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& Views

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## PIA in trouble

*Cited by FAA for 32 violations*

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE PACIFIC Island Aviation has reportedly violated air safety standards enforced by the Federal Aviation Administration on several occasions, it was learned yesterday.

Documents obtained by the Variety indicated that PIA has been cited for at least 32 separate violations of FAA air safety regulations during the last five years.

Civil penalties slapped against PIA during the last five years totaled \$94,500, according to the documents.

But two of the proposed penalties were reduced in a settlement agreement between PIA and the FAA to \$80,500.

Records showed that PIA had paid a total of \$60,500 over the last five years as penalty for its alleged violations, while the remaining \$10,000 remained in the "proposed" category.

However, the specific nature of



PIA's Bob Christian

the violations on the pending and unreleased cases was not immediately available.

PIA chief executive officer Bob Christian neither denied nor confirmed the report.

He only said PIA has been flying the Marianas in an "above-average" level.

"Marianas is one of the safest places to fly," Christian said in an interview yesterday, apparently dismissing claims that PIA has

been a habitual violator of air safety regulations.

The FAA report said 14 separate enforcement actions were on file against PIA "pertaining to numerous violations of federal air safety regulations."

At least seven cases, entitled "Orders Assessing Civil Penalty," an order entitled "Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty," were enforced against PIA, the papers revealed.

In addition, the FAA confirmed that six other cases are pending, or could not be released as provided for by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including two other cases which are on file in the form of computer printouts only, with no additional details.

The documents showed that the violations cited by the FAA include substandard maintenance of aircraft, or failure to comply with the minimum safety requirements on the aircraft operated by the

Continued on page 8

*When 902 talks resume*

## CNMI will argue vs federal takeover

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

LIEUTENANT Governor Jesus R. Sablan yesterday said the CNMI panel will "try its best" to argue for the retention of local control over immigration and minimum wage when the so-called Covenant Section 902 talks with the White House is resumed.

But Sablan, who will head the Commonwealth panel, ruled out any policy of confrontation with the federal government, saying that the CNMI will use the 902 talks mainly to "mend differences and solidify a good working relationship" with Washington, D.C. and "establish mutual

respect."

The talks are likely to be held after the congressional hearings scheduled in February, perhaps before Summer, Sablan said.

The Clinton administration and its allies in Congress remain convinced that federal immigration and minimum wage laws should now be extended to the islands, but Sablan said anything is still possible through "the art of compromise."

"Confrontation is a 'No, No' and we want a healthy discussion," he said, "and though we still need to retain local control (over immigration and mini-

Continued on page 8

*Even for FY '97 levels*

## Governor says current revenues not enough

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday revealed that current revenue collection is not enough to fund the government's budget needs for this fiscal year.

"We (are short in) resources," Tenorio said.

Current revenue collection, he added, is not enough for the funding levels set by the fiscal year 1997 budget of \$247 million.

Under the so-called "continuing resolution," the FY 1997 budget is being used by the government after the previous administration's \$262 million budget proposal for FY 1998—later scaled down to \$253.2 million—was not enacted by the Legislature.

"It's a difficult situation, but the (various departments and agencies) should (cope)," he said.

Meanwhile, he added, the administration will continue cutting on its expenditures, and with other austerity measures, including a "freeze" on the hiring of new personnel.

The governor, at the same time, said there are a considerable number of government employees working without contracts, and all are now "under review."

In an earlier interview, Tenorio admitted that the tax cuts and pay hike bills signed into law by his predecessor will create more financial problems for the government.

He said the pay hike for gov-

Continued on page 8



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio with top aides Dr. Jose T. Villagomez, Gregorio B. Sablan and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan during yesterday's cabinet meeting at the Administration Building.

Photo by Zaldy Dandan

## Override of pay hike veto sparks legal questions

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE LEGISLATURE may have to confront two legal questions that may arise from the Senate's recent override of then governor Froilan C. Tenorio's veto of the bill seeking salary increases for elected officials. One legal issue involves the question about the applicability of the salary increase, and the other, the authority of the 11th Legislature to override a veto of the former governor.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente

(R-Saipan) predicts that majority of the House members are likely to support the Senate's override of the pay hike bill.

But Benavente, who maintains his opposition to the proposed measure, warned that the override move is likely to trigger court litigation.

"My current salary is enough for me, and I know the current financial situation of the government. But I guess others feel that a pay hike is needed," Benavente told reporters yesterday.

"I think the majority of the mem-



Diego T. Benavente

bers will pursue an override, but this

may result in litigation regarding the application of the pay hike," Benavente warned.

Under the CNMI Constitution, a salary increase law does not apply to the Legislature that enacted it.

House Bill 10-308, the pay hike measure, was passed by the 10th Legislature last Jan. 8.

It was vetoed by Tenorio on Jan. 9, or three days before his term as governor ended.

The 11th Senate overrode the

veto last Friday.

In an earlier interview, Senate legal counsel Stephen Woodruff explained that incumbent legislators may argue that the bill was enacted by the 10th Legislature, and therefore could apply during the term of the 11th Legislature if the veto override succeeded.

However, a legal analyst who requested anonymity said that when Tenorio vetoed H.B. 10-308, the 10th Legislature's "authorship" of the bill had, in ef-

Continued on page 8

# Pope bids farewell, peace for Cuba

By CHARLES J. HANLEY  
HAVANA (AP) - Pope John Paul II, ending a spiritual journey to a dispirited land, summoned Cubans at home and Cubans in exile to "new paths" of reconciliation, and called this country's bishops to the task of helping lead them there.

And the Cuba they build, the pope said before boarding his flight back to Rome Sunday evening, should be a land of "greater freedom and pluralism."

With his carefully chosen words, the ailing, 77-year-old pope put himself and his churchmen squarely in the middle of the four-decade-long Cuban showdown.

It was the climax of a difficult five-day pilgrimage during which the Roman Catholic pontiff had to balance criticism of Cuba's communist system with the need to bolster and foster the Cuban church.

The leader of that system, President Fidel Castro, saw him off at Havana's airport, declared Cuba had "nothing to hide from the world," and congratulated the pope for visiting "what some choose to call communism's last bulwark."

"For every word you have said -

even those I might disagree with - on behalf of all the Cuban people, Holy Father, I thank you!" Castro declared.

Earlier Sunday, Castro sat front and center for an open-air Mass in

let forces" of global capitalism. "The wealthy grow ever wealthier, while the poor grow ever poorer," John Paul declared to explosive applause.

But he also had pointed words

his words of encouragement, embraces all who suffer injustice," John Paul said to applause and waving flags - and to silence from government officials.

The Vatican entourage said, meanwhile, that Cuban authorities had promised a "quick response" to its appeal to Castro earlier this week for release of about 200 prisoners.

The Mass unfolded in an epic setting of color, faith, and history-in-the-making, in a vast square dominated by towering portraits of revolutionary martyr Ernesto "Che" Guevara and - temporarily - Jesus Christ.

The faithful, the curious and those simply heeding Castro's call had set out from outlying towns by bus as early as 2 a.m. They were joined by pilgrims from around the world, including anti-Castro exiles.

By the time the pope arrived almost eight hours later, the crowd was approaching perhaps a quarter-million. And over the next three hours the melodious Cuban music, the prayers, the excitement - all built, under overcast skies, into

sights and sounds unthinkable just a few years ago:

•Of a dark-suited Castro mobbed by bishops in white, pumping his hand.

•Of Cubans wildly chanting to a Bishop of Rome, his green robe flapping in the wind, "John Paul Two! The people are with you!"

•Of a pope, or simply anyone not named Fidel, standing before Cuba's masses, at the revolution's most hallowed spot, and instructing them to take their future into their own hands.

It was enough to fill ordinary Cubans with awe.

"I never thought in 40 years that we would see this," said Norka Dominguez, 62, clutching the hand of granddaughter Daisy.

It may take more years still to see just what it all will mean for Cuba.

Throughout his visit, in Masses in provincial cities, in talks to groups in Havana, the pope delivered a message, sometimes elliptically worded, of political freedom, of personal moral responsibility, of reconciliation between Cubans here and in exile - always through Christ and his church.

## Cuba promises quick response to papal plea

HAVANA (AP) - Cuba has promised a quick response to Pope John Paul II's appeal for the release of 200 prisoners in the communist island country, Vatican officials said Sunday.

The officials, traveling with the pope on his five-day visit to Cuba, said they were assured Sunday that the request was being "attentively studied."

While John Paul was meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro on Thursday, Vatican officials in Havana presented petitions for the release of about 200 prisoners.

Several of them were jailed for political crimes, according to human rights groups.

Havana's vast Plaza of the Revolution, and heard a sharp attack by the pope on one of the Cuban leader's own favorite targets, "neoliberal capitalism."

The pontiff warned Cubans against embracing the "blind mar-

for Castro, who had urged his people to pack the final Mass, repeating appeals for respect for freedom of conscience, for greater religious freedom and on behalf of political prisoners.

"The pope, in his heart and with



Cuban President Fidel Castro speaks to Pope John Paul II at the Jose Marti International Airport departure ceremony in Havana Sunday. The pope completed a five-day visit to Cuba, including four Masses celebrated throughout the country. AP

## Sonia Gandhi sorry over Sikh deaths

By KISHORE PATHANIA  
CHANDIGARH, India (AP) - The widow and daughter-in-law of two assassinated Indian prime ministers compared her own sorrow to the pain of Sikhs who lost loved ones in religious violence.

Sonia Gandhi, campaigning Sunday for the Congress Party in Sikh-dominated northern Punjab state, referred to the June 6, 1984 attack by Indian security forces to flush Sikh separatists from the religion's holiest temple. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi's mother-in-law, was killed by her Sikh bodyguards after the assault on the temple in the Punjabi city of Amritsar.

The government said 493 people were killed in the temple attack, though some observers maintain four times that number died. Bloody Gandhi said in Hindi to hundreds of rapt listeners in Chandigarh, about 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of New Delhi. "Being a widow and a mother, I can understand the agony of those who suffered ... such incidents should never have taken place."

"The incident which took place in Punjab on June 6, 1984 and in Delhi after Mrs. Indira Gandhi's death ... were unfortunate," Sonia Gandhi said in Hindi to hundreds of rapt listeners in Chandigarh, about 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of New Delhi. "Being a widow and a mother, I can understand the agony of those who suffered ... such incidents should never have taken place."

Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's son and Sonia Gandhi's husband took over from his mother and served as prime minister until 1989. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991 by suspected rebels from

Continued on page 8

## Spice Girl engaged to British soccer star

LONDON (AP) - How do you propose to Posh Spice? In a posh hotel, of course.

Newspapers reported Monday that English soccer star David Beckham, 22, proposed to Spice Girl Victoria Adams on Saturday night at an up-market hotel in northwest England.

The 23-year-old, dressed in a black top and miniskirt, smiled for photographers Sunday as she showed off a solitary diamond ring given to her by Beckham, who plays for Manchester United and is also in the English national team.

She gave him a diamond encrusted gold band in return.

The couple, who met ten months ago, don't plan to marry for 18 months due to work commitments. Adams is busy with the other four Spice Girls promoting their new movie, "Spice World."

# 'Teno can reprogram funds for relief'

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio can reprogram the \$300,000 needed to match the federal relief funds for typhoon victims even without an authorization from the Legislature, its leadership said.

Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan), during the Senate session Friday, urged legislators to support the governor's efforts in disbursing

the matching funds, adding that Tenorio can go ahead with it without a joint resolution from the Legislature.

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), in an interview yesterday, said he agrees with Villagomez.

Currently, he added, he was told that the administration is trying to get a waiver from the federal government on the need for matching funds.

"I think we can justify the waiver considering the current financial state of the government," Benavente said.

"I hope the administration can get a waiver," he said, "but if not, the governor can go ahead with the reprogramming of funds, and I don't think a joint resolution is necessary."

The CNMI is required to put up 25 cents to match every dollar made available by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said Tenorio who has vowed to assist the typhoon victims seeking federal relief.

FEMA and the Emergency Management Office (EMO) unveiled last month the federal aid programs for individuals and businesses whose properties suffered damages from super typhoon Keith.

The aid program includes disaster loans from the U.S. Small

Business Administration.

Prior to super typhoon Paka's fury last Dec. 16-17, the CNMI was hard hit by super typhoons Joan on Oct. 7-8, and Keith on Nov. 2-3.

President Clinton declared the CNMI a disaster area last Dec. 8.

The President later made another declaration of disaster for the Commonwealth as a result of the extensive damages caused by super typhoon Paka on Rota.

## Cop accused of stealing radio

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

A POLICE officer assigned at the Bureau of Motor Vehicle was arrested on Friday for allegedly stealing a hand-held radio from a government employee.

Arrested was 41-year-old Isidro Reyes Sablan, according to Department of Public Safety's acting Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta.

Babauta said police officers caught Sablan in possession of the stolen radio.

Sablan was detained and later released for further investigation of the case, police said.

Initial investigation showed that prior to the incident a male employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife went to BMV office to renew his driver's license on Friday.

The DFW employee requested a worker at BMV to watch his radio because he would pay for his license's renewal at the treasurer's office.

When the BMV worker turned around, he discovered that the radio was already missing.

Sablan, who was assigned at the Records Section, denied he took the radio, prompting the DFW employee to seek police assistance.

Investigators asked Sablan about the radio, but the latter vehemently denied taking it.

Police later arrested Sablan as he was seen leaving the office allegedly with the radio.

Last December the Attorney General's Office charged BMV Assistant Chief Anthony C. Tenorio and two other police officers for alleged theft and misconduct in public office.

Court documents showed that Tenorio stole from the government \$75 as payment of vehicle registration for license plate number SORY HA last Feb. 13.

Tenorio also stole last March 14 \$25 for payment of registration of another vehicle license plate number, the complaint stated.

Tenorio on the same day, the complaint said, issued a motor vehicle registration for another plate number without obtaining the requisite proof of inspection.

The other officers—PO3 Arnold K. Seman and PO2 Lourdes C. Tomei—were charged for stealing public funds in the amount more than \$250 but less than \$20,000 and misused government vehicles in separate incidents.

The AGO recently charged 11 police officers for allegedly beating one of the suspects in the burglary at Wendy's Restaurant in Garapan.

## 4 cops in brutality case plead innocent

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

FOUR of 11 police officers who were charged in connection with the alleged beating of one of the suspects in the burglary incident at Wendy's Restaurant pleaded innocent to the charges.

During yesterday's arraignment, Police Officers Hillary Tagabuel, Norbert Pua, Jesse Seman, and Sgt. Joaquin Salas waived reading of the information and advisement of their constitutional rights.

The four officers, through their counsels Antonio Atalg and Brien Nicholas, pleaded not guilty to assault and battery and misconduct in public office.

Tagabuel also denied committing

perjury.

Superior Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan set a status conference on Feb. 23.

Meanwhile, Police Officers Jason Tarkong and Jose Saures will be arraigned today.

Five other officers, who failed to get their lawyers, were ordered to appear on Monday for the arraignment.

The five are Police Officers Jack Camacho, Jesse Concepcion, Chris L. Guerrero, Diwain Stephen, and Sgt. James Deleon Guerrero.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin J. Williams in the complaint said the officers assaulted Francis A. Eugenio on Dec. 1, 1997.

Continued on page 8



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio buckles down to work with members of his Cabinet and other appointed officials of the new administration at yesterday's Cabinet meeting at the Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill yesterday. Photo by Zaldy Dandan

## CNMI officers to be tapped for marine law enforcement

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVES from the United States Coast Guard will meet with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife on Thursday to discuss the plans deputizing Commonwealth officers in enforcing federal marine laws.

Richard Seman, acting DFW Director, explained the move was made possible through amendments done on the 1983 Magnuson Fish Conservation Act which gave insular areas — Guam, CNMI and American Samoa among others — equal share in the funds

that can be derived from fines imposed on arrested violators.

"We are working on this. We will be meeting with the US Coast Guard so that we can iron out some of (the law's) languages that are preventing us from entering into a pact (with the federal government)," said Seman.

The treaty, called Cooperative Enforcement Agreement, will enable CNMI enforcement agencies apprehend suspected violators in the Commonwealth's waters, try them at the U.S. District Court on Saipan, and impose fines. In the past, it was the U.S. Coast

Guard which conducted most of the arrests.

But with the agreement in place, Seman said CNMI enforcement officers will be "deputized by the federal government and made into special agents to function in behalf" of the National Marine Fisheries Service, a federal body tasked to look after US sea territories.

Seman said the agreement will be made between the CNMI, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The meeting will be held in closed doors.

## WHO warns against fake drugs

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

PEOPLE take medicine to combat diseases but there are also drugs that render people sick, and the public must be warned against this.

The World Health Organization has reported that counterfeit pharmaceuticals were found in at least 28 countries between 1982 and 1997.

The WHO said it has been receiving public and confidential reports from nations all throughout the world about the proliferation of counterfeit drugs, although

some of the cases were yet to be confirmed or validated.

It said 25 percent of the 751 reported cases came from industrialized countries, while 65 percent were from developing countries and at least 10 percent from unspecified sources.

The WHO said counterfeit drugs proliferate especially in countries without a regulatory body on pharmaceuticals.

The CNMI, a US insular area, is yet to create a body that will regulate the sale of drugs and other pharmaceuticals.

The International Workshop on

Counterfeit Drugs, in a recent meeting in Geneva, recommended that WHO must continue to function as a clearing house by collecting and analyzing reports, monitoring the situation in member states and exchanging information on reported cases.

Some countries have already stepped up their efforts in fighting counterfeit pharmaceuticals, through more stringent regulations, effective enforcement of existing laws, or closer cooperation among countries involved.

The WHO called for the establishment of adequate and vigorous na-

Continued on page 8

## Death toll in shrine blast rises to 15

By DILIP GANGULY

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Tens of thousands of police officers and battle-ready troops kept a night-long vigil across Sri Lanka to prevent any anti-Tamil backlash, as the death toll in a truck bomb attack on Sri Lankan Buddhists' holiest shrine rose to 15 Monday.

Sunday's attack in Kandy, east of Colombo, was blamed on separatists who accuse the Sinhalese majority of sometimes brutal discrimination against the Tamil minority. Most Sinhalese are Buddhist and most Tamils Hindu, though religion has not been a central issue in the 15-year ethnic war.

Troops in full combat gear guarded Tamil neighborhoods in Colombo, Kandy and other towns. Despite a few angry Sinhalese protests, no violence against Tamils was reported overnight.

The director at Kandy General Hospital said two of the injured died overnight and police recovered two more bodies from a lake that adjoins the temple, bringing the death toll to 15 - including three rebel suicide bombers. Another 21 people remained hospitalized.

The attack on the 18th century shrine, which houses what the faithful believe is a tooth of the Buddha, came just 10 days before it will host Sri Lanka's 50th independence anniversary celebrations. Officials said the celebrations, with Britain's Prince Charles as the chief guest, will go ahead.

The temple's roof was damaged in the explosion, but the blasts did not harm the inner

shrine where the tooth is kept. The relic is an important symbol to Sinhalese nationalists. In ancient times, a ruler who failed to protect the tooth was seen as being unfit to be king.

Hours after the attack on the temple, a mob of enraged Sinhalese burned down a Hindu cultural center in Kandy, but no one was hurt. Police fired tear gas to disperse the mob. Protesters also set fire to three vehicles in Kandy on Sunday, but the rioting did not spread.

Government media broadcast repeated appeals for calm.

Anti-Tamil rioting in 1983 following a rebel attack that killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers forced many Tamils out of Colombo and created the impression in their minds that they could not be safe in areas controlled by the Sinhalese. More than 51,000 people have been killed since Sri Lanka's separatist war broke out that year.

Sunday's audacious attack could increase the ethnic divide, threatening the government's attempt to persuade both the Sinhalese and the Tamils that they can live together.

On Thursday, local government elections will be held for the first time in the northern Tamil heartland of Jaffna. After the vote, Parliament is expected to debate a new constitution that would give local councils wide autonomy.

A section of Sri Lanka's Buddhist clergy has tried to rouse public opinion among the Sinhalese majority against the draft constitution, saying it would divide the country along ethnic.



# Conflicting financial figures bug gov't

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the Finance Department and the Office of Management and Budget are still reconciling conflicting figures regarding the current state of the government's finances. (See related story in this issue)

ent figures," Tenorio said, when asked to explain the delay in the release of his transition team's assessment report.

[A key Tenorio aide yesterday said the real state of the government coffers will likely be known next week when the "reconciled" figures are revealed.]

But even without the figures, the administration is already

working on drafting a proposed fiscal year 1999 budget which is expected to be submitted in April.

In an earlier interview, the governor said he has instructed his staff to come up with a "more reasonable" budget, adding that the revenue collection estimates are now being reviewed.

Government revenues are expected to be considerably less due

to the effect of the Asian currency crisis on the islands' tourism and foreign investments, but Tenorio said he will "find a way out."

Meanwhile, he said, the administration will continue with its current austerity measures.

Citing concerns over the budget estimates submitted by the previous administration, the Legislature's leadership last

month decided not to pass an FY 1998 budget, and instead wait for the "more realistic" figures of the new governor.

The CNMI government is currently operating based on FY 1997's \$247 million budget since the end of FY 1997 last Sept. 30.

The funding level for the FY 1998 general budget bill stood at

## Teno commits full support to Education board

By Laila C. Younis  
Variety News Staff  
BOARD of Education members were smiling as they left Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's office from a meeting yesterday.

The governor had acknowledged his full support for Public School System construction projects, including his decision to keep BOE's 25 percent repro-

gramming authority.

"It was a very excellent meeting. We wanted to give the governor a commitment in that the BOE is unified in its position regarding CIP projects," said BOE Chair Marja Lee Taitano.

"We are moving forward and the governor is supporting us. He promised not to rescind the 25 percent reprogramming authority

which we will be using shortly for repairs on storm-damaged schools," she said.

"Our goal is to get the needed classrooms. We have great students and teachers but there are no places to teach and we face overcrowding," she added.

Taitano also explained that the Board is "putting together a funding package" and the governor is

looking into helping BOE "find creative ways" to secure the \$16 million loan for school projects.

"We are on the verge of securing the loan from California Financial Services and the governor agreed to match CIP funds that is required for us to do that," said Taitano.

"That means we will have a total of 32 million to start construction on a new jr. high and high school as well as other projects. It will be very helpful for the children," she said.

"The Board is also bringing all of our outstanding projects up to date and those who are lagging behind will get termination letters. We are working very hard to see that everything will be brought to order," she added.

The governor agrees, also citing the need "for all projects to be done in an efficient and expedient manner."

"I recommended to the Board members to work it out with their

attorneys in terms of outstanding projects, so we can find ways to award contracts and get the projects done quickly," said Tenorio.

"The 60 emergency classrooms has been a problem for over a year and I would like to see it expedited. I have no preference for any contractor, just the best and most responsible one for the job," he said.

Tenorio also noted that in regards to the CFS \$16 million loan, he "has no problem" with good financing" and he will "help find matching funds".

"I also have no intention of rescinding their 25 percent reprogramming authority. The Board members are educated, trusted and responsible for the operations of PSS," said Tenorio.

"I have confidence in them that they will make the best decisions for the students. I have authorized them to use it and I have no problem with that," he said.



Watchmen Virine DLG. Salas and Asapmar Ogumoro get ready to sling a rooster during a live performance of Mt. Carmel School Theater Club's "Much Ado About Nothing" on Saturday. The MCS play attracted crowds over the weekend.



Family members of the fallen Hero (center) comfort her during a dramatic scene in Mt Carmel School Theater Club's "Much Ado About Nothing." The three-day show tickets were sold out.

## DFW needs 6 biologists

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife needs at least six more biologists to augment the three ones presently under its contract, Richard Seman, acting DFW Director said.

"Our present staff is certainly not enough," lamented Seman.

"Basically, what we do is finish off what we can finish off," he added, referring to pending DFW projects like the Sariguan Island wild goat population reduction and the routine assessment of the CNMI water's fishery resources.

At least two of DFW's biologists are working with its fisheries section while the third, a herpetologist is with the CNMI government's Brown Tree Snake program.

Seman said DFW used to have six biologists — three for the fisheries section and another three for the wildlife section.

However, employment contracts of the scientists were not renewed by then Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno M. Sablan upon expiration last year.

"As far as the division is concerned, we wanted to renew them (biologists)," said Seman.

He however declined to comment on why the concerned scientists' contracts were not renewed.

Seman said DFW needs four biologists, including a supervisor, for its wildlife section, and another two for its fisheries desk.

"We need four biologists for the wildlife section, a bottomfish biologist, a pelagic fish biologist and a near-shore biologist," he said.

He stressed that the pool of biologists is needed should DFW go fullswing in its projects.

He admitted though that the hiring of new biologists depends much on the turn out of the scheduled talks between Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (See related story).

cluster Ichad and Damien Silo were charged with assault and battery before the Superior Court.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli in the complaint said Ichad, of San Antonio, beat a woman last July 14.

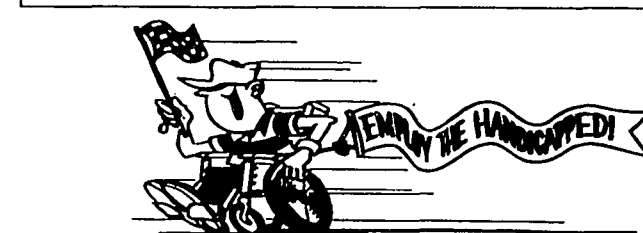
Forelli said Silo, of As Paligila assaulted a woman on Dec. 10, 1996.

The two defendants were summoned to appear in court on March 9.

Meanwhile, a man accused of assaulting a woman with a baseball bat entered into a plea agreement with the government.

Kelly James and counsel Robert Naraja signed the agreement with Forelli.

Under the agreement, James



# False alarm stirs DLNR

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

A PHONE call made at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources late last week reportedly almost sent everybody scampering to where the distress message came from.

The caller which, according to sources, sounded frantic, was, in a shaky voice, talking about having found some 30 baby snakes

stashed in a trash can by a firm near the Puerto Rico dump.

Thinking they would finally have the biggest single catch of brown tree snakes, DLNR's conservation officers scurried to the site and immediately secured the area, said acting Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman.

"But when our COs arrived, they found out that it was one of those Asian varieties that is usu-

ally soaked in alcohol for medicinal purposes," Seman said.

"They smelled it and they immediately knew it was of that type."

Government has been serious in its drive against the brown tree snakes, according to Seman.

At least two canines have been procured to detect the presence of these nocturnal reptiles among incoming cargoes.

A buffer zone has likewise been

put up at the ports of entry.

Also, appropriate government staff have likewise been undergoing regular trainings on Guam regarding how to identify and catch the snake.

Seman said at least seven conservation officers, in groups of two, are scheduled to leave for Guam upon approval of the Office of the Governor.

"(The trainings) are a regularly

scheduled part of their (conservation officers) learning process... enhancement of their skills for the prevention and eradication of the snakes," said Seman.

Seman said a number of staff from the Quarantine Section of the customs division as well as those from the snake program's Tinian office will join the training.

So far there has been no sighting or capture of the snake species this year.

## USFWS rep to meet Teno

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

A REPRESENTATIVE from the US Fish and Wildlife Service here tomorrow to begin a series of talks with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other key officials on the continuity of the federal agency's programs in the CNMI.

Identity of the visiting federal official was, however, withheld pending confirmation from the USFWS' Hawaii office on who is going to be sent, said acting Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha Leon Guerrero.

"They (USFWS) are interested in meeting with the new governor. I'm also going to meet their representative," said Guerrero.

For his part, Richard Seman, acting CNMI Fish and Wildlife Director said the meeting "will basically provide some direction on how we should proceed with the fishery and wildlife program for the next five years."

The CNMI government receives an average annual fund of

about \$1.2 million from USFWS to finance environmental projects.

The program's cycle covers a five-year period.

Current projects include the ongoing "population reduction" of the estimated 1,200 wild goats threatening Sariguan Island's ecological system.

"After this meeting with the governor, the CNMI Fish and Wildlife hopes that the governor and USFWS can come to a very positive understanding," said Seman.

"CNMI Fish and Wildlife is hopeful that we can get into full gear with our programs," he added.

DLNR sources said the meeting will be held as part of USFWS' efforts to ensure that the new administration is supporting the federal agency's projects in the CNMI.

The USFWS had reportedly received signals indicating the previous administration's lack of cooperation.



SMILE FOR NUTRITION. Members of the CNMI Nutrition Council and San Vicente students and teachers gather for a group photo before meeting with the governor recently.

## Consul confident on RP economy

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

CONSUL Julia Heidemann expressed confidence the Philippines will weather currency turmoil affecting economies in Asia.

In an interview, Heidemann said

the crisis, brought about by the depreciation of currencies, is being dealt with accordingly by the Philippine government.

While stressing that the crisis is hardly felt in the Philippines, the consul admitted business prospects are bright though "cautious" because of the unstable economic situation in the region.

"Worst hit are companies that have foreign loans," she said.

She added that the Philippine

Continued on page 19

## 2 men charged for beating women

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT filed yesterday criminal charges against two men who allegedly beat two women in separate incidents.

Cluster Ichad and Damien Silo were charged with assault and battery before the Superior Court.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli in the complaint said Ichad, of San Antonio, beat a woman last July 14.

Forelli said Silo, of As Paligila assaulted a woman on Dec. 10, 1996.

The two defendants were summoned to appear in court on March 9.

Meanwhile, a man accused of assaulting a woman with a baseball bat entered into a plea agreement with the government.

Kelly James and counsel Robert Naraja signed the agreement with Forelli.

Under the agreement, James

will plead guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

In return, the government will recommend to sentence the defendant to five years' imprisonment, all suspended.

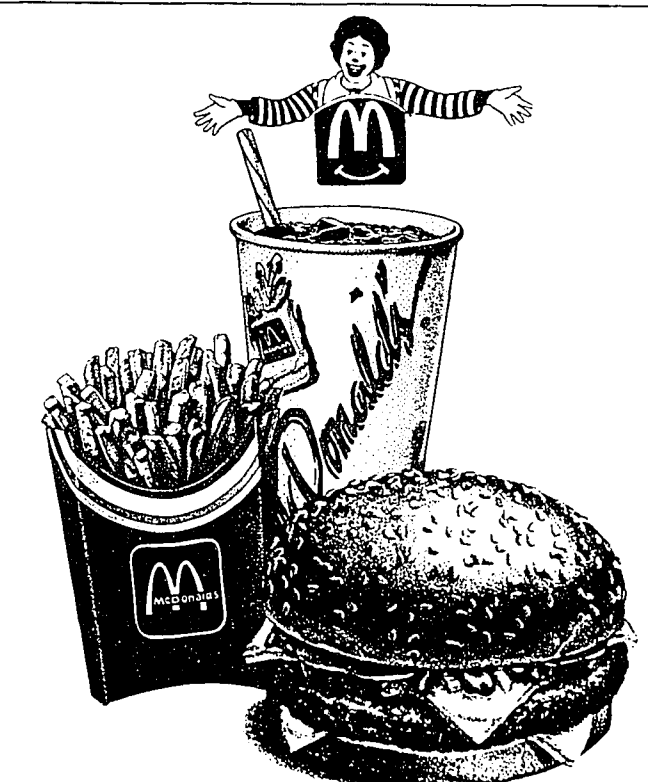
James shall serve 300 hours of community work service and seek marital counseling at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Court documents said the defendant hit the victim with a baseball bat last Nov. 1.

In another incident, a man identified as Richard S. Benavente, was arrested for illegal possession of firearm and ammunition at Ladder Beach Sunday afternoon.

Police said the 27-year-old Benavente, armed with a rifle, was conducting a shooting practice at the beach with two other companions.

Benavente, however, failed to show a permit possession of the gun and bullets, police said.



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# Guerrero begins DLNR 'rehabilitation'

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

ACTING Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha C. Leon Guerrero yesterday said she is asking her division directors to submit a report on their office's stocks as part of moves to "rehabilitate" the department.

The reports, said Guerrero, will be forwarded to the Office of Procurement and Supplies, which has been asked to conduct an audit of the department's equipment, for comparison.

"I want each of the directors to provide me with a report on their inventory and their conditions," said Guerrero.

"I am going to attach these (re-

ports) with my memorandum to (Office of) Procurement (and Supplies) and tell them, 'Here's what they (directors) say, get a look on your files and check,'" she explained.

The process is supposed to determine which among the department's equipment remain accounted for and which needs repair or are missing.

Guerrero, in an earlier interview, has lamented that the department's staff has lost accountability, a situation she attributed to a string of officials that handled the office in a mere acting capacity since former DLNR Secretary Benigno M. Sablan gave his post up last year.



Bertha C. Leon Guerrero

In her bid to get the department back in shape, Guerrero said she is also asking for an audit of the staff as well as of its financial state.

"We have been inquiring. There is a lot of administrative things right now that I am taking care of," said Guerrero.

DLNR insiders, requesting anonymity, said Guerrero's efforts may yet end up in vain as having been appointed in an acting capacity herself, she may not stay long enough to complete the department's rehabilitation.

"Before you knew it, an official appointee could be in place and with a different priority too," said one observer.

Sources said Guerrero was

"aghast" during her first few days in the department upon learning that "too many things are not in order."

Guerrero has said that she was surprised to learn that the department has no photocopying but however has office desks that stands on hollow blocks, a newsletter that runs articles weeks old, at least three press relations staff, a broken thermostat, and "so many staff that are salaried but not physically present" at the office.

The department's divisions include Fish and Wildlife headed by acting Director Richard Seman; Agriculture, Public Lands, Parks and Grounds; and the Coastal Resource Management.

## Lower CPI may boost consumer confidence

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

LOWER consumer price index may help boost consumer and business confidence in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Central Statistics Division said yesterday.

The Commonwealth's CPI dropped by 1.2 percent in 1997 from the 1996 level, according to figures released by the commerce department's statistics division.

Officials said the drop in the over-all CPI should come as good news to the local business sector

since low inflation rates should help increase consumer confidence and business investment.

"Prices in the CNMI have levelled off in the past few years, and for the first time, we are even seeing an actual drop in the prices which should be an added incentive for investment here in the CNMI," the CSD said in a press statement.

The 1997 CPI was the result of the price survey of four quarters for the five categories of food, housing, transportation, apparel

and upkeep, and health and recreation items.

The CSD cited three main reasons behind the drop in the 1997 consumer price index, including the increased competition among local businesses.

"For example, the increase in the number of car dealerships, major wholesale/retail food distributors, shoe stores, or even telecommunication providers have helped pass on lower prices to the consumer," the CSD statement added.

Commerce officials also mentioned the low inflation rate in mainland United States, at less than three percent last year, where CNMI import most of its products.

The currency devaluation in the Pacific Rim countries, where CNMI also import commodities, have likewise contributed to the proliferation of low-cost import commodities.

The Northern Marianas' CPI calculations are based on the original 1977 CNMI Consumer Ex-

penditure Survey, when a total of 268 families where surveyed to study their consumption habits and patterns.

Based on this survey, 103 different items among food, housing, transportation, apparel and upkeep, and health and recreation were identified in 1977 as the most essential consumption items among the families in the CNMI.

The CSD has been collecting the CPI on a regular quarterly basis since 1988.

## Publishers' workshops

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Pacific Islands News Association, PINA, is organising a workshop for newspaper publishers from Melanesian countries to begin in the Solomon Islands capital Honiara Monday.

Workshop coordinator and host John Lamani says publishers from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands newspapers will be attending the five-day meeting, SIBC reported.

Lamani says currently there are only three financial members of the regional news organisation from Solomon Islands.

And he has appealed to media organisations in the country to pay their annual \$US250 fee to enable them to participate in the workshop.

### PUBLIC NOTICE CORRECTION

#### Northern Marianas College Board of Regents Regular Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 30, 1998  
Board of Regents Conference Room  
As Tertiary Campus, Saipan (10:00 a.m.)

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents are hereby giving notice that a regular meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on Friday, January 30, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Regents Conference Room, As Tertiary Campus, Saipan.

- I. Opening Procedures
  - A. Welcoming Remarks by Chair
  - B. Review/Approval of Agenda
  - C. Review/Approval of Minutes
  1. Regular Meetings: November 24, 1997; December 29, 1997
- II. Fiscal Committee's Report
- III. President's Report
  - A. Program Presentations
    1. Nursing Program
    2. Marine Technology
  - B. Student Enrollment
  - C. Acting Positions
  - D. Accident Report
  - E. Trip Report
  - F. Monthly Reports
  - G. Travel Reports (Dec. 2-31, 1997)
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Board Policy - Safety and Health
  - B. Class size
- V. New Business
  - A. Proposal for Improving Security
  - B. Audit Report for FY 93-94 - USDA
  - C. Goals for 1998
  - D. College Appraisal (As Tertiary Campus)
- VI. Miscellaneous
  - A. Board of Regents

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

## 3 hurt in basketball court riot

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

THREE men were injured when a group of teenagers in San Antonio attacked them while they were playing basketball Friday night.

The victims suffered bruises on the different parts of the body, police said.

Investigation showed that while the victims and fellow members of the MDX Radio Group were playing basketball at San Antonio court about eight male juveniles arrived.

The juveniles, who were allegedly under the influence of alcohol, started harassing the players.

The youths then started throwing rocks and chased the players with *tangan-tangan* sticks, triggering a riot in the court.

The suspects smashed several vehicles belonging to the players, police said.

A witness said at least five police vehicles responded to the melee, but failed to arrest any of the attackers.

Sources said the same gang was suspected to be responsible for other clashes at the basketball court and Afetnas Square area in the past several months.

The juveniles, believed to be drug users, have been implicated in a series of burglary and robbery cases in San Antonio, the same sources said.

San Antonio residents appealed to the police to monitor the movement of these kids.

In other police report, a 28-year-old man reported that an unidentified man abducted him at gunpoint in Gualo Rai and brought

him to Tanapag Beach before dawn Saturday.

The victim said when he came out of the Town and Country Restaurant and was about to leave the area, the suspect suddenly went inside his car.

The suspect poked the victim at the side of his body with an object believed to be a gun and ordered the latter to drive towards Tanapag Beach.

The suspect alighted the car at the beach, asked the victim to stay in the car, and threatened to shoot him if he would look back.

The driver, however, drove the car to a nearby store and sought police's help.

No arrest was made yet.

The suspect was described as between 19 and 20 years old, dark complexioned, sporting a baseball jersey and long pants.

## PNG gov't to pay housing advance

PORTMORESBY (Pacnews)—The Papua New Guinea government has assured workers contributing to the Public Officers Superannuation Fund that it will soon pay outstanding housing advance monies to the fund.

Treasury and Corporate Affairs Minister Iairo Lasaro says arrangements have been made under the 1998 budget to pay

out the state shares for members wanting to buy or build their own homes, NBC reported.

The government has already paid out K26.6 million (\$US15.5m) in 1995/96 outstanding monies for retired and retrenched public servants and the rest of the money will be paid out from the 98 budget.

Lasaro says these monies have

been outstanding for a long time because the government was facing funding constraints.

Meanwhile, the superannuation fund is appealing to members to be patient while it sorts out their "finish" money from the funds just paid in by the government.

About 24 000 members are waiting for this payment.

# 'Gov't policy on tourism needed'

By Lalla C. Younis

Variety News Staff

A COMPREHENSIVE government policy is "urgently needed" to guide all government agencies and private businesses in promoting the CNMI as a tourist destination, according to Marianas Visitors Bureau Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane.

"We need a long-term comprehensive government policy that will address all aspects of the tourism industry from the requirements of opening a business to mandating a uniform greeting," said Tomokane.

"For example, all hotel employees could greet all guests with 'Hafa Adai.'"

Where else in the world can you hear that but here in the CNMI? In the Philippines, when you hear 'Mabuhay,' it makes you feel right at home," she said.

"And businesses could be mandated to have at least some form of tropical landscaping. It will help to promote the islands as a tropical destination when you could see tropical plants instead of just concrete," she added.

Tomokane noted that that government policy can also address "language training, quality of service, beauty and sanitation and promotional messages".

"Right now, everyone is heading in different directions with their version of promotional activities. We need to strengthen our image by having a consistent policy," said Tomokane.

"By working together, both private and public, we can address all issues directly facing the tourism industry and help promote the CNMI as a tropical destination", she said.

Tomokane also noted that the government policy can help determine "whether or not the CNMI should join promotional efforts with Guam".

Tomokane also stressed that the policy "can set the tone" and "avoid wasted time and effort when goals and objectives clash between agencies".

"We are waiting for some form of direction from the government and we would like to see the key players in the tourism industry get involved," said Tomokane.

"We cannot do it alone. We need everyone's help. We are concerned about an imperfect infrastructure, streets without names for safety and security or about dive spots not being maintained but we can't do it all," she said.

"We are inviting people to the CNMI and we have to work together to 'clean house' before our guests arrive. It is our responsibility together," she noted.

"We need to team up the government and the private sector with a policy to best serve the image of a tropical destination," she said.

MVB held an "1998 I&S Promotions Overview" at Hyatt Regency last Friday which hosted government officials and MVB membership.



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane with Kart racers and staff members during the opening ceremonies for the 3rd Annual Marlboro Kart Championship at the Marianas Resort Seaside and Circuit.

Photo by A.E. Younis

# Christmas Club



## 'Tis the Season to Start Saving!

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In Case of Emergency, Call 911



## Sonia...

Continued from page 2

neighboring Sri Lanka.

Sonia Gandhi's overture to Sikhs came a day after Congress apologized for a 1992 mosque demolition that is blamed on a Hindu nationalist party. Congress also announced it had refused to allow one of its leaders, P.V. Narasimha Rao, to run in upcoming parliamentary elections because as prime minister in 1992 he had been unable to stop the violence.

The mosque's destruction set off Hindu-Muslim violence that killed hundreds nationwide.

Congress argues that religious tension in predominately Hindu India can only be contained if the government refuses to favor any religion. The stance contrasts sharply with that of its main rival, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Bharatiya Janata is expected to do well in parliamentary elections next month. Congress is struggling to repair strained ties with Muslims and Sikhs, put corruption scandals behind it, and shake off the perception it has lost touch with ordinary Indians.

In the last general election two years ago, Congress suffered its worst ever electoral defeat. Leading up to that vote, it had governed India for 45 years.

In recent weeks, Sonia Gandhi has broken her seclusion to campaign for the party. She is not running for office herself.

## Override...

Continued from page 1

fect, been nullified.

If the 11th Legislature succeeded in the override move, it would consequently become the author of the pay hike law, the analyst said.

"It is the final act that makes the law. If the 11th Legislature overrode the veto, then it is in effect

the 11th Legislature that is passing that law," the source told the Variety.

The analyst also wondered why legislators wish to give themselves salary increases when the Legislature's budget for 1998 had been doubled.

"With a higher budget, they will have enough money to hire more people, buy more equipment, and spend for their trips. Why do they

need personal salary increases?" the source said.

The source added that the pay hike bill would cost the government about \$300,000, which is not appropriated in the current budget.

"It will have to be reprogrammed. The bill didn't say where to get the money for the increase," the source said.

Another possible legal issue

involves the question about the authority of the 11th Legislature to override the veto of a former governor.

Under the Constitution, the Legislature has 60 days from the date of the veto to override it.

The Constitution, however, does not address the question as to whether or not the new Legislature can override the veto of a former governor.

## PIA...

Continued from page 1

PIA.

PIA operates Cessna, Piper, Shorts and, previously, the Embraer model.

Some of the violations cited by the FAA were:

- The installation of NAPA automotive parts on an aircraft.

- Cases of operating aircraft with flight controls and structures in "un-airworthy" condition during passenger flights.

- Cases of operating aircraft with engines in "un-airworthy" condition during passenger flights.

- Cases of operating aircraft with cracked, broken, or missing parts during passenger flights.

"The penalties were assessed against PIA with the often repeated statement by the FAA that PIA failed to exercise the degree of care, judgment and responsibility required of the holder of an air carrier certificate and a repair station certificate," the documents pointed out.

## Governor...

Continued from page 1

ement employees alone will cost \$12 million to \$13 million a year, and an additional \$3 million or \$4 million for the succeeding years.

"If we have no sources of revenues I don't know how we'll be able to do it, and that's why I'm asking for the understanding and cooperation of the people," he said.

"I hope they realize we're in no position now to continue spending public funds."

But Tenorio added that he will not ask for a repeal of the pay hike law, saying that government employees are entitled to it.

The law, he said, states that its effectivity is subject to the availability of funds.

"If there's no funds, I hope they'll understand," Tenorio said, adding that he would "like to see that every government employee continues to be employed."

Tenorio likewise appealed to

government vendors and suppliers to give the government "a little more time" to pay its debts.

Citing the "financial uncertainty" confronting the CNMI, the new governor earlier issued a memorandum restricting government paid off-island travel and

contracts or personnel actions over \$5,000.

The restrictions will be enforced during the next 60 days.

In signing the memo, Tenorio said once government's financial status is better known, the restrictions may be lifted.

## CNMI...

Continued from page 1

mum wage), we also need the help of federal agencies in these areas."

He said there will be no repeat of the 902 talks initiated by the previous administration in which both sides took a stance "and nobody gave in."

The interests of the CNMI people, however, will not be compromised, he said.

In arguing for local control, Sablan said the CNMI panel will discuss the ripple effects of a federal takeover to the local economy and to the United States itself.

"We will tell the federal government not to open old wounds again, and that we go forward instead," Sablan said.

"We (committed) mistakes, but now we'll work to solve it together with the federal government."

"We'll do our best to become mature citizens who take responsibility (for their actions)," he said.

Still, Sablan added, the Covenant granted the islands a certain amount of self-government.

He called the Covenant a unique political document, saying that its "uniqueness" should not be changed.

[The Covenant, which governs relations between the Commonwealth and federal governments, made the Northern Marianas part of the United States. Its Section

902 calls for discussions between the two governments on issues affecting their relationship.]

Meanwhile, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is still considering the names of those who will join the lieutenant governor in the CNMI's 902 panel, Sablan said.

"We want to keep the team a manageable one, but it has to be representative of the people," he added.

The business sector will be represented as well as both houses of the Legislature, Sablan said.

With the exception of Froilan C. Tenorio, CNMI governors usually appoint their lieutenant governor as head of the Commonwealth panel.

This was the case in the 1980s during incumbent Governor Tenorio's first two terms in office when the first 902 talks were held, and in the early 1990s during the administration of Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero.

For his part, then governor Tenorio named his key aide Brenda Y. Tenorio—who also served in the staff of the CNMI panel in the 1980s—and lawyer Vicente Salas to the discussions.

But after President Clinton recommended the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands, Tenorio suspended the talks last June.

Under discussion then were the possibility of denying U.S. citizenship to children born in the CNMI to alien parents, and the equally contentious issue of the CNMI's off-shore boundary.

## WHO...

Continued from page 3

tional regulatory systems as an essential starting point to prevent counterfeiting, including licensing of products and manufacturing sites, and inspection.

The WHO is also planning to establish an international network of relevant technical and operational drug regulatory officers.

It is also recommending the development of closer national collaboration between the drug regulatory authority and customs, police, professional organizations, pharmaceutical industries and other related institutions.

## 4 cops...

Continued from page 3

The Attorney General's Office said the officers "mailed" Eugenio shortly after they arrested him at a residence in Dandan.

Eugenio was limping and bruised on his face, arms and legs were evident when he appeared for a bail hearing last month.

The 20-year-old Eugenio was charged with two other persons for breaking into Wendy's Restaurant in Garapan last Nov. 29. Police Officer Jose Borja Cepeda was seriously injured when Eugenio allegedly struck him with a crowbar during the incident.



# NMHC announces loan programs for veterans

THE Northern Marianas Housing Corp. (NMHC) has announced the availability of a federal loan program for American veterans.

The program, known as the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program enacted by the US Congress in 1992, is aimed at providing Native American veterans funds to enable them to return to their homelands and acquire a decent family home.

The program was originally set to expire on September 30, 1997 but has been extended until December 31, 2001.

In enacting this law, the US Congress was especially concerned with the plight of Native American veterans who earn incomes lower than the non-native American veterans.

The program is also open to Pacific Island veterans, such as those who are of Northern

Marianas descent.

Veterans who are of Northern Marianas descent may apply for loans under the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Program at NMHC's office on Saipan.

NMHC noted that several veterans on Saipan have misunderstood the nature of the program, and have challenged NMHC's inability to process loan applications under the program for veter-

Continued on page 19

## RP workers get treat from actor

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

PHILIPPINE movie heartthrob Aga Muhlach wowed the Filipino community on Saipan in a two-night concert at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during the weekend.

Filling up the Gilligan's 500-seating capacity during his two-night gig, Muhlach, who is among the prettiest faces in the Philippines' show business, belted out nine English songs.

On his first visit to the Northern Marianas, Muhlach was surprised to see several thousands of Filipinos on the island, blurring out that he thought he would be in for a very different environment.

"It's just like the Philippines. I just want my countrymen here to work, work, work for their family and for our country," he said in a press conference before the show.

Muhlach is on a three-day visit



Aga Muhlach

to the island, which he was expecting to be filled with a lot of water-sports activities. The actor used to date former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres, who reports claimed, did not renew her

work permit in the Philippines.

The pretty-faced actor claims he is unattached and would probably prioritize his career over his love life. "When it comes, it comes," he quipped.

## Announcement

### Art exhibit

THE Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture announces its Second Annual Photography Exhibit which will open on February 13 and will run until February 27.

The exhibit will feature work by photographers in the CNMI. Opening reception for the exhibit will be on February 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Any individuals who would like to submit their work may contact the Arts Council for registration forms.

Last day of submission will be on February 9 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call Angel Hocog or Tina Wabot Foster at 322-9982 or 322-9983.

### X-mas tree trade

THE Christmas Tree trade is still on going. Interested parties still have eight more days to trade their old Christmas tree for two indigenous plants.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is urging everyone to trade in their Christmas tree before January 30.

Program coordinators Stan Villagomez and Vic Deleon Guerrero said the trees will be chipped and used for mulching to incorporate organic matter into the soil.

The wood chips will be used for the plants being grown at the Kagman Nursery.

For more information call Stan or Vicat 256-3184.

### PTA meeting

THE Hopwood Junior High School PTA will be meeting tomorrow at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be at the school cafeteria.

For questions call 234-8950 extension 2929.

### Postponed

THE Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center has postponed the date of the Royal Court Coronation from February 14 to April 18.

## Economist clarifies outlook

LOCAL economist Edward Stephens Jr. said he was misquoted in an article published yesterday ("CNMI can't do without tourism").

"I conveyed to the Variety that tourism and garments are important parts of the CNMI economy, and that both sectors will feel the effects of global economic conditions, including currency devaluations in certain regions," Stephens said, adding he never said that the Commonwealth

should "enrich" the garment industry.

"That kind of misquote implies I'm perhaps calling for some kind of subsidy. Although I'm a specialist in the tourism market, I do not offer any suggestions about the garment industry," he said.

Stephens also said the article's prediction of a tremendous growth in automobile repair shops and parts stores is the reporter's opinion and not his.



## PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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## AMENDED VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

**EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO.:** BOE-001-98A. This Announcement takes precedence over all previously issued vacancy announcements for this position.

Previous announcements should therefore be disregarded.

**OPENING DATE:** January 19, 1998

**CLOSING DATE:** All Application must be filed at the Board of Education Office by February 28, 1998 at 4:30 P.M.

**POSITION/TITLE:** Superintendent/Commissioner of Education  
**SALARY:** \$70,000, plus benefits  
**LOCATION:** Nauru Building, Saipan (BOE)

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Superintendent/Commissioner is the Chief Executive Officer of the Public School System and is responsible for all of its operations and activities.

### SELECTION CRITERIA:

The five elected members of the Board will each use their own non-discriminatory criteria in deciding which candidate they believe will best be able to handle the responsibilities of this highly demanding position.

### SUPERVISION:

The Superintendent/Commissioner answers to the CNMI's elected Board of Education and serves at their pleasure.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must possess at least a Master's degree in some field of education and at least five years experience in teaching or five years experience in education administration. All candidates must have demonstrated excellence in management and leadership.

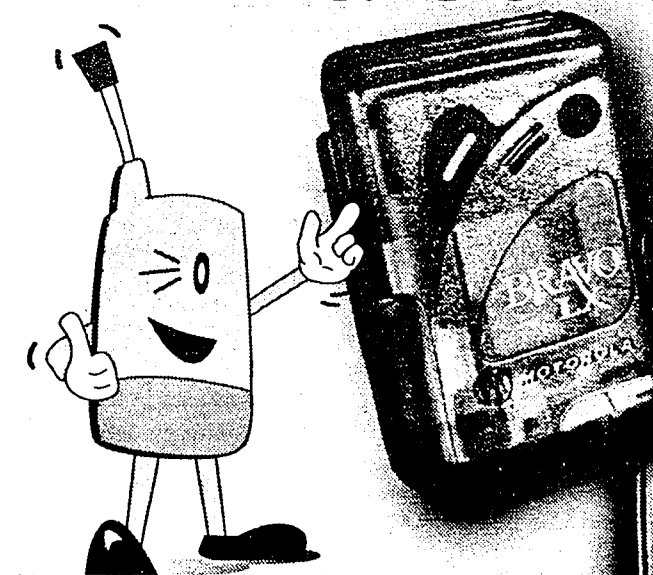
**ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETELY FILL OUT A BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FORM. INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS AT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE LOCATED ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE NAURU BUILDING. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS AND/OR ANY INQUIRIES RELATED TO THIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO:**

CNMI Board of Education, P.O. Box 1370 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 664-3711, Fax: (670) 664-3717, Email: Sean.Frink@Saipan.com

The CNMI Board of Education and Public School System are equal opportunity employers. Selection or non-selection for this position will not be based in any way upon a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or in retaliation for a person's lawful exercise of such rights.

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## To fix economic woes

# Marshalls eyes grassroots solution



Philippines President Fidel Ramos, left, admires a gold-plated Indonesian-made assault rifle presented to him by visiting Indonesian Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie during the latter's courtesy call at Malacanang Palace in Manila Friday. AP



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), a public corporation under the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is requesting Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) from Architectural/Engineering consulting firms for the planning, design and construction management of its various projects through the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Interested firms are asked to submit detailed statements of their qualifications which should, at a minimum contain the following:

1. List of projects completed. Consulting firm needs to identify extent of involvement with the project listed.
2. Number of personnel and their respective position titles or capacity within the organization. Also include current license/registration of staff members.
3. Short history of the firm indicating overall performance. The NMHC considers it critical that firms be firmly established in the Commonwealth to take full advantage of its desire to fully participate in all aspects of its projects.

While 254 and 255 forms may be used to document the firm's Statement of Qualifications, NMHC expects a more in-depth narration of the firm's background and qualifications.

The RFQ is to be submitted to the NMHC Office no later than 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 20, 1998 at which time NMHC will meet to evaluate each firm's submission of its qualifications. Firms are advised that they may be called for interview as part of the evaluation process at the discretion of the Corporate Director. Firms are also advised that NMHC may select only firm or several firms to participate in various projects which are expected to be accomplished over several years.

The following list while not all exclusive, presents the extent of projects the RFQ must address:

- Multipurpose Recreational Facility at the Northern Marianas College - to perform construction management;
- Low-Cost House Plans - to develop several complete A/E plans for a 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom houses; and,
- Kagman Community Center - to develop planning, complete A/E and construction management for a community center in Kagman, Saipan.

This request for Statement of Qualifications constitutes the scope of work. Thus, the Statement of Qualifications must be general, but at the same time, be specific enough to include projects relating to the planning, design and construction management of projects in the Commonwealth. All RFQ's shall become the sole property of the NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA  
Corporate Director

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

**MAJURO**—A National Economic and Social Summit in the Marshall Islands galvanized public opinion, releasing a wave of pent-up anger about government policies that served as a kick-off for increasing community participation in and control of decision making in this north Pacific nation, say participants in the just concluded grassroots conference.

Numerous people expressed satisfaction with the openness of the discussions and the dozens of recommendations that resulted from the discussions that brought together 150 islanders from every walk of life to grapple with what to do about the impending economic crisis.

The government-sponsored Summit was funded by the United Nations Development Program.

Businessman Ramsey Reimers, a long time government critic, who moderated the Summit's "business environment" working group, said that the importance of the Summit is that while there was criticism of the government, there was an understanding that a solution has to be developed. That was what was good about the Summit. There was a solid commitment to do something.

Reimers added that while some people may feel nothing will happen as a result of the five day Summit, he believes differently. "This is a totally different situation," he said. The Summit, he said, was required by the overseas donors. "The donors are saying, listen to the people or we won't give you money."

But until this week's grassroots Summit, there has been little pub-

lic participation in government decision making since constitutional government was established 20 years ago.

Assumption High School Principal Marie Maddison, a former permanent secretary of health and education, said the fact that the Summit included many long time critics of the government was a first for the country.

"And the people have spoken," is the way Marshall Islands Visitors Authority general manager Ben Graham described the Summit. "We've taken the first of two steps, by gathering everyone in a democratic process so they could state their opinions. Now the question is will the leaders take the recommendations and implement them?"

The Summit adopted dozens of proposals for action to address the ailing economy, declining health and education standards, and promotion of tourism, fisheries and agriculture.

Among the proposals is for the government to adopt a code of ethics for government officials and for allowances of elected leaders to be cut to fund deficits in education and health.

Graham added that the summit didn't really bring up new issues. "Most of the recommendations are not radically different from what people know should be done," he said.

"But for the first time it's been formalized, it's in black and white on paper."

Maddison said that participants in the Summit agreed that the "people at the top (of government) have been holding too much power and that's been the major problem all along."

## Foreign secretary quits his post

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

**MAJURO**—Marshall Islands Foreign Secretary Robert Muller has resigned from the public service, effective at the end of January.

Interviewed Wednesday (Jan. 21) as he was "tying up loose ends" at the Foreign Ministry, Muller said he had originally planned to resign as of January 1 but was requested to extend through the end of January, and has.

Muller is the highest ranking public servant to leave the employ of the Marshall Islands government and strike out into the private sector.

His resignation comes as the Marshalls government is facing an impending economic crisis and is mid-way through an Asian Development Bank-backed economic reform program that is laying off several hundred government workers.

Muller said that after working for the government for about seven years, he had lost the motivation

to work in the public sector and decided to resign to pursue opportunities in the private sector. "I wanted to start the new year with a new career," he said.

Muller has been secretary of Foreign Affairs for over a year. Prior to that he worked for the Ministry of Resources and Development for about four and a half years, mostly in the post of permanent secretary of the ministry.

"When I came back from school, I had intended to give two-to-three years to government service," he said. "I've done seven, and now I want to pursue personal interests in the private sector."

Muller said that he didn't have any specific plans at this time, though he was looking at a number of possibilities, including possibly completing his graduate studies.

Russell Edwards has been acting Foreign Secretary since Muller went on leave late last year and then turned in his resignation.

## The Pacific

# Continental cutback worries Marshalls

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

**MAJURO**—Continental Micronesia may soon be cutting one of three weekly flights to and from the Marshall Islands, a possibility that could hurt a growing scuba dive operation at Bikini Atoll and is worrying the business community in Majuro.

The possible reduction in Continental flights from the current three was discussed at Thursday's Chamber of Commerce meeting in Majuro, as local businessmen reported unofficial news from local airline officials about the impending cutback in Continental service, the only carrier connecting the Marshalls with Guam and Honolulu.

Local businesses, particularly those involved in tourist-related activities, expressed great concern about the impact of fewer flights servicing the Marshall Islands.

Continental station manager John Hawley said in a separate interview that the reduction "is not definite yet." He said, however, that a top Continental official from Guam will be arriving in Majuro in the next week to discuss a variety of airline issues with political and business leaders. Continental officials from Guam have been holding similar meetings with political and business leaders in Palau and

the Federated States of Micronesia this month, Hawley said.

Continental Micronesia has proposed the reduction to start on April 1, according to reports. Hawley did note, while not confirming a cutback in the island-hopper service which links Honolulu with Majuro, Kwajalein, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Guam, that Continental Micronesia has already started pulling out of a number of Asian destinations, including Seoul, S. Korea, and is looking at dropping Taipei, Taiwan from its schedule also. It has also trimmed air service into Saipan, he said.

During the early 1990s, Continental provided four weekly flights to and from Majuro. That was reduced to three in 1995 when Air Marshall Islands was providing the first ever competition with Continental on the Honolulu-Majuro route. Heavy losses forced Air Marshall Islands to cancel its jet service to Honolulu in early 1996.

Outrigger Marshall Islands Resort general manager Laverne Salvador said that the hotel's marketing strategy for 1998 is based on an anticipated three-to-four percent growth in visitor arrivals and no further loss of seats to Guam and Hawaii. "The loss of any seats is going to be detrimental

to achieving our marketing goals," she said.

The reduction in flight service could directly impact the growing scuba dive business at Bikini Atoll, now about to open its third season for diving. A Rodale Press reader poll featured on its web page this

week lists Bikini as the second most dreamed about dive destination, behind only Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Local officials confirm the overseas interest in the dozens of World War II battle ships on Bikini's lagoon floor. "We have people pre-booked to

Bikini through 1999," said chief executive officer Ramsey Reimers. The Bikini visits are based on a Wednesday night departure back to Honolulu, the flight that Continental is apparently considering cutting off. "It could throw a wrench into the program," Reimers added.

## Permanent ceasefire in Bougainville looms

**CANBERRA (Pacnews)**—Peace talks between the government of Papua New Guinea and representatives of the Bougainville factions are expected to end today with hopes of a permanent ceasefire and reconstruction of services on the troubled island.

The talks are being held at Lincoln University in Christchurch,

New Zealand, and are scheduled to end this afternoon with a closing ceremony.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors and officials were commenting Thursday on progress at the talks.

The talks are being chaired by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu.

## Samoa takes action to prevent dengue entry

**APIA (Pacnews)**—Samoa has become the fourth regional country to take measures against dengue fever after the outbreak of the virus in Fiji.

Earlier, health authorities in Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands announced they were acting to prevent the virus spreading to their countries.

Samoa's national radio, 2AP, reports that the Health Department will set up facilities at the National Hospi-

tal with the help of the South Pacific Commission to test for dengue virus.

The department has also started a spraying campaign against mosquitoes in the capital Apia.

Health authorities are appealing to the public to keep their surroundings clean and destroy possible mosquito breeding places.

Meanwhile, in Vanuatu, officials have begun spraying against mosquitoes in Port Vila and Luganville.

## 43 Fiji policemen return from Croatia

**SUVA (Pacnews)**—About 43 Fiji police officers arrived at Nadi Airport Thursday night after 10 months of peacekeeping duty in Croatia.

Police Commissioner Isikia Savua and Divisional Police Commander Western Senior Superintendent Indar Prasad welcomed the officers in Nadi, The Fiji Times reported.

Savua said the United Nations had asked that 15 police officers extend their terms and return in April.

He said 8 of the 15 would be stationed in Croatia while seven would be deployed in Bosnia.

The officers have been praised by the United Nations for their contribution to law and order in Croatia.

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## HK newspaper in controversy over alleged donations

**HONG KONG (AP)** - A Hong Kong newspaper facing government legal action for contempt of court is also embroiled in a controversy over a massive donation to the British Conservative Party.

The government said Saturday it would seek permission to prosecute senior officials of the Oriental Daily News for ordering 24-hour surveillance of a judge who had ruled against the daily in a case against a rival newspaper.

Early last week, the Oriental Daily News, Hong Kong's racist and most popular Chinese-language paper, published lengthy accounts of a 1.6 million pound (about U.S. \$600,000) donation its own chairman had made to the Conservatives in 1994, while they were still in power.

The Oriental group was founded by Ma Sik-chun, who jumped bail in 1978 and fled to Taiwan after he was investigated for drug trafficking.

The paper alleged that Ma and his family gave the money to the Tories in exchange for help on "a family affair." It did not say what the affair was.

The paper also printed a letter sent last April by Ma's son, Ma Ching-kwan, to the then Tory party chairman Brian Malwhinny, demanding the money back because there was "no satisfactory outcome to the explicit expectations of my family."

It published a reply by former

Conservative Party's deputy chairman Michael Trend, saying that Malwhinny was too busy with British election activities to handle the matter.

Conservative leader William Hague last week refused to discuss specifically the alleged donation by Ma, but pledged to return any funds given to his party from illegal sources.

The paper said in its editorial "Kung Fu Tea" column last Wednesday that the revelations on the donations were only the "tip of an iceberg" and promised more "shocking revelations" about the Conservatives.

Robin Cook, Britain's foreign secretary and a senior Labor Party politician, said during his visit to Hong Kong last week that it was improper for British political parties to receive donations from "a fugitive from justice in Taiwan."

Rather than return the money to Ma's family, the Conservatives should use it "to fund some of the many voluntary drugs projects going on in Britain seeking to help young people," he said.

The paper is often caught in controversies over its sensationalist contents.

Its entanglement with the government over contempt of court charges started after a rival paper, the Apple Daily, reproduced an exclusive photo of the Oriental Daily's taken of pregnant pop star Faye Wong. The singer is one of Hong Kong's biggest stars and her pregnancy was major gossip-column news.

## Army-Muslim rebel clash imperils peace talks in RP

**COTABATO, Philippines (AP)** - Army troops clashed with Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines on Sunday in fighting that killed at least four people and endangered peace talks between the government and the rebels.

The military said the clashes in Datu Piang, a marshy town in Maguindanao province, killed an army officer and three rebels of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Military officials said the rebels first ambushed army soldiers on their way to assist farmers who complained they were being har-

assed by MILF rebels in three Datu Piang villages. Two soldiers were injured in the attack.

Military reinforcement, backed by two fighter planes, later shelled MILF-controlled areas near the ambush site, leaving at least three rebels dead, said Army Maj. Aurelio Punzalan.

The military reported the fighting waned before darkness fell but many villagers continued to hear sporadic shelling and rifle grenade blasts, prompting about 30 families to flee their homes, local officials said.

Last Tuesday, at least 15 MILF

rebels were killed when soldiers shelled rebel positions in a separate clash in the village of Buldon, also in Maguindanao. The MILF maintains its headquarters in the province, about 860 kilometers (535 miles) south of Manila.

In both encounters, both sides accused each other of starting the clash that violated a six-month-old cease-fire agreement.

The MILF is the largest of two Muslim rebel groups still fighting the government after the main rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, signed a peace accord in 1996.

## Vote-buying, violence in Taiwan a political setback

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** - Vote buying and gangster-directed violence marred Saturday's local elections, setting back efforts to clean up Taiwan's political culture, politicians and scholars said Sunday.

The ruling Nationalist Party retained its traditional strength at the local level, netting 598, or 67 percent, of the 890 seats contested in city and county councils.

The Nationalists held 68 percent of those seats before the election. They also won 259, or 81 percent, of the 319 township chief and city mayor posts, down from 83 percent previously.

But allegations of wide-spread vote buying, especially in rural areas, circulated throughout the hotly-contested campaign period, with claims that up to 5,000 Taiwan dollars (U.S. dls 156) were being offered for individual votes.

"We need to once again think seriously about very severe prob-

lems with electoral fraud and violence," said Liu Yi-chun, a researcher with the state-funded Academia Sinica.

"There was an extremely strong gangster element to the elections. This is the great misfortune and tragedy of Taiwanese politics," said Chen Shui-bian, mayor of Taipei and the Democratic Progressive Party's most influential politician.

The DPP made minor gains by capturing 113 council seats, up from 80. But it won only 29 mayoral and township chief posts, a loss of one.

The Taiwan High Court said Saturday that 477 cases of vote-buying and 15 cases of election-related intimidation, fire attacks and kidnappings were reported during the campaign period.

Justice Minister Liao Cheng-hao said before the election that a third of serving council members and local leaders were linked to organized crime. Liao predicted

that proportion could rise to two-thirds after the polls.

Among election winners was Hsiao Teng-piao, former speaker of the Chiayi county council, who was arrested in an organized crime sweep last year but escaped and remains at large.

Hsiao's 17-year old son accepted victory on his father's behalf. Hsiao's vote share topped all other council candidates in the county.

Taiwan launched a crackdown on vote buying and electoral violence four years ago, charging hundreds of council members with fraud and bribe taking. But local political machines remain extremely influential at the lower levels of government.

Saturday's elections attracted a record-high 2,795 candidates, partly because of structural changes that will give local governments greater powers.



Riot police officers confront anti-Japanese protesters during their rally denouncing Japan for scrapping an old fisheries treaty near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul Monday. Japan pulled out of a 1965 fishing treaty with South Korea last Friday after talks to extend the pact stalled and the decision triggered an angry reaction in South Korea. AP

## Russian health statistics

•**CARDIOVASCULAR** disease death rate for Russian men 5 to 6 times higher than in West, Health Ministry says. Among men ages 45-74, mortality rate is 1,343 per 100,000, compared to 330 in France, 453 in Italy.

•Russian population of about 147 million shrank by estimated 475,000 in 1996, State Statistics

Committee says. For at least next several years, expected to continue shrinking by about 500,000 annually.

•53 percent of deaths caused by heart disease, 20 percent by cancer. World Health Organization figures smoking causes 32 percent of all male deaths, 5 percent of female deaths.

•In 1995, average life expectancy was 58 years for men, 72 for women, compared to 74 and 81 in European Union. Latest estimates from WHO say Russian life expectancy for both sexes now 64 years - same as Pakistan and Guyana, worse than Vietnam, Mexico, Guatemala, Mongolia, Algeria.

## As Lewinsky questions grow

# Clinton further isolates self

**By RON FOURNIER WASHINGTON (AP)** - President Bill Clinton has retreated into an unusually small circle of advisers as he ponders how to characterize his relationship with a 24-year-old intern.

Faced with evidence of her visits to the White House inner sanctums and gifts he gave her, Clinton is not denying a friendship with Monica Lewinsky - but is insisting it was not sexual.

As Clinton further isolated himself, several White House aides wondered Sunday if the president could keep up his denials.

Senior administration officials and longtime Clinton friends, including two who talked to him in recent days, said the president was shocked and depressed in the first hours of the Monica Lewinsky controversy but has bounced back.

"One thing isn't going on and that's discussions about any resignation," said Rahm Emanuel, a top White House adviser.

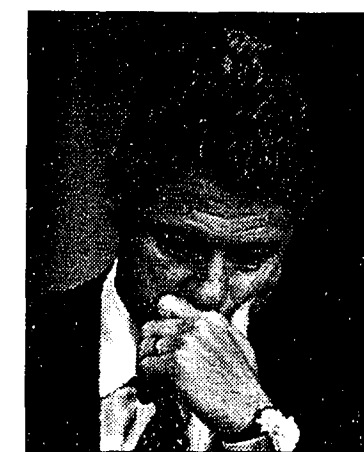
Emanuel is one of the White House senior staffers who have been shut out of the most critical meetings about the controversy. Recognizing that his legal risks are higher now than political perils, Clinton is limiting his discussions about the former White House intern to a small group of lawyers.

The group consists of his private attorneys and former administration heavyweights Mickey Kantor and Harold Ickes. Longtime confidant Bruce Lindsey, and to a lesser extent, White House counsel Charles Ruff are also part of the inner circle.

Harry Thomason, a Hollywood producer, has come aboard to help Clinton explain his actions - once he decides how to do so.

A key question is how Clinton will describe his relationship with Lewinsky?

Officials familiar with the president's thinking say he firmly denies participating in any sex act with Lewinsky. He won't deny a relationship, the officials say, not



President Bill Clinton

with evidence that Lewinsky visited the Oval Office area frequently and received gifts from Clinton.

"It was a relationship. It was sexually innocent," summarized one Clinton associate.

Senior officials outside the inner circle said Clinton was expected to say he was friendly with Lewinsky, forming a close bond

that she might have misinterpreted.

Evidence that he placed calls to Lewinsky could be explained in the context of Clinton's concern for her well-being, the official said.

Though the controversy is

mushrooming, Clinton still does not plan to address the relationship until after his State of the Union address. Talk of postponing the Tuesday speech was rejected.

With every breathless news bulletin and new development, the mood at the White House has

soured. Aides say they wouldn't be surprised if more allegations involving different women surface.

The president is still surrounded by a loyal, hardworking staff that expects him to survive, but doubts are starting to creep in.

More than one aide confided Sunday that internal polling shows Clinton's favorability rating falling by more than 10 points. Others wonder if Clinton might be forced to change his story. In light of his reputation as a womanizer, some worry that his denials are not very firm.

George Stephanopoulos, a former top Clinton aide, said on the record what many of his former colleagues will only say when their identity is shielded:

"I think (Clinton's survival) depends on the answer to only one other question ... Is he telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? If he is, he can survive. If he isn't, he can't," Stephanopoulos said on ABC television.



In this image taken from video, a young woman identified as Monica Lewinsky embraces President Clinton as he greeted well-wishers at a White House lawn party in Washington on Nov. 6, 1996. Lewinsky offered Friday, Jan. 23, 1998, to reverse her official story and acknowledge to prosecutors that she had sexual relations with President Clinton in exchange for immunity, according to a source. AP

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-98-X-03 submitted by PAC-10 Enterprises on behalf of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. for the construction of the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. 7-storey Commercial Building which includes: office spaces for rent, two (2) luxury penthouses, parking stalls and other project infrastructure. The project will be located on private property Tract no. 21965-5 in Chalan Laulau, along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 1998 at 6:30 pm at the Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria. This is the second and final notice of this public hearing.

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

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

**PETER J. BARLAS**  
Acting Director  
Coastal Resources Management



## Cohen Asian tour shows:

# Suspicion of American motives alive

By ROBERT BURNS

WASHINGTON (AP) - From steamy Indonesia in the south to frosty Beijing in the north, 12 days in East Asia brought home a strong message to U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen: suspicion of American motives is very much alive.

The doubt is not only about the size and future role of the American military in Asia. It applies to the U.S. response to the region's economic insecurities as well.

Cohen's Jan. 11-22 tour also made clear that American weapons makers will feel part of the sting of the all-encompassing economic crisis forcing defense cutbacks across the region.

On his first stop, in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, Cohen went out of his way to acknowledge questions being raised about the U.S. role in Asia.

"I know very well that at times, and even recently, there has been concern over America's level of interest and long-term intentions in the region," he said. "I am here

to tell you that those concerns are not warranted."

There is no question that the presence of 100,000 American troops in Asia - almost all in Japan and South Korea - generally is supported by Asian governments as a key to maintaining regional equilibrium and countering China's military potential.

In Singapore, Tony Tan, the island nation's deputy prime minister and defense minister, put it this way: "The presence of U.S. forces is a positive influence for regional peace and stability." To underscore the point, he announced that Singapore will foot the \$35 million bill to build a pier at its planned new Changi naval base to accommodate visiting U.S. Navy aircraft carriers.

Even the Philippines, where public opposition to U.S. military bases led to the departure of the Americans in 1992, sent a positive signal during Cohen's trip, which had no stop in Manila. The Philippines announced it was re-opening the door to U.S. ship vis-

its and U.S. troop training. Cohen said he interpreted Manila's message as, "The United States is a welcome friend."

The message was less enthusiastic in Thailand, although hardly unfriendly. There was no talk of reviving a U.S. request, rejected by Bangkok in 1993, to allow the Pentagon to use the Gulf of Thailand for floating storage of U.S. military equipment.

And outright tensions remain, as demonstrated during Cohen's stop in Tokyo. He felt compelled to apologize for aircraft landings by pilots preparing to deploy with the carrier USS Independence, which angered people near several U.S. bases. It was the latest in a string of U.S. missteps in Japan that have contributed to a growing public resentment at the presence of American forces.

"We want to be very good neighbors," Cohen said.

Some of Asia's doubts reflect a feeling that, with the Cold War over, the United States no longer needs Asian allies to counter the spread of Soviet influence. Its true intention, this line of thought goes,

is to exploit or manipulate Asian economies.

On the day Cohen left Bangkok a front-page story in a local newspaper said, "Doubts are ... growing among top Thai policy makers in both the public and private sector about Washington's commitment and real intentions toward this country."

Cohen tried to answer those doubts by reaffirming support for Thailand and agreeing to discuss ways of giving the Thai government a break on payments for F-18 fighters it ordered before its economic slump cramped its defense budget.

Thais have complained that Washington was slow to respond with help when its currency plunged last year. The economy took a dive, and Thailand was compelled to agree to a bailout deal from the International Monetary Fund.

Even in South Korea, where relations with the United States are as solid as anywhere in Asia, Cohen felt compelled to give reassurances.

"The United States does not

seek to take advantage or to make any profit" from the rapid decline in the value against the dollar of the South Korean won, Cohen told a news conference Thursday before returning to Washington. South Korea contributes \$399 million to the cost of keeping 37,000 American troops in its country. A large share of that money represents labor costs paid to Korean workers at U.S. bases. Because that labor is paid in dollars, the cost to the government has skyrocketed beyond what it had budgeted.

In China, Cohen emphasized the U.S. hope for gradually developing closer military-to-military relations. He stressed that Washington wants Beijing's communist government to be more open about its defense spending and policies.

The atmospherics of Cohen's three-day visit to Beijing were good, but the Chinese remain ambivalent about the large U.S. military presence in the Pacific. They also doubt whether it serves their interests - as a vastly smaller military power than the United States - to expose their military secrets.

## In Quebec

# 60,000 households still without power

MONTREAL (AP) - About 60,000 Quebec households remained without power, nearly three weeks after a paralyzing ice storm hit the region in eastern Canada.

Half the households should regain power within the week, but there was no estimate when electricity would be restored to the rest, Andre Caille, the chairman of Hydro-Quebec, the provincial power company, said Sunday. "We'll have to wait until next Sunday before saying what's go-

ing to happen the following week," Caille told a news conference.

The five-day ice storm began Jan. 5. At the peak of the chaos, about 1.4 million Quebec households had no electricity because of toppled utility poles and transmission towers.

Caille said fatigue of repair crews had been a factor in slowing down the restoration of power. He said one lineman was in serious condition in a Montreal hospital after getting shocked with electricity Saturday.

## Despite ill-fitting spacesuit

# Astronaut moves into Mir

By MARCIA DUNN  
SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - Despite an ill-fitting spacesuit, American astronaut Andrew Thomas moved into Mir, at least temporarily, while NASA and the Russian Space Agency debated what to do about the problem.

At first, Mission Control forbid Thomas from spending Sunday night aboard the space station and ordered him to stay on the adjoining space shuttle Endeavour. Then officials relented; the reason wasn't entirely clear.

The bottom line was that the suit snafu remained and had the potential to cancel Thomas' 4 1/2-month Mir mission.

To remain aboard Mir, Thomas needs a properly fitting spacesuit to wear in the attached Soyuz spacecraft. Even though he's not supposed to ride in the

Soyuz during his mission, that's his only way back to Earth in the event of an emergency following Endeavour's departure.

Thomas' custom-made Russian suit, intended for use on the Soyuz, Mir's lifeboat, is so tight he can't get into it. And the only spare, the suit belonging to David Wolf, a Mir resident for the past four months, is too big. "It's basically unusable," Thomas reported.

After hours of fiddling with the two suits, Thomas asked Mission Control pointblank: Should he spend the night on Endeavour or Mir? Wolf had the same question.

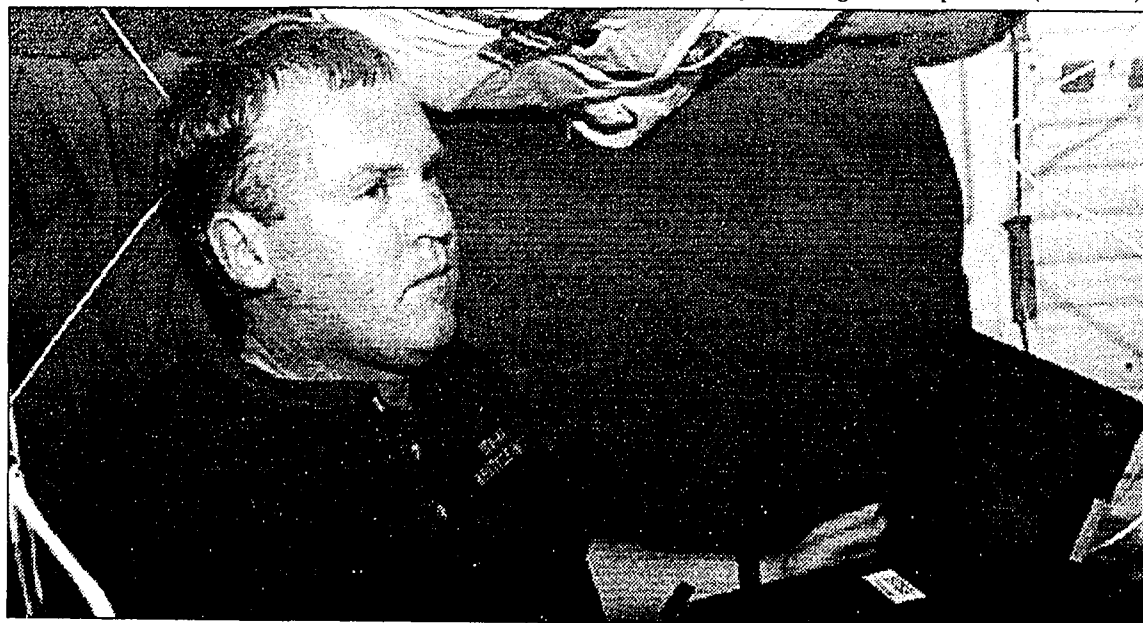
Mission Control, in turn, asked Thomas whether he'd feel safe using Wolf's oversized suit in an emergency. He said he'd get by and would feel comfortable about the situation, at least for one night. Mir's commander, Anatoly

Solovyov, favored Thomas moving into Mir.

After conferring with their counterparts in Moscow, however, NASA flight controllers opted to have Thomas sleep aboard Endeavour on Sunday night. And Wolf was instructed to sleep on Mir. An hour later, after further talks with Moscow, Mission Control announced that Thomas could, indeed, sleep on Mir and that Wolf could sleep on the shuttle.

NASA held out hope that perhaps one of the suits could be adjusted or that parts from the two could be combined.

The problem with Wolf's suit is that the sleeves are 6 inches (15 cms) too long for Thomas. Thomas is 5-8 (1.78 meters) and weighs 160 pounds (72.5 kilos); Wolf is 5-10 (1.78 meters) and weighs 185 pounds (84 kilos).



American astronaut Andrew Thomas is shown aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on Saturday. Despite an ill-fitting spacesuit, Thomas moved into Mir on Sunday while NASA and the Russian Space Agency debated whether to leave him there. AP

# 56 killed in 4-day Algeria violence

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) - At least 56 people have been killed in Algeria in the past four days in the latest violence to engulf this North African nation, newspapers and hospital sources reported this weekend.

The wave of killings included massacres of villagers and farmers as well as attacks on cars and victims of bombings in the capital Algiers, Blida and Setif.

No one claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, which are frequently blamed on Islamic militants seeking to overthrow the military-backed regime currently in power.

The new offensive coincides with the celebration of Leilat El Qadr, which means "night of destiny" in Arabic and comes at the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month.

This Ramadan has been an especially deadly one in Algeria, which is now in its seventh year of an Islamic insurgency that was set off when the Algerian authorities canceled parliamentary elections that Islamic candidates were poised to win. According to independent sources, 1,850 people have been killed since Ramadan began Dec. 30.

On Friday, two young people who were planting bombs were killed by the explosive they were carrying to plant in the Chevalley Mosque not far from Algiers. They had planned to set off the bomb during midday prayers.

On Friday afternoon, another bomb exploded at Rais Hamidou, killing one person and wounding two others. In the evening at Beni Messous, in the western suburbs of the capital, civilians disguised as police killed three members of one family and wounded

another, a neighbor said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Shortly before midnight, a powerful bomb exploded at Saint Raphael on the outskirts of Algiers, damaging buildings but causing no injuries.

In Blida, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Algiers, a bomb exploded Friday near a market killing one person. Further south at Medea, 100 kilometers (60 miles), at least five people were killed when armed attackers entered a village outside the town, travelers returning to Algiers reported. They did not give their names for fear of reprisals.

At Setif, 310 kilometers (200 miles) east of Algiers, a bomb Friday evening killed four people and wounded 10 others, hospital sources said. They too would not give their names.

In the west, an armed group attacked the village of Telagh near Sidi Bel Abbes about 440 kilometers (271 miles) from Algiers. Seven people had their throats slit, survivors said.

On Thursday, an armed group attack 10 members of a family in the village of Sebra, near the town of Tlemcen about 550 kilometers (339 miles) west of Algiers near the border with Morocco, the El Watan newspaper reported Saturday.

The Authentique newspaper reported Saturday that security forces wiped out three armed groups in the Algiers region, killing 17 militants. The El Watan newspaper said eight militants were killed Wednesday 11 kilometers (six miles) west of the capital. An armed man was killed Friday in central Algiers, a witness said.

## Opposition assault in Afghan prov. repulsed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - The Taliban Islamic army claimed to have repulsed an opposition assault in north-eastern Baghlan province after a round of fierce fighting, officials said Sunday.

Troops led by Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum launched the attack Saturday in Baghlan's Ghorbandia district, roughly 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of the Afghan capital Kabul, they said. "We repulsed their attack and our opposition suffered heavy casualties, leaving many bodies lying on the battlefield," said a Taliban official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

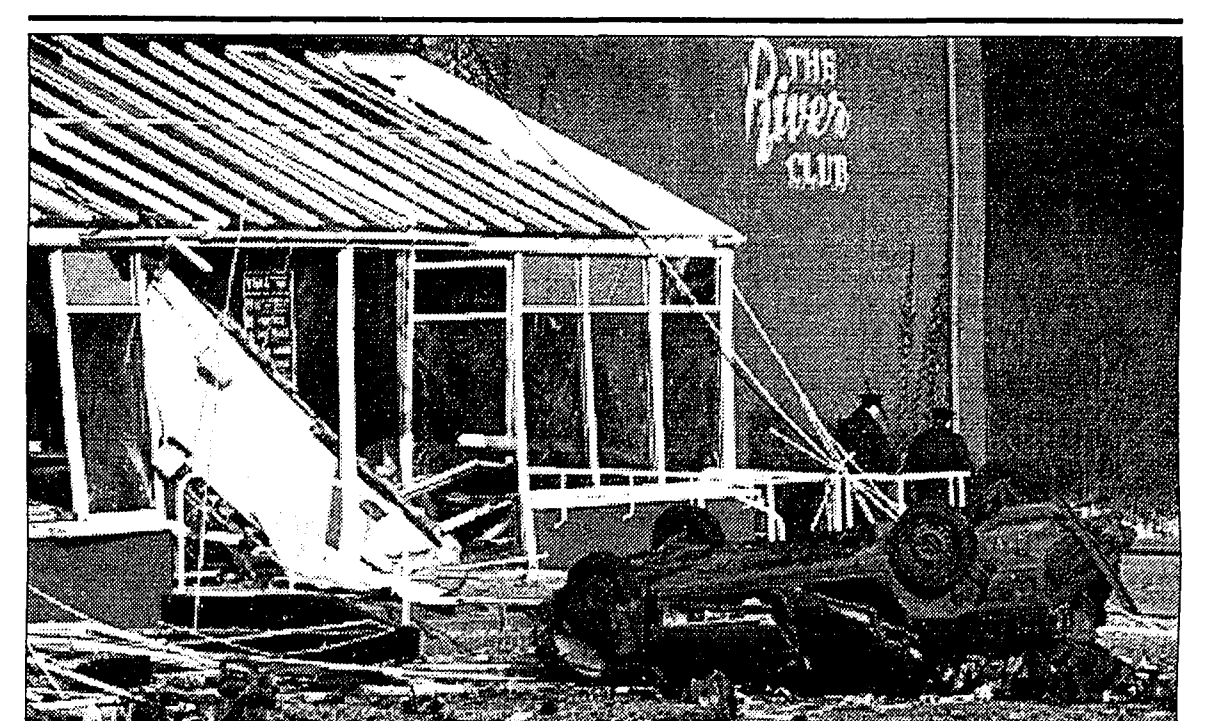
He said Taliban troops also captured dozens of light and heavy weapons from retreating soldiers. It was impossible to get an

independent confirmation of the Taliban claim because of the remoteness of the region. The anti-Taliban alliance, which controls the northern 15 percent of Afghanistan, could not be reached for comment.

The Taliban has imposed a strict brand of Islamic law across the remaining 85 percent of the country. It is battling opposition soldiers on at least three separate fronts north of Kabul and in western Afghanistan.

The anti-Taliban alliance, led by Dostum and ousted defense chief Ahmed Shah Massoud, is made up mostly of Afghanistan's minority groups, including Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Shiite Muslims.

Most Taliban are Sunni Muslims from the majority Pashtun ethnic group.



Two Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers review the damage at the River Club in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, Sunday, following a car bomb attack Saturday night. The area was evacuated Saturday night following a coded warning. No one was injured in the blast close to the border with the Republic of Ireland. AP

## Latest victim in Irish violence

# Catholic man injured in Lurgan

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - A Protestant gunman injured a Catholic man in the town of Lurgan Sunday, the latest attack in a surge of sectarian violence that has killed 10 people and overshadowed Northern Ireland's peace talks.

In a coded message to the British Broadcasting Corp. in Belfast, the paramilitary Loyalist Volunteer Force claimed responsibility for the attack, which came hours after the fatal shooting Saturday night of a Belfast taxi driver.

Also Saturday, a bomb badly damaged a nightclub in Enniskillen, a village 80 miles southwest of Belfast. Authorities had evacuated the area after re-

ceiving anonymous tips about two hours before the blast, and no one was injured.

Three other bomb threats in Belfast were called in, prompting the evacuation of two leading hotels and a city-center nightclub. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said no bombs were found during searches, and the threats appeared to have been coordinated hoaxes.

In the town of Newtownbutler, police evacuated residents and exploded a suspect device which they said later was a hoax.

Police Chief Inspector Paddy Timoney said the taxi driver's slaying was a "tragedy" and called on anyone with information to come forward. Irish Foreign Min-

ister David Andrews called it "a sickening act of cowardice." There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Police said the victim, named by neighbors as John McColgan, picked up an unspecified number of men in west Belfast. His body was found later by the roadside at the edge of the city. Authorities believe the killers may have fled in the taxi, then set it ablaze. A burning vehicle, thought to be the taxi, was found in south Belfast after the killing.

Police said the man injured in Lurgan, 35 miles (56 kms) southwest of Belfast, was shot in the shoulder as he sat in the cab of a lorry in a Catholic neighborhood.

## Russia accused of sheltering killer

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY  
MOSCOW (AP) - The separatist Chechen government accused Moscow on Sunday of sheltering a key suspect in the 1996 murder of six Red Cross workers and said it would appeal for international help in arresting the man.

A statement by Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov blamed Adam Deniyev, a resident of Chechnya, for organizing the killings. It also charged Deniyev with murdering seven Chechen villagers in 1994.

"At present, Deniyev is staying in Moscow, where he has been given an office. All the required conditions have been created for him to carry on his activities," said the statement, cited by the Interfax news agency.

Maskhadov's top aide Mairbek Vachagayev, who released the statement, gave no further details on Deniyev.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Deniyev is presently working on his thesis at the Moscow State University, where he also publishes a newspaper critical

of Maskhadov's government. Chechen officials long have claimed that they had identified the killers responsible for gunning down six Red Cross workers as these slept at their hospital compound in Chechnya on Dec. 17, 1996.

Early in 1997, Chechen security officials accused Russia of ordering the killings, saying the main suspect was an ethnic Chechen who lived in Moscow and served as a colonel in the Russian army.

Chechen separatists said at the time they had asked Moscow to arrest the unnamed colonel along with two suspected accomplices. Since, they have repeatedly blamed Russia for masterminding the killings in an attempt to discredit the rebel government now in control of Chechnya.

No one has been charged in the case, which prompted the International Committee of the Red Cross and several other international aid organizations to pull out of the war-battered region.

Vachagayev repeated some of the allegations on Sunday, saying that "the organizers of the med-

ics' murder wanted to deprive Chechnya of humanitarian aid from the rest of the world, and this goal has been achieved."

He said all the information necessary to decide on Deniyev's transfer to Chechen law-enforcement agencies had been sent to Moscow, "but the Russian leadership, ignoring repeated appeals, fails to surrender him."

According to ITAR-Tass, Russia's Interior Ministry promised to surrender Deniyev back in April 1997, after the charges against him first surfaced, if the man's guilt would be proven.

Vachagayev said Chechnya planned to appeal to foreign nations so as to put pressure on Russia in the case.

Relations between Moscow and Chechnya remain tense despite a peace deal signed last year to formally end the Kremlin's 1994-96 war against the rebels in Chechnya.

The sides are suspicious of each other and Chechnya, a southern Muslim republic, remains plagued by lawlessness.

## TINIAN COCKFIGHTING BOARD

# PUBLIC NOTICE

JANUARY 19, 1998

THE TINIAN COCKFIGHTING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20, 1998 HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE FACT THAT SENATOR CING'S LEGAL COUNSEL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THIS DATE. THE MEETING WILL, HOWEVER, BE CONDUCTED ON JANUARY 30, 1998 AT 11:00 A.M. AT THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM IN SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN.

/s/FRANCISCO B. EVANGELISTA  
Chairman



## Arafat asks support for Arab summit

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat continued efforts Sunday to line up support for an Arab summit to examine the state of the Middle East peace process.

Following talks Sunday morning with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, Arafat accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of stalling tactics that have blocked efforts to restart the Middle East peace

negotiations.

Arafat arrived in Algeria on Sunday after a stopovers in Mauritania and in Morocco, where he met with King Hassan II. He was to leave Algiers later in the day for Tunisia for talks there.

Tunisia would be the fourth stop on a tour of North African nations since he left Washington last week after rejecting Israel's limited offer of a West Bank pullback offer.



A woman who lost relatives in last weekend's attacks in Sid Ahmed is comforted by other women of her village during the burial of bodies Tuesday. Algerian newspapers said that at least 400 people died in the two attacks significantly raising the death toll of the slaughter at a mosque and a movie hall. AP

## Greek minister asks Turkey to take disputes to int'l court

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) - In a rare interview with a Turkish newspaper, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos has invited Ankara to take all the Greek-Turkish disputes to the International Court of Justice.

The two neighbor's disagreements over the Aegean Sea have brought them to the brink of war several times in recent years. The icy relations have also hurt Turkey's aspirations to join the European Union, which includes Greece.

"We have to solve all our problems via legal means, not by force," Pangalos said in an interview published Sunday in the daily Milliyet. "We suggest that we take all the disputes - from air space to continental shelf - to (the court in) Hague."

Greece has long insisted that the claims on uninhabited islets in the Aegean should be taken to the court, but Turkey has refused that offer, demanding talks first on all the disagreements to decide how each can be solved. Pangalos moved a step further Sunday by suggesting all disputes could be settled by the court.

## Would-be assassin to head rights group

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - A former university student who attempted to assassinate the son of the late Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek was appointed Sunday as head of a leading human rights group.

Peter Huang Wen-hsiung was named president of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights at a ceremony in Taipei, eight months after he resurfaced in Taipei after spending decades in hiding overseas.

Huang was a doctoral candidate at Cornell University when he and his brother-in-law, Cheng Tzu-tsai, tried on April 24, 1970, to shoot Chiang Ching-kuo outside New York's Plaza Hotel.

Huang's shot was deflected by a policeman and the pair were arrested, but jumped bail and fled to Europe.

Cheng was extradited to the United States and served a five-year sentence for attempted murder, but Huang remained on the run.

Chiang, then vice premier, was not hurt and succeeded Chiang Kai-shek as president eight years later.

Huang has discussed the attempted assassination attempt at length on television and in the print media, but refuses to say where he hid or who protected him. He has not been charged in Taiwan in connection with the attack.

## Police to question Chinese tycoon over bomb blast

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Police plan to question a noted Chinese tycoon in connection with a bomb blast in a slum neighborhood in Jakarta last week, a news report said Sunday.

There were "written indications" that may implicate Sofyan Wanandi in the Jan. 18 explosion that injured at least one man and damaged an apartment in Central Jakarta, the daily Republika quoting police sources.

Wanandi, owner of Gemala Group, one of the country's biggest conglomerates, was a former student activist in 1966 streets protests that contributed to the fall of Indonesia's founding President Sukarno.

The sources said Wanandi was expected to be summoned before the end of the fasting month, which comes in Jan. 30.

Police have already arrested Agus Priyono, a 28-year man, in connection with the explosion. Police said bombs had been assembled in the apartment where the blast occurred. Two other suspects are still at large.

Police found detonators and documents linked to the banned Democratic People's Party, or PRD, whose leaders are currently serving prison

sentences for subversion.

However, there were conflicting reports on the interrogation of Wanandi, who has repeatedly asked the ruling party Golkar to announce its vice presidential candidates in order to help overcome the current economic crisis.

The daily Merdeka reported Saturday that the military has already interrogated Wanandi, but Kompas, another mass-circulation paper, quoted the military as saying he was to be summoned this week.

Kompas quoted Jakarta military chief Maj. Gen. Syafric Syamsuddin as saying the questioning is aimed at "clarifying documents found at the blast site containing Wanandi's name."

No police or military officials were available for comment.

The government accused the PRD of being communist-inspired and declared it illegal last year. Its supporters, however, maintain the party is only campaigning for democratic change in Indonesia's tightly-controlled political system.

The military also brands it as a "regeneration" of the Indonesian Communist Party that was banned after it allegedly staged an abortive coup in 1965.

## World's largest mosque

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq on Sunday started construction on what it said will be the world's largest mosque, which is named for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi television showed government workers starting on the foundation on the Islamic holiday Leilat el-Khader, or the "Night of Power," when Muslims believe the Prophet

Mohammed began receiving the Koran, Islam's holy book, from God.

The mosque is to be built on the site of Baghdad's old airport. It is designed to cover nearly one million square meters and accommodate 45,000 worshippers.

A mosque built by Morocco's King Hassan is now the largest in the world, holding 30,000 worshippers.

# Chile communists bounce back

By EDUARDO GALLARDO

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) - As Marxist parties and regimes collapsed around the world, Chile's once strong Communist Party was no exception and virtually faded from the political scene.

But the party, which saw hundreds of its members disappear during the 1973-90 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, is bouncing back in a revival that is beginning to worry rivals.

"We all know what has happened with communism around the world, and here in Chile things are going the other way around," said Angel Fantuzzi, a conservative congressman.

"I hope this is just a result of Gladys Marin's charisma, because the communist doctrine is totally obsolete," he added.

Opinions vary on the causes of the communist recovery, but top on everyone's list is Gladys Marin - the party's tireless president and main activist, who feels equally at ease haranguing workers at a fac-

tory gate, arguing in a television debate or facing down riot police.

For Marin, a school teacher by profession, party work is now a full time affair. She is beginning to see results.

To the surprise of conservative politicians and supporters of Chile's moderate government, communists won control of several labor unions and student federations at 11 universities in the last half of 1997.

In December's congressional election, the party received 7 percent of the vote - compared to less than 3 percent six years earlier - and Marin got 15 percent in her unsuccessful run for a Senate seat. She says a presidential race may next for her, "at least to leave a testimony."

"The task now is to organize a large leftist movement," she says.

"Changes are needed, including erasing the legal and constitutional legacy of the dictatorship that prevent us from having an authentic democracy. People feel a real transition to democracy has not oc-

curred."

Pinochet's legacy includes a constitutional clause that grants him a Senate seat for life. The Communist Party filed suit Jan. 13 in an effort to deny Pinochet the seat, charging his authoritarian regime committed "genocide, kidnapping and illegal burying of bodies" during its 17 years in power. The suit is considered unlikely to succeed.

The Senate seat provision also has been strongly criticized by centrist politicians, and Pinochet announced Jan. 14 that he was delaying his retirement as army commander to take the seat.

The communists campaign on a call for the government to rein in free-market economic policies and to use taxes to increase income redistribution from the well-to-do to the poor.

"Our progress shows that people are frustrated, tired," Marin says. "The people see no difference between the government and its right-wing opposition, and they start to see us, the left, as an alternative."

Some political analysts say the communists are benefiting from disappointment with the elected governments that have followed the military regime since 1990.

Political scientist Pedro Daza said the communists "are receiving a vote of protest against the overall situation rather than an actual pro-communist vote."

He notes that void and blank ballots cast in December's congressional election totaled 19 percent of the votes, in "another sign of protest." The figure was 12 percent in the election six years ago and historically has averaged about 9 percent.

Probably reacting to the left's rebound, President Eduardo Frei announced his government will strongly emphasize social spending in its last two years.

Marin concedes the communists made mistakes in the past, including its dogmatic ideology, demand for one-party rule and failure to recognize that private enterprise and the free market have benefits.

But she sees no reason for the communists to change its name, as its counterparts in Italy, France and other countries did.

She argues that Chilean communists should not pay for what happened in the former Soviet Union or eastern Europe - although before the Soviet collapse the Chilean party was among the staunchest of Moscow's supporters in the world.

"We are a Chilean party, with very deep roots in the Chilean society," Marin told a group of journalists.

One of the communists who lost his life under Pinochet was Marin's husband, Jorge Munoz, an engineer who was arrested by security agents not long after the army ousted leftist President Salvador Allende.

Marin, who was a congresswoman during Allende's government, sought asylum at the Dutch Embassy two months after the Sept. 11, 1973, coup. There, she saw her husband for the last time.

## Christian convert to be executed in Texas

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

HOUSTON (AP) - It's a simple thing - a narrow, arched bar of iron, maybe 2 feet (65 cms) across, attached to a worn, wooden handle that is tapered at intervals along its 3-foot (1-meter) length for a better grip. It weighs close to 20 pounds (9 kilos).

That could be rust on the pickax's blunted points - or traces of dried blood.

Once used to break concrete or sun-dried soil, it was swung in drug-crazed passion 14 years ago, when 5-foot-3 (160 cms), 121-pound (55 kilos) Karla Faye Tucker sank it 10, 15, 20 times into a man and a woman.

On Feb. 3, the state of Texas plans to stick two needles into Ms. Tucker's arms to execute her. That would make her the first woman put to death in Texas since Chipita Rodriguez was hanged in 1863 for killing a horse trader.

But a storm of protest has swirled since the date was set. Should a woman be executed? What about her embrace of Christianity?

Joe Magliolo, the prosecutor who won the conviction, views her as a "poster child" adopted by death penalty opponents.

"The jury (in 1984) heard pretty much all the facts that folks now are acting as if they are new - the fact she had a bad childhood, she was doing drugs, that she converted to Christ," said Magliolo, now a federal prosecutor.

In recent weeks, Ms. Tucker's soft, brown eyes, bashful smile and long dark curls have filled network television broadcasts from the women's death row at Gatesville, about 225 miles (350 kms) northwest of Houston.

In interviews carefully selected by her and her prison minister-husband, Dana Brown, she insists she's a new person, content to



This is a 1992 photo of Texas Death Row inmate Karla Faye Tucker. On Feb. 3, 1998, the state of Texas plans to stick two needles into Ms. Tucker's arms to execute her. That would make her the first woman put to death in Texas since Chipita Rodriguez was hanged in 1863 for killing a horse trader. AP

spend her life in prison doing God's work and setting an example for young people.

"We all have the ability, after we've done something horrible, to make a change for the good," Ms. Tucker, 38, said earnestly on CBS television.

"I'm so far removed from the person that I used to be out there. For me, what's weird is thinking back on some of the things I used to do, and thinking, 'I did that?'"

What she did happened when she tagged along with Daniel Garrett to the Houston apartment of Jerry Lynn Dean on June 13, 1983. Their aim, after three days of almost nonstop drugging, was to steal Dean's motorcycle.

She didn't much like Dean, who'd once parked his Harley-Davidson in her living room and let it drip oil on her carpet. He had also destroyed her only pictures of her mother, who had died a few years before.

They found Dean asleep. Garrett grabbed a hammer and beat him.



Carrying an early 1970s picture of Chilean former military dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet demonstrators march in Santiago, Chile Saturday to protest Pinochet's plan to become a senator after stepping down from the army in March. AP

## Pope's Cuban visit recapped

IT WAS a remarkable five days for Cuba.

Making a long-sought pilgrimage, Pope John Paul II swept through four Cuban cities to crusade for a revival of his beleaguered church, and chided both communists and capitalists for straying from the path of Christ.

The pontiff called for the freedom of political prisoners, crowned Cuba's patron saint, consoled AIDS victims and celebrated Mass for hundreds of thousands of Cubans. They included Fidel Castro, who embraced and even promoted the pope's trip.

A day-by-day glance at his tour:

**WEDNESDAY** - Setting the tone for his trip as soon as he arrives in Havana, the pope calls for greater freedoms in Cuba, while also slapping at

the U.S. economic embargo. Key theme: "May Cuba, with all its magnificent potential, open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba." Castro insists the pope's message of social justice is similar to his own.

**THURSDAY** - John Paul stresses family values in Santa Clara, a city in the sugar-cane heartland. He calls for Christian education and attacks abortion and divorce - both common in Cuba. At night, the 71-year-old Castro and the 77-year-old pope meet privately for 50 minutes, and exchange gentle quips about growing old.

**FRIDAY** - The pope urges young Cubans to avoid the emptiness of "alcohol, the abuse of sex, drug use, prostitution" during a Mass in the central city of Camaguey and

stresses the Christian character of democracy during an evening talk with intellectuals in Havana.

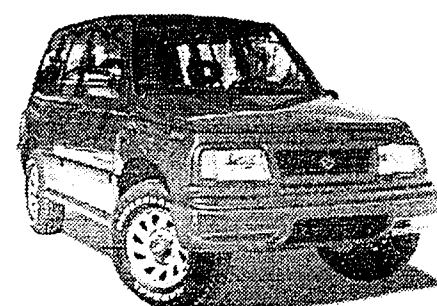
**SATURDAY** - At a shrine south of Havana, the pope urges Castro to release "prisoners of conscience" and to respect freedoms of expression and association. In the eastern city of Santiago, the pope stresses the links between the church and patriotism. Santiago's Archbishop Pedro Meurice Estiu said too many Cubans "have confused patriotism with a party."

**SUNDAY** - Some 250,000 people-Fidel Castro among them- turn out for the pope's farewell Mass in the Plaza of the Revolution. John Paul calls Cubans to "new paths" of reconciliation but warns against embracing the egoism and inequalities of unrestrained capitalism.

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1995 Hyundai Sonata GLS (2P134)	\$11,995	\$3,000
1995 Hyundai Sonata GLS (2P134)	\$11,995	\$1,500
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1993 Toyota T-100 4x4 Pickup (2P134)	\$12,995	\$2,000
1991 Toyota 4-Runner (2P134)	\$13,595	\$2,400
1991 Honda Prelude (2P134)	\$8,595	\$2,400
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## Asia economic crisis sends message

## Political favoritism can't ensure success

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) -Asia's economic crisis has sent a clear message that political favoritism toward a chosen few businesses cannot ensure success, the U.S. ambassador was reported Sunday as

saying.

In an interview with Malaysia's national news agency, Bernama, Ambassador John Malott noted that the economic problems enveloping South Korea and much of South-

east Asia were not caused by large trade deficits or inflation.

"It is a crisis caused by the private sector," Malott was quoted as saying.

For many businessmen "political connections have mat-

tered far more than good management or business confidence," he was quoted as saying.

Although the problem of favoritism is widespread in Southeast Asia, foreign investors or politicians rarely questioned it as long as the economies in the region were booming and both sides were profiting.

"I think the market is a more efficient allocator of credit than politicians, governments or bureaucrats," Malott was quoted as saying.

Malott did not direct his criticism toward any country, and praised Malaysia for implementing confidence-boosting measures that could encourage foreign investors to return.

Since the financial turmoil began in July and depreciated Malaysia's currency by 45 percent, the government has put on hold or scrapped several megaprojects that were in the hands of businessmen close to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The biggest among them is the Bakun hydroelectric dam project on the Borneo island, which was being developed by Ekran Ltd., a company owned by Mahathir's friend, Ting Pek Khiing. Another friend, Vincent

Tan, was planning to construct the world's tallest building.

Many large companies are in danger of collapsing, raising fears that the government will feel compelled bail them out, which could further deplete investor confidence in Malaysia. But Mahathir has denied he is protecting business friends.

Boosting confidence in the country is the main task now, Malott said, adding that it will need painful measures.

"Your dentist is not doing you a favor if he pulls your tooth out slowly. Your dentist has got to pull your tooth out fast ... it hurts but the sooner you get the pain over with, the better."

## Dollar falls against yen, while Tokyo stocks soar

TOKYO (AP) - The U.S. dollar fell against the yen in morning trading Monday, while Tokyo stocks soared on expectations for new policy measures to stimulate Japan's sluggish economy.

The dollar was quoted at 125.39 yen at midday, down 0.63 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and slightly below its late New York rate of 125.57 yen on Friday.

Traders said the dollar's dip in Tokyo came amid worries over the fallout from allegations U.S. President Bill Clinton had an affair with a White House intern. Clinton has denied the allegations.

Last week, the scandal led some investors to pull their funds from dollar-denominated deposits and place them in the Japanese and European markets.

The dollar hit an intraday low of 124.33 yen, its lowest level since Nov. 11, when it traded at 124.28 yen.

The dollar rebounded slightly later in the morning after Haruhiko Kuroda, head of the international finance bureau in the Ministry of Finance, said the yen is no longer excessively weak.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, share prices rose sharply from the opening bell Monday on hopes the government will cut taxes to stimulate economic growth.

A senior ruling party official, Taku Yamasaki, said on a Sunday morning television talk show that Japan should lower corporate tax rates.

Traders said the comment was a sign that Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's government will do more to shore up the ailing economy.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 444.56 points, or 2.65 percent, to 17,233.67 by midday Monday. On Friday, the average rose 383.42 points, or 2.34 percent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section picked up 38.13 points, or 3.05 percent, to 1,288.24. The TOPIX closed up 12.86 points, or 1.04 percent, on Friday.

## 4 Indonesian banks to merge under plan

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Four private banks will merge into one under economic reforms outlined by the International Monetary Fund, a newspaper reported Monday.

The Nusamba group, an Indonesian business conglomerate, owns the banks with combined assets of 21.2 trillion rupiah (\$1.76 billion), The Jakarta Post said.

Nusamba is linked to President Suharto's business interests and is headed by the 76-year-old leader's long-time friend and business partner, timber tycoon Mohammad "Bob" Hasan.

Indonesia, which has seen its currency plummet since July, has pledged to overhaul its financial sector as part of a \$40 billion economic rescue plan led by the IMF. On Nov. 1, the government ordered the closure of 16 private banks that were judged insolvent.

The four banks that will merge are Bank Duta, Bank Unum Nasional, Bank Bukopin and Bank Tugu. The Post quoted the head of Bank Duta, Muchtar Mandala, as saying that the new, 300-branch bank will be formed by late June.

## HK seers predict:

## More gloom for Asia

By JOHN LEICESTER

HONG KONG (AP) - Amid Asia's doom and gloom, Hong Kong soothsayers have more bad news: it will get worse. U.S. President Bill Clinton's outlook isn't good either: The fortunetellers predict "numerous scandals" at the White House. Oh yes - Chelsea Clinton will flunk economics at Stanford too, they claim.

The predictions - to be taken with a large pinch of salt - are contained in the "Feng Shui Index," a report published Monday by Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia to usher in the Lunar New Year that begins Wednesday.

Feng shui, meaning wind and water, is the ancient Chinese art of harmonizing humankind with its environment, the heavens and the spirit world.

The French brokerage's tongue-in-cheek index, first published in 1992, relies on predictions by feng shui experts who try to divine the future by studying the elements and the traits of the animal that goes with each lunar year. On Wednesday, the year of the tiger takes over from last year's ox.

"The Year of the Tiger will be one of high volatility, further shortening the lifespan of derivatives underwriters, frustrating long-term investors and bankrupting incautious speculators" the report predicted.

"Things will be worse than what

they were in the last quarter of 1997," it added.

But don't worry, the index has a spotty record at best.

According to last year's index, Hong Kong's stock market should have surged toward the end of 1997. It didn't, it tanked.

It also said Southeast Asia would be a "high-growth section of the world economy." Wrong again. Asia's economies took a beating, with currencies and stock markets plunging across much of the region since last summer.

But at least the new index already has one thing right: "The White House will be plagued by numerous scandals," it predicted.

The report went to print January 14th, before allegations that Clinton had an affair with a young White House intern came to light.

And there's more bad news: the "health of Bill Clinton and his family will also become a cause for concern. As a consequence, they are set to lose some of their long-term supporters," the index predicts.

The U.S. president's daughter, Chelsea, will also flunk basic Economics 101 at Stanford University, "despite tutoring from her father," the index report said.

But the U.S. first family shouldn't be overly concerned. Credit Lyonnais says the index should not be taken "with anything more than the kittenish spirit with which it was intended."

## India celebrates 48th anniversary as republic

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India marked the 48th anniversary of the day it gave itself a democratic constitution Monday with a combination of pageantry and a display of its military strength.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral opened celebrations in the morning by placing a wreath at India Gate, a stone arch at the heart of New Delhi that is a memorial to India's soldiers.

Gujral and President K.R. Narayanan later presided over a parade of soldiers, tanks, fighter planes and colorful floats.

French President Jacques Chirac, ending a three-day visit to India, was the guest of honor at the celebrations. He arrived in a limousine with Narayanan, escorted by a mounted presidential guard.

Smaller parades were held elsewhere in India, including one in the troubled northern state of Kashmir that was disrupted by a midair rocket explosion.

India achieved independence from Britain in 1947, and three years later gave itself a new constitution, reorganizing the government to make it more democratic.

## AT&amp;T management, staff to be revamped in cost-cutting effort

NEW YORK (AP) -AT-and-T Corp. is revamping its management and staff once again. But this time a new chairman is in the hot seat at the largest U.S. telecommunications carrier.

AT-and-T's C. Michael Armstrong plans Monday to unveil his strategy for revitalizing the company, a cost-cutting effort that is expected to pare about 15,000 jobs from its workforce of 130,000. The plans come after the company releases its quarterly financial report.

Armstrong is also shaking up management as he puts his stamp on the company. Jeffrey Weitzen, the head of AT-and-T's \$22 billion business division, quit last week to become president and chief operating officer of computer maker Gateway 2000.

Another top executive, Gail McGovern, head of AT-and-T's consumer division, is likely to be reassigned.

Armstrong was hired in October to turn around AT-and-T, which is struggling to protect its shrinking share of the long-distance market as it expands into new telecommunications areas, such as local phone service and fast-data Internet transmission.

In Armstrong's biggest move up to now, he orchestrated AT-and-T's planned \$1.3 billion acquisition of Teleport Communications Group Inc., a supplier of local phone service to businesses.

But this cuts come just two years after AT-and-T's former chairman, Robert E. Allen, announced

it would slash 40,000 jobs in a three-way breakup of AT-and-T. AT-and-T never made all of the cuts and its work force, excluding businesses it has sold, currently stands at 1996 levels.

Analysts say the company could cut many of the jobs in the latest realignment simply by adhering to some of the original goals and through attrition, which accounts for about 10,000 jobs in a given year.

"Many of the jobs didn't get cut. Hopefully, Armstrong will do this quickly, smoothly and let the company get on with healing and building," said Jeffrey Kagan, president of Kagan Telecom Associates, an industry consulting firm in Atlanta.



An Indonesian salesperson in traditional Muslim dress waits for her clothes shop as customers pass her by at a market in Jakarta Sunday. Markets are usually busy with shoppers buying new outfits and gifts for next week's Muslim festival of Idul Fitri but with Indonesia's current economic crisis millions of the country's Muslims have been faced with belt tightening and sales have been down significantly. AP

## Drug maker to donate medicine in bid to eradicate elephantiasis

By LAURA MECKLER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Aiming to eliminate one of the world's worst disfiguring diseases, the World Health Organization and a British drug maker said Monday they are set to launch a 73-nation campaign.

The goal is to eradicate lymphatic filariasis, which often leads to elephantiasis, the huge

enlargement of the arms, legs and genital organs.

SmithKline Beecham PLC said it will donate albendazole - standard treatment for the intestinal parasites that cause the disease - for at least 20 years, longer if necessary.

The company estimated it will donate 5 billion doses over 20 years, valued at about \$25 million

per year. It also plans to help administer the program and offer health education.

"We've never done anything on this scale before," said Dr. James Hill, SmithKline's senior vice president for corporate affairs. "This is a tremendous opportunity for us to treat one of the most disabling disfiguring diseases in the world."

Consul. . .  
Continued from page 5

economy is not likely to remain stagnant, expressing optimism on long-term outlook for the country.

The Philippine peso plunged to a record low of P46 to the US dollar recently. It has since gained strength despite renewed weakness in regional currencies.

The peso has appreciated against the dollar for nine-straight days in Jan. 21, starting Jan. 8. Philippine officials expect the peso to continue appreciating though there was no mention of what level they expect the local currency to settle.

Philippine trade officials have also said the country will be among the first Southeast Asian economies to recover from the

regionwide currency turmoil if the country's economic managers cap bring down interest rates to lower levels and hold off inflation at single-digit rates.

The Philippines' inflation rate in September last year reached 5.3 percent, the highest since August 1996. Economists said this is something to be happy about since prices rose only that much considering the rapid depreciation of the peso and high interest rates.

Officials said prudent monetary policy, coupled with an equally prudent fiscal policy, will help the country's inflation at a relatively manageable level even when adjustments in wages and in the prices of oil imports are made.

International merchant bank Merrill Lynch is also confident that the Philippines can weather

the currency storm, stressing that though growth slowdown is inevitable these times of crisis, the country will still be able to post a gross domestic product growth of 4.5-5 percent this year.

NMHC. . .  
Continued from page 9

ans who are not of NMI descent.

Since the program was created by the US Congress and is being administered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, NMHC is unable to change the program or open it up to all US veterans.

However, NMHC reminds all individuals interested in obtaining loans to build, rehabilitate, or purchase a home, that it operates a number of programs that are open to almost every potential home buyer.



Floor traders on the Tokyo Stock Exchange gather around at a counter as the share prices rose sharply from the opening bell Monday. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 444.56 points, or 2.65 percent, to 17,233.67 by midday on hopes the government will cut taxes to stimulate economic growth. AP

## Fiji dollar devalued

SUVA (Pacnews)—National Federation Party of Fiji is bitterly disappointed with the way Finance Minister Jim Ah Koy has handled the country's economy.

NFP President and Opposition Leader Jai Ram Reddy says Ah Koy has to do little better than just being a high powered salesman, Radio Fiji reported.

He says every single condition that has been advanced by the Reserve Bank to justify a massive devaluation of the Fiji dollar existed on the day the 1998 budget was presented to the people by the Minister of Finance.

Reddy says two months ago, Ah Koy chose to ignore those facts and instead grossly misled the people into a false sense of complacency and economic well being.

Reddy says NFP is also extremely disturbed about the impact of the devaluation on the poor.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ah Koy says he takes full responsibility for the devaluation.

Ah Koy told a media conference that the devaluation was something he had to resort to, to uphold the economy.

A former finance minister Josevata Kamikamica believes the 3.8 percent growth envisaged for 1998 will NOT be achieved by government.

He says with the devaluation of the Fiji dollar, the growth is now only a dream.

## No recession seen in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP) - Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he does not expect the country to sink into recession despite the economic turmoil which has hit most of its Southeast Asian neighbors.

In an interview with Money Mind, a economics program broadcast Sunday evening on state-controlled television, Lee said the external challenges Singapore now faces are greater than those confronted in the mid-1980s, when Singapore was last in recession.

But he added that Singapore will ride out the crisis surrounding it because of its strong economic fundamentals. "Our economy, I think, is in better shape this time than it was in (the recession of) 1985," said

Lee.

Still, he warned the situation remains volatile.

"This is a situation where events develop, things happen," he said. "If there is a sudden shock ... then all of us tomorrow are in a new situation. Barring shocks, we don't expect to go into a recession."

Lee said the private sector will have to take steps on its own towards boosting productivity rather than turning to the government for help through policy measures such as a currency devaluation.

"We have deliberately never used the exchange rate as an instrument to manipulate our competitiveness," he said. Lee said competitive benefits from the devaluations in other Asian countries won't be as much as the currency moves might indicate,

because a sliding standard of living will push wage demands higher and add other inflationary pressures in these nations.

"If the devaluation is very drastic, inflation will be quite severe," he said.

In recent weeks, top government officials, including Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, have warned of hard times ahead, announcing a tight government budget as well as increased unemployment and lower pay.

Lee, who is also chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the country's de facto central bank, was one of the prime architects of the economic plan that pulled the country out of recession in the mid-1980s. The program then included a sharp drop in corporate and personal taxes, as well as a wage freeze.

## 1997 good year for PC industry

By CATALINA ORTIZ

SAN JOSE, California (AP) - Nineteen ninety-seven was a pretty good year for the personal computer industry - and a great year for a few top companies.

Robust demand in Europe and the appetite for inexpensive PCs helped drive the industry to double-digit growth last year, according to market researchers International Data Corp. and Dataquest Inc.

Meanwhile, Compaq Computer Corp., Dell Computer Corp., and Hewlett-Packard Co. strengthened their positions as the market leaders.

Each enjoyed more than 40-percent growth in shipments last year. "The story here is that the market is

continuing to consolidate. Look at the top vendors: They are growing fairly quickly, except for IBM - which is certainly keeping pace with the market," said Kevin Hause, an analyst with IDC in Mountain View, California.

Both IDC and Dataquest, based in San Jose, California, released reports on the PC industry on Monday.

Bill Schaub, an analyst with Dataquest, said that Compaq, IBM, Dell and HP captured nearly 70 percent of the growth in PC shipments.

"This is the first time in the industry we've seen consolidation like this continue. It's unbelievable that so much of the growth went to just four companies," he said.

The number of PCs shipped worldwide rose 15.8 percent to more than 82 million, Dataquest said. IDC put the gain at 15.3 percent with 79.9 million shipments. The U.S. saw stronger growth.

Demand for PCs costing less than \$1,000 helped fuel 1997's growth. According to Dataquest, those machines make up 40 percent of the PC market. Another help was greater-than-expected shipments in Europe, which balanced weak demand in Asia.

Compaq retained its No. 1 position as the global market leader for the fourth straight year while IBM remained in second place. They were followed by Dell, HP and Packard Bell-NEC.



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

UNION BANK,  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
Juan L. Evangelista,  
Defendant.  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1046

## THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 22, 1996, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 208/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1398 at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.**  
The sale will be held on Friday, February 13, 1998, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

**Warranties and Covenants.** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**  
a. Reserve. The reserve price on the property offered for sale is \$50,000.00. No bids will be accepted below that figure.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or misdelivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**Enforcement of Auction Sale.**  
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price, immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval Required. Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

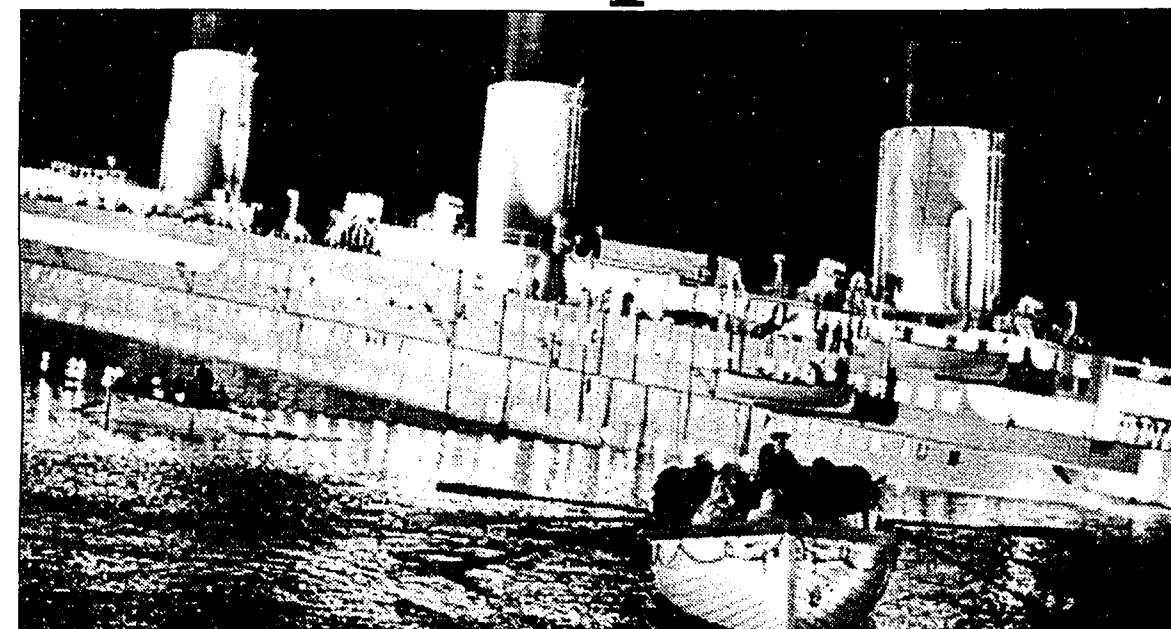
d. Removal or Storage of Personal Property. The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

**Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 20th day of January, 1998:

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer

# 'Titanic,' 'Spice Girls' top box office in Super Bowl weekend



Actors and actresses portraying passengers of the Titanic row to safety aboard a lifeboat as the ill-fated ship sinks into the ocean in this scene from the movie "Titanic." "Titanic" captured a leading eight nominations for the Golden Globe awards which will be presented Sunday, including selections for best dramatic motion picture and best dramatic actor for Leonardo DiCaprio. AP

By ROBERT JABLON  
LOS ANGELES (AP) - "Titanic" hit the ranks of all-time top-grossing films and the Spice Girls' first movie opened at No. 2 during the usually slow Super Bowl weekend, according to industry estimates Sunday.

James Cameron's epic, boosted by its four Golden Globe awards, had about \$25 million in ticket sales to hold the top spot for a sixth week. It now has made \$274.3 million to place No. 10 on the list of all-time domestic moneymakers, according to Exhibitor Relations Co., Inc.

The movie bumped 1975's "Jaws," which had \$260 million at the North American box office.

"Spice World," starring the internationally popular singing group, earned an unexpectedly high \$11 million. The movie has a built-in Spice Girls fan base and it also appealed to a young audience that was less likely to be glued to the tube for the Super Bowl, experts said.

The only other new film in wide release was "Phantoms." The thriller had a weak opening gross of \$3.1 million to tie for eighth place with the comedy "Half-Baked."

"Wag the Dog," a satire about a presidential sex scandal, didn't seem to benefit from its real-life counterpart - allegations that President Clinton had an affair with a former White House intern. Ticket sales rose about 5 percent in the Washington, D.C., area compared to the previous week, said Al Shapiro, president of domestic distribution for New Line Cinema.

But overall, the film placed sixth with \$4.7 million, a drop of 27 percent from the previous week. "Fallen" fell sharply in its second week, along with several other

movies. The demonic thriller starring Denzel Washington was in fifth place with \$4.9 million, down 53 percent from the previous week. "Hard Rain" was No. 7 with \$3.7 million - a 54 percent drop - followed by "Half-Baked," which had a 60 percent drop. However, those percentages compared a three-day total to last weekend's four-day total, which counted the Martin Luther King

Final figures were to be released Monday. The estimated grosses for the top 10 movies at North American theaters for Friday through Sunday:

1. "Titanic," \$25 million.
2. "Spice World," \$11 million.
3. "Good Will Hunting," \$9.1 million.
4. "As Good As It Gets," \$7.6 million.
5. "Fallen," \$4.9 million.
6. "Wag the Dog," \$4.7 million.
7. "Hard Rain," \$3.7 million.
8. "Half-Baked," \$3.1 million.
9. "Phantoms," \$3.1 million.
10. "Tomorrow Never Dies," \$2.7 million.



The Spice Girls ham it up for photographers at a promotion for their upcoming movie "Spice World" during a stop at Planet Hollywood in Chicago Tuesday. From left are: Victoria Adams (Posh Spice); Melanie Chisholm (Sporty Spice); Emma Bunton (Baby Spice); Melanie Brown (Scary Spice); and Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice). On Tuesday it was announced that the group made the top of Mr. Blackwell's annual Worst Dressed Women List. AP

## Di memorial fund launches logo

LONDON (AP) - In a bid to prevent people cashing in on Princess Diana's name, her memorial fund on Sunday launched a distinctive logo that will be attached to all official Diana memorabilia.

Diana's sons William, 15, and Harry, 13, have approved the design, which is Diana's own signature in purple, one of her favorite colors, over the words Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

"The trustees wanted a logo that would reflect the nature of the fund, which was set up as a spontaneous memorial" after Diana's death in a Paris car crash on Aug. 31, said a

fund spokesman, speaking anonymously.

Within days of the tragedy, a multi-million pound industry in unauthorized memorabilia had sprung up, including T-shirts, plates, mugs and dolls. Many of these traders have refused to give any of the proceeds to Diana's fund. Produced by London design consultants Spencer Landor, the logo will be used on all products authorized by the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which raises money for Diana's favorite causes.

"It not only reflects the princess's personality, but also

accurately fits the brief to keep it simple and contemporary, yet timeless," said creative partner John Spencer. Mishcon de Reya, the legal

firm that acts for the fund, has registered her image as a trademark to prevent unauthorized dealers using it to make money.

## Japanese music teacher dies, 99

TOKYO (AP) - Shinichi Suzuki, who pioneered a method of teaching very young children to play instruments, died Monday at the age of 99, Japanese media reports said.

Suzuki, head of a world-renowned musical instruction institute, developed what became known as the "Suzuki method" of teaching in the 1950s.

Suzuki died early Monday morning from acute heart failure at his home in central Japan's Matsumoto city, Kyodo News reported.

The Suzuki method is based on the concept that by listening and imitation children can learn to speak any language - and play music, as well - by the age of 3.

## Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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02 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month  
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03 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$5.00-7.00 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC ISLAND AVIATION, INC. Tel. 234-3600 (2/10)T70422

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$650.00 per month  
Contact: TEODOSIA V. DAVIS dba Arabella's Dress Shop (2/10)T25329

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$9.00 per hour  
Contact: TROPICAL COLOR FILM DEV. CENTER MIC, INC. dba Tropical Color Tel. 234-6306 (2/10)T25328

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.95 per hour  
01 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.52 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Haladai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495 (2/10)T70433

150 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
20 MACHINE PRESSER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
20 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
05 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$5.00-9.00 per hour  
20 CUTTER/MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA,  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
MA. THERESA E. QUITUGUA, aka MA. THERESA EUGENIO QUITUGUA,  
Defendant.  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1228

## SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order to the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 1998.

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

PACIFIC FINANCIAL CORPORATION,  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
JOSEPH JUAN M. CRUZ, aka JOSE JUAN M. DELA CRUZ,  
Defendant.  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-27

## SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order to the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 20th day of January, 1998.

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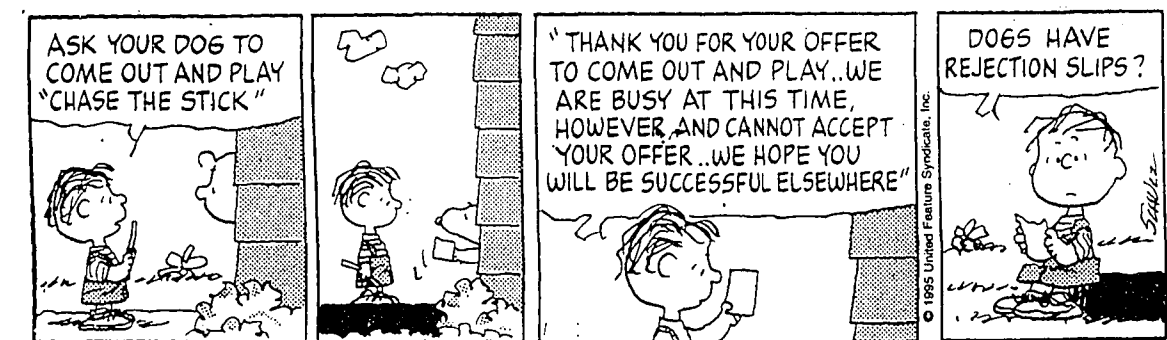
## EEK &amp; MEEK® by Howie Schneider



## Garfield® by Jim Davis



## PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER  
YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are likely to enjoy a key opportunity when you are young that will open doors for you and present you with the potential for professional success that is enjoyed only by a few. Follow up on all such options in life and you will never want for the stuff of dreams. You must remember, however, that even success can be limiting, and your interests are so varied and your talents so many that a single profession may not be enough for you. You always need to be free to explore other things that strike your fancy at any given time.

You can be a highly physical person, but you also know what it means to sit back and relax. You can be threatening without saying a word, and yet your words are often soothing and comforting. You have the makings of a fine parent—partly because you always will be part-child!

Also born on this date are: Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer and actor; Cris Collinsworth, football player.

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, JAN. 28  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

— You may have to work hard today to push through a deal that others may object to for reasons that are not easily understood.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — A friend or loved one may be asking too much of you right now. You are in need of a little more nurturing at this time.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — You must be ready and willing to delegate authority today, or you're not going to get everything done. You are in over your head on your own.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You won't have all the answers today, so you must ask others to give you the time you need to investigate and explore possibilities.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Someone you've worked with for a long time may be getting a little too big for his or her britches. Make it clear: you're equal partners!

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — A formidable adversary in the past proves a trusted ally when the time comes today. You will be surprised by this change of heart!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — You have more to do today than you had planned, and yet you have a handle on the most difficult of your responsibilities. You can do it!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

— Put on paper, things may look complicated. If you are willing to take the time, you can clarify things by speaking with others in person.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — You may have the sneaking suspicion that someone is taking advantage of you at this time. Trust your instincts; take appropriate action.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — You may be so eager to make progress today that you are unable to enjoy where you are right now. Take the time to look around a little!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — What begins quickly isn't likely to last long today, but what starts slowly and deliberately can be a long-term pleasure.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — An interruption during morning hours may put you behind schedule for a while. Think fast and cleverly, and you can make up for lost time.

Then there's the little New Yorker who thought part of the Lord's Prayer said "and lead us not into Penn Station."

Nature study note: A paradox is made up of two quackers.

When someone recounts a mishap with the words "I thought," you can bet your bottom dollar that's what he didn't do.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Sharp blows  
9 Nahoor  
12 Ireland  
13 Novelist  
14 Hunter  
15 Emote  
16 Leis fall  
17 Rapture  
19 Exclusive right  
21 Gershwin, et al.  
22 Foot part  
24 Copper symbol  
25 Summer drink  
26 Everyone  
27 Enough  
29 Willis ID  
31 — Angeles  
32 Des Moines

- 38 "El —"  
39 "Now I — me down..."  
40 Symbol for cerium  
41 — le Pew  
42 Gallop, e.g.  
44 See 42  
46 Skin diver's attire (2 wds.)  
48 Dart  
51 Before (poetic)  
52 Follows cinco  
54 Concluding musical section  
55 And not  
56 Engrave with acid  
57 Listen

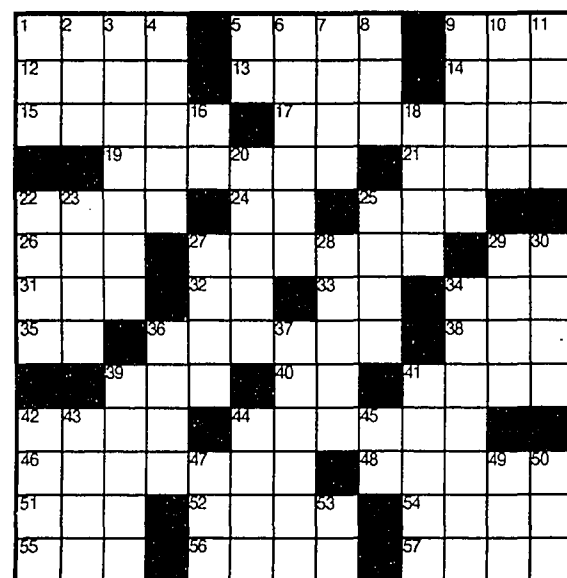
DOWN

- 1 Cerise  
2 Broadcast  
3 Drives  
4 Flower part  
5 Iron symbol  
6 Thoroughfare  
7 Savoir faire  
8 Abstract being  
9 Portion  
10 Space org.  
11 Grant and Irving  
16 — Louis, Mo.

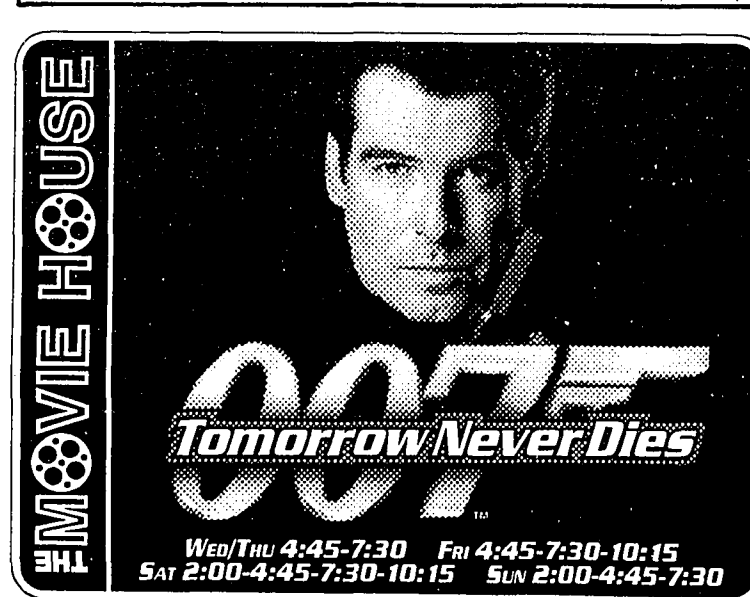
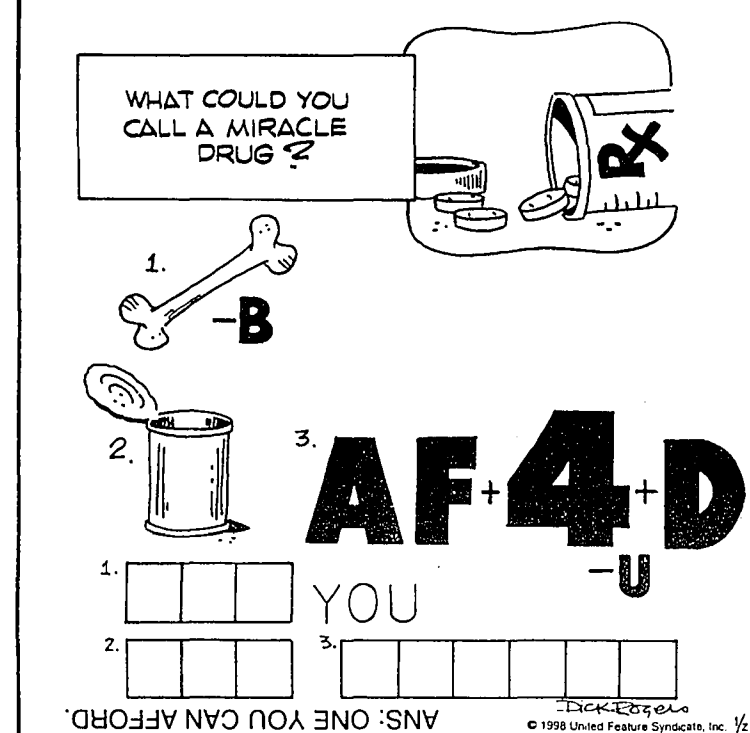
Answer to Previous Puzzle

ORO ENIDS BIT  
HUD LOVED OLE  
MEDALS WALLEY  
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ITOR RAN LOOP  
NINES TOR NCO  
BL EPI MIA AL  
EDH YAM BIALY  
DEAR NAB SNAP  
TOO CURLY  
PIEBBLE LEeway  
ANO DEALT AND  
TEX ERASE YES

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## Parnevik wins first U.S. tour crown

By MEL REISNER

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Jesper Parnevik, an runnerup five times on the PGA Tour, won for the first time Sunday, breaking away in the final six holes to win the Phoenix Open.

Parnevik, from Sweden, had birdies on the 14th, 15th and 17th holes to win by three strokes at a 15-under-par 269. He shot a final-round 67 and collected \$450,000.

Steve Pate, Tommy Armour III, Brent Geiberger and Tom Watson tied for second at 272. Each earned \$165,000.

The 32-year-old Parnevik also shot 269 last year, but finished a distant second to Steve Jones, who set tournament records at 26-under and 258. It was the first of five runnerup spots for Parnevik, who also had a third and won \$1,217,587 in 19 events without a victory.

But Sunday was Parnevik's turn. He became the first first-time winner on the tour this year.

The Phoenix tournament, third on

the tour schedule, increased its payout to \$1 million this year to \$2.5 million. Parnevik's purse boosted him from last (86th) on the money list to first with a total of \$450,463.

Parnevik became the second Swede to win on this tour, joining Gabriel Hjertstedt, the 1997 B.C. Open champion. Earlier Sunday, Helen Alfredsson of Sweden won an LPGA event.

Parnevik started the round tied with Scott Verplank. Both were 11-under, with a two-shot lead over Paul Stankowski, and three shots ahead of Frank Lickliter, Vijay Singh and defending champion Steve Jones.

Watson and Geiberger were four shots back, but shot 66s. Armour and Pate did even before, with 64s.

The latter two shared the lead briefly at 13-under with a hole to go. But each bogeyed No. 18 to take the luster off what had been sensational rounds.

Billy Andrade and Glen Day were paired at 274, with Lickliter, Dudley Hart, John Huston and Scott McCarron a stroke behind.

Jones struggled to a 76 and a final

281, 23 off his course record. Phil Mickelson, the 1996 winner, had a 75 and 286.

Pate and Armour, playing seven groups ahead of Parnevik's threesome, reached 13-under after Pate birdied No. 17 and Armour rolled in a three-meter (15-foot) putt for an eagle-3.

But Pate's approach shot on No. 18 was over the green, and he two-putted for bogey after the chip, and Armour pulled his tee shot into a lake. He had to sink a three-meter (15-foot) putt for his bogey-5.

Parnevik broke out of the pack with a spectacular birdie at No. 14, curling a long putt left to right over an undulation in the green.

He had an easier putt on the next hole.

On No. 17, he drove the 332-yard (303-meter) hole but was off the green to the right. He chipped on within a foot (30 centimeters) of the pin for his seventh birdie of a round that also included two bogeys on the front nine and one on No. 12.



Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, holds up his first place trophy after winning the Phoenix Open golf tournament Sunday in Scottsdale, Ariz. Parnevik won \$450,000 with his 15-under-par total of 269. AP

## Hingis wins in 38 minutes; Escude advances to quarterfinals

By PHIL BROWN

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — For the first time in this Australian Open, women's defending champion Martina Hingis wasn't put on Center Court. She would not have used it long anyway.

After a three-hour rain delay, Hingis needed only 38 minutes to advance to the quarterfinals with a 6-0, 6-0 drubbing of Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki on Court 1, a stadium that seats 6,000. Hingis allowed Basuki only 17 points in the 12 games.

No. 2 seed Lindsay Davenport, No. 5 Mary Pierce and No. 7 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario all had won 2-0 earlier, but in more than

40 minutes.

No. 10 Anke Huber, a finalist here in 1996 in her best Grand Slam to date, reached the quarters by coming back from 1-4 in the final set to beat No. 3 Amanda Coetzer, a semifinalist the last two years, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

No. 8 Conchita Martinez advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Austria's Barbara Schett.

No. 9 Sandrine Testud stopped the run of Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn, conqueror of French Open champion Iva Majoli, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

France had mixed fortunes in men's action.

Nicolas Escude, a former junior star starting to find his way in the big time, beat Wimbledon semifinalist Todd Woodbridge and became the first Frenchman in five years to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Escude, who climbed from the 400s to a ranking of 79th last year, erased an early lead by the Australian and won 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-2 in a match played under a closed roof on Center Court because of the rain.

Germany's Nicolas Kiefer eliminated France's Guillaume Raoux 6-3, 6-4, 7-5, and now will play Escude. Woodbridge took a quick 4-1 lead but was

unable to serve out the first set at 5-3, and lost a 3-1 lead in the tiebreak.

"He played a bit more solid and he made few unforced errors on big points," said Woodbridge, who reached the last 16 by upsetting big-serving Greg Rusedski, the No. 5 seed.

"I had so many chances and I just couldn't get a bit of luck or something to go my way," he added, noting that on one of his break points, a shot by Escude, headed out, hit the net cord and bounced back inside the line.

Woodbridge managed to convert only one of nine break points, served five double faults and suffered 50 unforced errors to 40 by

Escude.

Escude was ranked as low as No. 415 last February, and his best previous Grand Slam result was reaching the third round of last year's French Open. But he since has won twice against French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, including a second-round victory here.

## Sportsbit . . .

Continued from page 24

referee, coach or an advisor are asked to attend this meeting.

\*\*\*

THIS is to inform all the participants of the Buffaloes Fun Run that Marianas Visitors Bureau will be conducting an orientation at the MVB Office located former Professional Building in San Jose.

The orientation will be on Friday, January 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All Japanese speaking participants are asked to attend the 5:00 p.m. orientation and all others at 5:30 p.m.

Important matters will be discussed during the orientation so we ask that all participants be present. We will be accepting applicants on this day, if you have not registered please do so on this day.

For more information, please call MVB for Ed Diaz or Jack Diaz at 664-3214 or 664-3210.

\*\*\*

ALL interested person urged to attend their first meeting on Wednesday, January 28th, 7:30 p.m. at the Corner Pocket in Garapan.

For more information please contact Fred or Ki at 233-POOL.

(P.T. Castro)

**BE INFORMED;  
READ EVERYDAY.**



## SPORTS



# Broncos win SuperBowl

**By DAVE GOLDBERG**  
**SAN DIEGO (AP)** - John Elway and the Denver Broncos won a Super Bowl for themselves and the AFC by beating the Green Bay Packers 31-24 Sunday in one of the most exciting championship games ever.

It gave the 37-year-old Elway his first win in four tries and the American Football Conference its first in 14. Sure, he had help.

He got it from Terrell Davis, who gained 157 yards in 30 carries and scored on three 1-yard runs, including the winner with 1:45 left in the game. Davis, the Most Valuable Player, did it despite a migraine that caused him to miss most of the second quarter.

For Elway, carried off the field by his teammates, this was vindication in perhaps his last shot at a title. He rode off as the oldest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl.

"For all the Broncos fans who never had this feeling, we finally got it done," Elway said.

"You wonder if you're going to win or if you're going to run out of years."

The victory kept Denver from becoming the first team ever to

lose five - it lost one in 1978, before Elway arrived. The win meant vindication for the

AFC, which hadn't won since the Raiders, then in Los Angeles, beat Washington 38-9 in 1984,

Elway's first season.

The final chance for the defending champion Packers ended when John Mobley knocked down Brett Favre's pass from the Denver 31 with 28 seconds left. That made the two-touchdown underdog Broncos the second wild-card team to win the Super Bowl.

"They disrespected us all week," Denver tight end Shannon Sharpe said. "Everybody disrespected us. They never faced a running game like ours. They never faced a quarterback like ours. They never faced a coach who puts in a game plan like Mike Shanahan."

The Packers hurt themselves with three critical penalties late in the game. They included a holding call and a false start on rookie left tackle Ross Verba that bottled Green Bay deep, and a face mask on Darius Holland that gave the Broncos 15 key yards on their game-winning 49-yard drive.

But it was Elway's game.

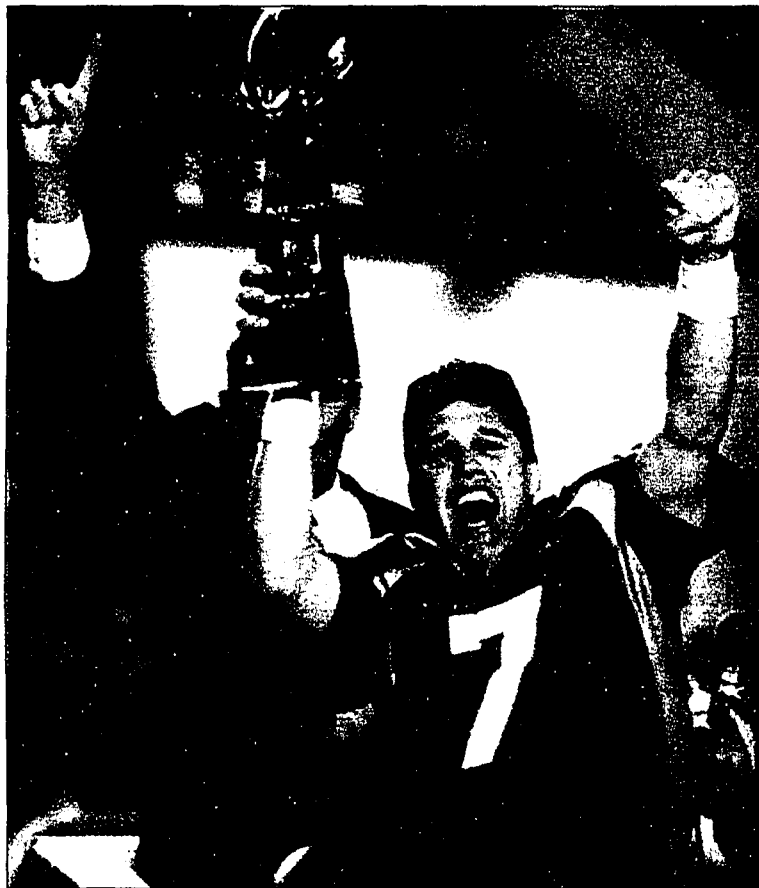
"In kind of a strange way - John Elway, I've always enjoyed him," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said. "I just wished he hadn't done it against me."

Elway scrambled 8 yards to set up a touchdown, and scored on a

1-yard run - a lot like the young Elway. He finished 12-of-22 for 122 yards and threw one end-zone interception.

If this wasn't the best Super Bowl ever, it was close to it, de-

Continued on page 23



Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway holds up the Lombardi trophy following the Broncos' Super Bowl XXXII 31-24 win over the Green Bay Packers at San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium Sunday. AP

## Sportsbit

THIS is to inform all teams that the Saipan Softball Association is still accepting late registration for all women's softball team for the upcoming league.

Final registration has been push back until January 29, and tentatively the league will start on February 21st. So if you haven't sign up please do so.

The women's league will be played on Saturday's until the Men's Division B finishes and it will be scheduled for Tuesday and Thursdays.

This league will determine the All Stars Women's Softball Team for the Micronesian Games on August of this year.

For more information, please contact Joe Torres at 234-6098

\*\*\*

THE Saipan Youth Football League will hold an annual meeting on today, January 27 at the Joeten-Kiyu Library at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda:

a. Elections of officers for the 1998/99 Football Season  
 All community members interested in being an Officer,

Continued on page 23



Green Bay Packers' Tyrone Williams (37) breaks up a pass intended for Denver Broncos' Rod Smith during the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XXXII at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego Sunday, Jan. 25, 1998. The Broncos defeated the Packers 31-24. AP

## Arazi surprises Sampras but can't beat him

**By PHIL BROWN**  
**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** - Hicham Arazi only amazed Pete Sampras. He didn't beat him.

Maybe it was because Sampras didn't let the match go on long enough.

Twice, the left-handed Moroccan, who is about the same size as Michael Chang, had rebounded from trailing 1-2 in sets and won in five. The first time was against big-serving No. 15 seed Mark Philippoussis.

The No. 47-ranked Arazi had a set point against Sampras in the first set, but the defending champion responded with an ace.

But Sampras needed six set

points - five of them in a marathon tiebreak - to take the set on his way to a 7-6 (11-9), 6-4, 6-4 advance into the quarterfinals.

"He was one of the quickest players I have ever played. He is up there with Chang with foot speed," said Sampras.



Tiger Woods watches the flight of his playoff tee shot from the 18th tee at Blue Canyon Country Club Sunday at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Phuket, Thailand. AP

## Tiger Woods makes amazing comeback

**By ROBERT HORN**  
**PHUKET, Thailand (AP)** - Tiger Woods mounted an amazing comeback Sunday in the final round of the 800,000 pounds (\$1.3 million) Johnnie Walker Classic, defeating defending champion Ernie Els by one stroke in a thrilling two-hole play-off.

A crowd of about 4,000 spectators exploded in cheers as Woods sank a 14-foot (4.5-meter) putt on the 18th

green for his first tournament victory of the year, and one of his most dramatic ever.

"Yeah!" Woods screamed, pumping his right fist in the air three times, as his mother, Kultida, a native of Thailand, rushed to the green to embrace her son.

"I've never done anything like that as a professional," Woods said later, noting he once came back to win from nine strokes down on the final

day of a junior tournament. "It was pretty amazing."

Woods, who hadn't played well during the first three rounds, started the day two-under par and eight strokes behind Els, who was leading the first event of the 1998 European tour.

But Woods, the top-ranked player in the world, came on strong, shooting a seven-under-par 65, while Els

Continued on page 23

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