



# Marianas Variety News & Views

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Saipan, MP 96950  
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50¢

## Bond eyed to improve park

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

LIEUTENANT Gov. Jesus R. Sablan on Friday disclosed that the government is floating a \$2 million bond for the development and improvement of three key areas at the American Memorial Park.

The project includes the improvement of the nature trail, as well as the construction of a track and field oval and a Marianas Memorial Garden within the Park.

Sablan said the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is behind the bond issue with the assistance of the Marianas Public Land Trust.

He added that the project is anticipated to be completed before 2001.

At the same time, the CNMI is also planning to secure funding



Jesus R. Sablan

from the federal government for the construction of a cultural center on Saipan which is estimated to cost over \$2 million.

Sablan said the government has already identified sites where the cultural center can be possibly erected.

The sites are all within or adja-

cent to the American Memorial Park.

The CNMI government is currently contributing \$100,000 for park development while the US provides \$500,000. For fiscal year 2000, CNMI will increase its annual contribution to \$150,000 while the US will start providing \$800,000.

The local funding, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, is exclusive of the interest earned by the \$3 million which the Commonwealth received from the federal government under the 1976 Covenant.

A provision in the Covenant guarantees the Commonwealth government can utilize the interests that may be earned by the \$3 million federal grant. However, the CNMI is not permitted to use the principal amount.

## Teno wants dispute on street naming resolved



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

THE QUESTION of whether Saipan streets should bear the names of great Chamorro or Carolinian ancestors has drawn the attention of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who on Friday asked the Legislature to allow Carolinian representation in the street naming commission in order to finally settle the dispute.

The governor expressed disappointment over the apparent animosity between Carolinian

and Chamorro members of the Legislature on whether local streets should be named after either of the two local ethnic groups.

Tenorio said this conflict has been indirectly halting efforts to allow public safety and health personnel to immediately respond to emergency calls basically because it delays the eventual naming of local streets.

Public safety concerns demand that the island's streets be immediately given names, even as he lamented the project has been in its planning stage over the past 11 years.

He said the commission created by the Legislature to name local streets should look at suggestions from both sides, and allow Carolinian representation in the body to expedite the street naming program.

"Of course, the Carolinians should also be involved as members of the commission. I agree

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## Customs reports sharp rise in incoming cargoes

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

DESPITE the reported 30 to 40 percent decline in orders received by Saipan garment firms from mainland buyers during the second quarter of the year, the number of incoming cargoes consigned to garment firms sharply went up last month, it was learned.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas said that from a monthly average of 700 containers shipped into the CNMI from January to May, the volume went up to approximately 900 containers in June.

Of the average 700 containers, 55 to 60 percent are consigned to garment companies, while the rest are divided among businesses like hardware/construction and retail stores.

Mafnas said the sharp increase was in the number of cargoes intended for garment manufacturing companies in Saipan.

"We are still determining the reason behind the increase. We are surprised with the increase," said Mafnas, as he dispelled speculations of unreported shipments.

He also said the increase in containers consigned to garment firms has no direct relation to the orders they are receiving as the shipments have been ordered long before their arrival here.

"The effect of low volume of orders of garments may not be felt because all of these are pre-ordered. Some garment factories order in advance, for six months," said Mafnas.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio earlier said the government has been informed that garment manufacturing companies on Saipan re-

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## Gov't eyes creation of CIP body

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT will be establishing a special body that will oversee capital infrastructure projects (CIPs) and other federally funded projects in efforts to expedite their completion, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Tenorio said the CIP body, which will be created under the auspices of the Department of

Public Works, will be responsible for the supervision of all existing and future infrastructure projects.

The body is intended to cut bureaucratic red tape which delays essential infrastructure projects, such as the problems encountered in the construction of the Kagman school following a reported disagreement between the DPW and the Public School System.

Officials have moved the target completion date for the Kagman

school to October due to the delay caused by change orders and the fact that the project has two expenditure authorities -- DPW and PSS.

The new school is expected to benefit students from Papagu, Laolao Bay, Kagman I to III and As Teo.

Change orders have allegedly revised the project's original plans and funding with DPW

Continued on page 23

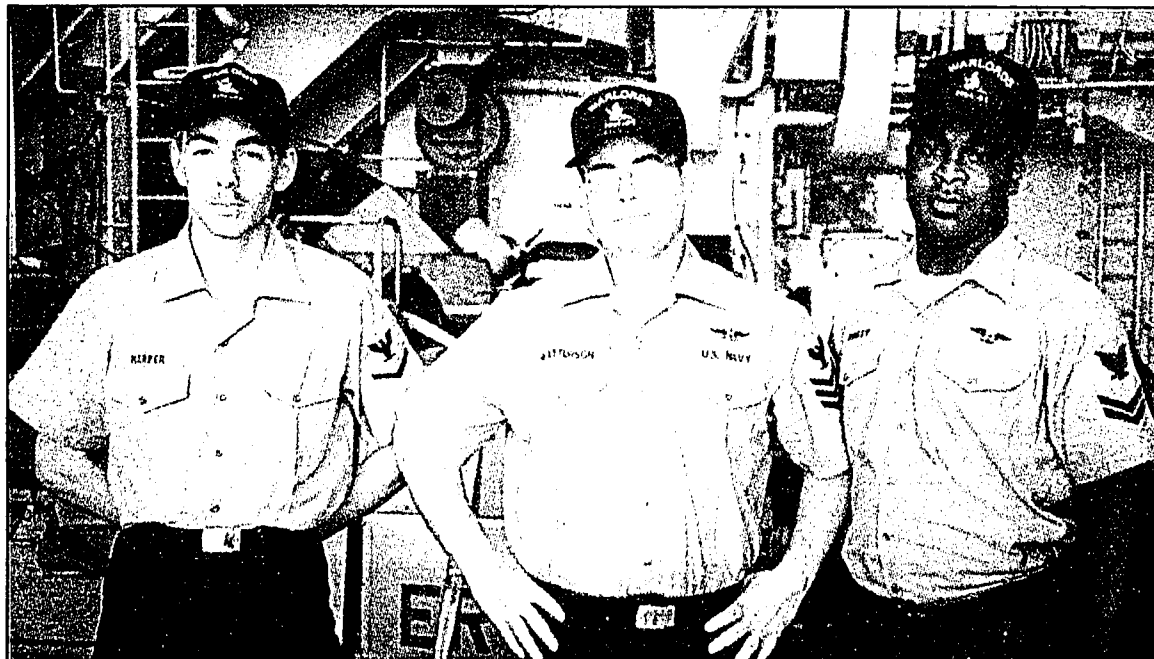
## Guam has new Commerce chief

Eric F. Say

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA--THE OFFICE of the Governor has announced the appointment of Joseph "Boss" to Sen. Ben Pangelinan (D-Barrigada), and most recently as special assistant to Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez.

to Sen. Ben Pangelinan (D-Barrigada), and most recently as special assistant to Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez.



# Suicide caps shooting spree

SALEM, Illinois (AP) — The white supremacist suspected of targeting minorities in a deadly drive-by shooting spree in Indiana and Illinois apparently shot and killed himself during a high-speed chase by police, authorities said.

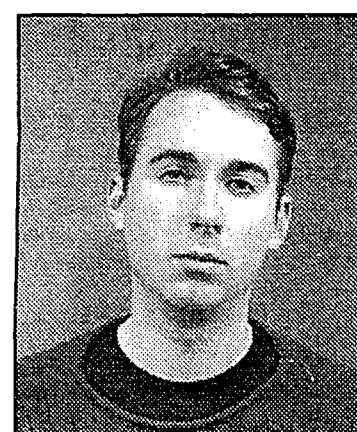
Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, 21, died late Sunday after shooting himself in the chin, Chicago Police spokesman Pat Camden told WMAQ radio in Chicago.

FBI officials said they must double-check fingerprints to make sure the body was Smith's. "It looks like our guy," said Doug Garrison, an FBI spokesman in Indiana.

Two guns found with the body were consistent with the shootings and the body had a tattoo on the chest that said "Sabbath Breaker" — which Smith was said to have, police said.

A man believed to be Smith dumped his blue Ford Taurus at a truck stop in this southern Illinois town and carjacked a van, Garrison said. The van crashed off the side of the road and the driver was pronounced dead at a hospital, he said.

Smith had been the subject of a two-state search following



Benjamin Nathaniel Smith

shootings that began Friday in Chicago when a black former college basketball coach was fatally shot and six Orthodox Jews were wounded.

The shooter fired at Asians and blacks in two Illinois cities on Saturday and fatally shot a Korean man Sunday outside a church in Bloomington, Indiana.

Earlier Sunday, one of Smith's ex-girlfriends told the Daily Illini, the student newspaper at the University of Illinois, that the timing of the shootings was not a coincidence.

"This is his Independence Day from the government, from ev-



Three girls stand watching investigators collect evidence Saturday in Skokie, Ill., after a drive-by shooting killed former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong Friday night. A series of drive-by shootings in Illinois got police in pursuit of Benjamin Nathaniel Smith which ended with the latter shooting himself. AP

everything," said Elizabeth Sahr, who said she had a one-year relationship with Smith. "He is not going to stop until he's shot dead. He's not going to surrender. He's not going to give up until he leaves this world."

Smith was a member of the World Church of the Creator, a white supremacist organization, and often distributed anti-minority and anti-Semitic literature while a student in Bloomington at Indiana University.

The church, based in East Peoria, Illinois, is led by Matt Hale, who said Smith was a member from June 1998 until May and never showed any predilection for violence.

"When I spoke to him he never gave any inkling of being able to do this," Hale said before Smith took his life.

However, Harlan Loeb, Midwest counsel for the Anti-Defamation League, said his organization has had Smith "on our radar screen for quite some time, which is particularly tragic for someone so young."

On Friday, the gunman wounded six Orthodox Jews leaving synagogue on the Jewish Sabbath in Chicago. The same shooter is believed to have killed Ricky Byrdsong, the black former basketball coach at Northwestern University, as he walked with his children in nearby Skokie, and fired at an Asian-American couple in the suburb of Northbrook.

Then on Saturday, police said, the same blue Taurus was seen at shootings in Springfield and Champaign-Urbana. In the first attack, the gunman fired on two black men, but no one was hit, Chicago Police Commander William Hayes said.

About 12 hours later, six men

of Asian descent were standing on a corner near the University of Illinois when three or four shots were fired, Hayes said. A 22-year-old graduate student was hit in the leg and was in serious condition Sunday, Urbana police spokesman Michael Metzler said.

In Sunday's attack, Won-Joon Yoon was hit twice in the back and killed outside the church. Witnesses told police that after firing into the crowd, the shooter sped off, running several lights.

"He was apparently parked at the corner and waited for these people to come out of church and then fired," Bloomington Police Chief Jim Kennedy said.

Hayes said .380-caliber shell casings — the same kind found in some of the Chicago shootings — were also found at the scene of the Indiana church attack.

Last year on the Fourth of July, Smith tucked white supremacist fliers under windshields around Bloomington. Asked whether the shootings this weekend were related to Independence Day, Bloomington Police Capt. William Parker said, "It raises questions in our minds."

Parker said Smith passed out similar hate literature when enrolled at the University of Illinois. The Daily Illini reported that Smith attended the school from 1996 through 1998 before being expelled. Urbana police said he had been in trouble with campus police, including for drug possession.

Smith attended Indiana University from the summer of 1998 through the spring of 1999, and he is believed to have moved to the Chicago area in May.

"The towns he's hit, he's either lived there or been enrolled in college at each of the towns," Parker said.

According to Continental exec:

# 'Hub furor hurting Saipan'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE UPROAR created by Continental Micronesia's decision to make Guam its Pacific hub, not the decision itself, is causing more harm to Saipan and the rest of the Northern Mariana Islands in terms of visitor arrivals, according to an airline executive.

Continental Micronesia vice president for sales and promotion Walter Dias said this situation aggravates the effects of higher-priced Saipan tour packages that are now currently being sold by retailers in Japan.

"What we think is happening is that the wholesalers may be moving away and ignoring the connecting service. With some con-

troversies that have been brewing over the past two years about this connecting service, I think some of the wholesalers are getting reluctant to support it," Dias said.

This means public debate on the effectivity of the connecting service between Guam and Saipan is discouraging tour wholesalers in Japan from booking their customers in Saipan packages.

The situation hurts Saipan, helps Guam and does not hurt the airline at all.

"At the end of the day, they just put the Guam passengers on, instead of the Saipan passengers. But we would like to stress that Continental Micronesia is supporting both islands," he added.

Continental Micronesia wit-



Walter Dias

nessed a steady arrival figure for Saipan last year but visitors started coming in trickles during the first six months of 1999, according to Dias.

"The controversy and public

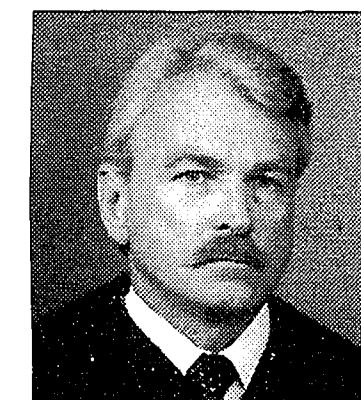
disagreement over the hub through Guam may actually be self-fulfilling to some extent. It may be that people [from Japan] are taking note of that and they just book their passengers to Guam," he pointed out.

At the same time, Continental Micronesia's Japan Distribution System indicates that the retail rate for Saipan tour packages is

higher by at least 2,000 yen to 5,000 yen than the Guam rate although the airline sells both destinations to wholesalers at the same rate.

Dias explained that this could be triggered by the hotel packaging, and not by the airline cost since Continental Micronesia offers flat rate even to its connecting flights from Guam.

## Boat sinking case to be tried on Guam



Alex. R. Munson

Konet, Helton Elenjietal, and Juanita Letafilyal, sued the International Bridge Construction/Marianas Inc. and other defendants.

The lawsuits arose out of the sinking of the M/V Mr. Bill and the subsequent rescue of the plaintiffs in the international waters between Guam and Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

More specifically, plaintiffs sought damages for the alleged defective design, construction and or negligent maintenance of the lifeboat to which they repaired when the M/V Mr. Bill foundered.

Plaintiffs also sought damages for emotional distress, misrepresentation, non-disclosure, fraud, unfair and deceptive business practices.

Munson said the court can say that neither the sinking of M/V Mr. Bill nor the rescue of plaintiffs occurred in this district (NMI).

It also does not appear, Munson said, that the life raft in question was manufactured, sold, distributed or repaired in the CNMI.

"Further, from the information currently before the court, although defendants may be found in this district, there do exist at least two other districts in which the action may otherwise be brought" — Guam and Hawaii," he said.

With regards to defendant SMR Technologies' motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction, Munson ruled that such request is moot.

## OPA says DOF, not DPH should be collecting ambulance fees

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety Associate Editor

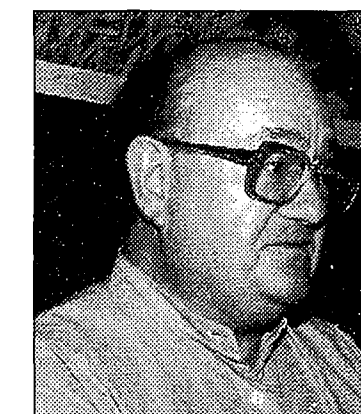
PUBLIC Auditor Leo L. LaMotte has expressed concerns over reports that the Department of Public Health is collecting the ambulance fees paid by patients brought to the Commonwealth Health Center.

LaMotte, in a letter to House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (JGO) Chair Frank G. Cepeda (R-Prec. 4, Saipan), said all money collected by agencies of the executive branch should be deposited in the CNMI general fund, which then allows the Department of the Finance (DOF) to account for it.

DOF, he added, is the agency allowed by law to collect money and pay the expenses of the executive departments.

"We believe that the CNMI system for collecting, banking and paying should be retained in [DOF] to keep this function as uncomplicated as possible, unless some highly unusual circumstances are involved," he said.

Agencies that need funding can only get it through an appropriation measure passed by the Legislature and enacted into



Leo L. LaMotte

law, LaMotte said.

"This provides for financial controls and easier way for [DOF] to account for the money and for the Legislature to determine what funding is actually needed," he said.

LaMotte added that accountability over funds not managed by DOF may be lost "because experienced people are not available to safeguard the funds by maintaining records and bank accounts."

Moreover, he said, "control is also lost because proper use and safeguard of funds are not assured by adequate implementation of policies, procedures and practices."

## Worker asks for gov't help in case vs recruiter

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A CONTRACT worker who was among those 21 Filipinos allegedly victimized in an illegal recruitment scheme in 1997 is appealing to the government to finally resolve their case.

Loreto Daayan in an interview yesterday said their Labor complaint was filed in mid-1997, but until now he has not heard anything from the Department of Labor and Immigration about their

case against Peter Lucas and Petrina Enterprises.

Daayan said he was informed that the Attorney General's Office has been investigating for possible criminal charges against Lucas, but no case has been filed yet.

"We are willing to testify to get justice on behalf of all victims," he said, adding that out of 21 victims only three of them are still working here.

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## Shipping monopoly in Palau hit

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Two committee chairmen of the House of Delegates (HOD) questioned the legal authority of the country's three privately-owned shipping companies to regulate the entry of ships to Palau while making a "late discovery" that the government has no role in controlling the commercial sea traffic.

At the same time, the two legislators also put up front the

issue of shipping monopoly which they claimed has been hurting local industry as well as adding financial burden to the consumers.

Ways and Means Committee Chair Antonio Bells and Resources and Development Committee Chair Surangel Whipps, Sr. called the attention of Commerce and Trade Minister Okada Techitong over the apparent decision-making authority of the three shipping companies to screen which ship should be allowed or

refused to enter Palau.

Bells, however, expressed serious concern over what appears to be government laxity in controlling the entry of ships into Palau. Such laxity, according to Bells, may give rise to the smuggling of illegal drugs into the country.

The query of the two chairmen also came at the heels of an article entitled, "4,500 tons of cement on board Korean Ship sent away," published in the June

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# Bill for parks agency OK'd

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
A PROPOSED measure creating a government agency solely tasked to maintain parks and collect fees for its private use has been passed by the Senate.  
Introduced by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, House Bill 11-167 states that government should collect user's fees for persons wanting to

have temporary exclusive use of a park or recreational facility. The collection will enable the government agency to finance maintenance of the facilities.  
The bill noted that the number of public parks being managed by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has "increased substantially since 1979."  
"And maintenance of the parks

has become increasingly difficult without the power to charge fees, promulgate regulations and enforce rules," the bill said, adding that making matters worse is that there currently is no single government entity responsible for looking over the parks and recreational facilities.  
The bill seeks to open a Division of Parks and Recreation, which will function under DLNR, for the purpose.

The division, according to Babauta's proposal, "may require a person to obtain a permit for the temporary exclusive use of a commonwealth park or recreational facility."  
For each permit, the bill said, a "reasonable" user's fee will be collected to "recover the cost of administering the fee system and managing, maintaining and beautifying commonwealth parks and recreational facilities."

A "reasonable" security deposit will likewise be collected and retained by the Division in case damage is incurred by the park in the course of its temporary exclusive use.  
The fees and security deposits retained will be deposited into a Commonwealth Parks and Recreation Fund.  
The bill now goes to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for approval.

## UN is bringing light to remote Pacific islands

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety  
MAJURO — A United Nations agency will bring electricity to a dozen remote atolls in the Marshall Islands later this year and for many, it will be their first contact with electric power.  
The UN's renewable energy division is currently in the final stages of designing a plan that, for the modest amount of \$75,000, will fund solar equipment for medical dispensaries on 11 islands and the dispensary and community facilities on one other island.  
Outer Islands Dispensary System Director Arata Nathan said that the Ministry of Health has targeted rural health centers recently built with Asian Development Bank loans for the solar equipment. "We will look for additional funding for the other 50 health centers," he said.  
For most of these islands, the UN grant will bring their first glimpse of electricity. The Ministry of Health operates dispensaries on more than 60 of the inhabited outer islands that are scattered over 500,000 square miles of ocean area in the central Pacific. The estimated 20,000 people on these islands live a largely subsistence way of life, fishing, collecting rain in catchment tanks

for drinking water, and using groundwells for bucket showers.  
Only a handful of outer island dispensaries in the country currently have solar power, used primarily to power high frequency radios for communication with the main hospital in the capital, Majuro. Two years ago, the French government provided about \$500,000 to install solar equipment in every home, as well the dispensary and churches, on Namdrik Atoll, population 700. But Namdrik remains the exception rather than the rule when it comes to solar equipment in this nation — despite the fact that the Marshall Islands are just seven degrees north of the equator and the sun shines incessantly. On the vast majority of these remote outer islands, when the sun goes down, it gets dark, the only respite being kerosene lanterns.  
But this UN project will change that, at least for the medical dispensaries. The solar equipment that the UN is preparing to provide will light the dispensaries, as well as power small water pumps, HF radios, a vaccine refrigerator and an outside street light, according to U.N. technical advisor S.P. Gon Chaudhuri who was here this week to develop the project plan with the Ministry.

## CNMI umbrella group of business organizations air issues of concerns

IT APPEARS a hike in federal minimum wage is being given serious consideration in the US, the Western Pacific Economic Council reported.  
The WPEC said organized labor has made the minimum wage a "must pass" issue. Unions have also insisted that it apply to the CNMI as well. While the CNMI is not a part of the debate, it is already a part of the Democratic bills introduced in both Houses, WPEC said.  
The CNMI's peril is great said WPEC in a news release. The CNMI, the organization said, will likely come up in both House and Senate debates on the minimum wage.  
If both would adopt a CNMI amendment to the federal minimum wage legislation, it is likely to become law.  
Meantime, WPEC also reported that 1999 offers new and ever more serious legislative challenges to the CNMI, particularly its "core" Covenant authorities-local control

of immigration and the minimum wage plus tariff- and quota-free entry of CNMI goods into the United States.  
The WPEC further reported that the Clinton administration remains firmly fixed in its view that these authorities must be either revoked or significantly limited.  
Thus, it continues to advocate a phase application of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and of the federal minimum wage to the CNMI.  
In the Senate, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski has once again introduced legislation to apply the INA to the CNMI.  
Although Murkowski said that he has mixed feelings about the bill, he is likely to push hard for its consideration by the Senate after it is reported from the Committee, WPEC said. It seems unlikely that even a very positive hearing record would deter the Chairman from scheduling a mark up of his bill.

The WPEC strongly supports continued local CNMI control of its own immigration system.  
"The atmosphere created by a constant stream of negative media reporting, the lawsuits and greatly increased legislative activity have made all of these threats to the CNMI more serious than in the past. To possibly contain or defeat these threats will require constant attention to legislative developments and media reporting," WPEC said.  
Regardless of all other actions, effective presentations by the CNMI in hearings before Senate and House committees will be crucial, it said.  
In addition, strong advocacy by the House Resources Committee, support and understanding in key House committees considering legislation affecting the CNMI, and the protection of House procedures, it will be important to have support from the leadership.  
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## Bill for tour agents' history briefing OK'd

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
A PROPOSED measure requiring tour operators and guides to undergo a seminar on the commonwealth's history will now go to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for approval.  
Senate Bill 11-13, which was introduced by Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez, requires tour agents to obtain a certification from the Northern Marianas College in

conjunction with the Marianas Visitors Authority.  
It also seeks to make the certification a required condition for licensing tour guides and operators.  
The bill, which went to the House for review, was submitted as a standing report by the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism to the Senate which passed it.

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## BOG declares dividends

Variety News Staff  
HAGATNA — The Bank of Guam board of directors has authorized the payment of common stock dividends for the second quarter ending June 30, 1999, at 10-cents a share.  
The quarterly dividend payment reflects the continuing profitable performance and strong capital base of the bank, according to Bank of Guam president and chief executive

officer Anthony A. Leon Guerrero.  
"The continued support of our shareholders as well as the attentive efforts of our management and staff have made it possible to maintain our rate of dividends to our current shareholders," Leon Guerrero said.  
The second quarter payment of regular dividends will be for common stock shareholders of record as of June 30, 1999.

## Aldan to change 'not guilty' plea

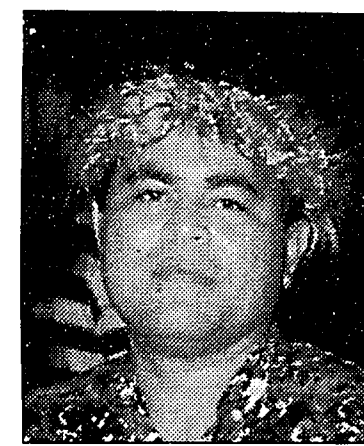
By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
VICENTE M. Aldan Jr. has expressed intention to change his plea in connection with the escape charge filed against him for allegedly bolting out with seven other inmates from the Susupe jail last February.  
During Friday's hearing in Superior Court, Aldan told the court he would change his earlier plea of not guilty.

Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan set the change of plea hearing on Aug. 17. At the time, Aldan's separate criminal case pending in US District Court is expected to be completed.  
Meanwhile, Manibusan also appointed Atty. Antonio Atalig to represent Aldan's case in trial court.  
Atalig is also representing the defendant in federal court.  
Aldan and seven other inmates—William C. Sablan, Ryan Babauta, Joseph Bowie, Arcei Basto, Edwin Blas, Jeffrey Indalecio Celis, and Luis Deleon

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## Heinz cites longer waiting time at CHC

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff  
THE HOUSE Committee on Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) has dispelled reports of grave shortage of emergency doctors and nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center, but admitted that the long period of waiting time among patients is due to the hospital's current restructuring.  
Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, in an interview, disclosed CHC currently has eight emergency doctors, and a "good" number of nurses who can well serve the needs of the community.



Heinz Hofschneider

"The hospital is well-staffed but the long period of time, that's because of scheduling problems with nurses and the ongoing restructuring process," he said, but failed to give more details on the number of nurses.  
Hofschneider said CHC is now more strict when it comes to hiring more doctors and nurses is not the only solution to further improve CHC services.  
"If you have already hired qualified nurses or doctors and they can perform well, then there is no reason for the hospital to hire more even if you have additional fund-

ing," said Hofschneider.  
CHC, however, seems to admit shortage of emergency doctors and nurses as it urges the community to bear with the long period of waiting at the ER department during certain times.  
In a notice to patients posted at the ER department, CHC has even endorsed at least four private clinics which can also handle emergency cases of patients who may find it very taxing to wait for long at the CHC.  
"Due to a shortage of emergency doctors and nurses, the waiting time may sometimes be long. We appreciate your patience," said CHC.  
Meanwhile, the American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Council, during its recent annual conference, said it may not take long before the CNMI will strongly feel shortage in the number of registered local and non-resident nurses as they oftentimes tend to work in the U.S. mainland where wages are considerably higher.  
The Northern Marianas College (NMC) Nursing Program revealed that despite a guarantee of job at

the exam and pass it to be able to continue working with CHC.  
He, however, assured patients that CHC is doing its best to ensure emergency cases are well taken care of.  
The legislator pointed out that hiring more doctors and nurses is not the only solution to further improve CHC services.  
"If you have already hired qualified nurses or doctors and they can perform well, then there is no reason for the hospital to hire more even if you have additional fund-

## Rudolpho's blames 'gov't inaction'

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
ROBERT W. Rudolph, president and general manager of Rudolpho's, has blamed the CNMI government's inaction as among the reasons of their business fall.  
"I truly thought I would spend the rest of my life there (Saipan), but I cannot afford to sit back and watch the economy and my business(es) continue to decline because of inaction, misguided decisions, or consequences outside of CNMI control," said Rudolph in a letter sent Friday to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.  
Rudolph told Tenorio in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by the Variety, that despite their repeated requests to the Division of Public Lands, the agency is still unwilling to provide them a fair lease.  
"What they have offered are not lease terms, they are life sentence," said the businessman

referring to the government's decision to allow Rudolpho's to operate through a "month to month lease term."  
The Sadog Tasi-based Rudolpho's, one of most famous bars and restaurants on Saipan, closed business Thursday. Rudcorp. Inc., owner of the establishment, filed Friday a bankruptcy case before the US District Court.  
Court records indicated that Rudolpho's total assets amounts to \$64,683, but its total liabilities reaches \$210,131. It owes government \$54,953 in taxes.  
Rudolph in his letter to the governor said he couldn't believe it had to end "this way."  
"But after waiting for almost seven years for a lease agreement that is fair and acknowledges the contributions we have made to the community and the leasehold improvements we have made on public lands, DPL is still unwilling to provide a

lease which acknowledges these contributions and reflects the economic conditions which exist these days," said the businessman.  
Maria Emelita G. Rudolph, vice president and manager of the establishment, said they could not conduct long-term planning because of the government's inaction to their request for a fair lease agreement.  
Mr. Rudolph meanwhile said that when he first came to the CNMI in 1986, his role at the Coastal Resources Management was to make the people of the Marianas understand the importance of protecting the coastal environment.  
"I leave you with the same request—please try extra hard to educate the residents and visitors to take care of the precious Marianas environment—it is your future," Rudolph asked Tenorio.

## 3 terminated NMC officials get extensions

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff  
THREE officials of the Northern Marianas College whose contracts were supposed to expire this month after they were issued termination notices have been given extensions, it was learned.  
The officials included Tee Abraham, vice president, and Malinda Matson, the station manager of the college-run radio, until October when their termination papers will have been "re-issued."  
NMC officials have declined to

give any reason for the extension of services, but it was believed that the decision was prompted by the officials' move to legally challenge their ouster, especially Matson.  
Abraham and Matson were among those whose contracts were terminated after the college decided to undertake a re-organization spawned by the House-run oversight hearings.  
While the rest of the outgoing employees silently accepted their fate, Abraham and Matson mapped out a legal plan, and

nearly two months ago, Matson wrote college officials informing them about her plans.  
The radio station manager also made some demands in the same letter.  
"My termination is illegal and violated my civil and Constitutional rights," the station manager was recalled then as saying.  
Meanwhile, board of regents vice chair Fermin Atalig said on Friday that they were expecting to fill up all the vacated positions with new hires before the end of the month.

## Figueroa's files for bankruptcy

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
ANOTHER famous bar and restaurant is continuously operating on Saipan although the owners had already filed a bankruptcy case, the Variety learned.  
Records showed that Figueroa's Bar and Grill, through its owner Mak Entertainment Group, Ltd., filed last year a petition for bankruptcy before the US District Court.  
Mak Entertainment however, brought such bankruptcy under the so-called chapter 11, court documents indicated.  
Bankruptcy Act is a federal law for the benefit and relief of

creditors and their debtors in cases in which the latter are unable or unwilling to pay their debts.  
The petition suspends the normal operation of rights and obligations between the debtor and his or her creditors.  
By Chapter 11, however, a person or a business establishment is allowed to operate in order to make profit.  
Figueroa's competitor, Rudolpho's, totally shut down its business because its owner Rudcorp. Inc. filed a bankruptcy petition under chapter 7.  
The case of Figueroa is pending.

Continued on page 22

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# FORUM

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER  
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

## Privacy protection an age-old problem

SLOWLY but surely, a debate has begun to rage in Washington over personal privacy. As technology advances, so has a concern among civil libertarians that everything we do — from grocery shopping to going to the doctor — is leaving an electronic fingerprint accessible to practically anyone.

Sadly, it's an old story. Under J. Edgar Hoover, the crotchety old bulldog who ran the FBI for half a century until 1972, federal agents snooped the old-fashioned way: using surveillance, hidden cameras, phone taps — and especially rumor-mongering.

We recently obtained the FBI files of a diverse group of deceased Americans, from Miles Davis to Dean Martin and cult leader Marshall Applewhite. And we found that long before spying went high-tech, the government was keeping close tabs on anyone deemed "undesirable." Here is an abridged version of what we found:

Unsubstantiated rumors sparked intensive investigations in several files. For instance, the FBI caught wind in 1965 of a "very obscene" recording supposedly made by singer Dean Martin, a member of the original Rat Pack. Over the next several months, FBI agents diligently searched for a copy of the tape "on the quiet." Once obtained, the tape was promptly sent off to the FBI lab for analysis, all under the signature and careful eye of Hoover himself.

And what did the lab find? The tape was "not identified with any material contained in Obscene File." Yet the tape was kept on file for another three years.

The scrutiny of Martin didn't end there. Hoover's well-known fascination with all things Hollywood and his homosexual would keep Martin's file active in hopes of learning the crooner's "true" sexual preference. Reports on file indicate that one "known Hollywood homosexual" told the bureau that Martin was considered gay.

Former President Richard Nixon and an unnamed California governor requested information on Martin at different times. The California governor wanted to check Martin's background before bestowing an honor. Both were told the same things: unproven rumors that Martin was engaged in gambling and hoodlum activities, homosexuality and prostitution.

Martin did not receive the honor.

John Denver, the country singer and actor who perished in a 1997 plane crash, also had a file rich in rumor. His file is made even more compelling because of the large number of "redactions," or deleted material. Denver's file was launched when he participated in a Vietnam War protest in 1971.

At one point, the Bush administration asked for a name-check on Denver, which turned up several highly censored pages. Nevertheless, the file does list Denver as a "narcotics user" who was "pretty well strung out on cocaine" during one concert — perhaps adding new meaning to Denver's signature song, "Rocky Mountain High."

One three-page memo in Denver's file is completely censored except for the title: "Racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations; La Cosa Nostra — Narcotics." The FBI cites two possible reasons for the blacked-out portions of the file: Either the release of such material would result in an invasion of privacy, or it could disclose the identity of an informant.

Then there was the case of Les Aspin, a former Democratic congressman from Wisconsin (and secretary of Defense), who invited Hoover's wrath by condemning the Nixon administration for "using the FBI as a political peeping-Tom and gossip columnist since it took office."

Aspin had gotten ahold of an FBI memo, titled "Operation Inlet," which ordered agents to forward to Nixon inside information and "items of unusual twist or concerning prominent personalities."

"It is to be noted," the memo continued, "that (the type) of information desired may be obtained through investigation not wholly related to the security field."

As it turns out, Operation Inlet predated Nixon. Hoover had started the program years earlier to keep any potential White House occupant "fully informed" about the private lives of public figures.

Continued on page 7

## WHEN MANAGED HEALTH CARE MEETS UNIONIZED DOCTORS...



ANALYSIS

## Indonesia rupiah booms, not the economy

By Jonathan Thatcher

**JAKARTA (Reuters)** — Indonesia's financial markets are on a roll. The economy, despite some cheering economic indicators, is not.

Economists worry the latest investor exuberance could do more harm than good by encouraging complacency in the government.

"The economy is still in a mess...The rupiah (rise) is giving a misplaced sense of euphoria which is dangerous," said Thee Kian Wee, an economist with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

The rupiah is at its highest in 1-year, and is fast approaching 6,500 per dollar, egged on by the central bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Shares too have surged, with the main Jakarta index jumping some 80 percent since early April, making it Asia's best performing bourse, albeit coming up from a low level.

Basic economic indicators have also been encouraging. Inflation is around zero on a monthly basis, interest rates are falling fast and there are signs of GDP growth.

But the core problems remain — banking and corporate debt restructuring and political uncertainty.

The banking sector all but collapsed during the country's financial and political turmoil. Few banks these days borrow or lend.

Private sector debt is more than \$80 billion and, as with bank restructuring, settlement of corporate debt has been painfully slow.

"The sustainability of the recovery process will depend on the speed of the recovery of banks to function normally...70 to 80 percent of investment still comes from the banking sector," University of Indonesia economist Sri Mulyani Indriyati said.

She warned of an investment bubble if the banking and corporate sectors are not repaired and the country remains without a properly functioning financial infrastructure.

"This is like a new bubble...pouring money in here. It's only very short term. Money can quickly leave and the bubble burst."

Most investment analysts are focusing squarely

on the country's politics.

"If you talk about the economy, it's more important to look at the political situation. If that goes okay, it will recover fast," said Nono Widyaka, analyst at Sigma Batara.

Indonesia managed this month with unexpected ease to hold its first democratic election in 44 years but its political future remains unclear.

A snail-paced vote count has put opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri's party well in front, but not enough to control parliament. Nor is it enough to secure her a win in presidential elections, set for November.

That is the next hurdle and has the potential to throw the country back into turmoil from which it is only just emerging after last year's downfall of long-serving autocrat Suharto.

"The underlying problems are still with us... (the rupiah strength) will not be sustainable as long as bank restructuring and corporate debt have not been satisfactorily resolved," Thee said.

"These problems continue to haunt us. By pointing to inflation, growth etcetera, it may give a false sense of hope and relieve the pressure to resolve (these issues)," he said.

The new government will face a key problem with trying to lure back what is thought to be billions of dollars' worth of local funds, much of it owned by ethnic Chinese who were a main target during last year's violence.

That will be countered by demands on the government to help the have-nots, mostly indigenous Indonesians.

"Any new government will have to face this trade-off. This country has enormous potential but without a guarantee that they are still welcome, Sino-Indonesians won't come in," Thee said.

A return of Chinese-Indonesian money — some estimates put the total amount of Indonesian money parked offshore at \$100 billion — would encourage foreign investors, especially from other parts of Asia, he added.

"This bubble is important because it brings us hope...but the government should realize it is just a start. We are in a very fragile condition and very prone to any change in sentiment," economist Sri Mulyani said.

ANALYSIS

## Indian economy advances through gun smoke

By Simon Cameron-Moore

**BOMBAY (Reuters)** — India's economy has been hearing some good news lately — and not just from Kashmir where Indian troops are recapturing one strategic height after another from infiltrators dug in on icy ridges.

Gun smoke on the north-west frontier and looming elections have partly obscured India's improving fortunes, but a series of data last week showed an economy in active recovery mode after a three-year slowdown.

The spoiler, as always, is India's chronically high fiscal deficit, which remains around eight percent of GDP, adding in the states' deficits and loss-making public sector units.

But even on this score Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha can rub his hands over latest data. Indirect tax revenue collections were up more than 20 percent in June over a year ago.

Whoever heads the Finance Ministry after the elections in three months time will be picking up the bill for Kashmir.

The border conflict is unlikely to cost much itself, but after several years of getting a raw deal India's military commanders will be forwarding every requisition order possible to upgrade equipment. And right now few politicians would refuse them.

An upturn in the economy and the relief of low inflation will help meet the costs.

Exports have been a black spot for three years but in the two months of April and May, they rose six percent — admittedly boosted by a downward revision to May 1998 numbers.

Software companies, the new stars of corporate India, expect a near 50 percent rise in exports in 1999/2000 (April-March), to earn India over \$4 billion, after 68 percent growth last year.

Revised data for the final quarter of 1998/99 showed gross domestic product (GDP) rose 8.4 percent in the January-March period, largely thanks to a fertile agricultural performance.

Industry Minister Sikander Bakht last week forecast industrial growth will recover to six percent this year, after slumping to 3.8 percent in 1998/99.

Depressed business leaders have been fed up of phantom recoveries, but there is burgeoning evidence that several parts of the economy are beginning to punch their weight.

A report on infrastructure industries in late June showed cement companies notched a 21 percent increase in production during April-May, against less than five percent a year ago.

Oil refinery output was up 17.4 percent, after a near three percent fall a year ago, and will go up further as Reliance Petroleum's giant Jamnagar refinery comes onstream.

As if on cue, truck and bus tyre production rose over 20 percent in May, and commercial vehicle sales in April-May rose nearly 34 percent. Everything is relative to an abysmal 1998.

But steel, chemicals and textiles are still struggling.

There are few fresh capacity additions anywhere. Smaller companies are still going out of business, but the survivors are looking in better shape.

Consumption, particularly from the rural sector, is strong, with growth fuelled by India's rising population.

Investors have read the writing on the wall and piled into cyclical industry stocks over the past two months, helping the benchmark Bombay index rally back over 4,000 to levels not seen since May 1998 when India conducted nuclear tests.

A budget in late February aimed at boosting capital markets helped the stock market rally, and it has since recovered from the frights of first seeing the government toppled in late April and then the eruption of the Kashmir crisis in late May.

Stockbrokers say uncertainty over Kashmir is all that is stopping Bombay from chasing a global rise in share markets.

Industry's cost-cutting and keener pricing have helped bring down wholesale price index (WPI) inflation to its lowest levels since the mid-1980s. Bountiful crops also played a big part.

## Privacy...

Continued from page 6

By challenging this practice, Aspin may have sealed his fate as one of the most investigated members of Congress. The FBI probed Aspin's connections to Russia and all of his international travel, dug for past criminal records for him and his family, and even had his credit history on file. During his 22-year stint on Capitol Hill, the FBI scrutinized virtually every facet of his life — without finding a single "scandal" (real or rumored). Even Aspin's ex-wife had good things to say about him.

Unfortunately, while the Bureau was keeping tabs on the rich and famous, it had precious little information on someone who really was worth watching. Marshall Applewhite, the head of the "Heaven's Gate" UFO cult who led a mass suicide of 39 followers in 1997, was virtually ignored by the bureau until it was too late.

The FBI opened a file on Applewhite in 1975, when parents in various states alleged that Applewhite had kidnapped and brainwashed their children. Altogether, the FBI records Applewhite as being connected with 20 mysterious disappearances.

The file was shuffled between 13 different offices and basically ends there, except for the inclusion of an 18-page diary written in 1975 by two men who tracked the group through seven states.

ANALYSIS

## Middle East peace year starts this week

By Paul Taylor

**LONDON (Reuters)** — An historic year for Middle East peace-making begins this week when Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak takes office determined to complete the circle of peace with the Jewish state's Arab neighbors.

Barak has pledged to pull Israeli troops out of occupied southern Lebanon within 12 months, setting a virtual timetable for negotiations with Syria and the Syrian-dominated Lebanonese.

Both the United States and the European Union, exasperated by the foot-dragging of Barak's hardline predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, have called for a final status peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians within the same period.

"It's going to be an action-packed year. Barak has set up a peace race between the Syrian-Lebanese and the Palestinian tracks," a Western government Middle East watcher said. "No one wants to be last for fear of losing out."

Circumstances have rarely been more auspicious. Barak, with impeccable security credentials as Israel's former top soldier, has a landslide personal election mandate and a broad coalition with 75 out of 120 parliamentary seats.

Veteran Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, 68, seen by many as having missed two opportunities for peace in the 1990s through excessive caution, has signalled he is ready for a deal now.

He and Barak have traded compliments in newspaper interviews and Syria pointedly played down an Israeli bombing of civilian targets in Lebanon 10 days ago as a last-ditch bid by Netanyahu to sabotage the incoming premier's peacemaking.

Assad must have been delighted when the leader of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, Ariel Sharon, walked out of coalition talks last week complaining that Barak had refused to guarantee he would not hand back the entire Golan Heights to Syria.

A full return of the territory

captured in the 1967 Middle East war is Assad's price for a peace that would allow Israel to withdraw from Lebanon with Syrian cooperation in preventing guerrilla attacks across the border.

Diplomats and insiders who have met Syrian leaders in the last few weeks say they seem genuinely optimistic that with the active involvement of U.S. President Bill Clinton, a deal can be concluded in the next year.

The same cannot be said of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, described by one recent visitor to Gaza as depressed.

Arafat won worldwide plaudits and pledges of future support in exchange for holding off a declaration of Palestinian sovereignty in May to avoid giving Netanyahu an electoral boost.

Now he will have to bargain as much land as he can from an Israeli leader almost as tough but who can count on strong U.S. support in the run-up to the 2000 presidential election.

The two men agreed last Friday to hold the first Israeli-Palestinian peace summit in seven months soon after Barak takes office.

Since his election, Barak has avoided committing himself to handing over another 13 percent of West Bank territory, which Netanyahu agreed to in the Wye River memorandum last October but later froze.

Keen to show he will be no pushover, the incoming premier has hinted he may wish to "bypass Wye" and move straight to negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories.

He has also declined to freeze the enlargement of Jewish settlements on occupied land and rebuked Clinton for saying that Palestinian refugees should be free to live wherever they like.

Israeli strategic analyst Mark Heller said he expected Barak would implement Wye but refuse a third redeployment called for in the 1993 Oslo peace accords.

Clinton and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak voiced optimism last week about prospects for early

progress on both fronts.

In an apparent plea to Barak not to play the Syrians off against the Palestinians, Mubarak said: "It would be a mistake to assume that movement should be confined to one track at a time. Progress on each track facilitates movement on the other."

Barak is expected to visit the White House within weeks of taking office. Clinton, whose relations with Netanyahu were excruciating, said the time was ripe for new approaches to Middle East peace and he would outline his ideas after meeting Barak.

One version of the U.S. ideas circulating among diplomats suggests a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights could be completed in three years, provided Israel obtained adequate security guarantees.

Probably the trickiest part of restarting Israeli-Syrian peace talks, which broke down in 1996, will be trying to arrange a period of calm in southern Lebanon during which Israel would begin its withdrawal, the sources said.

Syria will be reluctant to accept responsibility for restraining Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas, who have hit Israeli troops and their Lebanese proxy militia with devastating effect, until its own peace deal is assured, they said.

The casualty toll on Israeli and South Lebanon Army soldiers keeps up pressure for an Israeli withdrawal.

But a Western diplomat said: "If Syria wants a ceasefire, it will happen."

Assad, meanwhile, will seek to bolster his bargaining position by visiting Russia, his main arms supplier, this week for the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Moscow was co-sponsor with Washington of the 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference, which broke the ice between Israel and Syria. Assad may seek support both for his negotiating stance and perhaps in future peacekeeping on the Golan Heights.

ANALYSIS

## New hurdles as Australia's PM plans reforms

By John Mair

**CANBERRA (Reuters)** — Prime Minister John Howard will drive for more economic reform but will face the new hurdles of a more difficult upper house and an unproven deputy after the month-long parliamentary recess that began this weekend.

Howard plans deregulation of Australia's labor market and more tax changes, this time for business tax.

He leaves on Monday for trade talks in Japan and the United States after last week celebrating the highpoint of his 25-year career, the enactment of tax reforms based on a 10 percent value-added tax on goods and services (GST).

He will return from his two-week trip to new challenges, not least because his loyal ally, friend

and deputy, Tim Fischer, said last week he would quit the ministry for family reasons.

And when parliament resumes on August 9, Howard's conservative Liberal-National coalition will entirely rely on the minor Democrats party, which helped the government to pass the GST, to get further reforms through the upper house, the Senate.

Howard said the passage of his GST and associated reforms gave him a sense of achievement like "virtually none other."

But within days he lost Fischer, who leads the coalition's rural-based National Party. Howard leads the Liberal Party.

Analysts said that Fischer had been strong glue for the coalition and that his loss would be felt when he relinquished the party

leadership and the trade portfolio. Fischer won a reputation as a tough trade negotiator and open market advocate.

"Fischer's going to be a big loss to them. In fact he's more of a loss to the government than he is to the National Party," said Monash University politics professor Brian Costar.

Fischer said his replacement, John Anderson, should not take the trade portfolio because upcoming international talks would involve too much work for someone also managing the party.

Howard has not yet nominated a new trade minister.

The government, elected in 1996 and re-elected last year, pushes free-market, anti-subsidy policies that upset the National Party's rural constituency.

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# Continental drops Noumea

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
CONTINENTAL Micronesia is dropping its flights to New Caledonia's Noumea beginning October 1 and would relocate the displaced aircraft to the more profitable routes in Asia, it was learned from company executives.

Bill Meehan, Continental Micronesia president, said the company's Noumea flights have been operating at a highest load factor of 45 percent which is causing the airline significant losses. "This is a classic example of market demand. We are operating about 45 percent load factor at best in that particular destination," Meehan said.

He disclosed Continental Micronesia is pulling the aircraft out of the French-speaking island of New Caledonia and run more frequencies to Sendai and Fukuoka in Japan, and possibly in Hong Kong and Taipei.

"We are going to move an aircraft from where we have 45 percent load factor and bring it to an area where we can generate between 70 and 80 percent load factor," the airline executive pointed out.

Micronesia's flag carrier is currently in the process of adjusting its flight schedules following the acquisition of new generation 737-800 aircraft. The move is expected to increase seating capacity by 11 percent.

## JAL's June arrivals up 13%

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff  
JAPAN Airlines reported 16,692 passenger arrivals from Japan in June, marking a 13 percent increase from last year during the same period.

Last month's arrival figure for JAL, however, posted the lowest increase since the start of the year.

Arrivals by JAL went up by 19 percent each month in January, February and April, 21 percent in March, and 25 percent in May versus the figures of last year.

Despite this, JAL continues to get the lion share of the Japanese arrival into the CNMI.

In a complaint for declaratory and monetary relief filed before the Supreme Court Trial Division on Wednesday, the Republic of Palau, through the OSP said that the defendants, who include Charles Obichang, John Rechucher and Donald Haruo, were involved in the disbursement and withdrawal of funds without proper authorization from the Airai State Legislature (ASL).

## Palauan ex-gov, 3 others, in 'hot water' in funds mess

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon)—The Airai State Public Lands Authority (ASPLA), its Board of Trustees (BOT), a former governor and two others face civil raps filed by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) for failure to deposit funds amounting to \$0.5 million derived from a lease agreement with the ASPLA to the Airai State Treasury and other violations related to the withdrawal and disbursement of said funds.

Moreover, the defendants were cited Special Prosecutor Michael Rosenthal for failure to obtain appropriate authorization by the state legislature of a lease agreement; failure to comply with the Airai State Constitution in regard to required net profits from the exploitation of natural resources; and failure to pay one-fourth of the funds derived from the administration and management of public lands to the national government.

It would be noted that Obichang is the former governor of the state of Airai and former ASPLA chairman. Rechucher acted as legal counsel for the Airai State; while Haruo was a appointed as consultant for the ASPLA to negotiate a lease agreement with a foreign investor pursuant to ASPLA Resolution No. 001-97.

The defendants face nine-count charges for failure to deposit funds to the state treasury; unauthorized disbursement of \$120,000; of another \$2,500; and thirdly of \$300,000; unauthorized withdrawal of \$75,000; failure to obtain legislative consent for agreements with international bodies; failure to obtain ratification of major state agreement; failure to ensure net profits; and failure to remit funds to the national treasury.

Moreover, the defendants were cited Special Prosecutor Michael Rosenthal for failure to obtain appropriate authorization by the state legislature of a lease agreement; failure to comply with the Airai State Constitution in regard to required net profits from the exploitation of natural resources; and failure to pay one-fourth of the funds derived from the administration and management of public lands to the national government.

## NMC applies for credit for Y2K

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas College has formalized its plan to avail of a letter of credit from the Bank of Hawaii to finance its program on computer's millennium bug.

The letter of credit in the amount of \$260,000 was submitted to bank officials on Friday, according to the new board of regents chairman Ramon G. Villagomez.

The move, if acted upon promptly by the bank, will go against the five-months period which the college computer programmer, Frank Oliver, has set to install the anti-glitch program.

NMC's plan to install the needed software has dragged for months as officials scamped for funding sources.

Oliver, in his last meeting with the regents and college president Agnes McPhetres more than two weeks ago, has warned that they may have been racing against time since he needed at least five months to work on the project.

During the regents' meeting held two months ago, McPhetres revealed that the college is also waiting for a \$200,000 from the Office of the Insular Affairs which will be given out through the office's Y2K funding for Pacific region.

However, Dan Nielsen, the Governor's special advisor on educational issues, had been reminding the officials ever since that not a even single island in the Pacific had been given with this money and so there's no need to look for it.

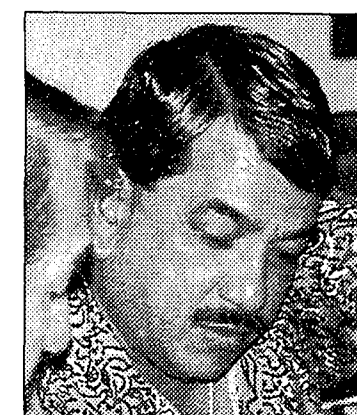
# MVA's \$8M request backed

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

STRESSING the need to develop and improve more tourism sites for more arrivals into the CNMI, the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism announced on Friday it will endorse the inclusion of over \$8 million worth of tourism-related capital improvement projects in the government's next CIP list.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta said efforts will be made to ensure that the request of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) will be accommodated by the administration in its next submission of CIP list to the federal government.

"I openly endorse MVA's request at this time as tourism continues to plummet. It's only a wise move and the right time to develop our tourism sites while awaiting for the arrivals to increase," said Babauta, as he noted that MVA has never requested



Oscar M. Babauta

the same thing before.

MVA's request came after it was given a mere \$5.8 million budget for FY 2000, which officials strongly believe will be insufficient to prioritize the development of tourist sites in Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

"I wish to enlist the support and cooperation of the committee members and the general mem-

bers of the Legislature to endorse MVA's request with respect to tourism site development and other CIPs," said Babauta.

The legislator said the administration is currently in the process of identifying matching funds for the second round of submission for CNMI CIPs.

He seconded MVA's concern that the \$5.8 million appropriation for FY 2000 will not suffice for the development of tourism sites.

"The budget will only cover for operations, but nothing for capital improvement... We not only need to concentrate on the promotion of CNMI but we should also be cognizant of the need to enhance what we have to offer," he pointed out.

MVA earlier submitted a "wish list" to the House Commerce and Tourism Committee for possible inclusion of over \$8 million worth of tourism-related CIPs in the

government's fiscal year 2000 appropriations, but such request, according to Babauta, is likely to be included in the general CIP list.

Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director, said the agency is seeking for funds to cover for over \$8 million worth of projects including the establishment of parking lots, walk ways, toilet facilities, and the beautification of tourist sites.

"We don't have resources now and the next fiscal year to make significant improvements on tourist sites... This is something new to MVA... We have never requested for CIP money for tourist sites," Tenorio said.

Tenorio pointed out that the only remarkable CIP currently being done by MVA is the rehabilitation of the Grotto stairways amounting to around \$40,000.

## House sets budget hearing for MVA

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

A BUDGET hearing for the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has been scheduled by the House Ways and Means Committee in line with the tourism agency's request for additional budget for fiscal year 2000.

While the budget ceiling for MVA set by the administration is pegged at \$5.8 million, its officials are asking for at least \$7 million to efficiently carry out its functions, particularly in drawing more visitors to the CNMI.

Moreover, despite the 13.4 percent budget cut, MVA is operating at an actual budget of \$6 million this year which is still higher than what it is set to get on the next fiscal year.

The budget hearing is set for July 13.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes, committee chairman, said MVA need to justify its request for additional money as many other agencies are also asking the same in light of the current financial conditions.

"There's no assurance as of now that they will be able to get more. For their CIPs, the Legislature can help but for operations, there's no assurance yet," said Reyes.

The legislator said changes may also be made in MVA's budget planning, including the sourcing of funding to pay for personnel.

"For example, if their personnel are used on CIPs, so that may be part of operations and they will not use CIP money to pay for personnel. Things like that will also be discussed," said Reyes.

Reyes also said that reprogramming of funds may also be an option for MVA to get additional funding for the next fiscal year.

MVA Board member Marian Aldan-Pierce earlier said the Board has decided to ask for additional money from the government, and will also implement more stringent austerity measures to cope with the mere \$5.8 million budget.

"That's not just enough

Continued on page 22

## Bordallo vetoes tipping fee bill



Madeline Z. Bordallo

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff  
ACTING Gov. Madeline Z. Bordallo has vetoed Bill 122, which would impose a volume-based tipping fee on both residential and commercial customers of the Ordof landfill, a media release said.

The bill proposes to use the money collected from the fees to close the landfill and begin preparing a new solid waste disposal station on the island.

It would impose an \$8 dollar monthly charge on residential customers that would be incorporated into their water and power bills.

Bordallo, in a media release, cited numerous technical problems in the bill's language.

Residential and commercial customers are also opposed to the legislation.

The veto, however, is expected to be overridden by the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Continued on page 22

## Ex-Palau gov. receives the Ancient Order of Chamorri

HAGATNA — Acting Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo awarded the Ancient Order of Chamorri to a Palauan who, she said, was a great leader.

Roman Tmetuchl, the former governor of Koror, was well-known on Guam, and was a close friend of Bordallo.

She said his influence was felt throughout the region in government and commerce.

"Tmetuchl," Bordallo said, "was a great leader, a great advocate for his people, and great friend of his brothers and sisters in Guam. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with the people of Palau."

(Eric F. Say)

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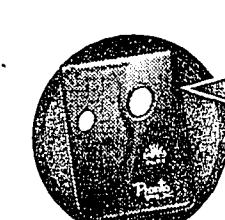


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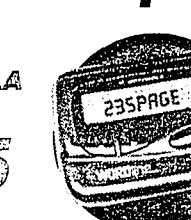
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## Budweiser magician in town

THE WORLD'S best-selling beer — and Ambros Inc. announced that world-renowned magician Rick Gerber will appear today, July 6 and tomorrow, July 7, at Round Two, Bud's Bar, Gilligan's, Len's, and USP 19th Hole to thrill and amaze.

"Anheuser-Busch has been guided by the saying, 'Making Friends is Our Business' for nearly

half a century," said Dean Ayers, Director of Entertainment Marketing, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., "and for 21 years, Rick's powerful and visual magic presentations have played an important part of this motto as he travels across the country and around the globe entertaining thousands of consumers."

"From regular fans to celebri-

ties to dignitaries," said Gerber, "All my audiences have one thing in common — they are the adult men and women who help make Budweiser the 'King of Beers'."

Gerber, America's only full-time corporate magician, makes nearly 1,200 appearances each year in clubs, taverns, bars, street festivals and fairs around the world on behalf of Budweiser.

He is considered to be the world's greatest bar magician.

"I've performed everywhere from Two Dot, Mont., to distinguished European pubs and sophisticated nightclubs in Taiwan," said Gerber. "I travel nearly 250 days a year. It's a tough grind, but I love every minute of it."

"As a Budweiser spokesper-

son, I have the opportunity to pass along an important message to adult consumers everywhere: 'Drink Responsibly and Know When to Say When,'" he said.

Budweiser is brewed by Anheuser-Busch, Inc., the world's largest brewer and is America's foremost sponsor of local, regional, and national entertainment and sporting events.

## USS Cushing visits Saipan

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

USS CUSHINGDD-985, the highly-versatile multi-mission destroyer of the US Naval Forces is docked on Saipan seaport and will stay on the island until July 7th where it is scheduled to go back to its home port.

This is the first time for Cushing to visit Saipan. It usually stays home in its port in Yokosuka, Japan.

Cushing officials and crew said they are enjoying their stay so far on the island, which they described as "hot, but beautiful."

Cushing held an open house for Saipan, July 3 and 4 in time for the Liberation Day.

The 563-foot ship is equipped to handle a wide variety of tasks. Its primary mission however, is Under Sea Warfare (USW).

The ship boasts of the Tomahawk Weapons Control System, two 5-inch 54-gun mounts, Harpoon surface-to-surface missile system and the Sea Sparrow Missile System which provides defense against air targets.

Cushing's Close-In-Weapons Systems (CIWS) also provides the ship with the most up-to-date anti-cruise missile defense available.

The ship, also called as the "Golden Pride of the Pacific Fleet," is the 23rd Spruance Class Destroyer unique among US warships because it is the first major class to be powered solely by gas turbines engines.

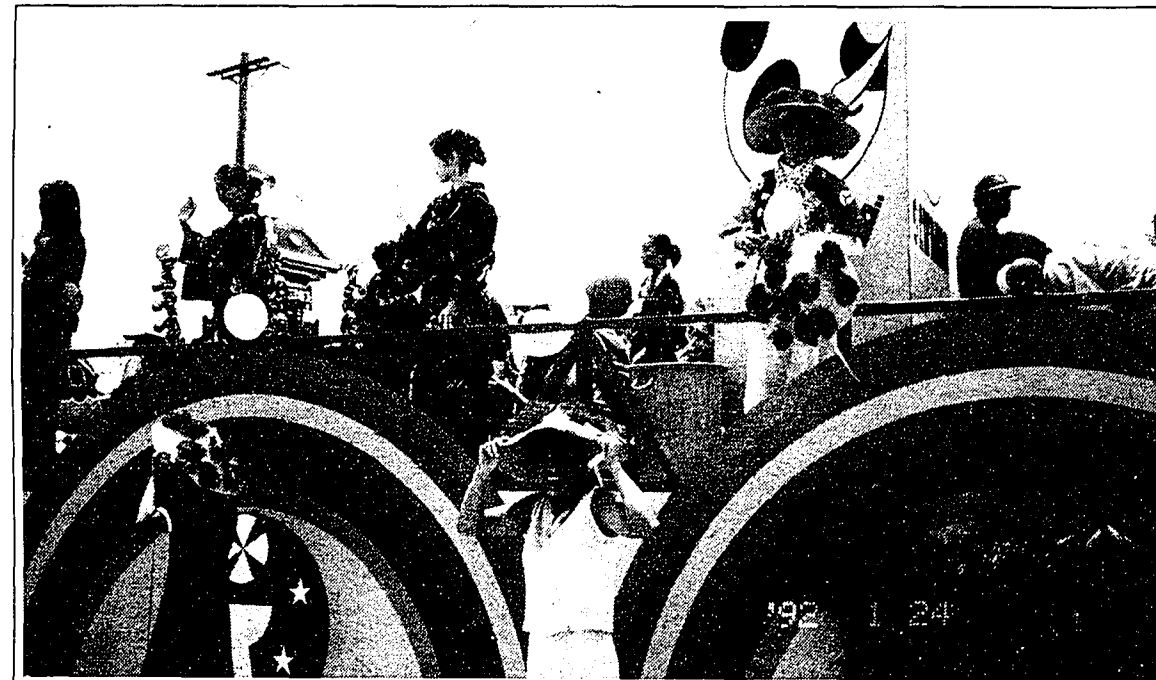
Cushing is named after Commander William Barker Cushing, a naval hero of the American Civil War.

The ship has received four "Battle Efficiency" awards since it was commissioned in October of 1979.

In 1997, Cushing was awarded the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy award for achieving the greatest improvements in Battle Efficiency among all Pacific Fleet ships and squadrons during the previous year.

Cushing has also been awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for the rescue of Vietnamese boat refugees in the South China Sea in 1981, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for the service in Arabian Gulf in 1996 and 1997, and six Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

The ship is presently being manned by Commander Martin S. Simon.



The Japanese community in the CNMI shares their culture to the local people during the Liberation Day's float parade Sunday.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## Petition for 'People's Park' on

By Marian A. Maraya

Variety News Staff

THE OFF-Road Association of the Marianas (ORAM) is gathering as many signatures as it can, petitioning for the acquisition of 'People's Park,' a family recreational area which was once located on Capitol Hill.

ORAM is lobbying for the

resurrection of this park in the hope of further promoting motor sports to the CNMI and providing a free, after work and school area that would enhance leadership, friendship, unity, and sportsmanship among the people of the islands.

In addition, the acquisition of the park is also aimed at securing

a permanent land for such off-road sports as motocross, stock car, MTB, railcar, and ATV racing and at the same time, to ensure that these activities are conducted in a safe place of its own.

Signatures obtained will be submitted to the Division of

Continued on page 22

## OFWs need to file tax returns by July 15th

By Marian A. Maraya

Variety News Staff

FOR RECORD purposes, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is reminding all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) including seafarers and other non resident citizens on the CNMI to file their income tax returns on a date not later than July 15th.

Since taxable year 1998, the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) mandated all Filipinos not residing in the Philippines 'exempted' from paying their annual income tax.

This exemption, however, does not mean that they are not required to file any returns, BIR stressed.

Revenue regulation 9-99 requires that concerned persons shall accomplish BIR form 1701C or the new computerized Form 1703 properly labeling among others the 'tax due' space as 'exempt.'

# Bikini sharks raise TV ratings

By Giff Johnson

For the Variety

**MAJURO** — The "shark pass" at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands is living up to its advance billing for excitement. The intensely shark-infested area is a focus a movie feature for the Discovery Channel that will premier at the start of the channel's highly rated shark week on August 8 — but one of the film crew members found himself the focus of an unhappy and hungry grey reef shark last weekend.

The incident from which the underwater photographer escaped without harm was fully captured on film and will, no doubt, raise the viewer ratings for the Discovery film that is being filmed and directed by Al Giddings, who filmed underwater scenes in the Hollywood spectaculars The Deep and Titanic.

The cameraman found that a shark cage didn't provide him with the protection from sharks he might have expected and for a few minutes it was anyone's guess whether or not he'd end up being the meal instead of just filming it.

Bikini Atoll was the ground zero for 23 nuclear weapons test that sent a fleet of World War II ships to the lagoon floor, where they've sat untouched for more than 50 years. Three years ago, the entrepreneurial-minded Bikini islanders opened their atoll

to international scuba divers for the first time. The number of divers traveling out to this remote outpost in the central Pacific has steadily increased and Giddings' film for the Discovery Channel — which is to include satellite live broadcasts from the atoll in August — is the biggest production to hit Bikini.

A chartered live-aboard dive boat, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of high-tech underwater filming equipment, and more than 30 cameramen, divers, technicians, producers and commentators are spending the better part of two months on Bikini to produce the special for Discovery.

Bikini divemaster Fabio Amaral indicated that the channel is spending \$2.5 million on

the film project.

Karen Sauer, who was at Bikini's shark pass during the filming over the weekend, said that one of the photographers was in a shark cage at a depth of about 15 feet filming while Giddings was filming below him and a camera was above.

On board the diveboat, technicians "chummed" the water with bait: bloody pieces of reef fish and other meat to attract the sharks and drive them into a frenzy for the filmers.

But, said Sauer, the underwater current kept carrying the bait toward the cage and the filmer was trying to push it away from the cage, while continuing to film the huge pack of sharks that was feeding nearby.

"He couldn't keep up though, and sure enough, a shark (chas-

ing the bait) got into the cage through one of the fairly large 'windows' around the top," Sauer said.

At first he tried pushing the shark back toward the windows with his feet. He had moved down to the bottom of the cage to get some distance from the shark, but the shark decided that might be a way out and soon he was forced to the top.

"The shark was getting quite riled up and the filmer figured he'd better get out of there and opened the top of the cage."

But Bikini's shark pass is nothing if not full of the large, grey reef sharks.

The top of the shark cage was still six-to-eight feet away from the boat and "there were way too many sharks feeding to try and get there on his own," Sauer

said.

Finally, after several minutes, the crew on board the dive boat was able to haul the cage in against the current and pull the cameraman to safety — together with the shark.

"But the shark was still in the cage and not very happy about it," Sauer said of the scene on the deck of the boat.

"They had to slide the heavy cage onto its side on the deck and one crew got in to get the shark out. It put up a big fight before the crew was able to subdue it by twisting its dorsal fin, grabbed it and tossed it out the cage window and back into the water."

Giddings' film is scheduled to headline the opening of the Discovery Channel's highly rated Shark Week on August 8.

## Guam budget hearing today

By Eric F. Say

Variety News Staff

**HAGATNA** — Lawmakers Will begin going over today the budgets of over 50 government agencies amid continuing decline in government revenues.

Sen. Simon Sanchez (R-Tamuning), in a media release, said GovGuam may not be able to meet its payroll or pay its suppliers.

While noting the austerity measures are already in place, Sanchez said "a bit of financial ingenuity and creative planning" will also enable GovGuam to "make it through this fiscal year."

Financial experts have predicted that government revenues may already increase.

Guam, they said, is at a "turn-around point" and that the government will soon see "the revenues come up, once again."

Guam Visitors Bureau's James Nelson said "just looking at what is going on with the Pleasure Island and summer festival, we should all be thinking positive."

Other observers said Guam is now on an upward turn, but that the next two months of this fiscal year are going to be the toughest.

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## New training plan for Pacific judicial officials

**APIA (Pacnews)** - A new training initiative for judicial officials in the Pacific region has been launched in Apia, Samoa.

The Pacific Judicial Training Project (PJTP) has been described as a "unique development partnership" involving five donors: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The project was launched during the South Pacific Judicial Conference (SPJC) in Apia where the donors confirmed their commitment to strengthen judicial services in the Pacific.

The project, which will be based at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, will be coordinated by Kim Stanford-Smith, a British national with extensive experience in judicial training in the Pacific.

It will have a budget of \$US1.3 million for the next three years.

"The PJTP is a regional approach towards capacity building and institutional strengthening in the area of judicial training," a statement from UNDP said.

"The project aims primarily to establish itself as a centre of reference and to provide an ongoing regional training programme for lay magistrates, magistrates, court officers, paralegal staff, and judges of the Supreme Court, High Court and Court of Appeal."

It said the project aims to increase the capacity and competence level of judicial service personnel in terms of knowledge of law, proficiency of judicial skills and development of appropriate attitudes and values.

USP will execute the project while the UNDP Regional Governance Programme for the Pacific, which is based in Suva, will facilitate the project implementation and administer the funds.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific Skate's planned Taiwan visit irks China, Australia

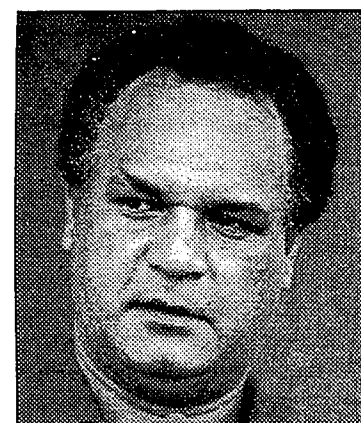
**PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)** — Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Prime Minister has been accused of trying to make a secret trip to Taiwan, to offer diplomatic recognition in return for cheap loans.

Radio Australia reports, the offer has upset Chinese and Australian officials.

Australian officials leaked details of Bill Skate's approach to Taiwan, hoping to kill it off.

They claim Skate would offer PNG's official recognition of Taiwan in return for much needed financial support.

Radio Australia said it appeared Skate was about to make



Bill Skate

a secret visit to Taiwan last week when it was leaked to the media.

With his coalition Government fighting to survive an impending no confidence vote, the PNG Prime Minister announced on Friday (July 2) he would take four days off to spend time with his family.

But sources in the PNG bureaucracy say he was in fact heading to Taiwan to make his pitch for financial assistance.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Port Moresby says the secret visit has caused deep concern and that the offer to Taiwan could upset relations with China.

Skate has not commented on the claims.

## Taiwan upset over Australia comments

**CANBERRA (Pacnews)** — Taiwan's Foreign Minister Jason Hu has angrily condemned a move by Australia to stop Papua New

Guinea setting up diplomatic ties with Taipei.

Hu said Taiwan will not engage in dollar diplomacy, but his country can talk to another wanting to set up diplomatic ties with Taipei.

He said it was understandable that Australia had its own voice in PNG, but it was not acceptable to Taiwan.

Australia's Defence Minister, John Moore said on Friday Canberra feared that a possible move by PNG to switch diplomatic recognition from Beijing to Taipei could infuriate China and undermine regional stability.

Moore urged the PNG Government to rethink its controversial

plan to launch diplomatic ties with Taipei in return for soft loans.

Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province and wages a constant battle to stop countries switching formal diplomatic recognition of China to Taipei.

Taiwan is recognised by 28 countries, including the three Pacific Island countries of Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

"I think we have a clear policy," Moore said.

"We recognise one China and I don't believe that an action such as that would neither be in our interest nor PNG's. I think it would be better if the PNG Government rethought that one."

## Solomons urged to lift media restrictions

**HONIARA (Pacnews)** — The Solomon Islands Government has been urged to lift its media regulations, imposed under the current state of emergency in the country.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has written to Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, saying the regulations violate Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

The new rules were brought in under emergency powers to deal with ethnic unrest in the country.

They prohibit any reporting that is deemed to incite vio-

lence, cause racial disharmony, or be prejudicial to the safety or interests of the state.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku has directed its special envoy, Sitiveni Rabuka and his assistant Professor Ade Ade Fuye to stay on in the Solomon Islands and help enforce the Honiara Peace Accord.

They are expected to be in Honiara until the middle of next month.

Melanesian Spearhead leaders at their annual summit in Vanuatu endorsed a request from the Solomon Islands for Fiji and Vanuatu police to be sent to Honiara to monitor the militants firearms withdrawal.

## Gurkha soldiers in Fiji

**SUVA (Pacnews)** — A company of world renowned Gurkha soldiers from the British Army have arrived in Fiji for a conventional warfare exercise.

The soldiers are members of the Royal Gurkha Rifles based in Brunei.

A statement from the Repub-

lic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) said the Gurkhas will begin training this week in the Western part of Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, with members of RFMF's 5th battalion based in Lautoka. The actual training will be held in the interior parts of Viti Levu.

# Mayon residents warned

**LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)** — Authorities in the Philippines on Sunday urged villagers not to return to their homes near Mayon Volcano, which they evacuated last month after signs of possible eruption.

The 8,125-foot (2,462-meter) volcano, which is among the Philippines' most active, belched ash-laden steam seven kilometers (four miles) into the air last month, sending panicked residents into schools used as emergency evacuation centers.

The volcano simmered down a day after but has been showing signs of possible eruption in recent days, including increased gas emission, continuous but unfelt tremors and a slight bulging of its slope near the crater, volcanologists said.

Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said residents who have been moved out of a six-kilometer (3.7-mile) area around the volcano should consider that area to be a permanent danger zone and not return due to the danger.

Mayon last erupted in February 1993, killing at least 70 people.

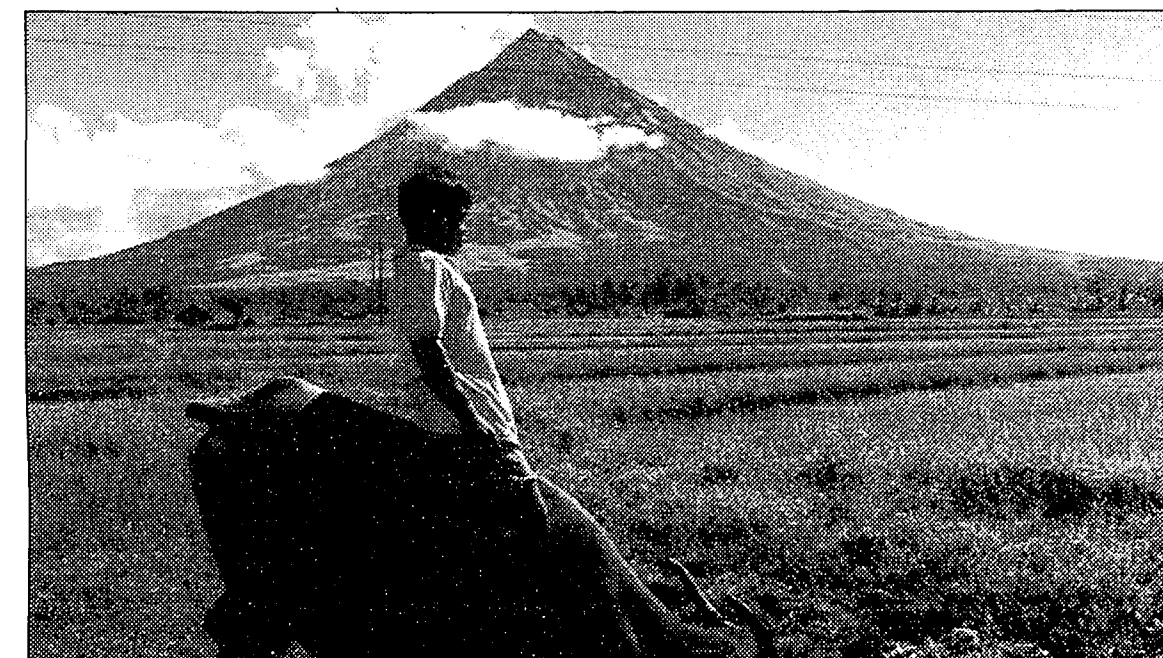
On Sunday, Mercado flew on a military helicopter with government volcanologists around the volcano but failed to observe its crater because of thick clouds.

Mayon, a tourist attraction because of its cone-shaped profile, lies 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila in Albay province.

Officials said about half of the 18,000 people living within the danger zone have been evacuated, but many refuse to leave and some villagers who have been moved out of the area return to tend to their farms and homes during the day.

On Thursday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised its warning at Mayon to alert level two, the second-highest warning. With tremors become more frequent, magma may be rising toward the crater, the institute said.

Although the volcano has been



A Filipino farmer prepares to bathe his water buffalo near the majestic Mayon volcano in Bicol province. The volcano has shown signs of activity lately.

showing signs of possible eruption, it could still calm down and stabilize later on, said government volcanologist Nora Campita, adding they only want people to

be on alert as a precaution.

The volcano's most violent eruption occurred in Feb. 1, 1814. The eruption killed more than 1,200 people and buried an entire

town in volcanic mudflows.

The Philippines is in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," which has frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.

## RP eyes US aid for new anti-drug agency

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — President Joseph Estrada said Sunday he will ask the United States to supply patrol boats to a new anti-narcotics agency that he plans to set up to fight the country's serious drug problem.

After cracking down on kidnappings last year, Estrada has ordered police to begin a high-profile anti-drugs campaign this year.

"We could not lie to the people. Illegal drugs are really very rampant today," Estrada told a Manila radio program that is known for commenting on the problem.

Estrada said a major obstacle

to the government campaign was a lack of basic equipment such as ships to patrol the archipelago's extensive coastlines.

Estrada said he would ask the United States, which has been aiding the Philippines in its anti-drugs drive, to help provide patrol boats.

The government will also prioritize the purchase of patrol vessels in an ongoing military modernization program, he said.

Estrada said he will propose a bill to the Philippine congress to establish an anti-narcotics agency patterned after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to

consolidate the government's anti-drugs efforts and prevent corruption among agents through stringent selection of anti-narcotics personnel.

Estrada said many police officials, including generals, have been involved in the illegal drugs trade "because of the big temptation of money."

Last month, National Police chief Roberto Lastimoso was charged with graft in connection with allegations he pressured a number of ranking anti-narcotics officers to release a drug pusher early this year.



Pedicab drivers take their family and dogs for a stroll along Manila's bay side Sunday. Many Filipinos keep dogs as pets and guards to their houses, while quite a few consider dog meat as a popular delicacy.

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# Marcos widow marks 70th

By Abe De Ramos  
MANILA (Reuters) — Imelda Marcos, the former Philippine first lady with the fabled 1,200 pairs of shoes, stood on the balcony of a city hotel, waved and blew kisses to a sweat-soaked crowd.

More than 1,000 loyalists dressed in national costume or their best clothes turned up at the Manila Hotel late on Friday night to attend the flamboyant widow's 70th birthday party, but there were too many to let in.

"I cannot embrace or shake hands with all of you, but you know that you are all here in my heart," Marcos said, wiping the sweat off her cheeks with a white handkerchief.

The crowd cheered and chanted "We love you, Madam" and "Marcos for always," a slogan her late dictator husband Ferdinand used in his first presidential cam-

paign. He was ousted in 1986 after 20 years as the head of the nation and then fled to exile in Hawaii where he died three years later.

Thirteen years since the family's exile, Imelda Marcos still commands more attention than any other woman in the country.

And despite pronouncements of poverty since the government confiscated much of the Marcos wealth, alleged to have been acquired through corruption, her birthday party had all the trimmings of affluence.

At the hotel's pavilion, some 1,500 guests in elaborate gowns and dark suits, all from Manila's elite, clapped and shouted birthday cheers as the woman they call "Meldy" arrived regally in her trademark pink gown with butterfly sleeves.

Escorted by Hollywood ac-



Flamboyant former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos distributes sacks of rice to residents of the poorest Manila district of Tondo to celebrate her 70th birthday Friday. AP

tor friend George Hamilton and American lawyer James Linn, Marcos kissed well wishers and posed for photographs, glittering in a white gold necklace and earrings lavished with diamonds and rubies.

An orchestra played ballroom music on the stage, alternately with a boys' choir

and professional singers. Tall posters of a young Imelda decorated walls bordered by flowers. A two-metre iced cake, bearing models of buildings erected during her reign, stood at a lighted podium.

Ballroom dancing followed the five-course dinner and Marcos took to the floor with Hamilton and ably danced the

cha-cha, each step followed by spotlight.

"I feel great. Can you imagine I'm still alive?" she said when asked how she felt about turning 70, adding her plans in future would be "to love and serve my countrymen."

It was her grandest birthday celebration since the exile, and comes just a year after President Joseph Estrada's election. Estrada is not shy about the fact that he is close to the Marcos family.

Estrada, who endorsed a \$150 million settlement between the Marcoses and some 10,000 Filipinos who said they were victims of human rights violations under the dictatorship, had a designated seat at the party but was unable to attend.

"I sent her a birthday card," said Estrada, who also sent his son to the party. "With Estrada in power, at least the government will be responsible to make sure that the ultimate end of politics and government is justice for all," Marcos told loyalists holding a separate party in another hall.



Imelda Marcos reacts as she is mobbed by her supporters upon arrival at a Catholic church in the poor Manila district of Tondo. AP



Former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, the widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, hold hands with her son Bong Bong during a religious service celebrating her 70th birthday in Manila Friday. REUTERS

For fire that killed 23 in S. Korea

# More officials detained

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Police detained six local government officials Sunday on charges of involuntary homicide in a dormitory fire that killed 19 children and four adults.

Kang Ho-jung, 46, and five others allegedly granted a license to the Sealand Youth Training Center even though the facility did not meet safety standards, police said.

Police said they are seeking arrest warrants for the six, but did not elaborate about the cases. State-run Yonhap news agency said the officials were suspected of having received bribes from the owner of the seaside summer camp in Hwasung, 60 miles southwest of Seoul.

Mosquito coils appeared to have sparked the blaze that gutted the dormitory on Wednesday. The dormitory and most other facilities at the camp were built with cheap, flammable materials and had poor fire prevention and alarm systems.

Forensic experts said Sunday they had identified all bodies of the victims and will return them to families.

Police have already arrested seven other people in connection with the blaze, including Chun Kyong-ja, 35, a woman who ran the kindergarten that

18 of the victims attended. She faces charges of involuntary homicide.

Police said Chun was drinking with her husband and colleagues in another room when the fire started, and the adults did little to try to rescue the sleeping children.

The camp owner, Park Jae-chun, 40, was accused of illegally adding facilities to his camp and failing to install sufficient fire prevention measures. Police are also questioning



An unidentified couple whose child was killed in last Wednesday's pre-dawn fire at the Sealand Youth Training Center, comfort each other Friday. AP



four firefighters and another local government official.

All but one of the 19 children were found dead in the same room, many hugging each other. Witnesses said the flames had cornered the frightened children away from the door.

The first floor of the three-story dormitory was a concrete block structure, on which 54 shipping containers were stacked to make two upper floors. Government officials said the use of freight containers in buildings is legal.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS FOR SY 1999-2000

The school breakfast and lunch meal program provides healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal.

A nominal meal charge of \$5.50 per breakfast and \$7.75 per lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for the meals when school reconvenes. This is a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal income guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal every day at the school they are enrolled in when school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table printed below, is a household with two children (assume that two adults are in the household as well as the two children) are considered a household of four persons and thus will not have to pay for meals if their combined monthly income is \$1,810 or less.

### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000)

Number of persons in Household	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Week Income
1	\$10,712	\$893	\$206
2	14,378	1,199	277
3	18,044	1,504	347
4	21,710	1,810	418
5	25,376	2,115	488
6	29,042	2,421	559
7	32,708	2,726	629
8	36,374	3,032	700
For each additional family member above 8, add to line 8	+3666	+306	+71

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and at the PSS Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) office located on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to the school where their child attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child to receive free meals. Applications cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child was receiving free meals in previous years. Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.

Families who are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or food stamps will qualify for the school meal program but still need to complete an abbreviated application. NAP households should fill out the green colored application available at the school office, FNS office, or the NAP office.

There are two application forms; the green form is for NAP recipients and the white form is for non-recipients. Benefits are the same for all applicants but two forms are provided to speed up the application process. Please be sure that you fill out the right form so there is no delay in your verification. Completed applications will be processed within two weeks. The FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The school cafeteria staff will be notified of students who's application has been verified and those students will receive free meals.

Applications may be verified or reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meals benefits must notify the FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size, any increase in income over \$50 per month or of termination of NAP benefits. Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decision by contacting the FNS office.

The FNS office can be contacted at 664-3706 /12 /18 or faxed at 664-3717. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the School Meal Program.

"In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or handicap."

/s/Jesus DLG Sanchez  
FNS Administrator

/s/Rita H. Inos, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

## Indonesian maid accused of hurting baby

SINGAPORE (AP) — A 17-year-old Indonesian maid was charged in Singapore with pouring sulfuric acid into the mouth of her employer's 3-month-old grandson, newspapers said Sunday.

Sumiyem, who like many Indonesians only uses one name, allegedly attacked the baby, Lim Hong Xian, two weeks ago, The Sunday Times and The New Paper reported.

The baby remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit of a Singapore hospital. He is suffering from severe burns on the inside of his mouth, chin and throat.

Sumiyem entered no plea, and the newspaper reports gave no possible motive for the alleged attack. She faces possible life in prison if convicted.

The young maid had been with a Singapore family for about one week before the incident happened.

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## South Korean president:

## 'Policy on North to succeed'

By David Morgan  
PHILADELPHIA (Reuters)—South Korean President Kim Dae-jung defended his strategy of reconciliation toward North Korea on Sunday, saying it is only a matter of time before the "sunshine" policy brings positive change to the Stalinist North.

Speaking to journalists after receiving a freedom award on America's Independence Day, Kim said Seoul would restart North-South talks on the issue of reuniting families divided by the Korean War if Pyongyang came forward with a concession "within the next few days."

But he cautioned that South Korea was ready to take "prompt and effective" action to repel any se-

curity threat, making a specific reference to the June 15 naval clash in the Yellow Sea in which Seoul said it sank a North Korean torpedo vessel.

"Engagement is not appeasement," the 75-year-old one-time dissident said through an interpreter. "We believe that if we stay the course with patience, and give it enough time, we will see some positive changes in the North."

The South Korean leader, who presided over an economic rebound at home after taking office early last year, said he discussed his sunshine strategy with President Bill Clinton and former U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry in meetings on Friday in Washington.



South Korean President Kim Dae-jung waves a bouquet toward the crowd after receiving the Liberty Medal at Independence Hall in Philadelphia Sunday. He defended his strategy of reconciliation toward North Korea, saying it is only a matter of time before the "sunshine" policy brings positive change to the Stalinist North. REUTERS

Kim was in Philadelphia to receive the city's Liberty Medal, an award accompanied by a \$100,000 cash prize and given to those whose efforts typify the freedoms enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Past recipients include South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Poland's Lech Walesa.

Often described as "Asia's Mandela," Kim was nearly executed as a capitalist by the North Koreans during the Korean War and, in the 1980s, faced a death

sentence from Seoul's military leaders for his work as a democracy dissident.

His unexpected rise to the presidency marked South Korea's first peaceful transition of power to an opposition leader.

But Kim's visit Sunday came amid growing tensions on the Korean peninsula, where North Korea appears to be readying a ballistic missile test despite U.S. warnings.

North-South relations also

soured in recent weeks over the naval clash that claimed the lives of some 20 northern sailors and over the North's detainment of a South Korean tourist who allegedly tried to tempt a communist tour guide to defect.

Moreover, South Korean negotiators who had hoped to hammer out a deal to reunite Korean families on the divided peninsula left Beijing on Saturday after North Korean officials stonewalled the issue in a testy final round of talks.

Kim said the North was supposed to make a "bold move" to unify families in exchange for 100,000 tons of fertilizer, which Pyongyang needs to combat famine. But he blamed the North Koreans for being unwilling to move forward.

"Within the next few days, if they come up with some kind of concession, we are of course perfectly willing to restart the vice ministerial talks," he said.

In the meantime, South Korea was expected to cancel a second 100,000-ton consignment of fertilizer it had pledged to supply the North.

The stalled family unification talks and last month's naval clash have stirred criticism in South Korea of Kim's policy of opening up economic and political ties with the North.

On Sunday, he said former West Germany used the same strategy of reconciliation and cooperation during the 1970s and 1980s to foster changes in East Germany that finally led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"I will continue to strive to spread the spirit of liberty to our brethren in the North and to all other dark corners of the world," the South Korean president said in his Liberty Medal acceptance speech.

The award's \$100,000 prize will go to the Kim Dae-jung Peace Foundation, which he said promotes democracy and human rights in nations around the world.

## Central bank survey:

## Japanese business sentiment improving

TOKYO (AP)—In a sign of further optimism for Japan's recession-hit economy, the central bank said Monday that business confidence at major manufacturing companies improved during the past three months.

In its closely-watched quarterly "tankan" survey, the Bank of Japan said sentiment among large manufacturers had improved over the last survey to a figure of minus 37 from minus 47, the biggest advance since August 1994.

The tankan measures the percentage of firms seeing business conditions improve minus the per-

centage seeing conditions worsen. The bank surveyed 9,366 companies for the latest report.

Optimism at medium-sized manufacturers improved to minus 37 from minus 48. Small manufacturers were also more confident, with sentiment there improving to minus 46 from minus 53.

Economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast the index for large manufacturers would come to a minus 35 in the latest survey.

The improving numbers come after a recent surprise growth spurt in the Japanese economy and a

drop in the jobless rate.

Japan's gross domestic product—the measure of all goods and services produced within its borders—expanded 1.9 percent for the first quarter of the year after more than a year of recession.

Last month, the government announced that the unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in May from a record high of 4.8 percent the previous two months.

And on Friday, the Nikkei Stock Average rose 0.40 percent to close at 17,932.47 points, the benchmark's highest finish since Sept. 29, 1997.



Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi (center) confers with International Trade and Industry Minister Kaoru Yosano (right) during the fifth Industrial Competitiveness Conference at his official residence in Tokyo Monday. At left is Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. AP

## Howard says Australia not a 'world economics' pupil

SYDNEY (Reuters)—Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Australia's strong economy meant he would not adopt a subordinate role during talks with political and financial leaders in the United States and Japan.

Howard leaves on Monday on a two-week trip that will see him meet U.S. President Bill Clinton, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and business and finance leaders in both countries.

Howard said Australia's strong economy and growth during the Asian financial crisis of the past two years meant Australia deserved to be regarded as more than just a bit player among its economic betters.

"I've said before, when I became prime minister, I felt as though Australia was the anxious outsider in Asia seeking admission to the rich man's club," Howard said. "That really has changed a great deal."

"I certainly won't be going to either country as a pupil," he told foreign journalists in Canberra on the eve of his trip.

The Treasury estimates that GDP in the year to June 30 was up 4.25 percent on the previous fiscal year's, and Howard held up his victory last week in enacting a revised tax system centred on a 10 percent goods and services tax as further evidence of Australia's credentials.

Howard said this reform had made Australia's economy "flavor of the month" in the United States and used a series of weekend speeches to push Australia's claim as a future world financial centre with business tax reform the next item on his agenda.

A government-sponsored review is examining options for business tax reform, with proposed cuts in corporate tax rates set against accelerated depreciation for major projects as the major sticking point.

The business tax review has canvassed options for cutting the corporate tax rate to 30 percent from its current 36 percent.

However the rural-based Nationals, the junior partner in Howard's conservative Liberal-National coa-

lition, does not want accelerated depreciation abandoned to fund the cut.

The review committee is due to deliver its recommendations at the end of the month. Howard did not believe uncertainty over the corporate tax regime would hamper his efforts to sell Australia and its commodity-based economy abroad.

"I don't think that matters. I think what impresses people is whether the government has got the will to reform, to change and improve and to make things more competitive," he said.

Howard has already said he is pessimistic about his chances of averting likely U.S. import restrictions or tariffs against Australian and New Zealand lamb, a key subject during talks set for the July 12-13 Washington stage of his visit.

Australia and New Zealand exported US\$140 million of lamb to the United States last year.

Howard will be in Japan until Friday and will address business leaders in Tokyo and Osaka as well as call on Emperor Akihito.

## HK airport unveils new plan to boost revenue

HONG KONG (AP)—Still deep in the red a year after its problem-plagued opening, Hong Kong's airport is seeking to boost revenues by increasing cargo volume and possibly cutting its notoriously high parking fees, local newspapers reported Sunday.

The charges will be reviewed this month or next, said Billy Lam, chief executive of the Airport Authority, which runs the Chek Lap Kok airport and sets its fees.

The measures are aimed at bringing Chek Lap Kok, which posted a 400 million Hong Kong dollar (\$51 million) deficit in the past 12 months, out of the red, the Hong Kong Standard reported.

The airport's opening July 6 was marred by a costly series of failures that severely disrupted passenger and cargo operations.

But after the airport began normal operations, airlines complained of exorbitant aircraft parking charges, which are as much as a third higher than Hong Kong's

former airport. They said high fees contributed to the cancellation of 82 weekly flights that were not profitable.

The charges also are about double those of Singapore's Changi Airport, Chek Lap Kok's main competitor as Asia's aviation hub.

Singapore slashed its charges by 10 percent last year.

Airport officials have previously said they have to charge higher fees because they need to repay their debts in four years. The airport and related infrastructure cost \$20 billion to build.

Although the authority will review its fees, cutting them may not directly lead to more passengers and more revenue coming to Hong Kong, Lam said.

The Airport Authority hopes that using a pier it owns as a transshipment point for receiving cargo from the Pearl River Delta will increase cargo volume, Lam said.

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## GRANTS AVAILABLE

The NMI Council for the Humanities announces the 1999 grants cycle. Deadlines for submission of **Regular Grant** applications (\$2,000 and up) are: **March 31; June 30; and September 30, 1999.** **Mini Grant** applications (below \$2,000) and **Planning Grant** applications (up to \$1,500) may be submitted at any time but at least 30 days prior to the project start date.

The council invites applications from nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and ad hoc groups for grants to support public educational programs in humanities disciplines such as: history, language, archaeology, ethics, literature, art history and criticism, philosophy, comparative religion, linguistics, and jurisprudence. Program areas include: history and heritage; books and reading; community dialogue; teacher education; health and culture. Projects that focus on the history, culture, and heritage of the peoples of the CNMI are particularly encouraged. Projects that engage the general public in discussions, dialogue and critical analysis of the CNMI and U.S. public policy are also encouraged. Program formats vary, but might include:

- conferences, lectures, and discussions
- oral histories, field trips, and research
- radio and video productions
- exhibitions and publications
- interpretations of performances
- teacher seminars and in-service programs
- planning for future humanities projects

For application materials, call 235-4785 or write to: Executive Director, NMI Council for the Humanities, AAA 3394, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. Or visit our web site at <nmi.humanities.org.mps>

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Civil Service Commission

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Wednesday, July 7, 1999, Thursday, July 8, 1999, and if necessary, Friday, July 9, 1999. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m. at the Civil Service Commission's Conference Room in Saipan. Additional information concerning this hearing is available at the Commission Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

**AGENDA**

- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL
- HEARING ON GRIEVANCE OF ELDEN C. DELA CRUZ
- HEARING ON APPEAL FROM AN ADVERSE ACTION OF BENJAMIN M. CEPEDA
- HEARING ON GRIEVANCE OF JUAN C. TUDELA
- ANNOUNCEMENT
- ADJOURNMENT

/s/VICENTE M. SABLAN  
Chairman  
Civil Service Commission

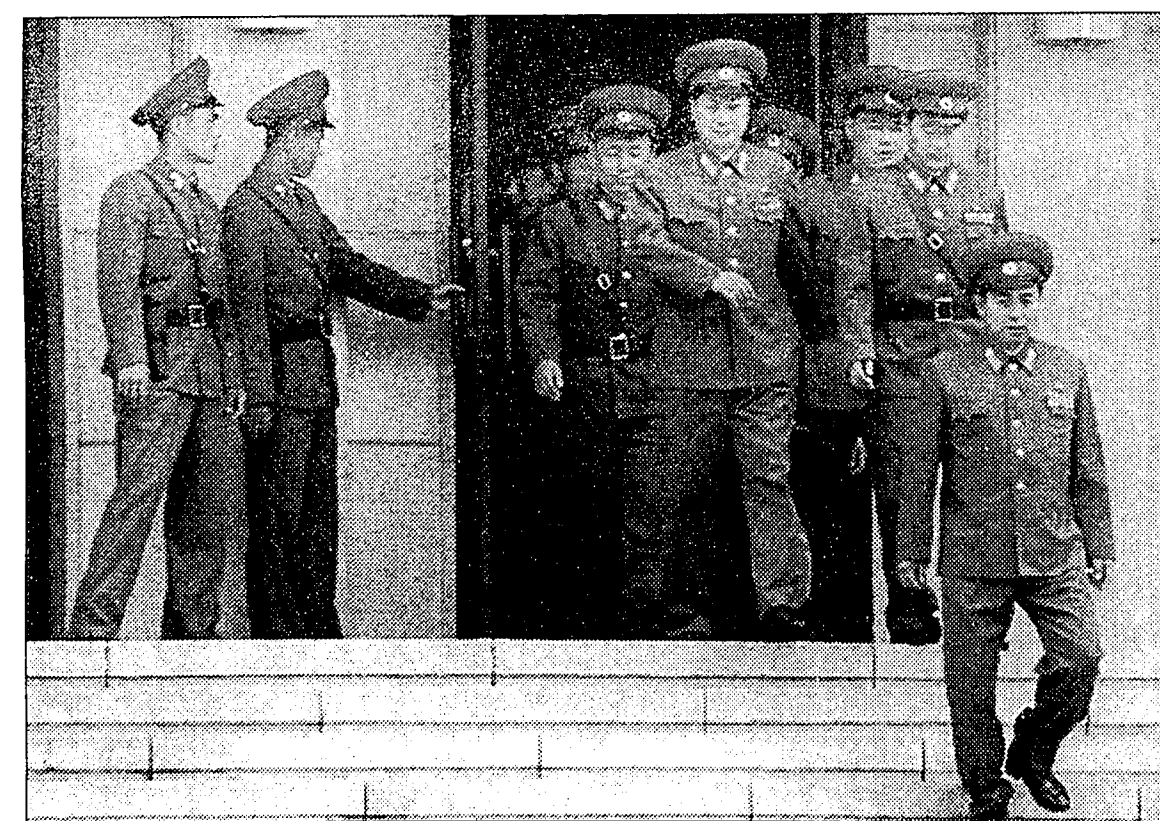
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**COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

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**JULY 17, 1999 - SATURDAY**  
**9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

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North Korean soldiers walk out to prepare for the meeting between the United Nations Command and North Korea at the border village of Panmunjom Friday. The meeting discussed matters on last month's standoff in the Yellow sea. AP



# Timor aid convoy attacked

**DILI, Indonesia (AP)** — Militiamen opposed to a referendum on independence for East Timor fired at a convoy of foreign and local humanitarian workers Sunday, wounding as many as three people, a U.N. official and foreign diplomats said.

It was the first time anti-independence fighters shot at foreigners since preparations began last month for the U.N.-supervised

ballot, scheduled for late August. But last week, U.N. workers were forced out of three towns after mobs threw rocks at them or made threats.

Voters will decide whether the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975, should become independent or remain part of Indonesia as an autonomous region.

Details of Sunday's attack in

Liquica, just outside the territorial capital of Dili, were sketchy. The shots were fired as the convoy of several vehicles passed through the city after delivering food and medical supplies to a nearby town.

An East Timorese human rights group, Yayasan Hak, claimed a mob surrounded vehicles in the convoy after the shooting. Several convoy members ran to the

shelter of a nearby police station, said group spokesman Joaquim Fonseca. However, the whereabouts of about 15 others was not known, he said.

A Dili-based American physician, Dan Murphy, of Alton, Iowa, was among those missing, Fonseca said.

Chris de Bono, a spokesman for the U.N. Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET), said doctors and U.N.-appointed police were sent in two mission helicopters to investigate a report that three people were injured in the attack.

It was not immediately known how many aid workers were in the convoy or who had been wounded.

However, diplomats who spoke

on condition of anonymity said those in the convoy included one UNAMET officer, U.N. human rights officials, workers from the Roman Catholic Church relief organization Caritas, and Yayasan Hak.

A particularly violent militia group, the Besi Merah Putih, has been active in Liquica. The unit — which rights activists say is a proxy for pro-integrationists hard-liners in the Indonesian military — has been blamed for an April 6 attack on churchgoers in which up to 25 villagers died.

The United Nations originally scheduled the ballot for Aug. 8 but later delayed it until Aug. 21 or 22 because of security concerns and logistical problems.



Nobel Peace laureate Jose Ramos Horta (left) confers quietly with pro-independence leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao during a press conference after a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Foreign Minister's office in Jakarta Sunday. AP

## Megawati may get the vice presidency

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)** — President B.J. Habibie may offer a power-sharing deal to opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose party is leading in the vote count from last month's elections, an Indonesian newspaper reported Sunday.

The Jakarta Post cited Jimly Assidique, a close associate of Habibie's, as saying the president was prepared to include his main rival in "a kind of coalition government."

Habibie would likely offer Megawati the post of vice-president, the daily said.

Only about 60 percent of the votes from the parliamentary election have been counted so far. The Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle, led by Megawati, is maintaining a commanding 35 percent lead, with



Megawati Sukarnoputri

Habibie's ruling party, Golkar, in second place with 22 percent.

Once the new parliament is constituted, its 500 members will join 200 provincial representatives to form an electoral college that is scheduled to elect a new president in November.



Indonesian police officers beat back protesters in front of the National Election Commission office in Jakarta Thursday. Riot police fired shots and tear gas as about 1,500 rock-throwing protesters. AP

Clinton, Sharif agree:

# 'Pakistan to withdraw'

**By Arshad Mohammed WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — President Bill Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reached an agreement on Sunday under which guerrillas who crossed into the Indian-held sections of Kashmir will withdraw, U.S. officials said.

The agreement, if carried out, would appear to defuse a conflict that has pitted Indian armed forces against the guerrillas and that has been described as the worst crisis between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan in nearly 30 years.

"It was agreed between the president and the prime minister that concrete steps will be taken for the restoration of the Line of Control," Clinton and Sharif said in a joint statement after three hours of hastily arranged talks in Washington.

"The president urged an immediate cessation of the hostilities once these steps are taken," it added after the discussions, which consumed the better part of Clinton's U.S. Independence Day holiday.

Although Pakistan has publicly maintained that it has no control over the guerrillas, U.S. officials said the joint statement meant the insurgents would withdraw to the Pakistani side of the military line dividing the Himalayan province.

"Our understanding is that there will be withdrawal of the forces now," a senior U.S. official told reporters on condition that he not be identified. He declined to say exactly when the forces would pull out but added: "We would like to see positive steps in the very near future."

India launched an air and ground offensive on May 26 to dislodge what it says are Pakistan army regulars fighting alongside mercenaries who crossed the military line dividing the Himalayan province.

Although the major powers concur with India's description of the guerrillas, Pakistan has insisted it has no control over what it says are Moslem militants fighting for freedom in the two-thirds of Kashmir ruled by India.



U.S. President Bill Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif walk down the steps outside Blair House following their talks on Kashmir in Washington Sunday. Clinton and Sharif said they had agreed that concrete steps will be taken to restore the line of control in Kashmir. REUTERS

The joint statement finessed the point, failing to specify who would take the "concrete steps" to restore the Line of Control or to make any explicit acknowledgment that Pakistan might hold some sway over the guerrillas.

A Pakistani official told reporters Clinton and Sharif had had "a good discussion." Tariq Altaf, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the joint statement "a positive development as it is vindication of our position that the Line of Control should be mutually respected."

Asked what concrete steps might be taken to restore it, he replied: "We will appeal to them to end the fighting... they have achieved their purpose of highlighting the Kashmir dispute."

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since they

won independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir. The latest conflict raised special alarm in Washington because of their tit-for-tat nuclear tests in May 1998.

In their statement, Clinton and Sharif said they shared the view that the recent conflict was "dangerous and contains the seeds of a wider conflict."

"They also agreed that it was vital for the peace of South Asia that the Line of Control in Kashmir be respected by both parties in accordance with their 1972 Simla Accord," it added.

Senior U.S. officials said the Simla Accord established the military line dividing the two-thirds of Kashmir controlled by India and the one third held by Pakistan.

The statement also finessed another issue - India's long-standing rejection of any outside mediation

over Kashmir and Washington's resulting reluctance to play such a role, even though Clinton intervened with Pakistan in this instance.

The White House said Clinton had spoken to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for about 10 minutes on Sunday to brief him on the talks.

The statement said Clinton stressed that the best way for the two countries to settle their differences, including Kashmir, was to continue the direct talks that began when their prime ministers met in

Lahore in February.

"The president said he would take a personal interest in encouraging an expeditious resumption and intensification of those bilateral efforts once the sanctity of the Line of Control has been fully restored," the statement said.

It also said Clinton, who cancelled plans to visit India and Pakistan last year after they conducted their nuclear tests, intended to pay "an early visit to South Asia." U.S. officials declined to offer an date.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION  
INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

This is to inform the public that the Independent Living Council meeting scheduled on June 16, 1999 was re-scheduled to **July 8, 1999 (Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Aging Conference room in Garapan.** Interested persons are welcome to attend.

/s/ Konrad S. Reyes  
ILC Chairperson

## No clues to mom's motive in killing her five children

**PERTH, Australia (AP)** — A young mother gassed herself and her five young children to death Saturday in an apparent murder-suicide in Western Australia state, police said.

Investigators said Sunday they were baffled as to why the woman had killed herself and her children, a 2-year-old girl, a 4-year-old girl, 5-year-old twins, a boy and girl, and an 8-year-old boy.

The 25-year-old woman drove the children to a forest at Karagullen, 31 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of the state

capital, Perth, Sergeant Tony Potts said.

She parked the family van, leaving the engine running, and hooked up a hose to the exhaust pipe that pumped fumes into the cabin, Potts said.

A bike rider discovered the bodies on Saturday afternoon. Her horrified common law husband learned of the deaths when he recognized the van during a television newscast.

Acting Superintendent Glenn Miller said the woman left a note at home indicating her intentions, but it gave no clues to

a motive.

She was not depressed nor estranged from the children's father, Miller said.

Potts said the names of the dead will not be released until all relatives are notified.

The apparent murder-suicide follows similar deaths in October, when Ronald Jonker, 32, gassed himself and his three children, David, 7, Aaron, 5, and Ashlee, 17 months, in his car on a remote country road.

Jonker abducted the children after a custody battle.

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29 June 1924 -28 June 1999

### Beloved Daughter

Daisy J. (Judy) CLOUD was born on 29 June, 1924, to Velma Lee (Jones) CLOUD and Fred Lee CLOUD in Lawton, OK. Her father died prematurely when Judy was three months old.

### Beloved Wife

Judy resided in Lawton until the age of twenty-four when she married Felton A. WARD. There were two children as a result of the marriage, Don Allen and Michael Dean.

### Beloved Mother

As a result of circumstances Judy & Felton divorced and subsequently Felton died as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

### Beloved Wife, Friend

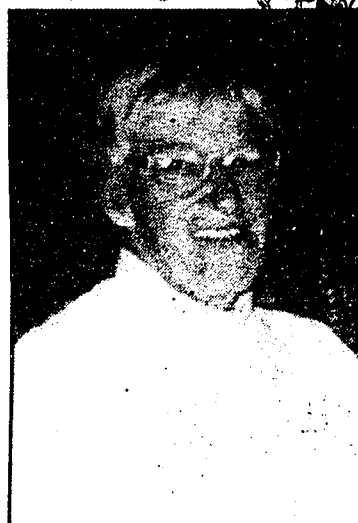
In 1955 Judy married Joseph P. FARRELL in Coeur d'Alene ID. The two children were adopted by Joseph and the family became one.

She died peacefully at her home in Grand Junction, Co, with her family by her side. We, the family, are grateful that we had the opportunity to say our good-byes, and that Judy died so quickly after the first diagnosis of cancer on 11 June, 1999.

Present were: husband Joseph; son Don from Tinian, MP; grand daughters Shari Lynn (Farrell) Yingling and her husband Jason Robert Yingling from Oklahoma, Julie Ann (Farrell) Burns and son Nathan Timothy from California, and Darcy Erin (Farrell) Unpinco from Hawaii. Also at the home for the transition was Phyllis Lee Walker, a former daughter-in-law.

Judy is also survived by her younger sister, Anna Lee (Fitch) Dean of Spokane, WA, grandson Richard D.L.C. Farrell of Tinian, MP, and eight great children. Judy is additionally survived by Chuck Dean, Brother-in-law from Spokane, Wa, Carmen Dela Cruz Farrell daughter-in-law from Tinian, M.P., Jason Yingling grandson-in-law from Oklahoma, Celina Castro, granddaughter-in-law from Tinian M.P., Joseph Unpinco grandson-in-law from Hawaii, and Timothy Burns grandson-in-law from California.

God has blessed us with a wonderful person and we thank GOD for her life.





# Russia hits 'US provocation'

By Mitchell Landsberg  
MOSCOW (AP) — In the latest sign of frayed relations between Russia and the West, Russian troops were forced to delay their departure for Kosovo on Sunday after NATO blocked air corridors on their route.

Infuriated Russian defense of-

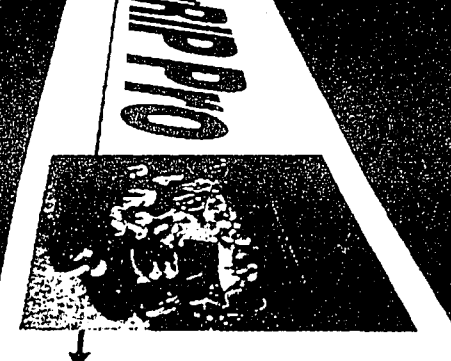
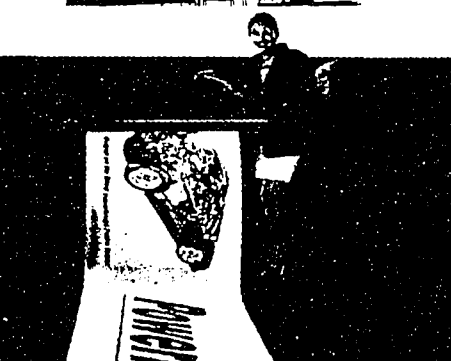
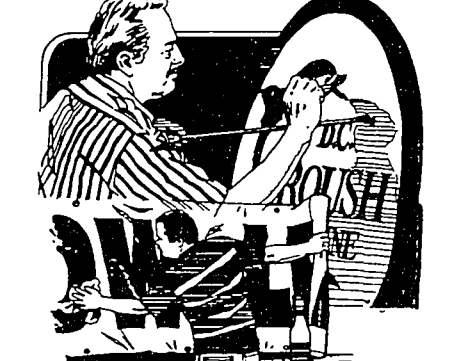
ficials said the reasoning behind the move amounted to a U.S. "provocation."

A NATO delegation arrived in the Russian capital to hold talks on the impasse, and the Interfax news agency reported that intense discussions were under way to resolve the dispute.

The billowing controversy came the same day that American and Russian officials acknowledged that a U.S. military attaché had been expelled from Moscow after being declared persona non grata. No reason was given for the expulsion of Lt. Col. Peter Hoffman, but the timing raised

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Chairman of the International Committee on Missing Persons, former U.S. Senator Bob Dole (center) joins U.S. Army soldiers for a Fourth of July barbeque at their base, Camp Bondsteel, near the southern Kosovo town of Vitina Sunday. Dole is on a three-day visit to Kosovo and Macedonia. AP

questions about whether it was related to the Kosovo-induced chill.

According to the ITAR-Tass news agency, two Ilyushin-76 military cargo plans were scheduled to fly about 100 paratroopers to Kosovo on Sunday, but the flights were put on standby when they couldn't get permission to fly over Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

NATO said it would block the peacekeepers' flights until disagreements over the Russian role in Kosovo were resolved.

Russia reportedly wants to change an agreement reached in lengthy negotiations last month at Helsinki, Finland, that outlined Russian participation in a NATO-led peacekeeping force.

Under terms of the agreement, Russian troops in Kosovo are to be based in sectors commanded by French, German and American generals instead of controlling a sector of their own, as Moscow had wanted.

NATO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Saturday that Russia now wanted the right to expand its role so that it could send its troops into additional sectors of Kosovo controlled by other NATO countries. Moscow also wants more control over its own forces in Kosovo.

Russian defense officials were described as stunned by NATO's decision to block the flights, and said the assertion that Russia's role remained unsettled amounted to "a provocation by the United States," the Interfax news agency reported.

"All details of the location of Russian peacekeepers in Kosovo were documented during the talks

held by the defense and foreign ministers in Helsinki," a Defense Ministry representative told Interfax.

The dispute comes against a backdrop of generally edgy relations. Russia has been resentful of NATO's eastern expansion, and strongly opposed the alliance's recent bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

And while Russia played a key role in negotiating a peace agreement in Yugoslavia, its relations with NATO since then have been characterized by mutual mistrust and sharp disagreements.

Although Sunday's flights were blocked, Russia is already sending other peacekeepers by land and sea.

A train carrying 144 Russian servicemen and 13 armored personnel carriers left the western city of Tula on Friday and was bound for the Black Sea port of Tuapse, from where the force will proceed to Kosovo by sea. They are expected to reach their position in the Yugoslav province July 16.

Another group of soldiers, from the Northern Caucasus military district, will depart from the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk aboard four ships on July 10, Interfax said.

Russia already has a contingent of about 700 paratroopers and technicians based at the Slatina airport. The Russian contingent in Kosovo is expected to reach 3,600 when the deployment is completed.

Another four Ilyushin-76 aircraft were set to fly to Kosovo on Monday and Tuesday. In all, 300 paratroopers were to be airlifted to Kosovo's Slatina airport by Tuesday, ITAR-Tass said.

# GOP hopefuls gather in N.H.

By Leslie Gevirtz  
AMHERST, N.H. (Reuters) — For most Americans, July 4th is a holiday, but for presidential contenders it's a work day and four spent it working the crowds at Independence Day parades in New Hampshire.

Republican hopefuls, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, former Cabinet officer and Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole, conservative activist Gary Bauer and conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan crisscrossed the state walking in parades and pumping voters' hands.

Republican front-runner Bush greeted his closest opponent, Dole, with a kiss before the hot humid day's first parade in Amherst.

"I'm glad somebody popular showed up so I could have my picture taken," a smiling Bush joked, hugging both Mrs. Dole and his wife, Laura.

He also defended his Vietnam War service record after a Los Angeles Times report said he received preferential treatment at the time when his father was a congressman.

"I wanted to fly fighters. I applied and I was accepted. I'm very proud of my service,"



Republican U.S. presidential frontrunner George W. Bush poses with fellow Republican presidential aspirant Elizabeth Dole (left) and his wife Laura Bush as they meet at the Amherst, New Hampshire Fourth of July parade. Bush, Dole and several other Republican presidential candidates marched in multiple Independence Day parades in the first-in-the-nation primary state. REUTERS

Bush told reporters.

Bush, who leads Dole and the rest of the Republican field in both the polls and fund-raising,

also was the first candidate that the 5,000 or so people gathered along Main Street in this Norman Rockwell town got a

chance to see.

The crowd, which cheered for the American Legion band, waved at the siren-sounding fire engines and applauded the boy scout float, hushed when Bush's entourage turned the corner.

"You can't go to the dump in this town without shaking a candidate's hand," said longtime resident Linda Sawers, who was unimpressed by the Bush supporters in red cowboy hats.

But bursts of applause greeted a sweating Bush as he dashed from one side of the flag festooned street to shake hands.

"I'm thankful for the warm welcome," Bush told the crowd gathered under shade trees on the town's common. "I'm thankful for the freedom. I'm going to conclude by telling you I'm coming back a lot. God bless New Hampshire and God bless America."

Bush received some heat from New Hampshire Republicans

for not visiting the state sooner.

In contrast to the quiet that first greeted him, the crowd, especially women, cheered Dole, who in addition to a perspiration stained blouse wore her now trademarked mobile microphone so that everyone she passed could hear her remind them that she has "marched in this parade more than a few times before."

Asked about her standing in the recent polls - Bush leads Dole 61 percent to 11 percent, she replied, "Every poll I've seen shows me leading (Democratic Vice President) Al Gore."

"As for the other polls, well it's still early yet. I don't think more than 5 percent of the people are engaged yet in presidential politics."

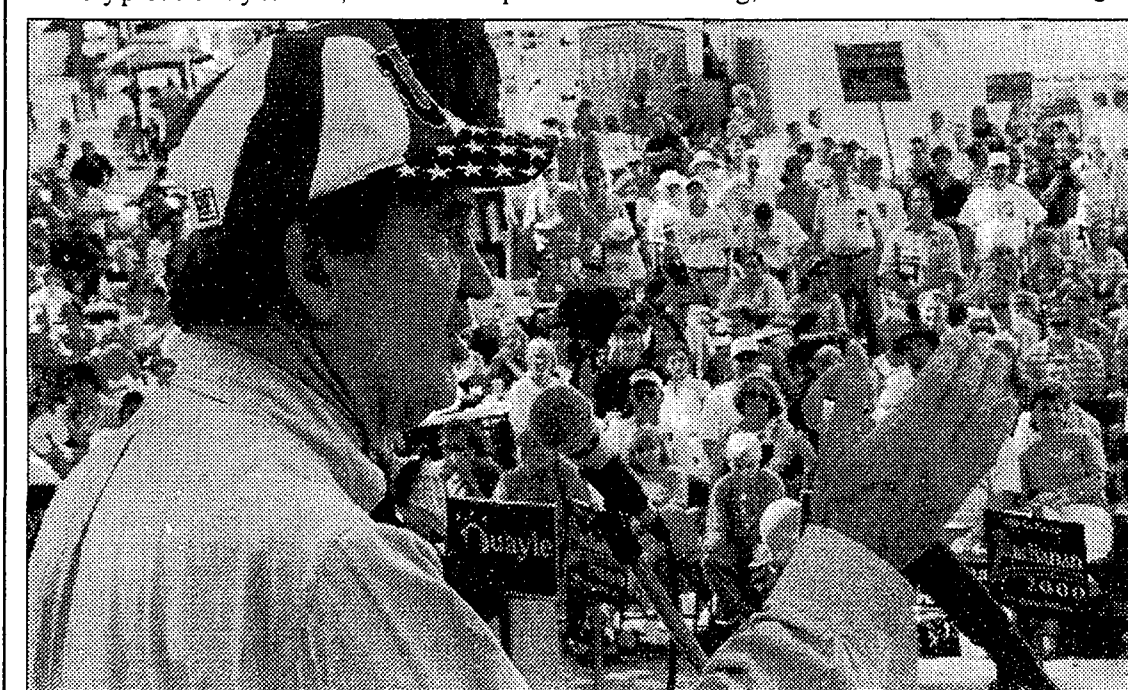
When asked about the money race - Bush's campaign has raised \$36.3 million while Dole has \$3.4 million - she mentioned three candidates "all of whom happen to be from Texas who raised plenty of money and they didn't win."

She said the late-Texas Gov. John Connally raised the equivalent of \$38 million in today's dollars, "but he didn't make it across the finish line. Neither did Ross Perot with \$79 million, or (Texas Sen.) Phil Gramm, \$25 million. It's not the end at all, by any means," she said.

But Bush's ability to shatter presidential fund-raising records has brought at least three of his opponents to join Republican presidential candidate Arizona Sen. John McCain in his efforts to reform campaign finance reform.

Dole, columnist Buchanan and activist Bauer all said they favored an end to so-called "soft money."

As for Bush's big lead, Bauer said, "The Fourth is a good day to remember that we have no king in America. Nobody gets coronated for it. You actually have to compete for it."



Republican presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan addresses a group of conservative Republicans at a GOP picnic Sunday, at the Hopkinton fairgrounds in Contoocook, N.H. AP

# Bush denies getting special treatment in Vietnam War

AMHERST, N.H. (Reuters) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush dismissed on Sunday a published report that he received highly favorable treatment in the Texas Air National Guard which he joined during the Vietnam War.

"I wanted to fly fighters. I applied and I was accepted. I'm very proud of my service," Bush told reporters before marching in the Amherst, N.H. July 4 parade in this the first-in-the-nation presidential primary state.

A Bush spokeswoman said the Los Angeles Times "got it

wrong. They were looking at the requirements for the Army National Guard, not the Air National Guard."

The newspaper examined nearly 200 pages of the service record of the Republican presidential front-runner, plus interviews with Guard officials and military experts and found he "received highly favorable treatment and uncommon attention," the Times said in a front-page article.

"While there is no evidence of illegality or regulations being broken to accommodate Bush's

entry and rise in the service, the documents do show that doors were opened and good fortune flowed to him..." the paper said.

After joining the Guard and basic training, Bush received an instant commission making him a second lieutenant and was sent to pilot training. "Although getting into the state units was difficult for most others, George W. Bush was soon in the Guard," the paper said.

Officials in Bush's presidential campaign denied this week that he was treated differently from other recruits. Spokesman

David Beckwith said Bush's special commission and treatment were "routine." He said, "Our information is there was absolutely no special deal."

Walter B. "Buck" Staudt, a Guard commanding officer, said the young Bush told him "he wanted to fly just like his daddy." He was referring to his father George Bush, then a Republican Congressman and former World War II pilot.

Many of his former colleagues and superiors in the Guard remember Bush as a bright young leader who worked hard, said

the article. Echoing Bush's own statements, they said that he would have gone to Vietnam had his Guard unit been called up.

"There is no sign that political influence helped Bush along. But for Guard officials, Bush was not just a face in the crowd," the Times said.

Bush leads the field for the Republican presidential nomination by a wide margin and has a 10 to 20 percentage point advantage over Vice President Al Gore in recent polls.



**Petition . . .**

Continued from page 10

Public Land (DPL) for review. ORAM is positively counting on DPL's favorable consideration regarding this proposal. After all, once People's Park

is in place, the whole CNMI would highly benefit from it, according to one ORAM member.

Not only will it promote motor sports in the islands, this will also provide for a safe, and drug-free environment, this member further stated.

**House . . .**

Continued from page 9

money for promotions. We would like to start with what was budgeted before the 13.4 percent cut . . . which was \$7 million," she said.

Aside from MVA, there are also agencies who have asked the Committee for budget hearings just like the Department of Public Safety. Also on schedule are the Public School System, the Saipan Mayor's Office, Rota Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Library and Karidat.

**JAL's . . .**

Continued from page 8

rose by 10 percent to 5,868. The weakening of the Japanese yen translated to less number of Japanese who travelled outside their country for vacation, but JAL stood pat on its

original plan of increasing the seating capacities of all its flights to Saipan, and in instituting the Special Saipan campaign in Japan to fuel arrivals into the CNMI.

The airline company has upgraded its Boeing 767 planes to DC-10 which has a seating capacity of 260 passengers.

**Bordallo . . .**

Continued from page 8

In other news, the Office of the Governor has announced the appointment of Isabel "Becky" Lujan as the next director of the Department of Commerce.

Lujan, according to a news release, has held several positions in public service.

She has served as chief of staff to Sen. Ben Pangelinan (D-Barrigada), and most recently as a special assistant to Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez.

Her predecessor, Joe Cruz, retires effective today.

Cruz has served as the director of the Guam Environmental

Protection Agency before heading the Commerce Department.

Meanwhile, the acting governor has awarded the Ancient Order of Chamorro to a Palauan who, she said, was a great leader. Roman Tmetuchl, the former governor of Koror, was well-known on Guam, and was a close friend of Bordallo.

She said his influence was felt throughout the region in government and commerce.

"Tmetuchl," Bordallo said, "was a great leader, a great advocate for his people, and great friend of his brothers and sisters in Guam."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with the people of Palau."

**Heinz . . .**

Continued from page 5

CHC, the number of enrollees remains low in the two-year Associate of Science Degree in Nurs-

ing (ASDN) program at the college.

Many students at NMC want to pursue a four-year degree and they therefore shift to education which is the only four-year course that the college offers.

**Figuerroa's . . .**

Continued from page 5

ing in federal court. Court documents have filed up in that case as a number of persons and establishments brought up some legal issues.

Due to the Asian economic downturn, many businesses and individuals filed bankruptcy cases. The highest number of such cases in the CNMI was 18 which was registered last year.

Rudolph's case was the 9th bankruptcy so far filed this year.

**CNMI . . .**

Continued from page 4

ership in both the Houses. WPEC cautions against any deviation from the position that the CNMI Covenant should be protected at all costs. It also cautions against any change in position where total local control of immigration and minimum wage should be protected.

No deals.

The WPEC is comprised of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association (SGMA), the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), the CNMI Contractors Association and the Saipan Bankers Association. WPEC Chairman is Ron D. Sablan, and WPEC Executive Director is Richard A. Pierce.

**Bill . . .**

Continued from page 4

According to the bill, a certification is needed as "every effort must be taken to ensure the healthy

growth in the number of visitors to the CNMI."

"The Legislature further finds that the role of tour operators and tour guides is vital in maintaining and fostering economic success and prosperity," stated the bill.



Vieques fishermen sail Sunday in front of the U.S. Naval Base Roosevelt Roads located in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. The act was held in conjunction with a protest march to demand the military leave a controversial training ground. AP

## Puerto Ricans march to protest US war games

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(Reuters) — Nearly 50,000 Puerto Ricans observed U.S. Independence Day on Sunday by marching to a U.S. Naval base and demanding an end to the use of the nearby island of Vieques for target practice.

The "All Puerto Rico with Vieques" march in the east coast town of Ceiba took demonstrators to the gates of the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base on Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth.

The march was called to protest the U.S. Navy's bombing of Vieques, an island municipality just off Ceiba's coast. Vieques has been used for target practice for 50 years.

While Vieques residents and

the Navy have sparred for the past five decades over its use, public opinion across Puerto Rico turned sharply against the Navy war games when a civilian security guard employed by the Navy was killed on April 21 by a pair of stray bombs.

"The time has come for the Navy to leave Vieques," Police Superintendent Pedro Toledo said, while announcing preparations for the march.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm and excitement here," said Robert Rabin, of the community group Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, which has long opposed the Navy presence on Vieques.

The Navy owns two-third's of the island's 33,000 acres (13,200 hectares).

Organisers and police estimated 50,000 Puerto Ricans took part, many of them supporters of Puerto Rico's becoming the 51st U.S. state.

The march followed Wednesday's release of a report by the Special Committee on Vieques, a bipartisan committee appointed by Gov. Pedro Rossello.

The report said the Navy's use of the island violated the basic human and civil rights of Vieques residents, stunted economic development on the island, harmed the environment, and may pose direct health risks to residents.

**Worker . . .**

Continued from page 3

Daoayan said Lucas, through one Rolando Perez, recruited them in the Philippines and promised them with jobs as construction workers and security guards once they arrive in Saipan.

Each of them, Daoayan said, paid Perez and Lucas P22,000 allegedly as placement fees.

Daoayan said he even paid

P32,000 to Lucas, who went to the Philippines, allegedly as payment to facilitate their entry at the Immigration in Manila.

When they arrived here as tourists on Jan. 27, 1997, the worker claimed, they were all taken to a typhoon house in a jungle located in Chinatown.

Daoayan said they had to fix the house and relied on rain water to survive because the dilapidated barracks had no water system.

For two months, he recalled,

Lucas gave them temporary jobs as construction workers, among other things, but they were not paid. Lucas allegedly collected their wages for their food.

In April 1997, Daoayan said some of them sought assistance from the Philippine Consulate. A labor case was then filed against Lucas.

He said Lucas, however, was able to convince some of the workers to go home with promises he would take them back.

**Shipping . . .**

Continued from page 3

18-24, 1999 issue of the *Palau Horizon* wherein a local businessman, who refused not to be identified, complained about the control and monopoly of the three shipping companies.

"... ever since the article regarding the ship filled with ce-

ment from China appeared in the *Palau Horizon*, a steady stream of Palauan citizens has been contacting members of the OEK to ask about this matter," the two chairmen told Techitong in the letter.

In an interview with Del. Bells, however, he brought forth a sensitive issue revolving around what he considers the government's delegation of authority to the pri-

vate sector in deciding which ship should be allowed to enter the country.

"I'm surprised that the government hasn't been actively involved based on our committee findings so far," said Bells. He further said in his brief discussion with government officials, he got the impression of their pre-conceived notion that [they] are trying to retain existing arrangement.

last February.

The inmates were all arrested and subsequently charged with escape in Superior Court.

Aldan entered a plea agreement in that case wherein the US gov-

ernment would recommend the imposition of 23 years' imprisonment.

Aldan was also convicted a few years ago for second degree murder.

**News feature**

## Poorest of the poor survive in US South

CLARKSDALE, Miss.

(Reuters) — Perspiration streams from Lizzy Baker's face and her curls cling to her forehead in the searing Mississippi sun that bakes the field where she is chopping cotton.

Baker is a round-shouldered black woman who dreams of a better life while doing a job that has not changed much since the days of slavery when cotton drove the South's economy.

She has been in the field since daybreak and rhythmically taps the rich Delta soil with the wooden hoe she holds tightly in her callused hands. By the early afternoon, the temperature rises above 90.

"It's hot anyway. You can stay at home and still be hot, but out here I make \$5 an hour," Baker, 59, said.

Baker is like many hourly wage earners in the Delta region, a 200-mile (320 km) stretch of fertile farmland that includes parts of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi and has some of the richest land and poorest people in the country. Clarksdale, Mississippi, where Baker labours nine hours a day, is the poorest town in the poorest state.

Her pay is 15 cents under the U.S. minimum wage, a figure allowed under federal law for agricultural laborers and those who make tips.

The average household income in the Delta is about half the national average of \$30,161, as reported in the Statistical Abstract of the United States. The region's blacks earn about half what their white neighbours make each year.

The grinding poverty, the income disparity between whites

and minorities, the lack of meaningful employment opportunities - especially for blacks - is why U.S. President Bill Clinton will stop in Clarksdale next week on cross-country trip to poor areas to promote economic empowerment zones.

Clarksdale, a town of about 20,000, is 65 percent black. Many of the stores in its once-thriving commercial centre are boarded up and many homes are dilapidated. The more prosperous neighbourhoods are on the edge of the town.

Casinos came to Tunica, Mississippi, 45 miles (75 km) north of Clarksdale, in 1992. Gaming brings in about 16 million tourists a year, but promises of prosperity have yet to be realised by the state's poor. They are stark reminders the nation's good economic times have not been shared by all.

A 20-year-old waitress at one of the gaming palaces, who asked not to be identified, said she makes \$4.50 an hour, plus tips. "I need this job," she said. "I got a 19-month-old baby to feed but a lot of these people don't tip much. Still, it's better than no job at all."

Few casino visitors take their dollars to Clarksdale though Clinton's visit is expected to stir interest in the town widely recognised as the birthplace of the blues and home to blues legends James Son Thomas, John Lee Hooker, Sam Cooke and Muddy Waters. Waters was born in a nearby log cabin and departed on a freight train bound for Chicago.

Baker came to Clarksdale about 30 years ago from her native Connecticut, where at 14 she had the first of 11 children,

nine of them raised by her mother. She married a Clarksdale man, moved south and stayed, even after he died. She has chosen to stay.

"I got a new boyfriend now," she said. "My mama wants me to come home (to Connecticut), and when I get ready I'll go, but my boyfriend's fine and for now, I'm going to stay."

Baker, who lives in a two-room house with a tar paper roof, said her boyfriend also chops cotton. "He didn't come out here today though. He got drunk last night," she said, flashing a grin that showed a broken front tooth and several gold-filled molars. "He got a brain, but he ain't using it."

Rosetta Robinson, 59, who was born in Clarksdale, left for the Midwest and came home more than 20 years ago from Detroit to take care of her ageing parents. She said now, as she waited for a school bus to take her to the field, she chops cotton because "I don't like what welfare does to a person."

"You know why some people have all those babies?" she asked. "To get the welfare money so they can take care of men. Some of those kids don't get anything to eat. They go naked while their mamas are taking care of men too lazy to work. It ain't right."

For Baker and others, at least now, the route from poverty is not empowerment zones but a big hit at the casinos.

"I play the 25-cent (slot) machines. One day, I'm going to hit the big one, I'll get a house big enough for 10 people to move in. I got a little bitty house that I rent now, but I'm going up to the mountaintop one day."



People wait on shore Sunday while authorities search near where two men died and authorities said as many as eight more people may be missing on the St. Croix River after a boat crash Saturday morning east of Minneapolis. Rescue crews raised a boat that witnesses saw leave a restaurant in Stillwater just north of Bayport with five to six people aboard. AP

**Teno wants. . .**

Continued from page 1

that street naming is important and everybody should be involved. I hope it could be immediately resolved," he told reporters.

The CNMI chief executive is worried about the controversy being generated by the street naming project which, he said, is actually a simple program aimed at finally allowing people to easily find a location.

"I don't see why we should make a big thing out of it. All we have to do is get together and agree in the naming of the streets. It is difficult for the Department of Public Safety to find a location in the village. Even if you call 911, it takes them time to respond because of difficulties finding the location," he added.

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last week

suspended the approval of the proposed street names for Saipan following Rep. Melvin Faisao's protest against what he claims was discrimination against Carolinians as indicated in the absence of enough Refaluwasch on the list.

The delegation instead moved to file a measure that will amend the street naming law to extend the 90-day period given to the project's commission for further review of the list, and to include representatives from the Carolinian Affairs Office into the special body.

Faisao claimed the street naming commission failed to act on his proposed Carolinian list, which he submitted late last year. The list was supposed to consider by the commission during the 90-day period.

Faisao said limiting Refaluwasch names to where Carolinians are concentrated will be like boxing them in and could unnecessarily create demarcation between the two ethnic groups.

**Gov't. . .**

Continued from page 1

controlling \$4 million and PSS holding \$2.5 million.

The project has been hounded by controversy since day one when Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd. protested the awarding of the bid claiming that the company offered the lowest bid.

Despite the recommendation from DPW technical service divi-

sion and the concurrence of the Division of Procurement and Supply, the project was awarded to PAC United Corp. Ltd.

"I hate to see so many departments involved in one project. We should try to synchronize offices as much as possible to expedite the completion of these important projects," Tenorio said.

He added the government is strengthening efforts to properly monitor existing projects, thus, the creation of a special CIP body.

**Customs. . .**

Continued from page 1

ceived lesser orders from mainland buyers immediately after the billion-dollar lawsuits were filed in two federal courts in Los Angeles and Saipan, and another in a San Francisco state court.

The governor could not give specific figures or percentage of the reported drop in apparel orders from mainland buyers but reports indicate that orders for the second quarter of the year dropped by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

Another source, who requested anonymity, said the sharp increase may be attributed to the central-

ization of inspections of all cargoes disembarking from the seaport. The source said not all cargoes may have been inspected in the past.

Cargo inspections reportedly now take only 15 minutes at the very least after Customs centralized its operations about a month ago, following its office transfer to the seaport area from the Joeten-Dandan complex on May 31. Consignees used to wait for one to three days at the most before their containers could be inspected.

Customs used to inspect one container at a time but that changed due to the centralization, as it can now inspect six to seven containers simultaneously.

**Happy Birthday!**

**Menchie**

*From your brother, Jun*

**You can avoid accident, if you...**

**Drive Safely**



# Marianas Variety

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Contact: GEORGE F. FLEMING dba Fas Moving & Storage Co. Tel. 322-6587/(7/6)T31609

01 FRONT DESK (SUPERVISOR)-Salary: \$3.05-3.80 per hour  
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT INC. dba Saipan Ocean View Hotel Tel. 234-8900/(7/6)T79242

01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05-3.35 per hour  
02 CAR WASHER ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour  
01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05-3.35 per hour  
Contact: NESTOR R. ABLOG dba General Fashion Center Tel. 233-6243/(7/6)T31608

04 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.91 per hour  
Contact: J. SCOTT MAGLIARI & COMPANY Tel. 233-1837/(7/6)T31606

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: LAWRENCE M. FLEMING Tel. 235-1925/(7/6)T31604

02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour  
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01 ATTENDANT, GAME-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 PACKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
04 HAND SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 HAND SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
01 OVERHAULER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 PRODUCTION MANAGER-Salary: \$18.50 per hour  
01 PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$16.45 per hour  
01 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 ASSISTANT SHIPPING CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORPORATION dba Kareena's Retail Tel. 235-8752/(7/6)T31610

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: R.J.A. INCORPORATED dba Gen. Construction Tel. 233-3462/(7/6)T31611

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, INDUSTRIAL-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: KINSHIP ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-7871/(7/13)T31698

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: M N D CORPORATION Tel. 233-8223/(7/13)T31689

02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
04 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: U.S.A. SMILE, INC. dba Yamazaki Restaurant Tel. 233-1170/(7/6)T31613

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
03 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MR. & MRS. FELIPE SN. CAMACHO dba Camacho Enterprises Tel. 322-1417/(7/13)T31697

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER, REST.-Salary: \$700.00 per month  
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SHIP SHORE INC. dba Ship Ashore Restaurant & Bar Tel. 235-7117/(7/13)T31696

03 WAITRESSES-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DASAN CORP. dba C.N.M.I. Restaurant Tel. 233-7755/(7/13)T31695

01 HELPER COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MR. BIDENCIO C. AMADO dba Chicharon Manufacturer Tel. 256-0221/(7/13)T31694

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 JANITOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DINO/LETTY JONES dba D/L Personnel Ser. Supply Tel. 322-5389/(7/13)T31693

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MARCELO A. ACERA dba M & H Enterprises Tel. 235-0680/(7/13)T31692

01 POWER PLANT OPERATOR-Salary: \$900.00 per month  
Contact: MICRONESIA POWER SYSTEM, INC. dba Generator Maintenance Tel. 235-9005/(7/13)T31691

01 (GUEST) RELATION REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05-8.00 per hour  
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01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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Contact: L & W AMUSEMENT CORP. Tel. 234-8864/(7/13)T31680

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER-Salary: \$1,800.00 per month  
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13 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance.  
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance.  
01 PACKING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance.  
Contact: EUROTUX SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-5273/(7/13)T79348

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SBA ENT. INC. Tel. Lizelle Beauty Parlor Tel. 235-4536/(7/13)T31685

01 ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.80 per hour  
Contact: JRS ENTERPRISES CORPORATION dba Electro Haus International Tel. 234-0692/(7/13)T31686

10 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
50 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
10 (IRONING) PRESSER MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: HSIA-LING H. LIN dba Net Apparel Company Tel. 235-6888/(7/6)T31602

01 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER-Salary: \$750.00-800.00 per month  
04 BOAT REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$650.00-750.00 per month  
Contact: QUINCY CORPORATION dba Micronesian Marine Tel. 234-9696/(7/6)T31600

01 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JOSEPH T. TORRES dba Courtney's Plaza Tel. 235-1662/(7/6)T31601/(7/6)T

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month  
To record transactions in all books of accounts, analyze cash and charge sales. Prepare bank reconciliation, trial balance and financial statements. Prepare reports for govt. requirements. Operate computer all other accounting transactions as may be assigned. Microsoft's Excel knowledge required (test on first interview) police clearance required.  
Contact: DELTA MANAGEMENT CORP. dba Shell-Susupe Tel. 235-1668/(7/6)T31612

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.65 per hour  
Contact: ARTHUR S. ANULAO dba Arthur's Enterprises Tel. 234-0692/(7/13)T31687

02 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: NIPPON GENERAL TRADING CORP. dba Country House/Moby Dick Rest. Tel. 233-8223/(7/13)T31688

02 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary: \$3.25 per hour  
Contact: AMERICA JOINT PARTNER CO., LTD. dba Beijing Store I & II Tel. 233-5717/(7/13)T31690

04 DANCERS-SALARY: \$3.05 per hour HOUSING-\$75.00, FOOD-\$75.00  
Contact: A.S.C., INC. dba Nagoya Star Club and Karaoke TEL. 235-7648/(7/20)T31773

01 PARACHUTING INSTRUCTIONS: Salary: \$2,000.00 per month  
Contact: TANDEM SKYDIVE SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-5860 (7/20) T79513

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MOSES T. FEJERAN dba The J's general Services Tel. 235-3737/(7/20)T31774

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

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### FOR RENT

(2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment, Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security Gate w/intercom, 24 hrs. hot water, High quality and cheap price. Located in Koblerville  
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### NICE HOUSES FOR RENT

133 Executive house with five (5) bedrooms, three (3) bathrooms, two (2) kitchens, four (4) car garage, large living rooms and patio over 5,000 square feet is available for lease at a discounted price from \$2,500.00 to \$2,000.00.

133 Executive house newly built with four (4) bedrooms, three (3) bathrooms, two (2) patios, covered garage, secured fence around the house at a discounted price of \$1,800.00 to \$1,400.00. They are also included water tanks with pressurized water pumps. If you are interested to see any of these houses, please call telephone number 235-9009 and leave your name and telephone number.

### Studio Type - \$250

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Available (2) Units of Warehouse, 1000 SF/Unit, Located at As Lito Road near Dandan Joeten Supermarket.  
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HAILAN MARKET      CONWOOD

## Keep Our Environment Clean and Green

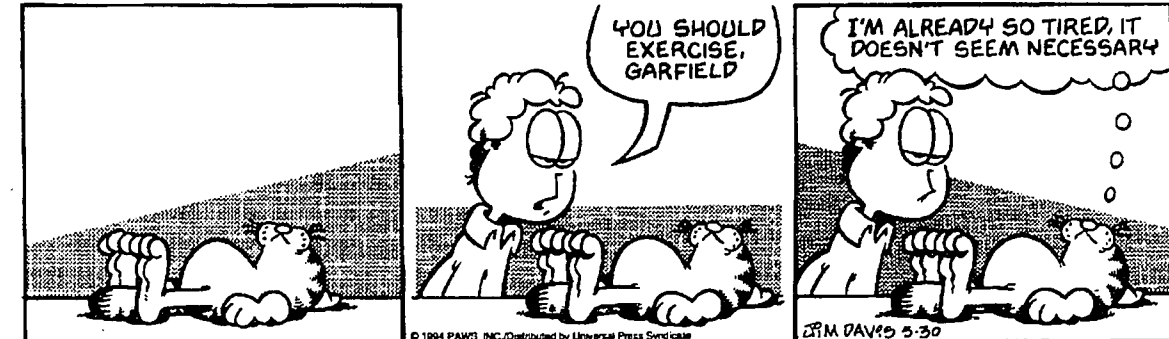
### EATING RIGHT CAN HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF CANCER.

It can also help you reduce your weight.

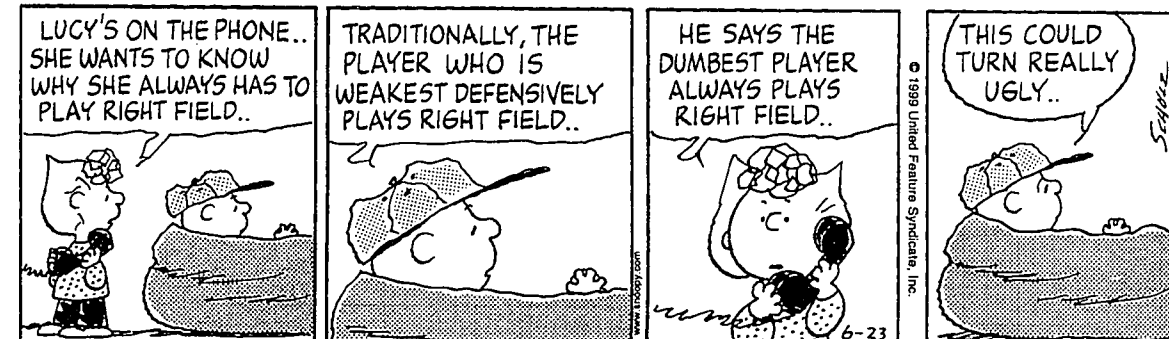
## EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



## Garfield® by Jim Davis



## PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



## STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1999

Born today, you are an upstanding and noteworthy individual with great confidence and pride. You have the ability to rise above even the most problematic situations, and always seem to come out on top along with the people around you. You are often the first person others come to in times of need, and you are quite adept at lifting others out of a rut whenever it's necessary. A master communicator, you know how to say the right things at the right time. You also listen when someone needs to bend your ear and solicit your opinions and advice.

Your sense of fair play is one of your defining traits, and you're never to be found taking advantage of others in order to enjoy personal advancement. You are far more likely to help someone else take the lead than hold that person back so you can excel!

Also born on this date are: Audrey Hepburn, actress; Randy Travis, singer; Pia Zadora, entertainer; George Will, commentator and author.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

— You may be more demanding today than you have been in recent days or weeks, and someone may rebel against your increasing

authority.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You're sure to take each and every endeavor quite seriously today. You will even win respect from a critic if you remain determined.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Even the most stubborn door can soon be opened through gentleness, not force. Today, the same holds true for someone you're trying to get to know.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — It may be that you are drawn to someone you would usually consider to be somewhat "dangerous." You'll learn something about yourself today.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Potential is high today, and you are in a position to exercise a little more authority than usual. Take care that you don't become too aggressive.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — There are those around you who are making things far more complicated than they need to be, so you must be willing to step in when the time calls.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — You can enjoy things today in a childlike manner which gives you the edge over those who are frustrated or jaded. Youth is a state of mind.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — You can feel free to talk about your emotions today without the threat of reprisals of any kind. Someone you know will

share openly, too!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — You may be approached by someone who is confident you can help, but do you really want to? A little resentment may be unavoidable today.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Are you really ready for the kind of reaction you're going to get when you unveil that surprise you have in store? Family members rally 'round.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Never underestimate the power of your own imagination, particularly when even a single thought can lead to a major development today.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Respect your neighbors today. Watch and learn, and be willing to help out whenever you have the chance. A rival may come to you with an offer.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

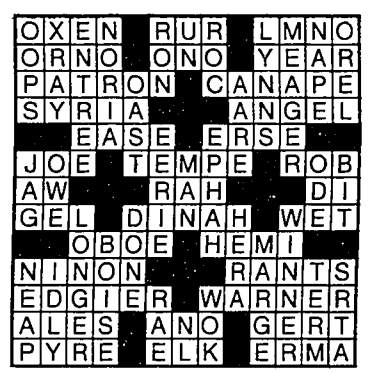
ACROSS

- 1 African antelope
- 4 Boxing blow (abbr.)
- 6 "Grapes of Wrath" actor
- 11 Restricted
- 13 — of London
- 15 — the World Turns
- 16 Conference site, 1945
- 18 Genus of olive trees
- 19 Dogtail motion
- 21 Spare
- 22 A cont.
- 23 Lessening
- 26 Hockey org.
- 29 Julia
- 31 Spike's family
- 33 Three-toed sloth
- 34 Comic strip sailor
- 37 Abhor
- 39 You and me
- 40 Clan
- 42 Horse color

43 — Moines

- 45 Aerial bombardment
- 48 Mil. branch (2 wds.)
- 50 Men
- 51 Possess
- 54 Two words of dismay
- 56 Performed anew
- 58 Diphthong
- 59 Siouan language
- 61 Authoritative orders
- 63 Title of respect
- 64 Note of scale
- 65 Part of TGIF

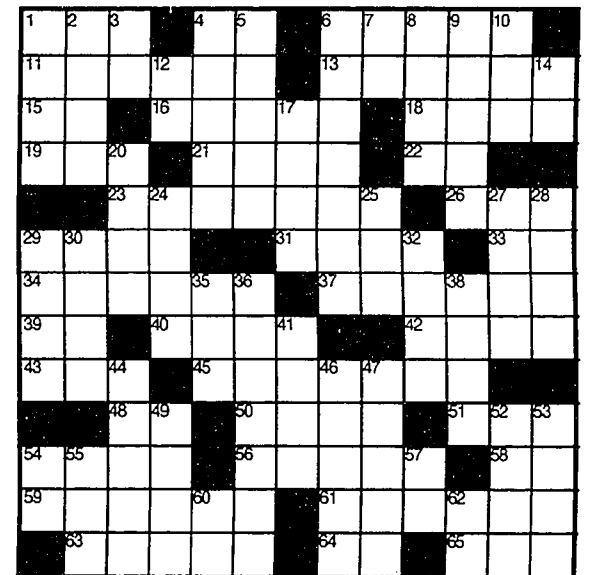
Answer to Previous Puzzle



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DOWN

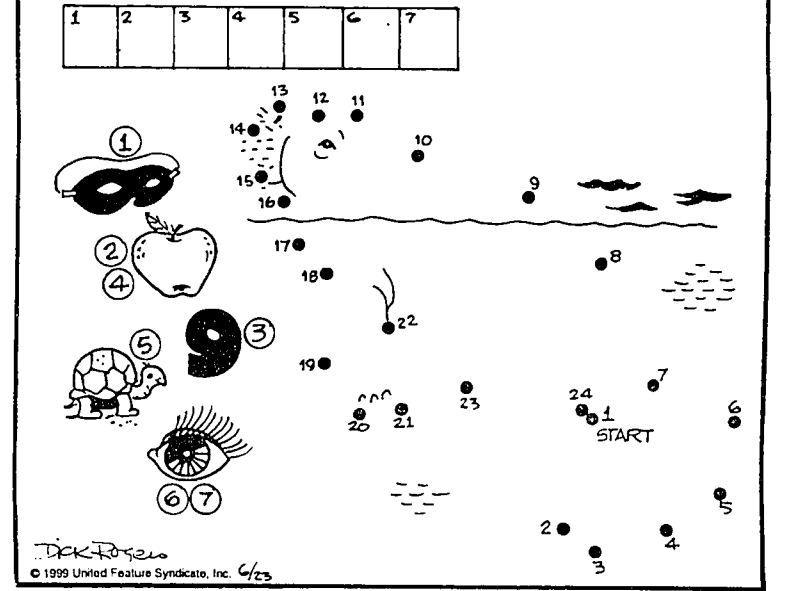
- 1 Eat away
- 2 Space agcy.
- 3 Chaldean city
- 4 Cuddly animal
- 5 Small hooter
- 6 Soft fabric
- 7 Chemical
- 8 Middy
- 9 Singer Bob
- 10 Summer drink
- 12 Railway (abbr.)
- 14 Peru's cont.
- 17 Shadow
- 20 Turn in title
- 24 Side issues
- 25 Prefix with metric
- 27 Sound of laughter
- 28 Hold on property
- 29 Potato
- 30 Model's stance
- 32 Hindu garment
- 35 Cry of affirmation
- 36 Terse saying
- 38 Commotion
- 41 Exact
- 44 Instant coffee name
- 46 Winona —
- 47 Stage whisper
- 49 — for thought
- 52 Unit of electrical measurement
- 54 Hypothetical force
- 55 Type of meat
- 57 Roman gods
- 60 Symbol for tantalum
- 62 Roman 101



## KidSpot™

CONNECT THE NUMBERED DOTS TO MAKE A PICTURE. TO FIND ITS NAME, PUT THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH NUMBERED DRAWING IN THE BOXES.

Early-day sailors mistook me for a mermaid that lived in the sea. But I'm not as beautiful as they painted me. You know me as a blubbery, whiskered



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Fri 4:15-7:00-9:45  
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# Musashimaru wins opening bout

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — Newly promoted Hawaiian yokozuna (grand champion) Musashimaru pushed out lower-ranked Kotonishiki to win his first bout on Sunday, the opening day of the 15-day Nagoya Grand Sumo tournament.

The two other yokozunas, Akebono and Takanohana, also won their opening day bouts, along with ozeki (champion) Chiyotai, who returned to the ring after breaking his nose in March. Ozeki Takanonami suffered an upset defeat.

Yokozuna Wakanohana stayed out of the tournament because of injuries he suffered to his left ankle during the last tournament in May. Wrestling before a full-capacity crowd of 8,500 at Aichi Prefectural gymnasium, Musashimaru fought off No. 1 maegashira (senior wrestler) Kotonishiki's attempt to throw him from the ring before shoving him out.

The 28-year-old Musashimaru, whose real name is Fiamalu Penitani, was promoted to yokozuna on May 26 after winning two consecutive tournaments with a 13-2 record in March and May.

Akebono, or Chad Rowan from Hawaii, pushed out komusubi (junior champion second class) Chiyotenzan with hand thrusts to Shiyotenzan's throat. Takanohana, who missed the previous tournament because of a

shoulder injury, easily drove out No. 2 maegashira Wakanosato. Chiyotai, charged No. 1 maegashira Akinoshima with hand thrusts and quickly slapped him down.

In other major bouts, Komusubi Tosanomi grabbed Takanonami's belt and bulldozed him out.

Sekiwaka (junior champion) Kaiho, seeking promotion to sumo's second-highest rank of ozeki by winning at least 10 bouts, sent out No. 2 maegashira Toki.

No. 7 maegashira Kyokushuzan, or Mongolian Batbayar Davaa, sent out equally ranked Shikishima.

No. 10 maegashira Kyokutenho, or Mongolian

Tsevegnyam Nyamjav, drove out No. 11 maegashira Wakanosato.

Injury division, just below the seniormakuuchi division, No. 11-ranked Hoshitango, or Argentine Imach Marcelo Salomon, sent out equally ranked Sentoryu, or American Henry Armstrong Miller.

In makushita, the top junior division, No. 11-ranked Wakaazuma, or Yoshinobu Kuroda from Brazil, threw down No. 12-ranked Kotononome.

No. 39-ranked Hoshiandesu, or Argentine Jose Antonio Juarez, toppled equally ranked Wakakaze with an arm throw.

No. 45-ranked Kiyonoumi pushed out equally-ranked Kyokutenzan, or Mongolian

Enkhbat Batmunkha.

In sandanme, the second-highest junior division, No. 27-ranked Kasugaoh, or Kim Son-tek from South Korea, sent out equally ranked Ootsuna.

No. 55-ranked Asahayate drove out Azumaoh, or Brazilian Yasuto Morita.

In jonidan, the third-highest junior division, Kaihakan, or South Korean Baeg Yun-gi, threw down No. 26-ranked Tochitakiho.

In jonokuchi, the lowest junior division, No. 47-ranked Hagurokuchi drove out No. 48-ranked Ryukizan, or Kim Soo-yeung.

Wrestlers in junior divisions have only seven bouts during the 15-day tournament.

## Graf chases eighth Wimbledon title

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — After Lindsay Davenport won the first set 6-4 in Sunday's Wimbledon final against Steffi Graf, the second set was stopped by rain with Graf leading 5-4.

Davenport was serving at 30-15 when the match was suspended at 1:15 p.m. (1215 GMT), after 65 minutes of play.

Graf held off a break point in the second game of the second set to hold serve. In the fifth game, Graf was down 0-30 on serve but held to stay ahead 3-2 against the rock-solid Davenport.

There were only three break points in the almost-two sets with neither player able to do much with the other's service game.

In the first set, Davenport broke Graf in the first game. The first game went to deuce three times before Davenport took the game on a mis-hit backhand, service-return winner down the line.

Davenport saved a break point in the second game at 30-40 but never had her served threatened after that. Graf was contained by Davenport's serve and Graf's own groundstroke errors.

Davenport took the set as Graf netted a backhand into the net after a long rally.

A month after winning the French Open for the sixth time, Graf was going after her eighth Wimbledon title when she faced U.S. Open champion Davenport.

The 30-year-old German was playing in her 31st Grand Slam final, with 22 victories against eight losses. The 23-year-old American was playing in her second Slam championship match.

Graf went into the match two short of Martina Navratilova's record nine Wimbledon titles and Margaret Court's 24 Grand Slam championships.

The final, played a day later than scheduled because of numerous rain delays during the second week, preceded the men's final between Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. It was the first time since 1989 when Boris Becker and Steffi Graf both triumphed that both finals were on Sunday.

Graf, who has been sidelined for long periods with injury in recent years, was in her second Grand Slam final in a row after going three years without reaching one.

Her first final here was as an 18-year-old when she lost to Martina Navratilova in 1987 and, since then, she had not been beaten in the final, triumphing in 1988, '89, '91, '92, '93, '95 and '96.

egory.

The fish that got away were the talk of the dock during the weigh-in — confirming that big marlin that had all but disappeared over the past three years have returned — as many anglers reported repeated strikes by large marlin that broke light fishing line. During the past three annual July billfish tournaments, only a handful of marlin have been caught in waters around Majuro.

Local fishermen believe that a combination of El Niño and heavier than normal commercial fishing affected the local supply of marlin. In the early 1990s, a high of 26 marlin were caught in a two day tournament in Majuro.

The Marshalls Billfish Club is now gearing for the seventh annual Mobil All-Micronesia Fishing Tournament that will be held in early September. The "All-Mike" annually brings anglers together from Palau, Saipan, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Pohnpei and other islands in the Federated States of Micronesia for two days of competition.

Marshalls Billfish Club officials are hopeful that the unexpected canceling last week of the prestigious Hawaii International Billfish Tournament in Kona — held every August for the past 40 years on the Big Island of Hawaii — will help to increase island interest in the regional All-Micronesia competition. The Saipan Deloitte and Touche team won last year's All-Mike, following dominance for two years by fishermen from Palau.

# Pak wins Kroger Classic

SYLVANIA, Ohio (Reuters) — South Korean Pak Se-ri won the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic for the second year in a row, birdying the first sudden death extra hole at the Highland Meadows Golf Club in an LPGA record six-way playoff on Sunday.

Carin Koch of Sweden was in position to win in regulation but double-bogeyed the par-5 18th hole to fall to 8-under-par 276 with Pak,

money leader Karrie Webb of Australia, rising star Kelli Kuehne, second-round leader, Australia's Mardi Lunn, and Sherri Steinhauer.

Pak posted her second win in three weeks when she drained a 10-foot birdie putt at the 532-yard 18th, and all of her playoff competitors parred. The previous record for most golfers in an LPGA playoff was five, set three times, most recently at the 1981 West Virginia

Classic.

As a 21-year-old rookie last year, Pak established LPGA records at this event for lowest 18-hole and 72-hole scores en route to the third of her four victories. She fired a second-round 61 and finished with a four-round total of 27-under 261 to win by nine shots, the largest victory margin last season.

Pak won two major championships in 1998 en route to Rookie of the Year honors but got off to a slow start this year, failing to record a top-10 finish in her first 11 events. She had a strong showing at the U.S. Women's Open but failed to defend her title, tying for 14th, and had her best result of 1999 the following week with a tie for fourth in Rochester.

Her momentum continued to build and Pak won the ShopRite LPGA Classic before challenging last week at the LPGA Championship, again failing to defend her title but tying for seventh. The \$135,000 winner's prize this week will bump her to fourth on the money list.

Pak, 22, carded an even-par 71 in her final round.

Webb, bidding for her sixth title of the year, Lunn and Steinhauer all shot 70.

Koch turned in a 69 despite her disappointing finish and Kuehne, who won the Corning Classic in May and finished third at the U.S. Women's Open, fired a 66 to make her way into the playoff.

## Phillippoussis to miss Davis Cup tie

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Australia's Mark Philippoussis will be sidelined for at least six weeks, ruling him out of this month's Davis Cup tie against the United States, after injuring his knee at Wimbledon, Australian newspapers reported on Sunday.

Philippoussis was forced to retire from his Wimbledon quarter-final clash with Pete Sampras on Friday when he hurt his knee after having taken the opening set.

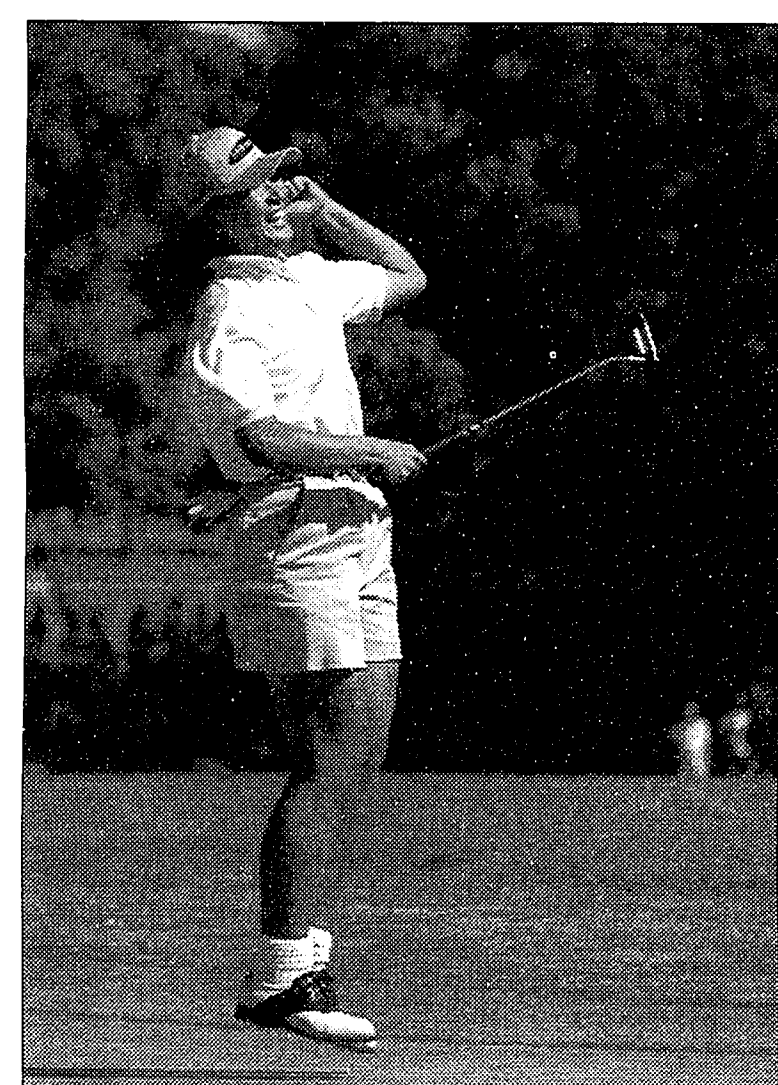
Australia's Davis Cup captain John Newcombe said Philippoussis would have surgery on his left knee in New York on Tuesday.

"There is a tear in the cartilage, so he'll be having that repaired," Newcombe was quoted as saying in Melbourne's The Sunday Age newspaper.

Newcombe said Philippoussis would be replaced by Lleyton Hewitt as Australia's second singles player for their world group quarter-final tie with the United States in Boston from July 16 to 18.

"It's not good, but we are lucky to have someone who is playing as well as Lleyton has been to fill in," Newcombe, who is in London for Wimbledon, said.

But he added: "Lleyton has never played Davis Cup, so we are putting a rookie in and you would have to say that the odds have shifted slightly to the US. From being a 50-50 match, now it is slightly in their favor."



Se Ri Pak of Korea celebrates after making birdie on the first playoff hole of the LPGA's Jamie Farr Kroger Classic on Sunday, in Sylvania, Ohio. Sunday's playoff was the largest in LPGA history with six players. Pak defeated Karrie Webb, Mardi Lunn, Sherri Steinhauer, Carin Koch and Kelli Kuehne in the playoff.

## Pirate's Kendall has severe ankle injury

PITTSBURGH (Reuters) — Pittsburgh Pirates All-Star catcher Jason Kendall suffered a gruesome ankle injury on Sunday trying to beat out a bunt in the fifth inning against the Milwaukee Brewers and is almost certainly out for the rest of the season.

Kendall, who entered the day fifth in the National League in hitting at .335 and on pace for a possible record for catchers with 22 stolen bases, stepped on the bag and turned his right ankle, leaving his foot pointing inward at a near 90-degree angle to his leg.

"It's the worst thing I've seen," said Brewers first baseman Mark Loretta. "Kendall was rolling over and his ankle was dangling and the bone was sticking out. Did they show that on TV? He runs so hard, he's probably hit the bag 1,000 times. It definitely put a dark cloud on the game after that."

A two-time All-Star, Kendall was carried off the field on a stretcher with a fracture and dislocation of his right ankle. The television network carrying the game decided not to show the replay.

Immediately following the injury, Milwaukee players left the field and home plate umpire

Jerry Layne was hunched over and appeared nauseous. Kendall, who went 0-for-2, is hitting .332 with eight homers and 41 RBI for the season. He was taken to Pittsburgh Allegheny General Hospital, where doctors began surgery to repair the multiple fractures.

"Jason's kind of the heart and soul of this team," said Pirates manager Gene Lamont while trying to contain his emotions. "We'll just have to play harder if that's possible. Just try to keep working hard, nobody's going to feel sorry for us. Kendall's not somebody you can replace."

The injury was reminiscent to that of New York Mets third baseman Robin Ventura, who suffered the same injuries during spring training in 1997 while playing with the Chicago White Sox. He was sidelined nearly five months.

A gritty catcher who consistently ranks among the league leaders in times being hit by a pitch, Kendall has never been on the disabled list in his four-year career.

"Jason's a big part of this team," said Pirates outfielder Brian Giles. "When something like that happens, you take yourself away from baseball, we hope he recovers 100 percent."

## Sweeney ties AL record

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Sweeney tied a 58-year-old American League record with an RBI in his 13th straight game and Jermaine Dye homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs, leading the Kansas City Royals over the Cleveland Indians 10-9.

Sweeney lined a double over the head of center fielder Kenny Lofton in the fifth inning Sunday, scoring Joe Randa from first base and giving the Royals a 4-2 lead.

Sweeney matched the RBI mark set by Taffy Wright of the 1941 Chicago White Sox. The U.S. Major League record is 17 straight games by Oscar Grimes of the 1922 Chicago Cubs.

Dye capped his big four-game series by going 4-for-4. He hit five home runs — including the first pair of multihomer games in his career — and went 9-for-17 with 12 RBIs.

**Tigers 15, Twins 5**  
At Minneapolis, Juan Encarnacion homered, tripled and drove in four runs as Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak.

Damion Easley also had four RBIs for Detroit, which set a season-high for runs and hits (19). Encarnacion scored four

runs for the Tigers.

Justin Thompson (7-8) allowed four hits and five runs in 5 2-3 innings to end a personal two-game losing streak.

Rookie shortstop Cristian Guzman hit his first Major League homer for Minnesota, and Javier Valentin hit his third of the season.

**Red Sox 5, White Sox 2**  
At Chicago, Bret Saberhagen allowed five hits over seven-plus innings for his third straight victory and Troy O'Leary hit his 17th homer as Boston beat Chicago.

Saberhagen (5-2) gave up runs on Paul Konerko's ninth homer in the second and Craig Wilson's RBI grounder in the fifth. He walked none and struck out two.

Saberhagen retired nine straight before Brook Fordyce led off the bottom of the eighth with a double. Derek Lowe relieved and got three straight outs, then Tim Wakefield pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

**Orioles 7, Yankees 3**  
At New York, B.J. Surhoff hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh inning and had five RBIs as Baltimore stopped a 10-game losing streak.

Juan Guzman (4-6) allowed a pair of first-inning runs and Chili

repeal of the Video Tax.

The video tax jacks the price for consumers fifteen cents on each video rented.

The money is proposed to be used in construction of youth centers. But does it cover construction of new sports facilities or repair of existing ones?

Question is, if the tax money will go towards the repair or construction of sports facilities are you in favor of it? And if it doesn't what is your opinion?

xunks, three kees and two goals for 40 points.

On Monday, July 12 there will be a robball clinic at Ada Gym from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. as part of the Northern Marianas Sports Challenge.

## Farewell. . .

Continued from page 28

"I enjoyed every minute of my vacation—I'm ready for another! Liberation Day celebrations is over, SPG is over, and besides a lot of rain, I'm sure the athletes are anxious to start playing again. See you at the park."

**IS VIDEO TAX OK?**

Numerous columns in this publication have been devoted to the

## Crush. . .

Continued from page 28

women's division the honor went to Percy Boddy with 11 aces, three

## Trawlers. . .

Continued from page 28

the best that local anglers have seen since the mid-1990s, prior to the severe El Niño in 1997-1998 that caused havoc with weather conditions and fish migration by raising the temperature of the ocean water.

In addition to Kramer's 402 pointer, local anglers caught 10 more marlin over the qualifying weight of 100 pounds, with Majuro councilman Ladie Jack catching both the second (174 pounds) and third place (171 pounds) marlin.

A 123 pound yellowfin tuna caught by pilot Yuri Maddison took top honors in the tuna cat-



## SPORTS



## The Sporting Life

## Farewell to a friend

By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff

## GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

LAST NIGHT the Saipan Softball Association's (SSA) Liberation Day softball tournament finally got underway after a couple of delays.

A friend to all softball players and fans alike passed away recently. The community was deeply touched.

Like many of you, his passing came as a surprise. I didn't know him for too long, and I only got to meet him during softball games. His play-by-play announcements of ballgames was always witty and encouraging, and his voice was rather difficult to hear most of the time. But, had you listened carefully his choice of words always imparted a positive note for the players.

The most time I had spent with him was after the Just-4-Fun vs. Mix-A-Lot, Women's championship ballgame, when, after the ballgame we hung-out at Minachom Atdao Park until kinahulo' i atdao (sunrise).

Goodbye friend and whenever I stay out until the sun's morning light cracks over Mt. Tapochao, I will always remember you.

## VACATION WAS SWEET

Following the conclusion of the 1999 South Pacific Games in June I wondered what would be next. For most athletes that participated they returned home. For some of you work was waiting the very next morning, others had school papers to turn in. For me it was VACATION TIME!

If you think the following paragraphs will be filled with tales of a single man basking in the seashores of the tropical paradise island, sipping Bud Light (actually I never sip beer), meeting bikini clad ladies and just generally having a whoopie of a good time, you're wrong!

At my family residence in Dededo, Guam is more work to get done than there are hours in a day. Debris from super typhoon Paka are still to be found lodged between branches of those trees set at the far corners of a 20 acre lot or stuck to the ground covered over with overgrown grass.

Chicken coups are now a pile of entanglement of mesh wire, lumber and metal bracing, the pig house that once housed four dozen hogs and piglets can now only accommodate one boar, two gilts and one feeder pig—that's four in all.

Pugua trees that once gave abundant nuts are just now recovering, the two hundred or so young coconut trees that I and my nephews planted two years ago are still fighting for survival—some have actually shrunk in size. You get the picture, don't you?

Not all was work though.

My brother Juan, an avid fisherman whom I had the pleasure of going fishing with one day took his son Jeremy and me out fishing off the Cabras Island channel for bottom fishing. The catch was good but, what caught our attention by surprise were a trio of Brown whales. It was kind of eerie at first. Looking at them reminded me of three Cadillacs swimming. Not that Cadillacs swim but, their enormous size I could only compare to those huge General Motors heap of metal. Moments later, after catching my breath, the awe and beauty of the whales took me by heart. Their slow and graceful movements brought about in me a sense of peace. The whales were about one hundred feet away from our boat.

The first I ever heard of whales seen in Guam waters was when I was in grade school. My father gathered us up and drove towards the ship yard where the whales were sighted. Unfortunately, I didn't see any. Thirty years later one of my childhood wishes came true—to be up close to whales.

The best part of my vacation was being with my three children. Matthew, my eldest, at 15, now stands 5'-10 1/2" and still thinks everything is a joke. My daughter Pauline Rose, 14, thinks she's 21 and I have my hands full trying to explain to her what my parents had tried to tell me—don't rush your childhood.

Raymond, my 11-year-old is the sports genius of the clan. He can tell you who played and won the Super Bowl in '97, '98 and who the quarterbacks were. At one setting my eldest brother Jaime, his son Steven, Raymond and I were discussing sports—while enjoying some very cold brewskies (none for Ray)—we really had to have Little Ray settle our sports quiz disputes.

He also picked that San Antonio Spurs would beat New York, 4—1 in the series.

Continued on page 26

## Crush, Don't Know win 3rd Mayor's Rocball Cup

THE 3RD ANNUAL Mayor's Cup Rocball tournament champions are men's Crush and Don't Know for the women.

Tournament started July 3 with six teams; Brotherhood, Crush, No-Fear in men's division and Don't Know, Islanders and Loca Chickas for the women's.

The contest were held at American Memorial Park beginning at 2 p.m. July 4.

Team Loca Chickas and No-Fear were eliminated after first day of competitions.

On Sunday team Crush and Brotherhood played a marathon two and a-half hour regular four set and three overtime sets before the Brotherhood, on a goal by Doug Morrow in third o-kon won the game that tied Crush and Brotherhood at one win, one loss.

Their second day's contest was a best of three series.

Crush won the first set 10-6. In game two, Crush's Gabriel White scored a goal and secured his team's championship title.

The women's division Don't

Know came to the finals with a loss against the Islanders' perfect record.

In a four set juice-out win Don't Know defeated Islanders, 60-32.

In their second match again Don't Know won every set of the title match, 18-8, 16-5, 17-5 and 18-8 for a 69-26 victory and the Women's title.

Heavy hitters of the men's division was Brotherhood's Doug Morrow with two xunks, 15 kees and a goal for 37 points. For the

Continued on page 26

## Trawlers bring in big catch in Marshalls billfish tourney

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

**MAJURO**—The end of the "El Niño" weather cycle brought some of the best sportsfishing in years to the Marshalls Billfish Club's 17th annual two day tournament that concluded today in Majuro.

Eleven marlin were caught over the two days of fishing by 23 trolling boats, including a 402 pound whopper that won the tournament for local businessman Kenneth Kramer.

Setting the tone for the tourney, Kramer had barely been out for an hour after the opening gun at 6

a.m. on the first day, Saturday, when he hooked up with the monster marlin. So early was his return to the dock with the fish for weigh-in, that club officials had to scramble to locate a crane to hoist the marlin out of the boat. While Kramer's fish didn't set

any tournament records, it was big enough by far to win the tourney.

"It was a great tournament," said billfish club president Baron Bigler. He described the fishing over the weekend as consistently

Continued on page 26

## Sports Notes

## Boxing club meeting

Officers and coaches are reminded of Friday's meeting. The meeting will be at San Antonio Youth Center at 5 p.m.

## Rotary Club Youth Basketball League

Until further notice, all ballgames for next week, July 5—10 have been postponed.

For information call Elias Rangamar at 234-1001/2

## Rota fun-run

The 16th Annual Rota fun-run is scheduled for July 17.

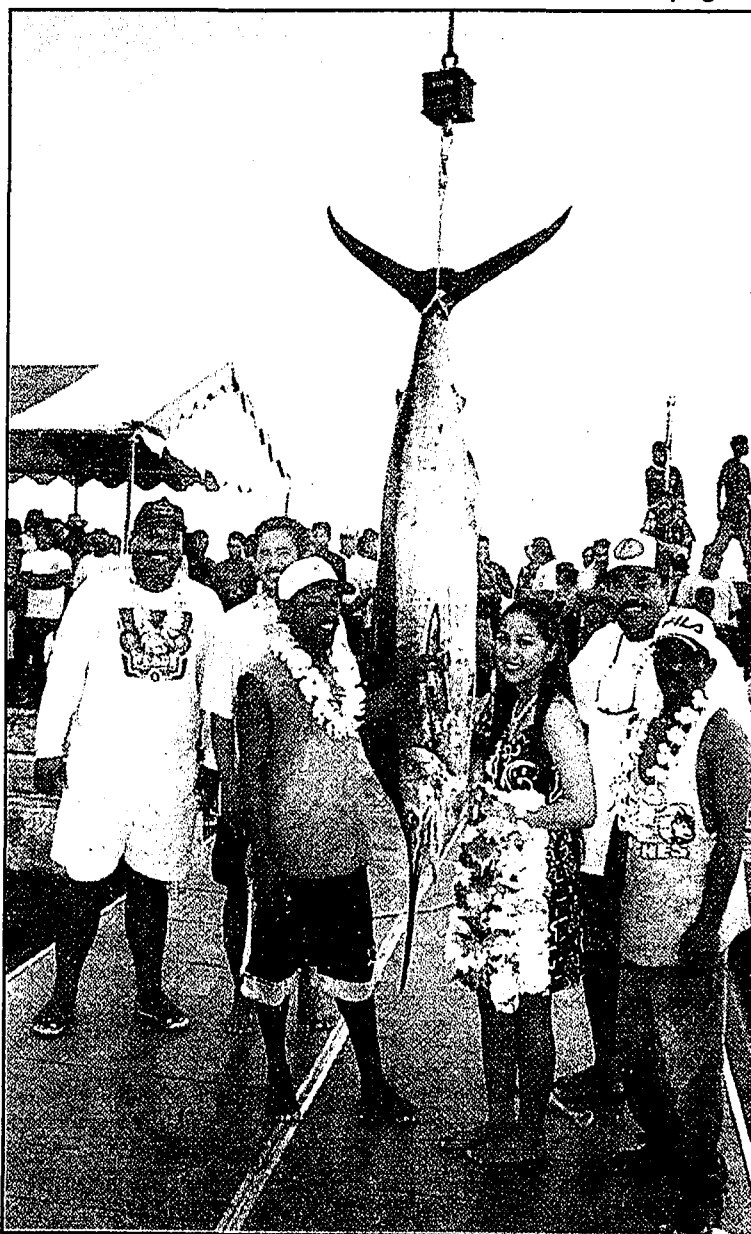
Call Jack V. Diaz or Ed Diaz at Saipan MVA, 664-3200 or Sandra King in Rota, 532-0327

## Masters League

The 2nd-Annual Masters Basketball League is preparing for their September basketball tournament which is to be held in Australia.

The league is open to men over 35-years old.

For more information call Tony Rogolofoi at Ada Gym, 234-1001/2.



The fishing team of Majuro angler Ladie Jack (second from right) hauled in this 174-pound billfish to win second place in the 17th Annual Marshalls Billfish Club tournament.

Photo by Giff Johnson

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