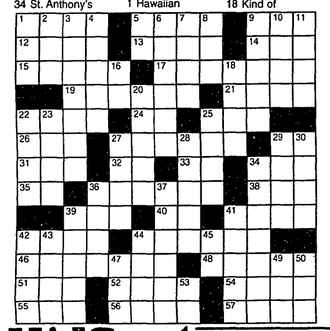
DOWN

1 Hawaiian instrument
2 Shake a —
3 — S. Grant
4 Put to use
5 Cantor ID
6 — ball
7 "Mike & —"
8 Collection
9 "Wings" actor
10 Matured
11 Deities
16 Palm lily
18 Kind of cheese
20 Antelope
22 Ms. Thurman, et al.
23 Peel
25 — arts
27 Encounter
28 Place for dancing
29 "Swing Shift" actress
30 Fish for a casserole
34 Namesakes of a "Facts of Life" character
36 Warmth
37 Gun accessory
39 Fire crime
41 Foolish
42 Counterfeit
43 Female relative
44 Danish island
45 Guido's low note
47 Lowest common multiple (abbr.)
49 Trim (a tree)
50 Vessel's curved planking
53 You and I

Answer to Previous Puzzle

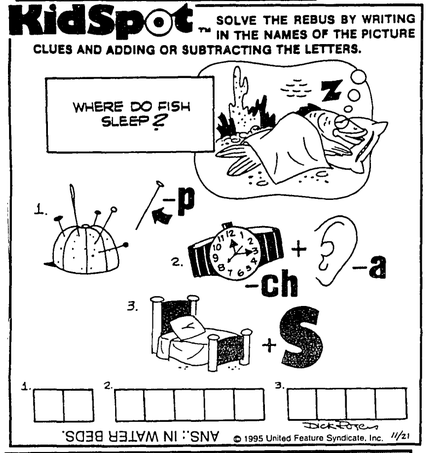
D	R	Y	U	P			T	R	E	S	S	
O	A	R	P	I	N		L	I	O	N	E	L
U	M		S	E	A	W	A	R	D		S	I
B	R	O		D	R	O	N	E		M	A	P
T	O	D	O		C	O	D		T	A	M	S
		D	Y	A	N		D	R	Y	I	C	E
			S	T	E	M		Y	U	M	A	
		U	S	E	F	U	L		L	E	D	A
O	N	E	S		M	I	S		S	A	N	E
W	A	Y		O	M	A	H	A		M	T	R
N	B		E	M	E	R	A	L	D		H	O
E	L	A	T	E	R		D	O	O	M	E	D
R	E	R	A	N			T	O	R	M	E	

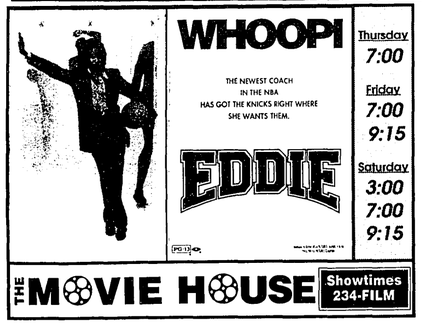
7-10 © 1996 United Feature Syndicate



KidSpot™

SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING IN THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.





Barkley . . .

Continued from page 20

the Suns. "The best thing about it would be getting a chance to play with Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler. We would be very formidable," Barkley said. The trade could be consummated as early as Tuesday, when the NBA's player movement moratorium expires. Karl Malone observed that Barkley, who led the original Dream Team in scoring four years ago but is a role player on the current edition, has a knack for stealing the show. "Charles is a great guy and a great person," Malone said. "Charles is always going to speak his mind and do his thing, and that's him. Sometimes, you know, it's not always good, but, hey, that's Charles." Neither Barkley nor the prospect of another romp to a gold medal is much of a distraction, Malone said. In 1992, the U.S. team's average margin of victory was 43.8 points. This year's squad beat Brazil 109-68 Sunday. "Everybody is here to do one thing, and that's win a gold medal. We put all the egos and the mind stuff aside, because it's a team game and this is a unit," Malone said.

Barkley and Jeb Tyler, a 23-year-old from Spencerport, N.Y., who gives away about 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) and 70 pounds (31.8 kilograms) to Barkley, exchanged punches early Sunday at a Cleveland nightspot, then offered police conflicting statements about what caused the altercation. After Tyler told authorities Monday that he wasn't inclined to press charges, the likelihood of criminal action seemed remote. But Tyler said he might sue.

"If they didn't pay you a lot of money, I don't think being famous would be worth it, because it's just always something," Barkley said. "People want to get after you one way or another."

Reggie Miller, who was with Barkley at the bar, said the incident taught him a lesson.

"I'm glad I was there to witness what he goes through," Miller said. The incident bore a resemblance to a fracas that Barkley got into with a Milwaukee weightlifter in 1991.

Bonds . . .

Continued from page 20

The seventh annual home run contest wrapped up the day's events, which included a celebrity softball game and workouts by the NL and AL teams in preparation for Tuesday night's game.

With balls flying out of stadiums at record rates this season, the event promised to be a showcase for some of the game's premier power hitters. However, injuries to defending champion Frank Thomas of Chicago and Boston's Mo Vaughn diminished the field.

Cleveland's Albert Belle, who led the majors with 50 home runs last year, declined an invitation to take part.

"I was surprised Frank Thomas and Albert Belle weren't in it," Bonds said. "When I heard that, I thought Mark McGwire would just dominate. There's no way any human being can beat him."

When McGwire launched nine homers in the second round, including a 460-footer (140 meters), it looked like the Giants outfielder would be right.

However, Bonds, the only NL player to make it out of the first round, outhomered McGwire 10-9 in the second round to make the final. He didn't realize there was still another round remaining when he walked wearily back to the bench.

"When I passed him in the second round, I said 'I'm going to win.' Then I was like, 'Oh, man. I can't beat him again. I was lucky.'"

Baltimore's Brady Anderson and Seattle's Jay Buhner were the others to make the second round.

Anderson has 30 homers at the All-Star break to lead the majors. His sudden home-run hitting prowess has given juiced-ball theorists another reason to claim baseball's power numbers are a joke.

However, Anderson showed he could swing with the big boys. He hit five home runs in the first round, and added six in round two.

Akebono . . .

Continued from page 20

No. 8 maegashira Konishiki, or Salevaa Fuauli Atisanoe from Hawaii, used his 274-kilogram (603-pound) weight to drive out 106-kilogram (233-pound) maegashira No. 12 Kyokudozan, leaving both at 1-2.

In the 26-member juryo division, No. 11-ranked Yamato, or American George Kalima (2-1), pushed out Dewaarashi with a belt throw and No. 12 Kyokutenho, or Tsevegnyam Nyamjav from Mongolia (2-1), threw down Kotoarashi.

No. 8 Sunaharna, or William Hopkins of the United States (1-2), fell victim to Asahizato's overarm throw, while No. 19-ranked Kyokushuzan, or Batbayar Davaa from Mongolia (1-2), was shoved out by Gojoro.

In makushita, the top junior division, No. 40 Hoshiandesu, or Argentine Jose Antonio Juarez, was thrown down by Kabutonishiki for his second loss against no victories.

In the second-highest junior division of sandanme, No. 6-ranked Hoshitango, or Argentine Imach Marcelo Salomon, was 1-1 after being pushed out by Umenosato, while in jonidan, just below sandanme, No. 27-ranked Koryu, or American Eric Gasper (2-0), threw out Tachinoiwa.

Junior division wrestlers have only seven bouts during the tournament.

Free . . .

Continued from page 20

own players.

"The market will be dictated by the superstars, and the time frame is immediate. Teams that have salary cap room won't take chances with waiting to spend the money," said David Falk, the agent for Jordan, Alonzo Mourning, Howard, Kenny Anderson and several other free agents.

Jordan, who wants a minimum of $ 18 million to stay with the Chicago Bulls, has threatened to play elsewhere if Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf comes in with a lowball offer. But almost no one around the league expects such a scenario to occur.

The Miami Heat, New York Knicks, Minnesota Timberwolves, Indiana Pacers and Vancouver Grizzlies have the most salary cap room, and the Los Angeles Lakers will join that group if the anticipated trade of Vlade Divac for Kobe Bryant is finalized after the moratorium on signings, trades and negotiations expires.

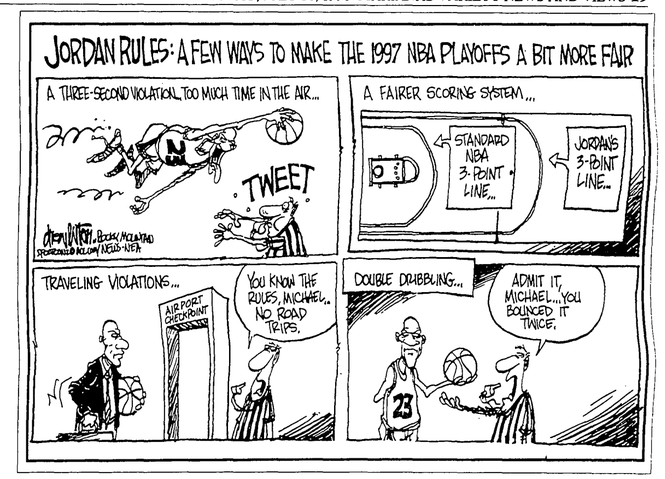
The Lakers would then make a hard push for O'Neal, hoping the movie lots and recording studios of Hollywood can lure him from Orlando.

"Orlando is still my first choice. I don't even have a Plan B," O'Neal reiterated Monday, refusing to comment about the possibility of playing for Los Angeles.

"It's going to be a difficult time, one of the most difficult decisions of my life. It's like deciding whether to get married, where to go to college, whether to leave college early."

Another trade rumored to be waiting for the moratorium to end would send Charles Barkley to the Houston Rockets, with Robert Horry and Sam Cassell heading to Denver and Dikembe Mutombo going to Phoenix.

If Falk's prediction comes true, the biggest stars will sign first, setting the market ceiling. After that, signings of lower-level players should come in bunches.



Attrition . . .

Continued from page 20

field who aren't usually together.

But starting next June, pending approval by the players' union, Mike Piazza may be hitting against Troy Percival while Barry Bonds may trying to steal against Ivan Rodriguez.

"I'm not an advocate of interleague play, OK?" NL manager Bobby Cox said. "Eventually, I think it will take a little luster off the World Series and All-Star game."

For now, the biggest problem is injured players.

Griffey, the leading vote-getter in fan balloting for starting spots, is unable to play for the second straight year. He has a broken right hand, though it did not prevent him from standing at shortstop while the AL took batting practice.

"I'm here for the fans, and the Philly cheesesteaks," he said. "They voted me to be here, and I'm here. That's my obligation, and I didn't want to let them down."

Williams also will be absent for the second straight summer, this time because of a bruised elbow.

Alomar, voted to start at second base for the AL, missed Monday's workouts because of an injured finger. The Baltimore star is scheduled to bat third, but AL manager Mike Hargrove said he's prepared for Minnesota's Chuck Knoblauch to start in place of Alomar.

Thomas has been hampered by a sore left foot for about a week. If the Chicago White Sox first baseman cannot start - the injury cost him a chance to defend his title in the home run derby - Mo Vaughn of Boston will play.

"I'm in a tremendous amount of pain," Thomas said. "You get voted in, you want to come. Who knows if I'm going to play or not?"

Senator . . .

Continued from page 1

Chinese. It has received a lot of flak, especially from the Chinese community on Saipan.

Earlier this week, a three-member PROC delegation arrived on the island to specifically register objections to the bill. The visitors were reportedly assured that the bill has been shelved and may not be taken up anymore.

But according to Villagomez, he will exert influence as vice chairman of the JGL committee to push for the passage of the measure in the Senate as he feels the situation merits its passage.

He stressed he is open to other suggestions on how to make his bill workable and more flexible. He, however, maintained there has to be something in the statute that would enable the CNMI government to control the influx of Chinese nationals.

"If changes are needed on the bill, so be it. But I will move that we continue with it and not just maintain an free and open port in the CNMI," said the Saipan senator.

"We are losing control of our immigration and I feel this is one way to show that we can control our immigration," he added.

According to Villagomez, right now, there is no way for the CNMI to check on the backgrounds of Chinese nationals coming in so even criminal elements posing as investors end up gaining entry.

"I strongly feel inviting these kind of tourists is not worth the problems. If these are the kinds of visitors our government would like to see, I don't want to be a part of it," he said.

Ex-official . . .

Continued from page 1

Shortly after the meeting, on July 15, 1994, Camacho allegedly handed Salas a termination letter on the same day.

The termination was "effective the date you receive this letter."

According to the letter, Salas' termination "is being taken pursuant to remarks stated under Item No. 18 of the Request for Personnel Action dated 05/21/93."

The Request for Personnel Action is a form completed as part of the promotion process. Item No. 18 stated that "Employee will serve at the pleasure of the Personnel Officer."

Salas claimed he never saw the Request for Personnel Action until his termination.

Salas also noted that previously persons promoted at the Personnel Office did not have Item No. 18 in their Request for Personnel Action.

The former deputy personnel officer said the proximate cause of his dismissal was his affiliation with and support of the Republican Party. He accused the defendant of hindering the policy of freedom of expression and of association by allegedly discouraging him from supporting his Party.

He also accused Camacho of:

•Breaching his contract for a two-year term by dismissing him prematurely without cause;

•Breaching an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; and

•Depriving him of his property interest in his position at the Personnel Office without due of process of law.

Salas asked the court that he be awarded amounts to be determined during the trial representing special, general, compensatory and punitive damages.

The special damages represent back pay equal to what he would have earned had he continued his employment from the date of his termination to the date of judgment.

Salas also asked for reimbursement for any amounts he had expended on medical or life insurance above the amounts for such insurance coverages he would have paid had he not been terminated, as well as for any amounts he expended in seeking a suitable job position after his termination.

Camacho . . .

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said, include barracks for the squatters' non-resident worker employees.

"We simply cannot allow public land to be used in this manner. As for hardship, the six have had years of occupancy at an extremely cheap rate.

"They now must find private land like everyone else," she said.

In a letter to one of the squatters, Camacho pointed out that continued occupancy of public land on Rota is unlawful. Failure to vacate the land by July 15 will result in a lawsuit.

As of presstime yesterday evening, both Inos and Camacho were unavailable for a comment.

SPORTS

Midland teams too much for All-Stars

By Ray D. Palacios
For the Variety

MIDLAND, Michigan-THE CNMI All-Stars dropped their first four games at the 9th Men's Fastpitch Softball World championship tournament bowing to the Netherlands 14-0 in the opener and 10-0 to Czech Republic on July 5th.

The CNMI managed five hits against Netherlands but was limited to a lone hit against Czech Republic, courtesy of Greg Camacho. Mike Guerrero, Ron Benavente, Joe Tenorio, Greg and Tony Camacho all singled for the CNMI in its losing cause against the Dutch.

The All-Stars then lost to defending champion Canada on July 6, 10-0, when the CNMI again managed only one hit as Mike Guerrero beat short-stopper Cris Jone's throw. Canada's Terry Bell was an over-powering figure, dealing the CNMI its third loss with his 85 mph pitch.

Although the CNMI All-Stars also lost their fourth straight game to Mexico on July 7th, they managed to finally put some runs on the scoreboard.

Down 5-0 heading into the bottom of the seventh inning, Jess Peterson led off with a single. Greg Camacho then doubled to allow Peterson the score.

With the next two batters going down on strike-outs, Jeff Cabrera then tripled bringing in Camacho. But Cabrera was tagged out at home plate when a wild pitch bounced right back to the catcher to end the game.

Barkley steals show at Dream Team interviews

By MEL REISNER

PHOENIX (AP) - It's strictly coincidence that Charles Barkley gets in off-the-court scrapes in Olympic years.

Barkley arrived in Phoenix in 1992 just recently acquitted of battery and disorderly conduct charges in Milwaukee. The primary topics of discussion after a Dream Team practice Monday were his involvement in a brawl last weekend and his demands to be traded.

The U.S. Olympic team's exhibition game Wednesday night against the Chinese Olympic team may be Barkley's last as a local hero in the America West Arena.

He said he's confident the Suns will deal him to the Houston Rockets in a three-way arrangement which would send Houston's Sam Cassell and Robert Horry to Denver and Dikembe Mutombo of the Nuggets to

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Bonds wins homer bash

By TOM WITHERS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Barry Bonds borrowed a bat to steal the home run derby title back from the American League.

The San Francisco star beat Oakland's Mark McGwire in the final of the Home Run Derby, which capped a sweltering day of festivities on the eve of Tuesday's All-Star game.

Bonds, using a bat belonging to Houston's Derek Bell, outhomered McGwire 3-2 in Monday's final to become the first National League player to win the contest since Ryne Sandberg in 1990.

After hitting his third homer, an exhausted Bonds flung his bat to the ground and walked toward the AL dugout to hug McGwire, who thrilled the crowd of 62,304 with several monstrous shots into the left-field upper deck of Veterans Stadium.

"The highlight of my career," Bonds said. "I didn't think I had a shot."

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Chess team tourney set

THE 1996 CNMI Chess Team Championship will open on Sunday, July 28, at Rambie's Restaurant, an officer of the CNMI Chess Association (CCA) told the Variety yesterday.

Sponsored by Rambie's Restaurant and the CCA, the tournament will be held every Sunday starting at 10 a.m. Each team will have three regular players and one alternate.

Time control is set for one hour per player per game.

Deadline for registration is on July 23. There is a $100 registration fee for every participating team.

For more information, call Vic Brana at 234-6010.

Attrition takes toll on All-Star game

By BEN WALKER

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. and Tony Gwynn already were gone, and then Matt Williams got banged up. Now there's a chance Roberto Alomar and Frank Thomas may not be able to play, either.

No doubt, attrition is taking its toll on Tuesday night's major league All-Star game.

"I was really looking forward to seeing Tony hit," said NL teammate Greg Maddux, who may not be able to pitch because of a cracked nail on his big right toe. "He's one of the guys I like to watch."

More than injuries, however, there's another factor that many feel will truly hurt future All-Star games - interleague play.

By this time next summer, AL starting pitcher Charles Nagy of Cleveland may have faced Cincinnati's Barry Larkin earlier in the season. There may be no mystery about how NL starter John Smoltz of Atlanta will match up with Baltimore's Cal Ripken because they might have seen each other only a few weeks earlier.

"From the National League fan's standpoint, they want to see the American League stars play," said Gwynn, sidelined with a heel problem. "And probably, we should feel the same way.

"But this game is a special occasion and a special time that a lot of guys don't have the opportunity to enjoy," he said. "My feeling is interleague play may take away from this event."

The allure of the All-Star game, after all, is seeing players on the same

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Free agent market opens

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

THE largest, gaudiest and priciest free agent market in NBA history is opening for business.

Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Dennis Rodman, Gary Payton, Reggie Miller, Juwan Howard, Horace Grant and well over 100 more players will be allowed to listen to offers from any team wishing to pick up the phone and make a bid.

"The general managers didn't get to do anything last summer because of the lockout, and they've waited all this time to get their jollies," Miller said Monday.

"It's going to be interesting, probably the biggest free agent market the league will ever see," he said. "It'll be something to see teams maneuver and shift."

A possible snag in Tuesday's 1600 GMT starting time arose Monday night. Player and owner representatives were still working on a final draft of the agreement, and the NBA has insisted that the agreement be signed before the market will be allowed to open.

The free agent market was supposed to open July 1, but an eight-day moratorium was put in place until the six-year collective bargaining agreement was finalized. Players had until Monday to vote, and overwhelming approval was expected.

About 150 players whose contracts have expired will be available. Money and location will be the prime considerations. The teams with the most room under the salary cap will have the most options, but any team can exceed the $ 24.3 million limit to retain one of its

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Akebono wins as upset ax falls on Takanohana

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) - Hawaiian-born Akebono pulled ahead of Takanohana as his rival yokozuna (grand champion) was upset in a long tussle with lower-ranked Kotonowaka Tuesday, third day of the 15-day Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.

Akebono, whose real name is Chad Rowan, kept a clean slate at 3-0 by sending out No. 1 maegashira (senior wrestler) Aogiyama (0-3) in a few seconds.

Takanohana suffered a setback in his quest for a 14th tournament title by losing to No. 2 maegashira Kotonowaka for the first time in 16 matches.

After trying unsuccessfully several times to throw the maegashira down, Takanohana appeared on the verge of victory as the two aced the rim side-by-side. But Takanohana's left arm slipped over Kotonowaka's neck and his momentum sent him falling, leaving both wrestlers at 2-1.

Ozekis (champions) Musashimaru and Takanonami both scored their third victories.

Musashimaru, or Fiamalu Penitani from Hawaii, pushed out komusubi (junior champion second class) Daishoho (1-2) after a brief dance on the rim.

Takanonami used a belt grip to push out maegashira No. 1 Tamakasuga (1-2).

Ozeki Wakanohana, Takanohana's elder brother, scored his first victory after two upsets by flipping No. 3 maegashria Mitoizumi (0-3) on to his back.

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The CNMI's contingent to the recently-concluded 14th F.I.Q. Asian Bowling Championships held in Seoul, South Korea. From left, Simon Manacop, Danny Robles, Ador Dimaano, Kim Kang Hee and Wency Lamson. The team also joined the WTBA Asian Zone Qualification for the World Tenpin Team Cup last June 16-23.

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