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DLNR may sue Guam

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources is ready to wage a legal battle against Guam should the latter decide not to immediately lift its ban on the importation of CNMI meat prod-

If latter does not lift ban on CNMI meat imports

ucts to the Territory.

"They [Guam authorities] have to lift the ban. If they don't, then I'll take them to court," Secretary Benigno M. Sablan told the Variety.

"I will seek remedies... and going to court is perhaps the most civilized way of doing things," he explained.

He said he is set to discuss the matter with Guam agriculture department Director Michael W. Kuhlmann this week.

Sablan lamented how he learned (in a teleconference he had with Kuhlmann over the weekend) that the ban was imposed because "Guam thought we were still hunting down our livestock the way cavemen did."

"The Guam government did not know that we have opened two slaughterhouses, that we have two USDA certified meat inspectors," said Sablan.

"They [Guam government] thought we were still in the cave age, that we are still living in the food gathering processes," he added.

"They thought we were still in that stage because if Guam did not have it [slaughterhouses and

meat inspectors] therefore CNMI shouldn't have it, and they're dead wrong," he further said.



Benigno M. Sablan

In the same teleconference, Sablan said Guam authorities did not seem convinced that the ban may be lifted in light of the two slaughterhouses and meat inspectors.

He said Guam authorities want the CNMI to have its meat products certified as free of the brucellosis bacterium before it can lift the ban.

He argued however that all US meat products were merely tested by the US Department of Agriculture and such being the case, asking the CNMI to issue certification will be "unfair."

"I said 'I will do that if all of the United States certify that they're free of brucellosis,'" he said.

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Autopsy results: Coria died from neck wound

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A FILIPINO woman who was found murdered in Gualo Rai last Oct. 15 died due to cutting wounds of the neck, according to an autopsy result.

Dr. Aurelio A. Espinola said in his autopsy report that Virginia Dejito Coria died as a result of exsanguination and aspiration of blood (loss of blood) due to cutting wounds of the neck.

Espinola, a Guam-based forensic pathologist, conducted the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue last Oct. 17.

Aside from superficial and deep cutting wounds of the neck, the forensic pathologist also noted in his report, a copy of which was obtained by the Variety, that Coria suffered defense wounds

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Newly-repaired engine conks out, causing CUC to shed load

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Commonwealth Utilities Corp. resorted yesterday to power rotation after a newly repaired engine in the main power plant in Lower Base conked out Sunday night. The engine failure plunged the San Vicente area into darkness for over an hour.

CUC officials said the engine failure was caused by a "manufacturer's defective part."

The CUC management met last night with CUC board chair Benjamin A. Sablan to assess the situation and propose remedial measures.

Sablan, in an interview last night, said the meeting would try to find what needs to be done to make sure the power disruptions would not be longer than what is necessary.

The power downloading has come at a time when the 36-nation Southern Pacific Conference is taking place on the island.

But according to Sablan, the regional conference won't be disrupted since most of the hotels have their own backup generators.

The generator that failed last Sunday supplied about 5 mega-

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Benjamin A. Sablan

2 garment investors may file suit over regs' repeal

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

LAWYER David A. Wiseman yesterday said he may advise two garment investors affected by the recent repeal of the emergency garment regulations to "take the matter to court."

Wiseman said the investors, whom he represents, are based in Los Angeles and Hongkong.

He said his clients wanted to be in the CNMI to invest and not to file a lawsuit.

However, Wiseman added that it is only through legal action that the two investors can have a chance to set-up a garment business in the CNMI.

Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, as acting governor last Oct. 18, repealed the emergency garment regulations which, according to House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, would have allowed the hiring of over 7,800 new garment workers.

The new regulations violated the Garment Industry Moratorium Act, Benavente said.

On the same day that Borja signed the directive repealing the new regulations, Wiseman wrote a letter asking for a "reconsideration."

The executive branch, he told Borja, "should maintain the status quo, which would in turn, allow a degree of stability in the investment image of the CNMI to flourish."

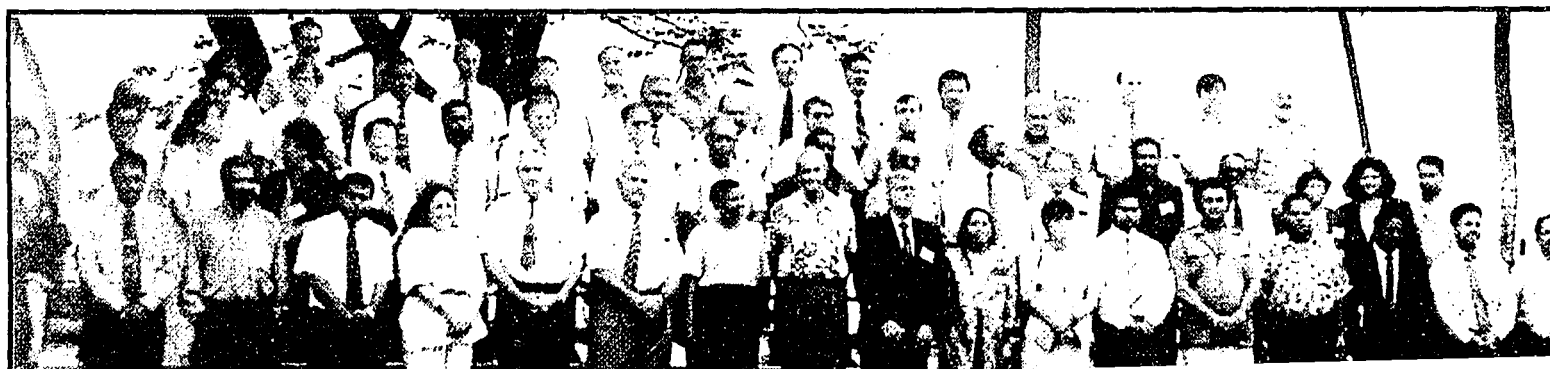
Shortly after signing the repeal, Borja told the Variety that the affected garment companies "should take the matter to court."

"There's still confusion (on the exact number of garment workers a company may hire)," he said.

The Garment Industry Moratorium Act, he said, is confusing.

Despite the confusion, how-

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Weather Outlook

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US faces EU retaliation

By STEPHANIE GRIFFITH
LUXEMBOURG (AP) - European Union foreign ministers on Monday seek to put back on track derailed proposals designed to retaliate against the United States for an anti-Cuba law that could punish EU companies.

Despite near-unanimous opposition from the 15 EU nations, Denmark threw a last-minute monkey wrench into the process, questioning whether the EU legislation infringes on its sovereignty.

It is threatening the united EU front opposing the Helms-Burton act that lets U.S. citizens sue foreign companies using property in Cuba confiscated from them after the Cuban Revolution of 1959.

In retaliation, the EU's executive Commission drafted legislation that would allow Europeans to countersue to recoup damages assessed in U.S. courts.

Denmark has said the objection is purely a legal one and that it would reconsider if another legal basis for the EU legislation could be found.

The measure must be passed by a unanimous vote, something that would be impossible if Denmark maintained its opposition.

Now instead of focusing their energies against Washington, the 15 European Union foreign ministers assembled here are expected to spend a good part of the meeting pressuring Copenhagen to change its position.

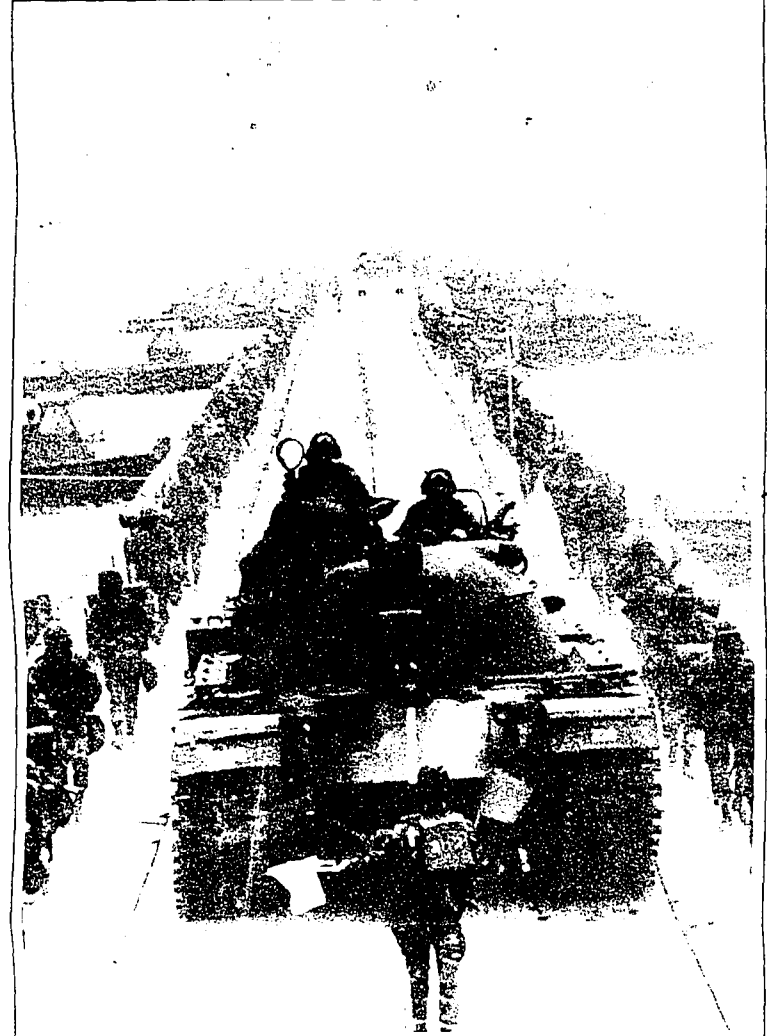
Some European officials are saying it is not just a matter of free trade, but a question of credibility - whether the European Union has the backbone to stand up to the United States.

One French official, who asked not to be named, bemoaned "the difficulty to harmonize sanctions against the United States."

It would be an enormous success if we could adopt this text within the time considered."

President Clinton has deferred implementing the lawsuit provision of the Helms-Burton law until mid-January.

Privately, EU officials say the Helms Burton Act lawsuit provision may never actually be implemented.



South Korean military soldiers with tanks and U.S. soldiers across a floating bridge during a joint military exercise against a possible North Korea's attack near the Seoul's Kangdong Bridge. AP Photo

More than half a million US, South Korean troops begin joint exercises

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - More than a half-million troops from the United States and South Korea began war games Monday, as official North Korean media condemned the exercises as an act of aggression.

The annual exercises, called Foal Eagle, will focus this year on the readiness of U.S. and South Korea forces against North Korean commando operations in the rear of South Korea, according to U.S. military spokesman Jim Coles.

The exercises will be held well south of the border with North Korea, he said.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have risen sharply since a Sept. 18 incursion by a North Korean submarine off South Korea's east coast.

"As the target of Foal Eagle, we cannot remain an onlooker to the dangerous war game," North Korea said in a news report.

The hard-line communist North is reportedly in the final development stages of a missile with a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (625 miles), far enough to hit South Korea and much of Japan.

There is some speculation that the North might time the test firing of the new missile to coincide with Foal Eagle.

The United States, Japan and South Korea have warned North Korea not to test-fire the missile, but North Korea last week rebuffed the warnings as foreign "meddling," saying that it will continue developing missiles and test fire them any time it sees fit.

Foal Eagle involves most of South Korea's 650,000 active troops, the 37,000 U.S. soldiers stationed here under a defense treaty, and many of South Korea's 4 million reservists.

Some 2,400 American participants were brought from the U.S. continent and various Asian points, including Okinawa.

Major dailies back Clinton; Dole dominates in midwest

WASHINGTON (AP) - Major East and West Coast newspapers endorsed President Clinton for reelection over the weekend while Republican Bob Dole was more popular in the Midwest and South.

The New York Times called Clinton the best candidate in the field but expressed reservations about his "resoluteness and sensitivity to ethical standards in government."

But the Times said that Clinton "is clearly the most skilled navigator of today's contrary political seas."

The Boston Globe said that under Clinton's leadership, "the country is better off than it was four years ago."

The Globe credited Clinton for cutting the budget deficit by half, trimming the federal roster of employees, and promoting education and the environment.

The newspaper also applauded the president for attacking "the growing disparity between the rich and the poor" by raising the minimum wage and the earned-income tax credit.

The Globe said its endorsement might take a different line, however, "if the race were to be judged on moral and ethical grounds alone."

The Detroit News said Dole may not be able to deliver all his promises.

"He will have to deal with reality as he finds it, as every president does. But at least Mr. Dole and Mr. Kemp are pointed in the right direction," the newspaper said in backing Dole and his vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp.

In its endorsement of Dole, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel criticized the Clinton administration for being dogged by scandal.

Americans, the Journal Sentinel said, "deserve a president who offers honor, achievement and vision. Bob Dole meets this test."

The Hartford Courant's endorsement of Clinton rated the president's achievements in office over his administration's ethical lapses.

Similarly, The Oregonian in Portland endorsed Clinton as it did four years ago. In its previous 142-year history, the Portland paper had never endorsed a Democrat for president.

Ross made no comment after the meeting. But he suggested earlier that a new deal on the months-overdue pullback agreed to by Israel's previous government could be delayed if Arafat goes ahead with plans to

leave Monday on a weeklong trip to Europe.

Netanyahu has promised to honor the earlier agreement, but wants more security for the 450 Jewish settlers in Hebron. The Palestinians have said his demands would require unacceptable changes to the agreement.

Clinton telephoned Arafat and Netanyahu from Washington Sunday to press for progress.

Clinton told a campaign rally that he "pleaded with them again to resolve their differences, to preserve what is a holy land for

Israel, Palestinians race clock to reach agreement on Hebron

By HILARY APPELMAN
JERUSALEM (AP) - U.S. envoy Dennis Ross shuttled between Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip while President Clinton worked the phones, trying to finesse a deal to start an overdue Israeli withdrawal from Hebron.

With warnings of violence multiplying from Jewish settlers in the West Bank town and from Islamic militants, both sides were anxious to reach agreement soon.

Ross and the Israelis reported progress; the Palestinians said substantive differences remain.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with Ross on Sunday night, and both Palestinian sources and Shai Bazak, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said after the meeting that agreement did not appear imminent.

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leave Monday on a weeklong trip to Europe.

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Clinton told a campaign rally that he "pleaded with them again to resolve their differences, to preserve what is a holy land for

many of us so that their children can grow up in peace and dignity and honor."



Yasser Arafat

Gov't sued again on poker policy

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

ANOTHER private firm has sued the CNMI government for denying its application for business licenses to operate 144 poker machines on Saipan.



Antonio Cabrera

NMI Star Corporation also named the Department of Finance and Finance Secretary Antonio Cabrera as defendants in the petition filed before the Superior Court.

In the petition, NMI Star, through counsel Antonio M. Atalig, asked the court to issue an order directing defendants to process the firm's application for licenses for 144 poker machines.

NMI Star requested the court to declare that 4 CMC \$1504, as amended, provides for 500 poker machine licenses within the Third Senatorial District of the CNMI.

The statute limits the number of poker machine licenses available within the Third Senatorial District (Saipan and Northern Islands).

The NMI Star petition stated that last June 17, plaintiff, through its president, paid \$270,000 to the CNMI Treasury for 144 gaming device/poker machine licenses.

plaintion to Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation.

Over a month later, NMI Star received a letter from Director of Revenue and Taxation Division acknowledging acceptance and receipt of the application as well as \$270,000.

The letter further stated that NMI Star's application was being returned without action and a refund of its payment was processed due to an unavailability of licenses.

Plaintiff submitted its request for reconsideration citing Finance's misinterpretation of the statute and the resulting availability of 300 additional licenses.

Finance did not conduct a hearing to support NMI Star's position.

Last Sept. 19, Sec. Cabrera issued a final decision confirming its prior denial of the company's application.

Cabrera pointed out that P.L. 9-29 or the Pachinko Slot Machine Act of 1995, did not amend 4 CMC \$1504 by adding a new subsection (d).

NMI Star contended that no legal authority was cited for the decision nor was any factual basis provided.

The plaintiff said defendants' failure to conduct a hearing violated the firm's due process rights.

Defendants' denial was not in accordance with law and was an abuse of discretion, said the NMI Star's petition.

Last month, the International Gaming Management Inc. sued the government, Finance, Cabrera, and Deputy Finance Sec. Gabriel DLC Camacho for denying its application for business licenses to operate 50 poker machines on Saipan.

4 people injured in 3-vehicle smashup

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FOUR persons were injured during an accident involving three vehicles at the Quarter Master intersection in Chalan Lamlau Friday morning.

Acting Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said a 65-year-old man suffered collapsed lungs and was admitted at the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care unit.

The man's two passengers—a 41-year-old woman and 38-year-old woman—suffered fractured pelvis and laceration to the forehead respectively.

The fourth victim, a 24-year-old man, sustained swollen right knee, Babauta said.

Initial police report showed that a car travelling north-

ward on the inner lane of Beach Road collided with a pick-up truck which was making a left turn into the Quarter Master.

The car struck another car which was on stationary on the Quarter Master Road.

In other police report, a 27-year-old man was injured when a car sideswiped him while he was walking on the shoulder of southbound lane on 2W Highway in San Roque Sunday night.

The car did not stop, police said.

In Garapan, a tourist complained that he forgot his purse containing \$1,300 cash at the counter of a coffee shop at Hafa Adai Beach Hotel Friday night.

The 49-year-old male tourist said when he returned he noticed that the purse was short of \$700.

Business group pushes for 'back-to-basics' education

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

CNMI's business leaders say there is a need to review the Commonwealth's education system to see if it provides what it takes to produce skills demanded by the local labor market.

What types of skills does the CNMI need? Is the current educational system producing such set of skills?

These were some of the questions the Saipan Chamber of Commerce tried to answer during the Commonwealth 2000 Discussion Forum held Friday at the Pacific Islands Club.

The forum, which was aimed at setting "a vision for the CNMI future," also tackled such issues as environment, labor, finance, and economics.

"We're looking at how we can help educate our young people here to be successful as adults in the labor market, and how we can support the objective of hiring locals when we need certain skills," said Kimberly Class, head of the Chamber's Task Force on Social Issues.

Class said the task force's discussion had concluded that there may be a need for the CNMI to "go back to the basics," namely basic literacy, basic reading, basic math and basic problem-solving skills.

The need for problem solving skills, Class said, is especially necessary to enable an employee to accomplish his job.

skills, Class said, is especially necessary to enable an employee to accomplish his job.

"For example, some employers have seen some employees at the entry level. They are given a task, and along the way, they face obstacles when the employees say they do not know what to do. Then the work stops," Class said.

In the area of health, Class said the Chamber is looking for ways to help in the campaign for eradication and prevention of certain diseases, particularly sexually transmitted diseases.

"We may do it by either pushing for legislations or developing information campaign," Class said.

One sensitive question that causes dilemma in the community, Class said, deals with the issue of sex education.

"The community faces the problem of how to treat the subject," Class said. "There's a traditional dilemma about whose responsibility is it to teach this."

But health indicators suggest how "crucial it is for us to have an educated society to deal with this problem."

"We deal with questions such as how appropriate it is (to teach sex education) and how can it be appropriately discussed with young people," Class said.

"We're looking at how we can help the community through either simple solution or funding a big program or doing a community drive," Class said.

Senate not delaying approval for CIP bill, says San Nicolas

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE SENATE is not delaying the approval of the capital improvement projects bill, Senate Fiscal Affairs Chair Henry DLG. San Nicolas said Thursday.

The bill, San Nicolas said, is "going through the normal legislative process."

"We shouldn't be expected to finish it right away. We're working on it, we're on top of it and it's going to be out soon," he said.

San Nicolas said there were requests from some senators to consider other projects, but he has yet to receive the written proposals.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio recently said that the Legislature should have, by now, passed the bill appropriating \$31.867 million for capital improvement projects (CIP).

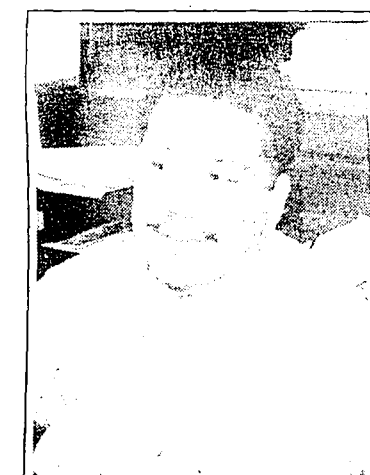
The Public School System

(PSS), he said, has requested for the construction of emergency classroom, but "I can't do anything until the Legislature passed the CIP bill. What is their excuse?"

House Bill 10-277, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chair Ana S. Teregyo and co-sponsored by the rest of the 18 representatives, was approved by the House on first and final reading last Aug. 9.

For Saipan, the projects mentioned in the bill include the following:

- Dump site assessment and slope stabilization of Puerto Rico, and the design and construction of Kalabera sanitary landfill.
- Road paving and drainage in As Matuis.
- New police and fire station for Tanapag.
- Construction of the offsite



Henry DLG. San Nicolas

drainage system at Chalan Mon-signor Guerrero.

• Design and construction of 60 new classrooms.

Power improvements and new classrooms are among the projects appropriated for Rota and Tinian.

FORUM

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



Un'pupueñge giya Kagman

TI sen guiya siñientegho gi un'minachom atdao, pues he tulusyo' para Kagman para bai' besita un'atuñogho. 'Nai hu diño iya Koberville, estaba mesklao na mapagahes gi sanlago. Un' seña na ha fafala' i klasen klima guine na patte giya pasifiko. Hu usune tatte Kagman gi todo klasen biridan chalan.

'Nai tototunogyo, esta i mapagahes gi sanhaya tinampe nu i hemhom. Lamagai na taotao man inalulula para iya siha entre finagpo chochu' osino ginen i tenda. Dispues de hu upos i fina' fangualuan, hu tulusyo' haya guihe na chalan i dumibide Kagman III yan i Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

I agapa' na patte mañiñila' kandetña esta hulo' gi lañget. I akague na banda sumen homhom ya mamaya' gi hilo' diskuido. Dos klasen lugat guaha: I modetno na fasilitad gi agapa' yan namase' na soñgsoñ gi akague. Debi un' tuño i lugat para un' danche i un'hananoague.

'Nai mattoyo' gi fina lanheria 'nai sumasaga i amiguho, ha babayeyo' un'latan setbesa ya ilegña "tatane" hao mientras hu namamasa' chesata kaddon pika". Matachofingyo' gi lamasa 'nai hu repara na mampos silensio i lugat. Alakuenta ayo ha' na buruka guaha i fontun yenereta', katen puyitos, mañglo haya gi hagon niyog yan choda yan pagpag guafen hayon tañgantañgan gi kusunin sanhiyong.

Mientras tantos, hu ñgiñge i asun kusina ya hana' mahalañgoy' nu ayo na tiempo 'nai papatgon ham yan i amiguho 'nai kada Sabalo debi bai'n ñgayo para i fegun i gima'. Matto tatte i mañge na sabot ineksa' ni manalago gi guafen tañgantañgan yan i kafe ni manaloglug gi takure. Ayo na tiempo, deste alas kuarto esta todo i bisino man a'asu kusunin niha, preparasion bento chochu' yan amotsan familia antes de eskuela.

Dispues de masa i chesa siha, humame kumonbetsasion yan i amiguho yan bisinuña. 'Nai hu mente i pas yan silensio na soñgsoñ Kagman III, man oppe i dos na opan i pañgpañg yenereta' mas gi oran 'las kuarto gi chatagmag 'nai mañgahulo i familia para u aregla siha pareho ha' para i eskuela yan chochu'. Para i tilumañgag gaston yenereta', ha usune falot yan dañes tulanoche estake manana si Yuus.

Yangen guaha hanom gi kantoro gi hioyong guma', man o'mag i familia. Para ayo i taya' tañgeña, ha tulos siha tafta para i guma' parentes gi otro soñgsoñ pot uson hanom. Guaha umatoga gi tutuhon sumagaye lugat niha. Lao dispues de tres semana, ha falague i hagas gima' niha gi señoñgsoñ sa' taya' hanom diaramente para uson niha. 'Nai mayulañg i karean hanom munisipat, man apo' i los probes gi Public Works lao mampos listo sekos niha na u ma-espiha i ofisinan mayot. Tailaye na ineppe gi man namase' na taotague.

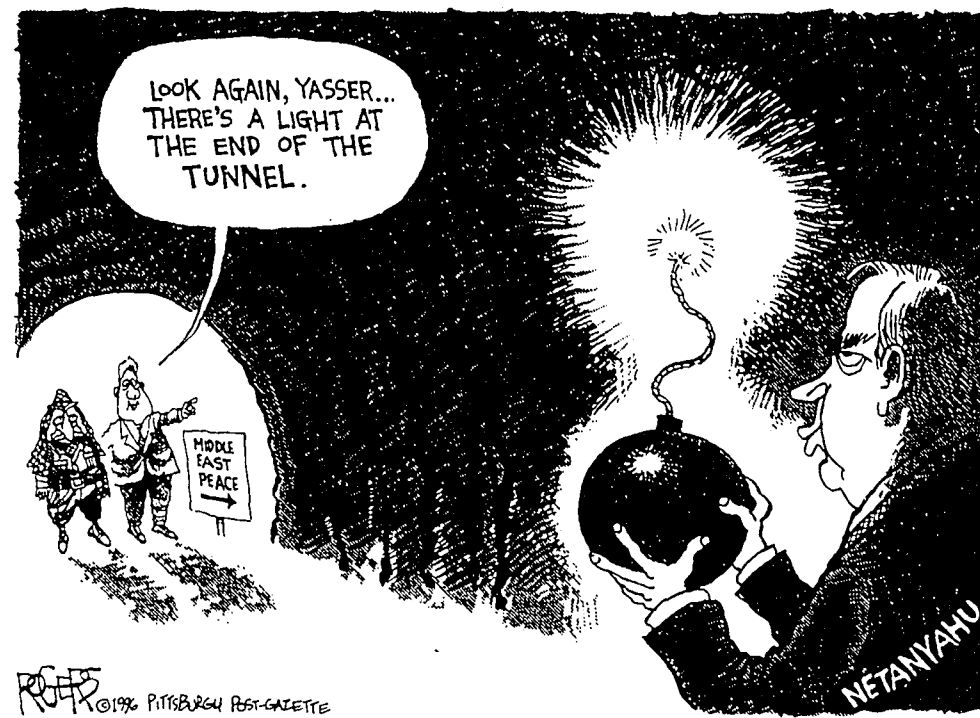
Guaha siha na lugat puru ha' 'acho' ayuyu ni mañgalaktos. Piligro para i man dikiki' na famaguon. Lao i mas fotte i gasto gi kada familia yangin para u fan man atkila makenaria pot para una' yano i lugat niha. I otro, guaha lokue' lugat ni chatyano ya dañgkulo na gasto i prohimo para u palopo' pot para u tampe i dañgkulon hoyu siha gi lugatña. Lao ha usune este na chinatsaga sa' ha nesesa lugat para fanliheñg familiaña.

Unos kuantos serio so na kuestion muna' chatsagayo' 'nai sige hu ebalua hafa kada familia hafafana' giya Kagman III yan IV. Bonito i chalan gi halom soñgsoñ ya seguroyo' na siempre manma-ipe' talo' este siha na chalan yangin para umana' falofan i tilipas hanom.

Matto lokue' un' chinatsaga 'nai hu konsiedra kuantu gi halom este na familia i manmanae' lugat niha gi Kagman III yan IV u fan kualifikao man ayao salape' pot para u mahatsa primet gima' familia. Ha estotbayo' este na punto sa' guaha siempre u fan basnag gi madog ti nahofing sueddun niha para este an nesesisat familia.

Dispues, taya' fasilitad sewer 'nai siña hana' falago hanom labadot yan komon san halom. Enseñidas, debi u tatitaye areglamentons DEQ pot mahatsan tanken septic ya gai guinaguan este na tanke. Tinatitaye nu i areglamenton i "building code". Otro gusto na ta pega gi hilo apaga' niha i los probes ni pago manmanututuhon.

Estague' siha na areglamiento buente mauleg pot no ta destrosia i matan hanom guine siha na lugat. Lao pot fabot maila' ta agon umatan kao enfin presiso na u guaha este siha na areglamiento pot diskuidon ti mapegan tilipas sewer gi entero iya Kagman? Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Was Cyberfile project a waste of money?

WASHINGTON — It doesn't take long to turn from hero to goat in the cutthroat world of Washington politics.

Just ask the people over at the National Technical Information Service. A few months ago, this Commerce Department outfit was being lauded as a pioneer of the information superhighway. But when \$17.1 million of taxpayer money was wasted on the ill-conceived development of Cyberfile—a revolutionary Internal Revenue Service program which would have allowed taxpayers to file returns electronically—the fingers of blame were pointed squarely at NTIS.

NTIS is a Commerce Department agency specializing in computer technology. It operates the popular "FedWorld" home page on the World Wide Web, a one-stop source for government information. Just months ago, the agency was being loudly cheered for the success of FedWorld and its other Internet projects.

When our associate Aaron Karp paid a visit to NTIS headquarters in January, officials excitedly told him about their latest endeavor: They'd reached an interagency agreement with the IRS to develop Cyberfile. They told us the program would be operational within the next couple of months.

But when congressional investigators from the General Accounting Office looked into the project, they found a plethora of weaknesses in Cyberfile's security structure. The investigators found that confidential taxpayer information would be susceptible to the prying eyes of hackers.

Last week, facing harsh criticism from Congress, IRS officials were still trying to decide what to do with Cyberfile. But the IRS has now pulled the plug on the project, leaving embarrassed NTIS officials to explain why they spent \$17.1 million to produce a program which, according to congressional investigators, lacked even basic safety precautions. And, further, why they skirted federal laws and regulations in the process.

"IRS's selection of NTIS to develop Cyberfile was not based on sound analysis," charges a recent GAO report highly critical of the project. "IRS selected NTIS because it was expedient and because NTIS promised IRS without any objective support, that it could develop Cyberfile in less than six

months ...

"In order to meet these self-imposed time constraints, the project was hastily initiated. Development and acquisition were undisciplined, and Cyberfile was poorly managed and overseen.... IRS did not follow all applicable procurement laws and regulations in developing Cyberfile.... NTIS also violated applicable procurement laws and regulations, in implementing Cyberfile."

A Commerce Department official admitted that the pressures of working under a tight deadline created a sloppy product. "In an effort to get the project done (fast) people started cutting corners," the official said. "It's not the right way to do things." But the official also believes that the \$17.1 million isn't wasted.

"Does (Cyberfile) work? NTIS would argue that it is indeed ready to be made operational," he added. "We hired an outside expert to come in and look at it. He thought that it would work. There are bugs in the software—there always are—but no show stoppers."

GAO investigator Leonard Baptiste tells a different story. As we recently reported, GAO found 49 weaknesses in Cyberfile security. Things were so bad that officials even failed to properly install the door lock to the room where Cyberfile computers were housed. "It was a no hope situation," said Baptiste.

Chief IRS spokesman Frank Keith told us that while direct on-line filing is still a future IRS goal, the system developed by NTIS is being retired before it makes its debut. "I'm not going to get into a fight with NTIS just for your column," he said. But "we are not currently going forward with (Cyberfile)."

The IRS continues to dole out more than \$3,000 per month in rent on the office space where Cyberfile collects dust. Keith says that the IRS is currently doing an inventory of the idle Cyberfile facilities and will "salvage" what software and hardware it can.

Meanwhile, NTIS officials are making an eleventh-hour pitch to save their project, claiming that "minor tuning" will cure Cyberfile of its problems. "The IRS is the customer, so they ultimately decide," the Commerce Department official told us. "But as long as we've spent all this money, let's bring it up and try it. Let's see if it works."

SPC panel OKs yearly budget

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE Committee of the Representatives of Governments and Administrations approved yesterday the South Pacific Commission's revised budget for 1996.

Proposed revisions in the budget were aimed at reducing the commission's running deficit.

A working paper prepared by the SPC's Executive committee stated that "the Commission was faced with a deficit more substantial and worrying than the 130,000 units that has been budgeted."

The revised budget proposal will be presented by CRGA to the SPC conference which opens tomorrow.

One of the causes of deficit mentioned by the Executive was traced to the approximately 350,000 units of necessary expenditure that were not provided by the present budget.

These include the creation of many positions that lacked operational funds;

maintenance of the new headquarters in Noumea; and the sending of translation team to Apia for the Festival of Pacific Arts.

The Executive also enumerated the following reasons as the cause of the deficit problems:

- Funds available for Revote (meaning, funds unspent but committed from the last year's budget) has been estimated at 80,000 CFC units as are current trends indicate shortfall of 20,000 units;

- Bank interest was estimated at 240,000 units. Actual interest rates obtained in 1996 (currently 3.5 percent) are considerably lower than estimated hence a shortfall of 65,000; and

- Miscellaneous income was estimated, rather exactly, at 69,517 units in line with the pattern of some previous years.

The revised budget seeks "to withhold recruitment of low priority positions and activities in both the administrative and the work program budgets."

Gov. Tenorio: Marpi area must be 'family-oriented'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio said his plans for the Marpi Park and Pathways will ensure that the area is "family-oriented."

Tenorio, in a speech during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony, said improvements in the CNMI should not only entice tourists, but should also benefit the local community "by offering...alternative recreational facilities for jogging, strolling or biking."

The groundbreaking was for a 3.7-mile concrete path from the Last Command Post to Suicide Cliff, and for the refurbishment of the historic markers in the area.

Calvo's Development, Inc. won the bidding for the contract. The scheduled completion date is Feb. 8, 1997.

The administration's plans, Tenorio said, "would somehow bring it all together," and would "breathe new life

into the area."

Over a year ago, Tenorio added, monkey pod trees were planted in the areas to create a "a future canopy effect."

"With this park and pathway, the plan for Marpi is really coming together."

Located at the northernmost part of Saipan, Marpi was the site of the Japanese imperial army's last command post on Saipan during World War II. Banzai and Suicide cliffs, which were the scene of mass suicides at the end of the Battle of Saipan, are also located at Marpi.

The area's other tourist attractions include the Japanese peace monuments, Bird Island and the grotto.

Tenorio, in his speech, said "some of the most breathtaking beauty in the world is (in Marpi). It is a solemn beauty, too, as we remember—we can't possibly forget our island's tragic history."

Experts wrap up study on Saipan's marine resources

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

DO fishes found in the Saipan Lagoon 17 years ago still thrive today?

This two scientists are trying to find out.

Dr. Steven S. Amesbury and Dr. Roy T. Tsuda, both of the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, have just completed a one-week resurvey of the fishery and sea cucumber resources in the Saipan Lagoon.

In March 1979, the first fish survey was conducted and at least 22 categories of fish were found. The first sea cucumber study, on the other hand, was done in 1988.

In the recent survey Amesbury and Tsuda included 21 of the original 24 lagoon sites for the fish study and all seven of the original study sites for sea cucumbers.

It was learned from the Division of Coastal Resources Management that the scientists, who are back in Guam, are now analyzing the collected data, which should be made known soon.

The CRM, together with the Divi-

sion of Environmental Quality and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, was also involved in the project.

The CRM said the results of the study would be incorporated in the updated Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan, which is being developed by the CRM.

Dr. Steven S. Amesbury, supervisor of the DFW fisheries section, said the resurvey will provide additional information and give a "long-term indication of how the Lagoon is doing based on the past surveys."

Specifically, he added, the study will find out whether the fishes found in 1979 are still present in the same sites.

The Lagoon Use Management Plan is being updated to address several user conflicts including leisure watercrafts like banana boats and parasails.

The resurveying of the fishery and sea cucumber resources was just one component of the preliminary work that also includes surveying shoreline uses and evaluating their impacts to the lagoon resources.

"The final result of the revision exercise indicates that the administrative budget had to be increased by 151,900 units and the work program budget reduced by 234,950 units," the Executive's working paper states.

Also under the revised budget, the management committee is allowed to:

- Transfer anticipated savings under any subhead to meet anticipated ex-

penditure under any other subhead of the same head;

- Transfer core funds between budget heads within the work program budget; and

- Transfer available funds between budget heads.

As of press time, the CRGA was still discussing the 1997 budget program.

Robert Dun, SPC's secretary Gen-

eral said the commission's budget for calendar year 1996 is estimated between \$16 to \$17 million. The revised budget was based on the amount of additional donations the commission has received from donors in the latter part of the year, he said.

"What we have approved is the budget that will carry through the end of the year," Dun said.

Report stresses importance of tourism, ecosystems to islands

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SENIOR officials of at least 15 Pacific Island Countries along with representatives from the United Nations development Programme have agreed on a proposed framework for its funding of projects for the next five years.

In a meeting held over the weekend at the Saipan Diamond Hotel, delegates agreed that the framework, set forth in a "Subregional Concept Paper," cover the following areas:

- * Development Management;
- * Private Sector Development;
- * Environment and Natural Resource Management; and
- * Human Resource Management.

Development management, the body agreed, will focus on economic, financial and social reform, and civil service reform.

Private Sector and sustainable livelihoods, it was also agreed, will center on trade, investment and support to small entrepreneurs while management of the environment and natural resources will focus on natural resource-based sectors which have a high capacity for employment generation.

Such, the body stressed, must ensure the sustainable use of resources, the maintenance of resource base for existing livelihoods, and the creation of new natural-based enterprises and jobs.

The development of human resources, for its part, will focus on

basic education, skills and labor force management.

Some \$21.5 million will be available from the UNDP core resources for the programme, it was noted.

Ranking officials said programs up for funding for the next cycle was narrowed down into the four main areas due to a decreasing fund sources.

"Our fund sources has been decreasing because donors are having problems with their finances themselves," said Terry Coe, who was elected chairperson of the meeting, told reporters.

Narrowing programs into four main areas, he said was also meant to have coherence and delivery.



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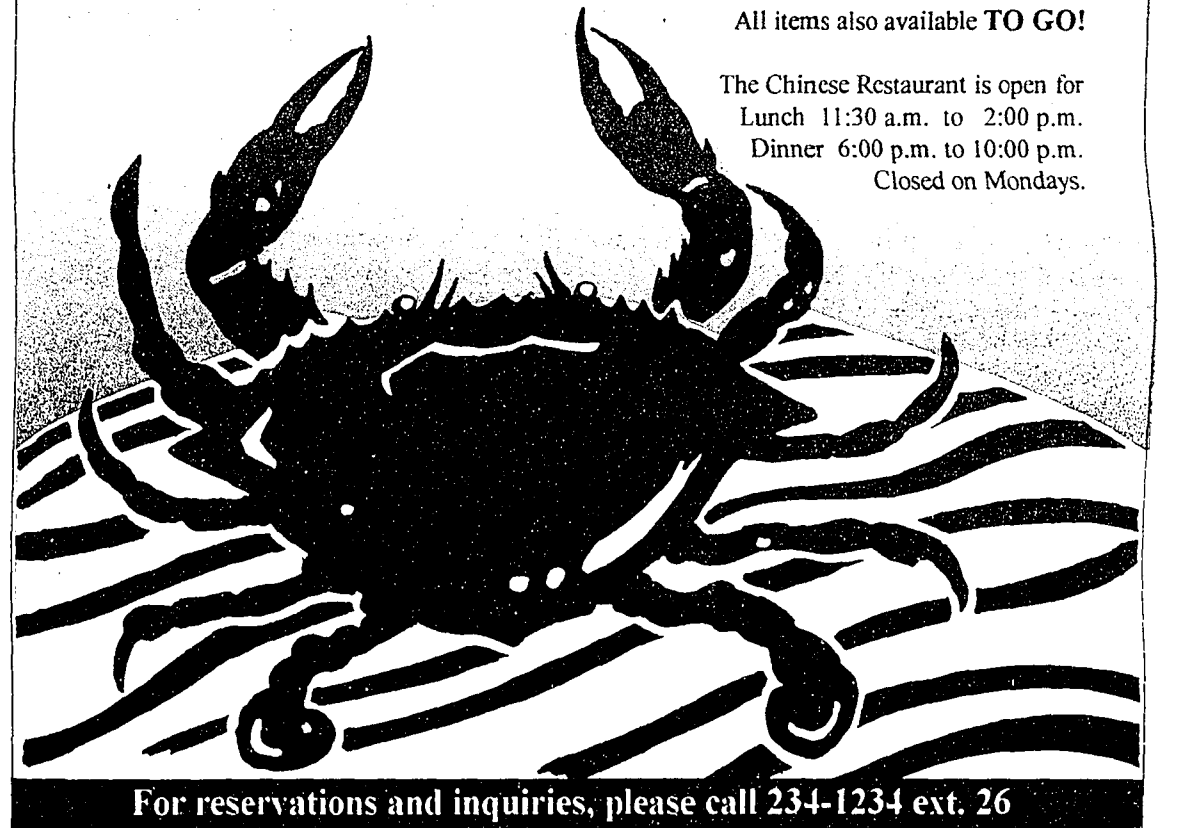
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DPS reminds on gov't vehicle act

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THOSE of you working in the government who are thinking about bringing an "official-use-only" car to a say, beach barbecue—better think again.

Public Safety Commissioner Jose M. Castro wants the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to find out if those using government vehicles are complying with the Government Vehicle Act.

Castro, in a memorandum sent to all government offices, said he has directed the Department of Public Safety's BMV to check license plates, and "pursue" enforcement as directed by law.

"If there have been lapses in your agency or department," Castro said, "please take corrective action."

The Government Vehicle Act of 1994 (Public Law 9-37) provides for the following:

• All government vehicles are required to bear government license plates that can be easily

distinguished from ordinary license plates.

Government vehicles must also be clearly marked on the sides.

Exempted are law enforcement vehicles and those used by elected officials.

• Government vehicles should not have tinted windows.

Again, law enforcement vehicles are exempted from this provision.

The prohibition against tinted windows also applies to department secretaries and agency directors.



Jose M. Castro

Sablan backs Cing's call for Tinian sewer plant

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ANOTHER government official has called for the installation of a waste water treatment plant in Tinian saying such is a "must" in order to avoid environmental degradation of the island.

"As an environmentalist, I would like to see a waste water treatment plant in Tinian," Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan told the Variety.

"Because of the casino activity, eventually there will be more casinos built if this one becomes successful, and it would be a must to install this infrastructure that cleanse the sewer system," he stressed.

Sablan also expressed optimism Gov. Froilan Tenorio will favor the construction of a waste water treatment plant as the island's population grow with the casino industry.

"I respect the governor in his wisdom to ascertain the needs and priorities of Tinian. I must admit that I do appreciate that fact that we shall meet, I believe, an infrastructure of the kind in Tinian as it becomes to grow and be competitive to Saipan," said Sablan.

"As population increases, more water usage is demanded and a lot of this goes to the sewer and the sewer needs to be treated," he stressed.

Fears of widespread water-borne diseases breaking out in Tinian as a result of the absence of a waste water treatment facility was earlier raised by Sen. David M. Cing [D-Tinian].

Tinian, an island of less than



David M. Cing

10,000 residents, doesn't have a sound waste water disposal system. Raw sewage is collected from homes through a honey wagon pumper truck which disposes it at a dump.

Eventually, the dump may be incapacitated due to overload, with raw sewage seeping down to water lines, a situation that can well result to water-borne diseases breaking out.

"The health and sanitation problems with this are obvious at a glance. It is a serious public health crisis waiting to happen," said Cing.

Aggravating the matter, Cing added, is the casino which is now under construction in the island.

Cing has called for a "carefully planned and designed sewer system" saying getting a septic tank installed in every Tinian home "would be a band-aid remedy to a problem that calls for a permanent, long-range approach providing a cost effective solution."

Prisoner charged for assault, attempting to escape from jail

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has filed charges against a prisoner who allegedly assaulted a man and tried to escape from the Tinian Department of Public Safety detention facility.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Alan Lane charged Vicente A. Palacios with assault and battery, and attempted escape before the Superior Court.

According to the complaint, last Sept. 15, Palacios assaulted a man.

On the same day, the defendant, being a prisoner, did "un-

lawfully and willfully attempt to depart from the custody of the Tinian DPS detention facility."

While being escorted to his cell by an officer, the defendant ran away toward the front door and attempted to leave the facility until he was captured.

Palacios was summoned to appear in court on Nov. 14.

Meanwhile, a man accused of assaulting a woman has signed a plea agreement with the government.

Myong Joon Shing and his counsel Steven Nutting entered into a plea negotiation with

Lane. Shing was charged with aggravated assault and battery.

Under the agreement, Shing would plead guilty to assault and battery, a lesser included offense of the charges.

The government would recommend a one year-jail term, all suspended except the first 10 days.

Shing shall pay \$500 fine as among the conditions of a suspended sentence.

Court information showed that last March 11, the defendant struck a woman in the head with legal provocation.

Engineer files civil case versus company for 'breach of contract'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

AN ENGINEER has sued a company for alleged breach of contract.

Richard Belcher last week filed the civil case against Joe Campbell, owner of the company Enviro-Safe.

Belcher told the Superior Court Campbell terminated his contract prior its expiration.

Belcher was hired to provide technical support for the construction of a manufacturing facility that will produce Enviro-Safe products.

He was to receive \$1,500 in monthly salary, which the contract states, was supposed to take effect upon his arrival on Saipan.

His three-month contract began on Sept. 6, but Belcher claimed Campbell terminated his service on Sept. 28, or barely 22 days after the execution of the contract.

He complained that Campbell dismissed him from his job without 14 day notice as stipulated in the contract.

Belcher said he was told Campbell just didn't have the money to pay the severance.

"My Campbell flatly refused to pay the severance (pay) or to provide housing for the 14 days period as stipulated in the contract. He did however seek to coerce me into leaving Saipan on the 1st of October, going so far as to schedule a reservation on a flight," Belcher said.

Belcher said he refuses to leave Saipan thinking that his "departure would preclude his legal action."

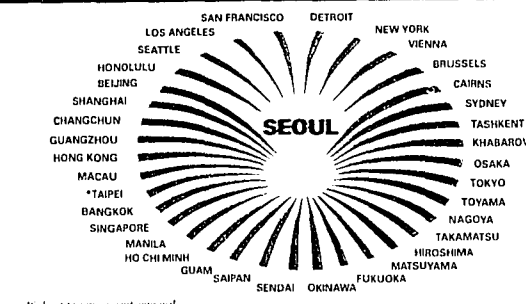


MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane and DPS Commissioner Jose M. Castro during the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the DPS cleanup project. MVB has donated tools to be used by the inmates in the project. Also in the photo are Lino S. Tenorio and Jose C. San Nicholas.

—Photo by Ferdie de la Torre



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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PSS RFP 97-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in providing to the Public School System Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricant (P.O.L.) for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Proposal requirement package will become available after November 96, 1996 and maybe obtained at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours except Holidays.

All proposals to be submitted shall be marked "PSS RFP97-003", and delivered to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than December 2, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be considered under any circumstances.

A non refundable fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the proposal. The twenty five dollars maybe a certified check, or a cashier's check, or other forms acceptable by the PSS and made payable to the PSS Treasurer. The proposer is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his business license permit.

Should the Public School System foresee a need for a discussion with prospective proposers, please be informed that discussion maybe conducted with responsible offeror for the purpose of clarification and to ensure a full understanding of, and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions maybe permitted after obtaining submission and prior to award for the propose of obtaining the best and final offer.

The Public School System reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/William S. Torres
Commissioner Of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

'Worker fee refunds won't make a difference to NMC'



Agnes McPhetres

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

IT WON'T make any difference for the Northern Marianas College even if the government refunds the permit application fees it had collected from garment factories, College President Agnes McPhetres said.

Under the Nonresident Workers Act, at least 60 percent of the Department of Labor and Immigration's collections from the worker permit applications shall go to the NMC.

As a result of then acting Gov. Jesus Borja's repeal of the emergency garment regulations, the government will have to refund some \$500,000 to new garment factories that

have applied for permits. Asst. Atty Gen. Dan Aguilar, the department's legal counsel, said NMC is most likely to be badly affected by the refund since it "gets" the largest portion of the collections.

"What's new?" McPhetres said. "In the first place, we're not really getting it. Although based on the law we're supposed to be the largest beneficiary."

She said of the \$4 million collected last year, NMC had received only \$1.2 million.

"This is why our board of regents and myself tried to work it out to see that the college will have a little more," McPhetres said.

She said the college had launched programs which were supposed to be funded out of money from the worker permit applications.

"We have cut back on some of the programs because we don't have enough money," McPhetres said.

She said NMC had cancelled, for example, its two-plus-two vocational and other technical programs.

"I wish to see more funds go to the college so we could carry out our function as mandated by the law," McPhetres said.

DOLI unfazed over release of man in 'passport scam'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

LABOR and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan has expressed regrets on the court's dismissal of the case leveled against a Filipino implicated in a fake passport scam.

"We did not make it this time, maybe next time we will. You win some, you lose some," Sablan told the Variety.

Superior Court Associate Judge Miguel Demapan, last Wednesday, set free a Filipino accused of participation in a syndicate passing fake European passports to Filipinos wanting to land a job in Japan through Saipan.

Demapan moved to dismiss charges against Crescenciano Escala citing testimonies gathered from another Filipino who also admitted having lied to Philippine Consulate officials in an earlier interrogation.

The Filipino, Erwin Verano, was apprehended by immigration operators upon arrival in Saipan last Oct. 9. He was caught in possession of a fake Belgian passport. He later

pointed to Escala as the one who gave the passport to him and to whom he was bound to pay back soon as he gets a job in Japan.

Verano, in his sworn statements used by DOLI legal counsel Danilo Aguilar in presenting the case before Demapan's sala, admitted lying to Consulate officials explaining that "what I say doesn't matter, I'm going home anyway."

Danilo Lorzano, Philippine Consulate Administrative Officer, in



Thomas O. Sablan

an earlier interview with the Variety, said Verano promised to pay P100,000 to a certain Noel Legaspi if he lands a job in Japan. Legaspi is in Manila.

Verano was apparently told he'd be sent back to the Philippines as soon as he executes an affidavit pinning Escala. He was already off-island when the case was heard.

Demapan, saying he "is not convinced by statements issued by a third party who also is a liar," moved to dismiss the case.

The decision is believed to have dampened DOLI's efforts in cracking down on the syndicate.

Sablan said Verano refused to testify on behalf of the CNMI government thus leaving DOLI with a mere sworn statement before the court.

"It is not because we did not prepare... we made the best out of what was there," Sablan said.

Immigration officials, requesting anonymity, admitted the Verano's sworn statement "weakened the case" right from the start.

"At least people got a warning, we're doing our job," Sablan said.

DLNR to get rid of wild boars and goats in Sarigan Island

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources is set to haul wild pigs and goats off the Northern Islands to stave off an imminent ecological imbalance arising from the loss of vegetation these animals have been feeding on.

First to be targeted by the DLNR, according to Secretary Benigno Sablan, is Sarigan Island.

Sablan said the place, which is approximately three square miles big, is now being surveyed by the DLNR.

Actual hauling of the island's wild pig and goat population may begin before the year ends.

"These animals are causing erosion of the top soil. They feed on the vegetation... eventually the island may lose its top soil to these animals and we don't want that to happen. We really have to wipe these animals out and control its population" said Sablan.

He said this will be done primarily by fencing portions of the island and capture the animals caught within. Bigger and "wilder" boars will be

shot. Wild boars, he said, has caused the near extinction of the island's coconut crab population.

Sablan said the process, though a bit slow, ensures captivity of all existing wild pigs and goats estimated to be in hundreds.

The project, he said, will cover a seven month period.

Captured pigs and goats, he added, will be sold to the Saipan market. Other island where wild feral animals are set to be captured include Anatahan, Alamagan, and Pagan.

Hawaii firm to relocate on Saipan

TRB Architects, Ltd. will relocate from Hawaii to Saipan starting in November, its owner Cliff Terry announced.

Terry, who is a former resident of Guam, will open a new architectural practice on the island. The address will be SPS 451, P.O. Box 10006, Saipan, MP 96950. He said he would open an office on Palau some time in 1997.

"Over the past five years, our firm has become increasingly involved in work in the western Pacific," Terry said. He added, "The areas in which we are active include Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau."

Terry is licensed in Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in addition to Hawaii. "The explosive growth in these areas of the Pacific convinced me to move closer to the action," Terry said. "I also like the lifestyle here."

Law graduate sworn in as member of Wisconsin Bar

JOHN M. Chambers, of Ashland, Wisconsin, was sworn in as a member of the Wisconsin Bar by Supreme Court Associate Justice Ramon G. Villagomez last Oct. 18, at the Supreme Court offices.

Chambers, 30, passed the July 1996 Wisconsin bar examination. Through a special arrangement made with the Wisconsin Board

of Bar Examiners, Chambers was able to take his oath before Associate Justice Villagomez.

Chambers received his Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska and B.A. in Communications from the University of Wisconsin.

He is employed by the law office of John A. Mangiona.



Justice Ramon G. Villagomez and John M. Chambers at the justice's office at the Supreme Court.



Regional news roundup

2,000 join Fiji protest march

SUVA (PNS) — More than 2000 members of the Fiji public sector unions from Suva and the west of the country marched through Suva Saturday against the government's refusal to accept their log of claims.

The members gathered at Ratu Sukuna Park in down-town Suva where they were addressed by trade union leaders - including Fiji Trades Union Congress president Daniel Urai and General Secretary of the Fiji Public Service Association Mahendra Chaudhry the Fiji Times reports.

The protest march went ahead de-

spite Friday's approval by the Public Service Commission to pay salary increases to certain sectors of the civil service.

Radio Fiji reports that included in the pay increases, to be back-dated to January 1 this year, are doctors, engineers, lawyers, computer specialists, nurses, police and prison officers. A statement says the increases should be paid no later than December 1996.

Chaudhry says the Commission approval of the salary increases for certain categories of the staff was different from what they were fight-

ing for.

He said they were fighting for their log of claims according to the 1994 Job Evaluation report for ALL their members and NOT just some categories.

Public Employees Union Secretary Filimone Banuve, addressing the crowd in Fijian, said there was no justification for members of parliament giving themselves a pay rise and not being able to give those who work for the government what they deserved.

The rally was also supported by parliamentarian Ulai Kuli.

'Airport scandal' in Port Vila

PORT VILA (PNS) — Vanuatu's ombudsman, Marie-Noelle Ferrieux-Patterson, says that a contract to clean Port Vila's Bauerfield airport was awarded to a company which made political donations to the UMP Party.

In her report last week Ferrieux-Patterson said UMP members - Former Public Works and Transport Minister Amos Bangabiti and Former Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman awarded the contract to FX and BM Cleaning Services as a "reward" for political donations to their party.

She said the significance of this "dubious transaction" was that the five-year contract was worth five to six times what it cost the Department of Civil Aviation to do the job themselves.

The tender was the most expen-

Orodani denies bribery claims

HONIARA (PNS) — A former Solomon Islands cabinet minister has denied claims by the public prosecution that he had been induced to help topple the Francis Billy Hilly government in late 1994.

The denial was made by former lands minister Francis Orodani who's facing corruption charges at the High Court for allegedly accepting bribes from Honiara businessmen to resign and join the present Mamaloni government.

The prosecution had told the court that Orodani and four other ministers had been induced with hire cars and motel accommodation to leave the then Hilly government and join Mamaloni's opposition group.

But Orodani who appeared again in court today, said he had accepted the use of a hire car provided by Honiara businessman Bobo Detke after he had resigned as a minister in the Hilly government.

Orodani said he had accepted a cabinet post in the Mamaloni government because the Hilly government was then a minority government with only 19 members against the opposition's 28 MPs.

SAVE WATER

Vanuatu official detained

PORT VILA (PNS) — The detention of a Vanuatu official by Indian Immigration in New Delhi last week over visa requirements has forced Vanuatu to call off participation at the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure in the Indian capital.

Vanuatu's assistant planning officer on infrastructure, Ian Abbil, was detained upon arrival at the New Delhi International Airport, and was released several hours later after being issued a three-day visa.

Abbil was to have attended the senior officials segment of the conference from October 23 to 26.

A foreign affairs officer says it was still unclear whether Abbil's visa has been extended to enable

him to attend the whole conference.

The officer says because of the matter, they have recommended that Transport Minister Samson Bue not attend the ministerial conference to avoid any embarrassment and disappointment.

He says it is also impossible to acquire the required visa in a short time.

The officer says the issuance of visa to Bue could not be guaranteed despite confirmation by the Indian high commission in Canberra that visa would be issued to the Vanuatu delegation on arrival in New Delhi.

Samson Bue was to have travelled Friday for the two-day conference beginning October 28.

Miss PNG out of Miss Asia pageant

PORT MORESBY (PNS) — The newly crowned Miss Papua New Guinea, Rita Stegman, has been disqualified from contesting the Miss Asia Pacific Quest because she is half-an-inch short of the minimum required height.

Organizers of the Miss Asia Pa-

cific Quest have said they will not accept Stegman because she falls short of the minimum five feet four inches, NBC reports.

Miss PNC quest organizer Sue Darby says the height requirement is written into their contracts but they had not noticed it.

She says as far as the quests are concerned its not the height that matters, its the girl.

Darby says even though Stegman cannot go off to the Asia Pacific Quest, she still has lots of wonderful things in store for her, and she, like all the girls, are terrific.



NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

October 25, 1996

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 1996 at 1:30 p.m., at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. Discussion will focus on the following Agenda. The public is welcomed to attend.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order/Roll
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Adoption of Previous Minutes: September 26, 1996
- II. \$10 MILLION MPT PROGRAM
 - A. Loan Agreement
 - B. Home Loan Regulations
- III. PUBLIC HOUSING - MINIMUM RENT REGULATIONS
- IV. FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS
 - A. Status of Implementation in the Commonwealth
 1. Federal Housing Administration, Mortgage Insurance Program
 2. Rural Development Program
- V. DRUG FREE POLICY
- VI. DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT
 - A. Fiscal Reports
 - B. Mortgage Credit Division
 1. Status of Loan Applications
 - C. Program & Housing Division
 1. Rota Section 8 Rehabilitation
 - D. Technical Maintenance
 - E. Administration
- X. OTHER MATTERS
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13, and Executive Session may be held to discuss certain items noted on the above agenda.

JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman of the Board

JAL names new district manager

JAPAN Airlines (JAL) has announced the appointment of Hideo Tomioka as district manager for Saipan.

A 35-year veteran of Japan's leading airline, Tomioka moved to the island recently to assume the top position at the Saipan district office, the airline said in a news release.

Tomioka first began his career with JAL in 1961 in the accounting department of the Tokyo head office.

During his tenure with the company, he gained a great deal of airport experience through assignments in passenger traffic at Haneda, Osaka, Okinawa, Matsuyama and Narita, Japan, as well as overseas assignments in Hong Kong and Honolulu.

He has also served as an instructor to JAL staff in passenger service and worked in the VIP and Protocol Department of Tokyo International Airport.

Most recently, Tomioka worked in the Tokyo head office in the General Affairs Department, where he



Hideo Tomioka

spent two years with responsibilities for Risk Management.

In his new position, Tomioka will oversee the management of all operations, including supervision of the 19 full time staff in sales and administration at Saipan International Airport.

Tomioka said his first impressions of Saipan was that it is an ideal place

for Japanese to visit due to the beautiful environment, the short traveling distance from Japan, and the welcoming attitude of the local people.

However, in terms of priorities for continued success as a destination, infrastructure improvements will be important, as well as giving visitors more opportunities to learn about the local culture.

As a tourist destination, Tomioka said he believes that those in the travel business are currently doing a good job of promotion, but there is still a lot more potential for more visitors to come from Japan to Saipan.

One opportunity for growth, according to the JAL executive, is to encourage tourists to stay longer on the island.

The current average package is three nights and four days, which does not give visitors ample time to experience all that Saipan has to

offer.

"I would like to see everyone in the travel business work together for continued progress of the tourism industry and for further prosperity for the people of Saipan," said Tomioka.

"It's important that we create more fascinating spots for visitors to enjoy. The Japanese tourists coming here are rather young, especially compared to Guam and other places. If they have had a good impression from their first visit, this presents a good opportunity for them to come back again as they get older."

Said to be one of the world's premier carriers, Japan Airlines Company, Ltd. (JAL) and its affiliated companies offer a growing network of global services to over 70 international and domestic locations in Japan.

The company said the services it provides are far-reaching, en-

compassing areas as varied as hotels and resorts, catering, maintenance, cargo, information and communications, trading, and travel.

"Since we began operating here almost 18 years ago, we've had no safety problems. Our company policy is to make sure that travelers are absolutely safe, not only while they are flying, but also while they are staying on Saipan," said Tomioka.

JAL is operating all 747 "jumbo jets" from Tokyo to Saipan daily, and from Osaka to Saipan via Guam.

In addition to the airline business, the JAL Group operates several other companies on Saipan, including: Hotel Nikko Saipan, La Fiesta San Roque Shopping Plaza (Tropical Plaza), Creative Tours Micronesia, Tropical Laundry and Linen Supply, and STS Enterprises.

Outrigger Resort chain to operate hotel on Guam

HONOLULU, HAWAII — Outrigger Hotels & Resorts continues its Pacific expansion with an agreement to provide management and technical services to Tanota Partners of Guam, developers of a 600-room beachfront hotel on Tumon Bay, a news release from the chain said.

The hotel, tentatively named the Outrigger Guam Resort, a Royal Outrigger, is scheduled to open in 1998.

Royal Outrigger is Outrigger's selection of deluxe hotels. Preliminary site work has begun with construction slated to start before year-end.

The four-phase project will include 120,000 square feet of retail space, featuring such internationally known brands as Bon Marche, Louis Vuitton, Dior and Celine, as well as leading Hawaii retailer Liberty House and Crazy Shirts. The hotel complex will also be the site for the Guam Hard Rock Cafe.

The beachfront site overlooks picturesque Tumon Bay and is located opposite Duty Free Shoppers main store, Planet Hollywood and the Sand Castle Entertainment Center fronting San Vitores Road.

According to David Carey, chief executive officer for Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, the Outrigger Guam Resort is a significant addition to the company's selection of leisure resort hotels.

"We're excited and proud to be working with Tanota Partners to manage their newest project in Guam," Carey said. "When complete, the Outrigger Guam Resort will be a deluxe, four star resort featuring a broad range of top quality amenities, including a unique swimming pool, wellness center, beach services, an exclusive Voyagers Club concierge level of rooms and complete meeting facilities. In addition to the hotel restaurants, guests will also have ready access to a full range of restaurants and shops in the adjoining retail development."

Michael Ysrael of Tanota Partners said Outrigger Hotels & Re-

sorts was selected to provide technical services during the construction phase and to manage the hotel because of its long and successful operating history in leisure resorts and hotels.

"Outrigger has an excellent track record over the past 50 years and understands how to operate hotels in an island environment," he said.

Another advantage Outrigger brings to the hotel is its worldwide sales and marketing network. Carey said. "Outrigger will utilize its extensive contacts with travel agents, major tour operators and wholesalers in Japan and Asia, as well as promoting growth from other international markets, including Europe and the United States."

The Outrigger Guam Resort will be the third venture in Outrigger's expansion into the Pacific. The Outrigger Marshall Islands Resort recently opened on Majuro Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and construction continues on the Outrigger Palasia Hotel in Koror, Palau, which is scheduled to open in late 1997.

Outrigger Hotels & Resorts is a division of Outrigger Enterprises, a diversified real estate investment and lodging management company based in Honolulu, Hawaii. The full-service lodging and hospitality company is Hawaii's largest and the 28th largest in the U.S., offering 29 hotels and resort condominiums throughout Hawaii and the Pacific. For reservations or information, call Outrigger Hotels & Resorts at 1-800-OUTRIGGER (1-800-688-7444) within the U.S. or Canada. Outrigger's toll-free number is also available from 130 countries via AT&T's USADirect 800 Service. Elsewhere call 303-369-7777. Internet users can access information on Outrigger via the World Wide Web at www.outrigger.com. Outrigger's e-mail address is reservations@outrigger.com.

For additional information on the retail project, contact Tanota Partners at 1475 Pale San Vitores Road, Tumon, Guam, or via e-mail at tanota@kuonlos.guam.net.

Five die in night of gore in Port Moresby

PORT MORESBY (PNS) — The killing of a Papua New Guinea businessman's son Saturday night led to the payback slaughter of four youths at a beach near Port Moresby.

Four mutilated bodies, all aged 16 or 17, were recovered by police near Dogura beach early Sunday, and were taken to the city hospital's morgue the Post-Courier reports.

National Capital District Central divisional commander Philip Taku said the son of a private security firm managing director was shot dead, allegedly by youths, during a brawl at a fundraising dance at Gerehu stage

3B, in the early hours of Sunday.

He said after the killing, seven youths were rounded up and abducted, allegedly by about nine security staff.

Police allege that after they were questioned in a city office, the youths were then bound by their legs and hands and taken in a 15-seater bus to Dogura bridge.

It was alleged that the seven were taken along bush tracks towards the airport where four youths were shot, stabbed and axed on their hands, legs, necks and heads.

One suspect is in police custody for further questioning.

Heavy rain in Tonga

NUKU'ALOFA (PNS) — Low lying areas of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa are flooded with water from the heavy rain today recording 177.5 millimetres.

Chief Meteorologist Paea Havea says this is a daily rainfall record, Radio Tonga reports.

The rain was accompanied by a brief thunderstorm brought to the group from a trough of low pressure to the west of Tongatapu.

The anti-cyclone which caused strong winds last week is slowly moving away to the east.

Tonga's cyclone season is from November to April.

Newspaper accused of publishing false info

WELLINGTON (PNS) — An Australian barrister acting for the Vanuatu government has complained that information published about him in the Trading Post newspaper is false.

Roger de Robillard, who was declared a prohibited immigrant by a former government, is now back in the country and denies that he was previously deported as stated by the paper, RNZI reports.

De Robillard also denies that he had been refused a license to set up a legal practice in

Vanuatu.

He complained that the paper did not contact him before printing the story and that its publisher, Marc-Neil Jones, prevented him from speaking to him on the phone.

De Robillard accused him of being an unthinking mouthpiece for foreign powers such as Australia.

Neil-Jones says he stands by what the paper wrote and he considers the claims defamatory.

Fiji gov't plans ban on sales of swords

SUVA (PNS) — The Fiji government is planning to impose a ban on sword-selling, which has been blamed for a substantial loss in revenue to the tourism industry.

Principal Tourism Officer Samisoni Savailautokid the National Tourism Forum that the Attorney-General's office was drafting new legislation to enforce the ban, the

Fiji Times reports.

Savailautokid said research by the Fiji Visitors Bureau revealed that the industry lost 40-million dollars (\$US28.7 million) annually due to the negative impact on tourism by sword-sellers.

He said tourists refrained from visiting Suva because they were constantly harassed by sword-sellers and

the number of cruise ship visits also dropped significantly.

Savailautokid said the most practical solution was to impose a total ban on sword-selling and provide alternative employment for the 48-registered sword-sellers in Suva.

Tourism Minister David Pickering said he also supported the ban on sword-selling.

SPF hosts immigration chiefs

SUVA (PNS) — Senior immigration officials of the South Pacific Forum are meeting in Fiji this week to discuss ways of working together as the regional prepares to take on law enforcement challenges of the 21st century.

The South Pacific Forum Secretariat is hosting the three-day South Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference which started today in Suva. Immigration Directors of their rep-

resentatives of all 16 member countries of the South Pacific Forum are attending the conference, which is part of an on-going programme to address the objectives of the Honiara declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation.

Participants will also discuss the setting up of a regional framework for cooperation with emphasis on the need for closer collaboration between and among Immigra-

tion departments or agencies as well as with other law enforcement agencies.

Strategic alliance with airlines and shipping companies as well as specialist training for immigration officials will also be discussed at the Suva conference.

NZ aid to Solomons to feature on health

HONIARA (PNS) — Solomon Islands and New Zealand have agreed to give greater priority to Solomon Islands health sector in their bilateral programme. Both parties agreed during talks in Honiara last week to focus on rural water supply and sanitation projects, SIBC reports.

The meeting noted that rural water supply and sanitation was a priority for women.

The talks also agreed on a new programme of assistance in the area of family health.

This would be in addition to the activities which New Zealand had been involved in, such as the Family Support Centre and cervical cancer detection.

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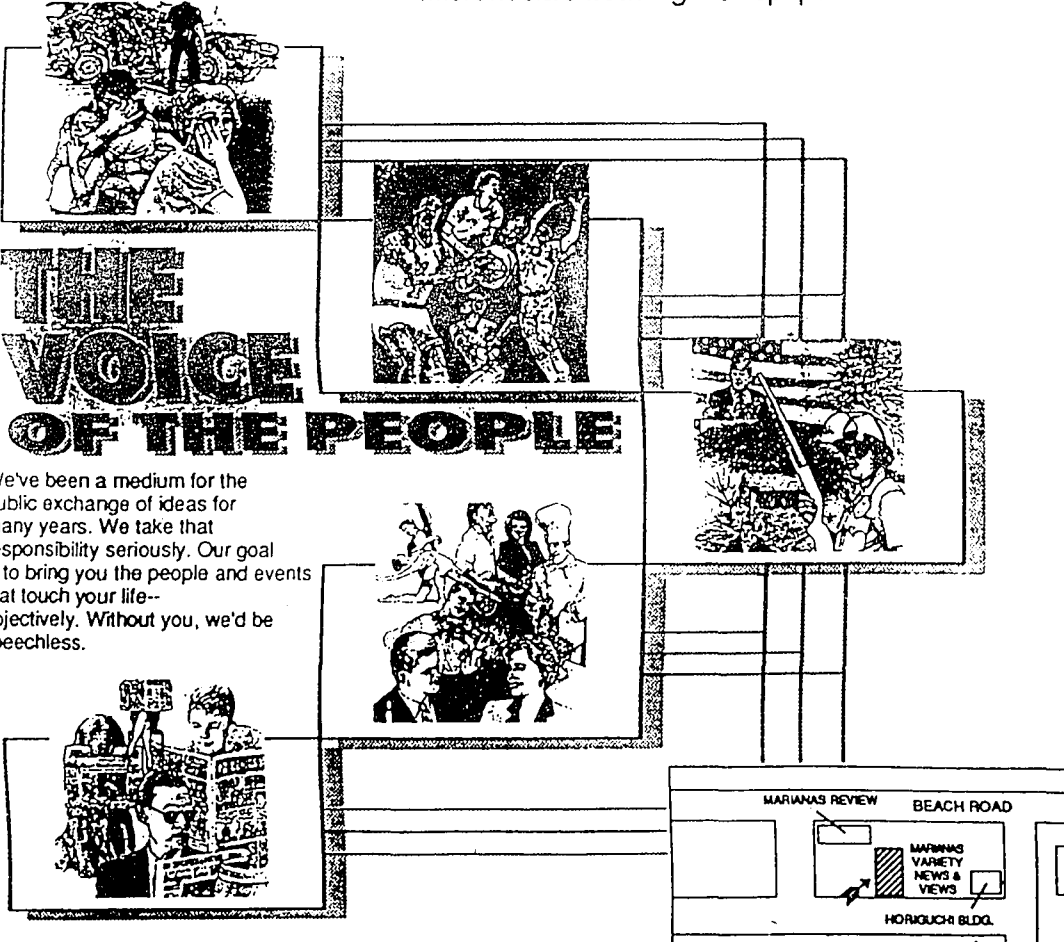
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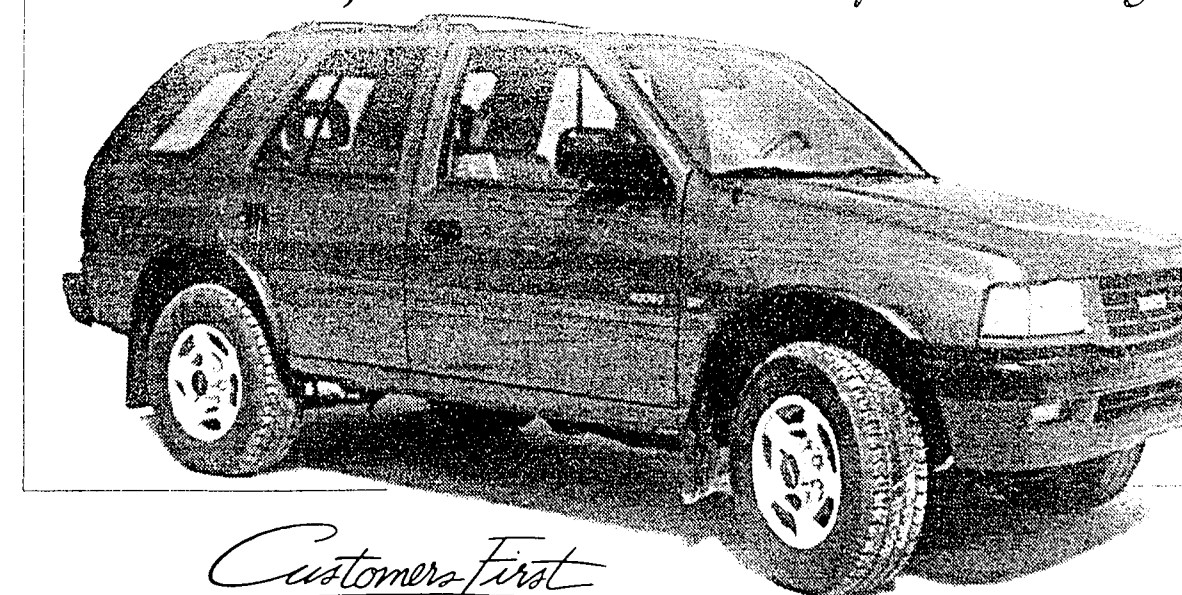
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EU seeks new role in Mideast

By RAF CASERT

LUXEMBOURG (AP) - The European Union will seek ways to secure a bigger political role in the Middle East peace process Monday, even though Israel and the United States have already balked at the thought.

The 15 foreign ministers, frustrated that the EU's financial clout in the region hasn't translated into political clout, were expected to appoint a special envoy to the Mideast at their monthly meeting, officials said.

First and foremost, however, they will have to question whether there is a common will to allow the EU take the diplomatic lead instead of individual governments.

French President Jacques Chirac had a highly visible diplomatic tour of the Mideast last week, pressing the French viewpoint. The visit overshadowed the EU's initiative early this month, when Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring was sent there by the 15 EU government leaders.

"What we need is the capacity to work together, with common positions," said EU Commission Vice-President Sir Leon Brittan. He urged individual EU nations "to refrain from independent action."

Britain wants a more comprehensive EU Middle East policy blueprint before sending such a special envoy into the area.

"We mustn't just appoint a special representative and then try and work out what he's going to do, that would be the wrong way around," said British Foreign Secretary Malcolm

Rifkind.

But any such envoy will fall far short of the EU vision and that of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Both seek to have a European representation in addition to the U.S. mediation at the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating table.

The peace process and a larger EU role will also take center stage when Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa meets his 15 EU counterparts later Monday.

Israel has long seen the EU nations as too pro-Arab and fears a larger EU role in the negotiating process would undermine the Israeli position.

Earlier this month, Arafat praised the EU leaders saying "the Europeans support the Palestinian demands completely."

And Chirac has done little to change that impression. The French leader called for a Palestinian state and criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling on him to give up war-won Arab territory and to respect previous peace accords.

The United States also is not eager to complicate the delicate Mideast balance. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has written to EU leaders with the request not to expand their political role in the peace process.

The EU is seeking a bigger role because it feels frustrated that its massive economic assistance to the region has in no way been matched by political clout.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, who will chair Monday's meeting, said it was

"the EU's intention to make an enhanced commitment to the search for progress in the Middle East commensurate with the Union's economic contribution and involvement in the peace process."

Since the Palestinians took their first steps to self-government last year, the EU has already given or committed some

350 million European currency units (\$ 300 million) to the Palestinians.

Underscoring their support for the Palestinians during the recent crisis, the EU agreed to provide an extra \$ 22 million in aid to cover the running costs of Arafat's administration.

The EU is also a major trading partner of Israel.

At the meeting, the EU foreign ministers will also pressure their Danish counterpart to back EU proposals to retaliate against U.S. legislation that punishes foreigners trading with Cuba.

They will also assess what they can do to help, diplomatically and with humanitarian aid, in the crisis in eastern Zaire.

Switzerland rejects US criticism; US Senator D'Amato blasts back

By CLARE NULLIS

GENEVA (AP) - The war of words between Switzerland and a U.S. senator has sharpened, with Alfonso D'Amato saying the government was providing "half-truths and distortions," and a Swiss official calling the accusations "insulting and utterly unacceptable."

D'Amato, a New York Republican, has accused Switzerland of dragging its feet in tracing funds that belonged to Jewish victims of the Nazi gas chambers.

"I completely reject his charges," Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti told the SonntagsZeitung newspaper in comments published Sunday.

"His charges that we want to delay the investigations or that we are not credible because we are Swiss are insulting and totally unacceptable."

D'Amato, told about the Swiss comments, only sharpened his criticism. He said Swiss officials were using "new denials, half-truths and distortions" to avoid dealing with the question of what happened to the money.

"They continue to compound



Alfonse D'Amato

the horrible things that were done years ago by accusing others of misstatements," D'Amato said in an interview with The Associated Press in New York.

"What they are doing is adding to this gruesome chapter by today failing to act responsibly. I think theirs is at least as great a sin and misdeed as those who initially brought it about."

Criticism of Swiss dealings with the Nazis during World War II has mounted in recent months as investigators - inside and outside the country - try to find out what happened to Holocaust victims' Swiss bank accounts.

As the Nazis gained power in Germany before World War II, many Jews deposited their money in Swiss accounts for safekeeping.

Jewish groups long have said billions of dollars in Jewish savings remain unclaimed in Swiss banks. Holocaust survivors and the heirs of victims have pressed the Swiss government to return the deposits, but without bank account numbers and other evidence they largely have been ignored.

The Swiss banks finally agreed to search their records last year, but said they found only \$ 32 million.

Under international pressure, Switzerland has agreed to independent scrutiny of its wartime record. Last week, it also set up its own task force to trace the money, called "Assets of Nazi Victims."

Cotti and other diplomats have said the probes may take years given

the sheer volume of archive material. D'Amato maintains that's far too long, and has ordered hearings in the Senate Banking Committee.

Documents recently released indicate that Switzerland used money from Nazi victims' bank accounts to negotiate post-war compensation agreements with other countries.

D'Amato released letters this month describing how Switzerland formed a "secret agreement" with Pola

nd on June 26, 1949, to confiscate the assets of Polish Jews.

The Swiss government confirmed it had found secret archive letters detailing an agreement to hand over the assets of Polish Holocaust victims deposited in Swiss banks to Poland's communist regime.

The Polish Foreign Ministry admitted Friday that Poland made a secret 1949 deal with Switzerland relating to the Swiss accounts and insurance policies of Polish war victims. It did not reveal details.

D'Amato claimed that the deal enabled Swiss citizens and companies whose property had been confiscated by Polish communists after the war to satisfy their claims by confiscating property of heirless Polish Jews.

Poland has promised a full investigation into the allegations, which former Polish officials who negotiated postwar compensation agreements with Switzerland have denied.

Similar secret agreements allegedly were made with Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Those revelations followed allegations that Switzerland laundered gold looted by the Nazis from the national banks of occupied countries or stolen from the Jews who died in Nazi death camps.

Newsweek International reports in this week's edition that the largest chunk of assets from stolen gold allegedly laundered through Switzerland went to Portugal's central bank.

Newsweek reported that documents from 1945 and 1946 indicated Germany sold the Swiss National Bank some \$400 million in gold.

The Swiss, according to Newsweek, sold nearly half of that to other nations' central banks, mainly Portugal's.

Wildfires rage in California

SAN BERNARDINO, California (AP) - Two new wildfires erupted Sunday in southern California, chasing people from their homes in the latest in a series of blazes that have destroyed more than 100 houses.

The new fires crackled through brush in San Bernardino and Riverside counties about 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Los Angeles.

Elsewhere in Southern California, firefighters kept watch for flareups in previously burned areas as wind gusts up to 35 mph (55 kph) through the region. Nearly 40,000 acres (16,200 hectares) of land was covered with ash by the week-old series of wind-driven fires.

An evacuation order was issued early Sunday for neighborhoods closest to a 600-acre (240 hectares) fire just north of the city of San Bernardino. An undetermined number of people left their homes, said

Lenore Will, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman.

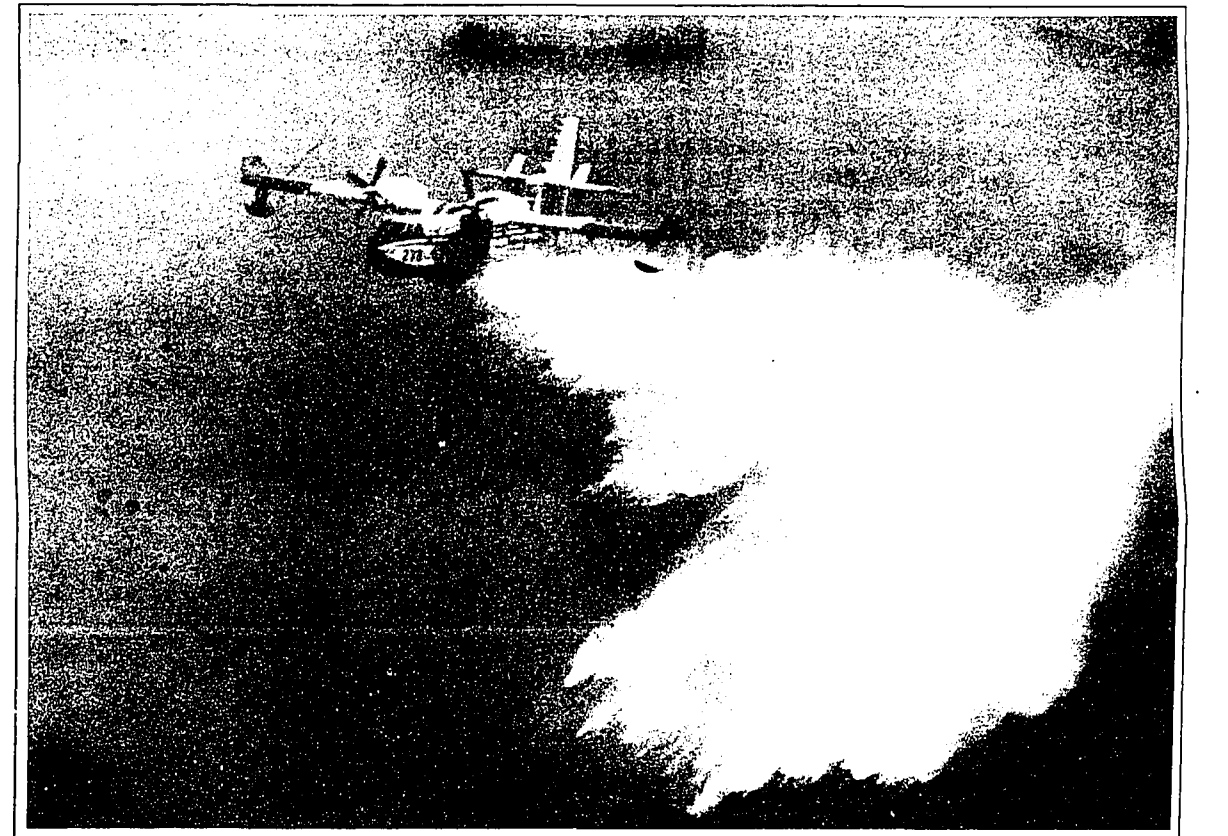
However, the wind died down when the flames got to within about a quarter of a mile (about 0.4 kilometers) from the houses, then shifted away from the neighborhoods.

Fire officials believed the blaze was started by a campfire.

A fire near Rubidoux in Riverside County burned about 175 acres (70 hectares) of low scrub and grass just north of Interstate 60, said Vance Persing, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service. The freeway remained open.

A car fire was blamed for starting the Rubidoux fire. Reports from a Forest Service spokesman that someone was trapped inside the car and died were false, said Riverside County Fire Capt. Andrew Avila.

Continued gusty wind was forecast for southern California, with a chance of thunderstorms.



One of the two Super-Scooper water dropping aircraft drops a load of Pacific Ocean water on a wildfire in Corral Canyon in Malibu, Calif., Tuesday. New fires broke out over the weekend in riverside counties. AP Photo

US, NATO undecided on future of Bosnia mission

By CASSANDRA BURRELL

WASHINGTON (AP) - Neither the Clinton administration nor NATO has decided what's next for American and other troops on duty in Bosnia, Defense Secretary William Perry said.

Perry said Saturday he hasn't yet received analysis from NATO military advisors studying what should

be done in Bosnia as the one-year deadline approaches to withdraw the international force enforcing last year's Dayton accords, which ended a four-year ethnic war in the Balkans.

Almost 60,000 international troops - including 15,000 Americans - have patrolled Bosnia since last December.

"Have not yet made a recommendation to the President," Perry said in a statement released by the Pentagon.

The President has not yet made a decision on which of those options to select. In fact, neither NATO or the U.S. has made a decision yet."

As he told a Senate committee this month, Perry said NATO military advisors are studying four options, including the complete withdrawal of the peace force.

They also could:

establish a "deterrence force" to prevent outbreaks of fighting, create a "sustaining force" to provide security in Bosnia.

Keep the current mission in place, despite the one-year deadline President Clinton set when the force was deployed.

"These options are still being analyzed by NATO military authorities," Perry said. "I do not have that analysis available to me yet, and there won't be for some days to come."

Perry denied a New York Times report that U.S. officials have decided to keep at least 5,000 American troops in Bosnia through 1997 but are reluctant to make a formal decision until after the U.S. presidential election.

"The Times incorrectly reported that the U.S. is preparing to send troops to Bosnia for another year. No such decision has been made," Perry

said.

The newspaper cited Clinton administration officials, NATO leaders and European diplomats as saying that U.S. troops would be part of a force of 15,000 to 30,000 troops remaining in Bosnia to enforce the peace accords.

The Times reported that presidential aides said Clinton won't give formal approval for the continued participation of troops until after the Nov. 5 election.

"You know full well that there has to be a military presence," a senior European diplomat in the Balkans

told the newspaper. "There will be," he said, and it will include American troops "without a shadow of a doubt."

The issue is delicate for Clinton in light of the late December deadline. Presidential aides now say the deadline was approximate.

Republicans in Congress have charged that the president deceived the public about a longer-term commitment to keep troops in Bosnia.

Officials have said for months that it was likely some U.S. troops, perhaps as many as 5,000, would have to remain in Bosnia after the end of this year as part of a larger NATO force.

Five held on charges of raping girl

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) - Police have arrested five men and are looking for 15 others on charges of repeatedly raping a 10-year-old school girl since early this year.

The men allegedly took the girl separately to a house in a village near the border with Thailand, and forced themselves on her, Mansur Ismail, chief of the Kuala Jrai district, told The Associated Press on Monday.

He said the attackers allegedly paid her \$2 to \$8 each time to buy her silence and threatened to harm her if she reported them.

The girl, however, overcame her fear recently and spoke to her teacher, who had noticed the girl's lagging academic performance and a change in her behavior, Mansur said.

He said five men aged between 20 and 58 were arrested Friday and Saturday in Manek Urai village, 450 kilometers (270 miles) northeast of here.

The girl is being kept in hospital for observation, and will be asked to identify the other 15 men, Mansur said.

Under Malaysian law, having sex with women below 15 years of age is deemed as rape even if no force is used. Those convicted face up to 10 years in jail and whipping.

Army captain executed for 4-year old massacre

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)

- After exhausting every appeal, a Pakistan army captain Arshad Jameel was hanged at dawn on Monday for his part in the 1992 massacre of nine people.

Jameel was sentenced to death by a military court last year but his family had appealed the sentence. They sought a presidential pardon but were refused.

Last month in a dramatic gesture two women relatives of the murdered family set themselves on fire in the southern port city of Karachi to protest the delays in carrying out Jameel's hanging.

The massacre occurred in 1992 when the army had taken virtual control of Pakistan's southern Sindh province to try to bring an end to rampant lawlessness.

Kidnappings, killings and extortion had become common

place during that time causing the government of the day to call in the army.

According to testimony, Jameel gunned down nine villagers of Tando Bhalwal in the heart of southern Sindh province. Jameel apparently had been hired by a large landowner in the area to settle a dispute by killing the nine men, all members of the same family.

The case caused a great deal of controversy at the time. After an initial attempt at a cover up the army arrested Jameel.

It is rare in Pakistan where the army has ruled for more than half of its 49-year history that an army officer would be put on trial.

Jameel's mother filed the final appeal saying her son's hanging violated his fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. It was rejected.

First Anniversary Rosary

We, the family of the late

SILVESTRE T. CRUZ
A.K.A.
"BETTE TANAZAN"

Invite all our relatives, friends and neighbors to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Anniversary of our beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Nightly rosary will be said at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. Ana P. Cruz, San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Tuesday, October 29, 1996 thru Wednesday, November 6, 1996.

On the final day, Wednesday, November 6, 1996, final rosary will be said at 5:00 p.m. and Mass of Intention will follow at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian.

Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the residence of Mrs. Ana P. Cruz.

Your prayers and presence is greatly appreciated.

Kindly Join Us

Mrs. Ana P. Cruz, Children & Grandchildren



Belated Happy 2nd Birthday!

PATRICK C. AGUON

From: Grandma, Mom, Dad & Family

For July 1997 takeover

Tourists rushing to Hong Kong

By SAU CHAN

BOSTON (AP) - In a land where capitalism reigns supreme, at least for now, Hong Kong's return to China next year is generating big bucks for airlines, travel agencies and hotels. It's almost impossible to book passage or get a room for next summer, when the British colony will be handed over to China on July 1 - even at prices of around \$4,000-5,000 for a package tour.

"If you're making reservations now, you're going to have to be very flexible," said Stephanie Bassett, a travel agent with Oriental Tours and

Travel in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She said many travel operators as well as individuals have been blocking seats on airplanes on and around the time of the change-over.

Steve Woodall didn't think twice about plunking down that much money for a package tour to Hong Kong, where he is scheduled to stay from June 25 to July 2.

"I want to witness this. I want to be there as the British march out and the Chinese Red Army marches in," said Woodall, 43, of Houston.

On July 1, 1997 Hong Kong will be returned to the Chinese government.

Beijing has agreed to leave the territory's capitalist economy intact for the next 50 years.

Hong Kong was leased to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking. Under the British, the island has flourished for more than 150 years, becoming an important trading port, then a leading industrial and tourist center.

Even in uneventful years, Hong Kong's tourist rush normally comes during the summer, when overseas students and expatriate workers return home. But the flag change could quadruple this summer's numbers.

The Hong Kong Tourist Association, which has offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, said it had no immediate estimates of how much money the event would generate in spinoff business.

"But definitely, there will be a lot of people, especially journalists," said Diana Budiman, press relations assistant to the Hong Kong Tourist Association in New York.

Hotels in Hong Kong, which costs anywhere between \$ 200-3,200 per night, also have been capitalizing on the occasion by requiring three- to five-night stays, Budiman said.

Cynthia Silk, operator of Sovereign Tours in Houston, reserved about 24 seats on Cathay Pacific and 20

rooms in two hotels more than a year ago. She said she plans to be part of the excitement.

"I'm going. There's no way I'm staying behind. I love Hong Kong, and I'm also British. I just think it's a very important occasion to be there," said Silk, who's from Enfield, England.

But to Hong Kong native Jeffrey Lau, who now lives in Vancouver, Canada, going back means more than just watching history take place. The 20-year-old Harvard University student is interested in the welfare of his grandparents and dozens of uncles, aunts and cousins.

"There's still some sort of uncertainty, but generally I think it will be very optimistic," Lau said.

Elsewhere in the Pacific

Exciting future for Air Pacific

Suva (PNS) — Fiji's national airline, Air Pacific, is soon to adopt a new long range plan to match its future challenges.

Commenting in Airwaves, the airline's quarterly newsletter, Managing Director and chief executive officer Andrew Drysdale says part of the proposed plan includes phasing out the Boeing 767 in favour of a second Boeing 747 and replacing its two Boeing 737 aircraft with a fleet of four new Boeing 737-700 series, the Fiji Times reports.

Drysdale says this will give Air Pacific a cost-efficiency and creating Nadi as a hub which will secure the airline's future.

He says while the Boeing 767 was a great aircraft, it no longer fit the company's market needs.

Drysdale says this fleet plan will give Air Pacific the right aircraft at the right time to meet its market's competitive demand.

PINA urges island gov't to respect press freedom

SUVA (PNS) — The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) has urged the Papua New Guinea government to continue to respect the fundamental rights to freedom of information and expression.

In a statement last week, it also urged PNG to heed international declaration on this issue.

PINA President Monica Miller of American Samoa says PINA is monitoring the worrying move in Papua New Guinea to introduce the so-called Media Accountability legislation to parliament in the November-December session.

She says PINA members in Papua New Guinea question the motive behind the government's effort to "fast-track" this.

PINA's PNG members say the country's Constitutional Commission had been given a wide range of tasks but it appears priority is being given only to the media legislation.

PNG Constitutional Commission Chairman Ben Micah said a proposed law to go before parliament will provide for the establishment of a Information and Communication Authority and a proposed Papua New Guinea Media Commission.

Micah said this will mean the organizations "will effectively manage the information and communication system including the media in the country for the good of the people of Papua New Guinea".

Rebels link PNG by VHF radio systems

PORT MORESBY (PNS) — Bougainville rebels elements are communicating freely with most parts of Papua New Guinea - including East and West New Britain - using SSB or VHF radio system, according to Post-Courier newspaper.

The paper says only Thursday, rebels believed to have been calling from Kongara in the jungles of Bougainville, spoke to government authorities in Kimbe, West New Britain to renew their demands for a total withdrawal of security forces from the island and total autonomy, as a condition for the release of five soldiers held captive in Buin.

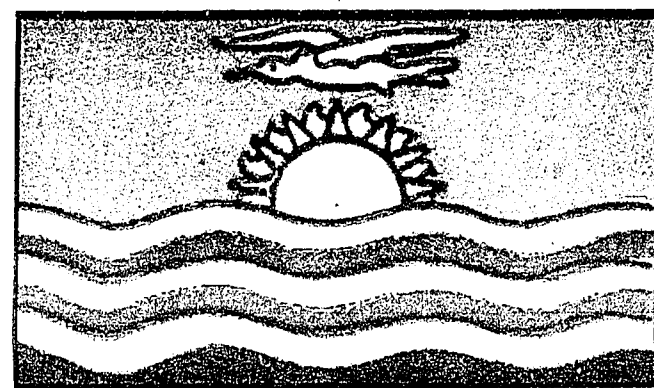
Government sources said Thurs-

day that rebels had been using the VHF system and particularly, a certain government department communication network for sometime, and possibly without the knowledge of the Post and Telekom Corporation.

Meanwhile the Defence Force Headquarters in Port Moresby has confirmed three more soldiers have been taken into captivity by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

PNGDF Chief of Staff Colonel Jack Tuat says the Defence Headquarters was informed late Wednesday of the capture of the three soldiers at Siara Junction, on the northern tip of Bougainville, just 14 kilometers from the administrative seat on Buka.

SPC profile Kiribati



THIS country of 33 scattered coral atolls straddles the equator and the International Date Line, halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The upper half of Kiribati's flag is red with a yellow frigate bird flying over a yellow rising sun; the lower half is blue with three wavy stripes representing the ocean.

The 79,300 persons living on Kiribati's 717 kilometers of land are Micronesians. They speak English and Gilbertese; about half practice Catholicism and 40% are Protestant. Since obtaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1979, Kiribati has a widely fluctuating economy, based on copra production and fishing. Financial aid from the United Kingdom and Japan is an important supplement.

For information about the 36th Conference of the South Pacific Commission, October 30 - November 1, 1996, call 664-2391.

This mini-profile series on SPC countries and territories is being published by the Marianas Variety to help its readers familiarize themselves with the members of the South Pacific Commission. This is in conjunction with the CNMI's hosting of the 36th Conference of the SPC which will bring delegations from 26 member governments on Saipan to discuss economic and social issues of mutual concern.

Voters cast in Russian polls

MOSCOW (AP) - Voters cast ballots Sunday in three regional elections which could alter the makeup of Russia's upper house of parliament, which is now mostly composed of President Boris Yeltsin's appointees.

Polling got underway in the Kaluga, Chita and Stavropol regions to elect new governors who will automatically become members of upper house, the Federation Council.

Yeltsin's administration is working hard to get as many friendly governors elected as possible, but results from

about a fifth of the scheduled 52 regional elections show it is not doing as well as it hoped.

Results from 11 races show that six government-supported incumbents were reelected, while five have been defeated, in most cases by candidates from communist or nationalist parties.

One of the most closely watched elections Sunday was in the Stavropol region of southern Russia where incumbent Pyotr Marchenko is facing a stiff challenge from Communist Alexander Chernogorov.

In July's presidential elec-

tions, voters in the economically depressed region supported Gennady Zyugonov, the Communist Party candidate, over Yeltsin by a margin of 54 percent to 41 percent.

In the Kaluga region, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Moscow, voters will choose a new governor and vice governor. Kaluga residents will also elect 21 out of 40 deputies to the regional legislative assembly.

In the Chita region of Siberia, the incumbent governor Ravi Geniatulin is facing four challengers, including three who are already deputies in

the lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

The elections began on Sept. 1 and will continue over the next four months. Results from Sunday's elections were expected Monday.

Since the formation of

Russia's current parliamentary system in 1993, most legislative activity has occurred in the State Duma.

The Federation Council meets less frequently and its members spend most of their time in their respective regions.



Oscar, 3, left, and his brother Samir, 5, center, and their friend Jairo Esquivel, 8, gather political banners to use the sticks for firewood, in Managua. Thousands of supporters of presidential candidate Daniel Ortega gathered in the field Wednesday night for his closing campaign rally. Nicaraguans recently elected a new president in elections earlier this month. AP Photo

India will promote economic reforms, Prime Minister says

By ASHOK SHARMA
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India's economic reforms are irreversible and the new coalition government has even speeded up the process, Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said Monday.

Gowda, speaking at an international business conference, said 500 foreign investment projects worth \$15 billion had been pending for more than three years when he came to power earlier this year.

Those projects were approved by his government over four months, he said.

That was a proof of the commitment of his 13-party coalition of socialist and communist parties to pursue economic reform, Gowda said.

But he also stressed social programs were needed to protect the poor.

Gowda's comments

opened a three-day India Economic Summit organized by the World Economic Forum and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

Some 300 business leaders are attending the meetings.

Claude Smadja, managing director of the World Economic Forum, spoke of bureaucratic delays in India which he said created doubts in the minds of foreign investors about the new government's commitment to reform.

Gowda assured him that his government is prepared to amend laws to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks.

He noted that the federal government had empowered state governments to clear projects on their own to avoid delays.

During the five years before losing power to Gowda, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was widely hailed by foreign investors for dismantling India's socialist

economy and adopting free market policies.

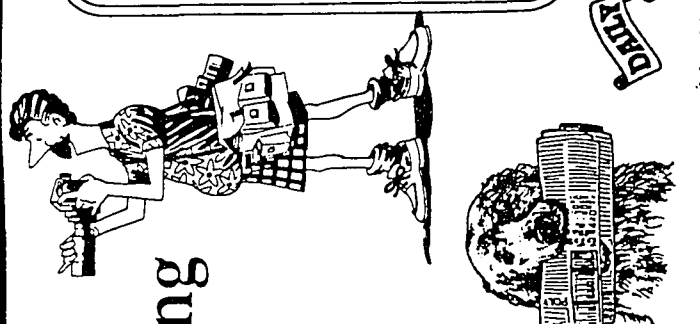
But critics say that the economic liberalization program has helped the rich while pushing more people into poverty.

Gowda said he favors foreign investment in developing the country's infrastructure because that will make more government resources available for social programs for millions of poor people.

India needs an estimated minimum investment of \$200 billion in infrastructure projects alone over the next four years, officials say.

The prime minister said that apart from developing badly needed infrastructure, the government will in particular promote foreign investment in the agriculture sector to achieve an annual economic growth of seven percent.

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Call 911 for emergency

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Caridad "Carrie" Salas San Nicolas

Born June 29, 1947, passed away in the grace
of our Lord on October 23, 1996 at the age of 49.

In her death she now joins her Parents, Parents-in-law,
Francisco B. and Ana M. Salas, Juan G. and Ana P. San Nicolas.

She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts and Brothers-in-law.

Survived by her Husband, Jesus P. San Nicolas.

Children and Spouse and Grand Children: Jay Jess San Nicolas, Eugene Michael San Nicolas and Tana Marie Atalag, Vanessa Faye San Nicolas and Manuel Joseph Dela Cruz, Jirema San Nicolas, Anika Frances San Nicolas Dela Cruz, Eugene Michael San Nicolas Jr.

Sister and Spouse: Carmen S. and Juan P. Topasna, Mary S. and William Koch, Diana M. Salas, Dolores and Vicente B. Aguon, Elizabeth S. Nedeodog (Widow) of Frank Nedeodog, all of Guam, Alice S. and Chuck Baker of Sterling Virginia, Barbara S. and Agust Chaturious.

Brothers and Sisters-in-Law: Francis and Bertha Ann G. Salas, Joseph M. Salas-Guam

She is additionally survived by numerous in-law: Ramon P. (Deceased) and Consuelo T. San Nicolas, Ramon Sabtan (Deceased) and Petra P. San Nicolas, Augustin Cruz (Deceased) and Ana San Nicolas Cruz, Maximina P. San Nicolas (Deceased), Angela P. San Nicolas, Jose P. and Guillermina H. San Nicolas, Henry P. and Elizabeth M. San Nicolas, Joaquin P. and Magdalena B. San Nicolas, Gilbert I. and Estella San Nicolas Macaranas, Esteven M. and Emiliana San Nicolas King (Deceased).

On the first night, October 23, 1996, rosary was said at Tinian Health Center. Beginning on the second night, October 24, 1996, after her passing away, the nightly rosary will be at her house located at the Subdivision, partment #103, starting at 8:00 p.m. Wake and Funeral service will commence on Thursday, October 31, 1996, at 11:30 a.m., at the family residence followed by mass at 4:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian. Burial Service will follow immediately at San Jose Public Cemetery.

Your Prayers and Condolences are appreciated.

THE FAMILY

A year after tense referendum

Quebec remains divided, edgy

By DAVID CRARY
MONTREAL (AP) - A year after the referendum that nearly split Canada in two, Quebec is as polarized as ever, its economy in disarray and its morale soured by ceaseless debate over separatism.

Officially, Quebecers who opposed independence were the victors on Oct. 30, 1995, casting a bare majority 50.6 percent of the votes that were tallied during an evening of wrenching tension.

In many ways, however, the outcome turned Quebecers on both sides into victims. In part because of political uncertainty, outside investment in Quebec has shrunk and thousands of people are leaving for other provinces. Montreal's 12.6 percent jobless rate is the highest of any big Canadian city.

"Nobody should have to live with a sword of Damocles constantly hanging over their heads," Prime Minister Jean Chretien said during a recent foray into Montreal to preach the rewards of Canadian federalism.

Quebec's separatist-led provincial government doesn't minimize the economic woes. Premier Lucien Bouchard is convening a three-day summit of business and labor leaders Tuesday to seek a consensus on deficit-cutting, job creation and tax policies.

Bouchard hopes to gain support for painful government spending cuts that

would, in a few years, prove to Quebecers and outsiders that his Parti Quebecois is capable of governing an independent, solvent nation.

And he wants the province on firmer financial footing when the next referendum takes place, perhaps in four or five years.

Monique Simard, vice president of the Parti Quebecois, said the turn of the century could be a highly symbolic moment for Quebec, though she stopped short of predicting the referendum would be held then.

"Four, five, six years - in politics that's an eternity," she said in an interview. "But people who've been strong sovereignists for 20, 25 years agree with our timetable. They are patient. It will happen some day."

Chretien and his federalist allies insist separation is not inevitable, but their strategies vary from week to week, sometimes in contradiction.

Several prominent Quebec federalists were upset when the national government decided in September to ask the Canadian Supreme Court for a ruling on whether Quebec has the right to secede unilaterally.

Justice Minister Allan Rock said the vote was to show that Quebec, if it did vote to secede, would face tough negotiations over division of government debt and assets. But the move seemed to play into separatist hands - "It's an

attempt to treat Quebec as a captive people," said Bouchard.

Federalists strive to show Quebec the benefits of staying in Canada. Chretien just announced an interest-free, federal loan of 87 million Canadian dollars (\$ 64 million) to help Quebec's Bombardier Inc. develop a new passenger jet.

Yet some federalists can't resist spotlighting any bit of economic bad news in Quebec, hoping hard times will eventually erode the popularity that Bouchard consolidated with his passionate referendum campaigning last year.

Support for independence increased steadily in post-referendum opinion polls, peaking at 55 percent in June. Since then, the trend has reversed. The latest monthly survey by the Montreal polling firm of Leger and Leger gave the federalist side a slight edge.

"It's clear that for Lucien Bouchard the honeymoon is over," said pollster Jean-Marc Leger. "People are looking for effective government, not more talk about the constitution."

Though bread-and-butter issues may be paramount for most Quebecers, hard-liners in both the French-speaking majority and Anglophone minority have ensured a persistent nastiness in the political climate.

carry out attacks to avenge the assassination a year ago of their leader, Fathi Shikaki. Israel is widely believed to have killed Shikaki.

"Our attacks may be delayed because of technical reasons, but they will never be stopped," Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, leader of the Islamic Jihad, told Associated Press Television in Beirut.

Ross's meetings Sunday with Netanyahu and Arafat capped a

three-week effort by the American mediator to advance the Hebron talks.

"It is clear that we have further narrowed the differences that exist, but we have not overcome those differences," Ross said. "I believe the differences can be overcome."

But Jibril Rajoub, chief of the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank, told the AP that four substantive issues remained unresolved:

Israel's demand that Palestinian police in Hebron carry only pistols and not automatic rifles;

Israel's demand for the right to "hot pursuit" of terrorists into Palestinian autonomous zones; Israel's opposition to the opening of Martyrs Street, a main thoroughfare and market area in the center of Hebron; and

how to conduct joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols.

In what was seen as a move to soften the blow for settlers of any Hebron deal with the Palestinians, Netanyahu announced Sunday that Israel would allow the sale of 3,000 apartments in West Bank settlements. The previous government had frozen the sale of the units, which already are built.

The Netanyahu government's support of settlement expansion has infuriated the Palestinians, who want to establish a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that Israel took over in the 1967 Mideast War.

Following years of delicate negotiation, the Palestinians control most of the Gaza Strip and about a third of the West Bank. Netanyahu has expressed reservations about carrying out further withdrawals agreed to by his predecessors that would put all but "specified military locations" in the West Bank under Palestinian control.

DLNR . . .

Continued from page 1

He stressed that, thus far, there are more brucellosis cases being monitored in the US, Australia and New Zealand than

in the CNMI, even as meat products coming from these producers continue flooding the Guam market.

"Asking us out just because we happen to be near and our products cheaper is unfair," Sablan said.

2 garment . . .

Continued from page 1

ever, Borja said he would be "compounding the situation with what I feel as a defective law with another defective regulation."

He said he has to "uphold the law" though there may be something wrong with it.

Borja repealed the regulations, citing a "number of questions" on their legality and consistency with

the Garment Industry Moratorium Act.

In his directive, Borja said the repealed regulations should be replaced with something "within the confines of the law."

He also ordered the Department of Labor and Immigration to refund any application fees for non-resident garment workers paid pursuant to the repealed regulations but have not been issued permits.

Autopsy . . .

Continued from page 1

on her both hands.

The wounds on the hands bolstered a theory that the victim could have struggled with the assailant/s.

The Department of Public Safety refused to release any further information about the killing pending an ongoing investigation.

One of the possible motives that investigators are looking into, the Variety learned, is burglary and theft.

Coria, 42, a cashier of K-Store,

was found murdered at a house in Gualo Rai. Her throat was slashed.

The victim, a member of Jehovah Witnesses, was apparently sleeping when the assailant/s broke into her room through the back door located behind K-Store.

The Crime Stoppers has offered \$1,000 reward to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer/s.

Coria's body is expected to be flown anytime this week back to her home in Mandaue, Cebu, Philippines, where her husband and children are waiting.

Newly . . .

Continued from page 1

watts of electricity.

It was one of three engines that were brought back to production last August after a seven-month repair and overhaul maintenance.

The manufacturer of the defective engine had been summoned to Saipan, according to the CUC.

However, it would take up to seven months to restore it, the CUC said.

Officials asked residents to conserve as much electricity as they can since they can't be assured of enough power on certain peak hours specifically during lunch and dinner time.

Because of this, they said, the power supply would be "equally rotated among all Saipan villages."

The length of the time for the power shedding in each village hasn't been determined yet.

It was emphasized that the power outages would occur only if "customers continue to use high amounts of electricity."

"If the utility is forced to turn off the power in a village or on a power distribution line, or feeder, the outage will last only (about) two hours," the CUC said.

It also said the power outage schedule takes into consideration the school hours, adding that the schedule "may be updated to ensure that the rotation of outages is impartial."

The following outage schedule for today until Friday as provided by the

CUC is as follows:

•9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.—Areas covered by Feeder 2
•11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.—Feeder 4
•1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.—Feeder 1
•3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.—Feeder 7
•5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.—Feeder 5
•7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.—Feeder 6

Following are the areas covered by the affected feeders:

•Feeder 1: Lower Base Main Power Plant to Puerto Rico, Upper and Lower Navy Hill to CHC, portions of Garapan, Chalan Laulau, and Gualo Rai;

•Feeder 2: Lower Base main power plant to Beach Road, Puerto Rico, Garapan, Chalan Laulau and San Jose (Microl) intersection;

•Feeder 3: Lower Base Main Power Plant throughout Lower Base to Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, San Jose, Susupe and portions of Chalan Kanoa;

•Feeder 4: Lower Base Main Power Plant to Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill to As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago;

•Feeder 5: Dandan Waterloo Station to As Lito, Kobelerville, San Antonio, Chalan Piao and portions of Chalan Kanoa;

•Feeder 6: Chalan Kiya Waterloo Station to Fina Sisu, San Vicente, Dandan Homestead, Isley Water Wells, the airport area, Kobelerville Water Wells and As Perdido; and

•Feeder 7: Lower Base to Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis Homestead and Marpi.

Buckle-up SAIPAN

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DOUGLAS MILLER, Plaintiff,
v.
JULIE A. MILLER, Defendant.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-273

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer to which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOU ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, of Saipan, CNMI 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, O'Connor, Dotis & Banes, P.O. Box 1969, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court
By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Dated this 10th day of September, 1996.

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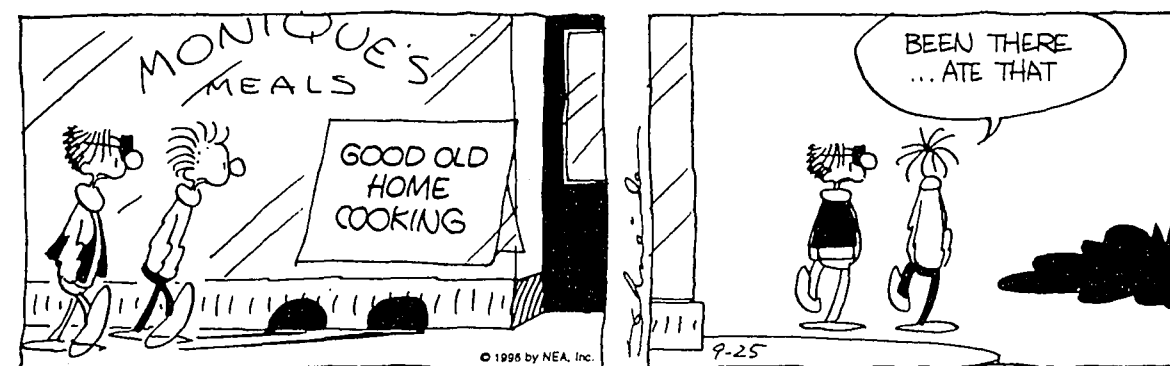
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you tend to feel beholden to other people, whether or not you are truly in their debt. The fact is that you harbor tremendous doubts and insecurities and you tend to grant others some measure of authority over you — even when there is none warranted. Surely, you do feel confident at certain times, particularly when you are hard at work doing what you enjoy most. But even then you feel watched, as if someone is waiting to pounce on you with undue criticism. Still, you are supremely talented, and though it is said that insecurity goes hand-in-hand with talent, there are times when you can surely rise above the norm and feel solid, centered, and secure.

In your personal relationships you are fun-loving and adventurous, and you are invariably the life of any party. The time will come, however, when you will settle down — even to the point of marriage! You can be sure that this will come to you as quite a surprise.

Also born on this date are: Bob Knight, basketball coach; Minnie Pearl, comedienne; Helen Reddy, singer; Marion Ross, actress.

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, OCT. 29
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — A question of taste or propriety may erupt suddenly today into quite a battle of wills. Take care not to let stubbornness drown you!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Consider accepting an unusual offer from someone close to you today. Chances are you will remember this as a golden opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — That which sneaks up on you today is likely to be most important. Take care not to ignore the little things going on all around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Politics may be inevitable today — especially in and around the workplace. You may want to watch what you say during morning and evening hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — The time has come for you to put away those prefabricated notions and other outdated ideas about the world. Start seeing things all over again!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Messages from afar may contain information more important than you expect. You may want to take

the time to "read between the lines."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A decision you make today may be more pivotal than you had anticipated. Though there's no going back, you can surely forge your own path ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may be feeling stuck at this time, but the only one holding you back is yourself! Once again, you may have to dispense with old ways of thinking.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A look into the future may yield a surprising vision today. Now is no time to shrug off any instincts; take the time to begin making concrete plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Spend time out-of-doors today and you'll realize that there's more in store for you in the coming days and weeks than you had remembered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — This is a good day to make yourself available for developments which can benefit you either directly or indirectly, personally or professionally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You must take care not to intrude on others today. You'll know when it is a more appropriate time to make that call or drop in for a visit.

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than men are. It makes one wonder what the Sisters Grimm would have had to say.

The height of the Eiffel Tower in Paris can vary up to 6 inches depending on the temperature.

Sir Isaac Newton, the famous mathematician who first formulated the laws of gravity and differential calculus, never finished school. He dropped out to pursue his mother's wishes for him to become a successful farmer.

The zip in zip codes, which were implemented by the U.S. Postal Service in 1963, stands for Zoning Improvement Plan.

The wheels on an average office chair will roll about 8 miles per year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists the following 10 items as the most commonly consumed foods in our country: milk, potatoes, beef, sugar, canned vegetables, fresh fruits, chicken, pork, eggs and citrus fruits.

There is a law that states that no living person can be depicted on U.S. currency.

The busiest stretch of road in the entire world is in California, where the East L.A. interchange joins with the Santa Ana, Santa Monica, Golden State and Pomona freeways. More than 440,000 cars pass there daily.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Invent
7 Detroit player
12 Plan
13 Based
15 Asner ID
16 Biggest
18 Iron symbol
19 Italian river
21 Iranian
22 Blue (Sp.)
24 Wheat —
26 Cloth
28 Cable
29 NBA's
31 Prosecutor (abbr.)
34 — row
36 Ride the waves
38 Redford ID
40 And others (Latin abbr.)
42 Flora and

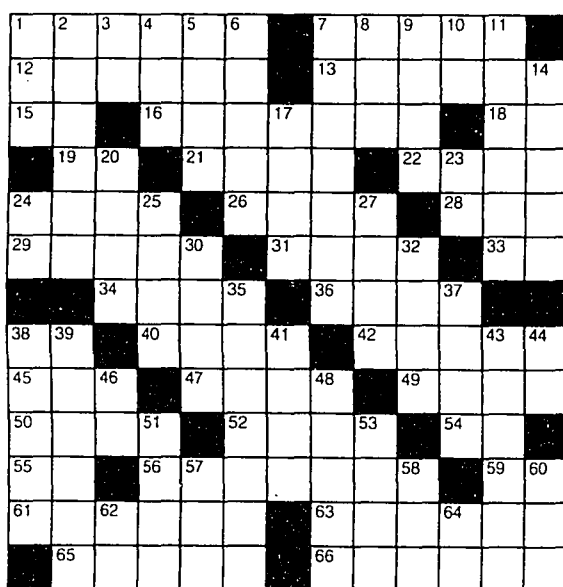
DOWN

1 B-F linkup (abbr.)
2 The Grim —
3 Villela ID
4 Be sick
5 Former
6 Russian ruler
7 Uncanny
8 Arbor

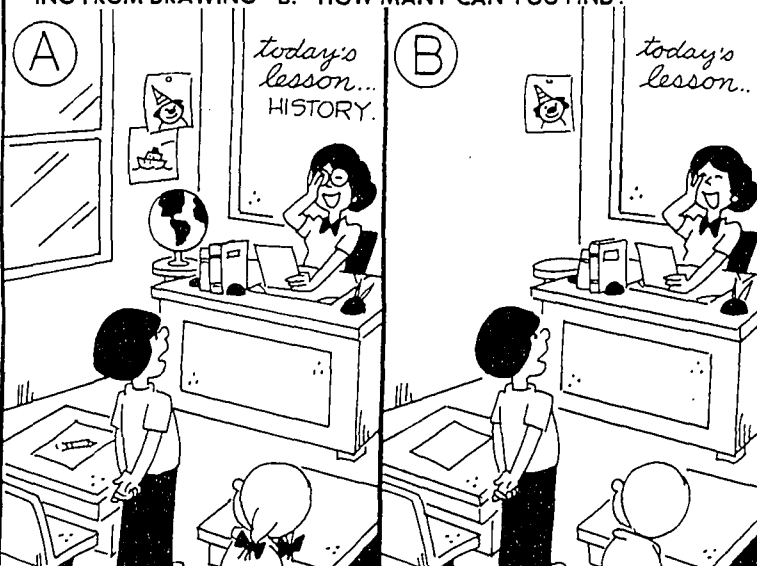
Answer to Previous Puzzle

LOUT GRUE ASH
INGO ORGY LOU
BEHIND OR MUM
LAOS ELOPE
ECLIPSE IS
THANK SOY TSE
AO GIG VOW CL
SUP NOV OOPAK
RD BATHROBE
TITARA NOON
AST BS TOILIER
LES BONO NEAT
CEE ALIE GERIE

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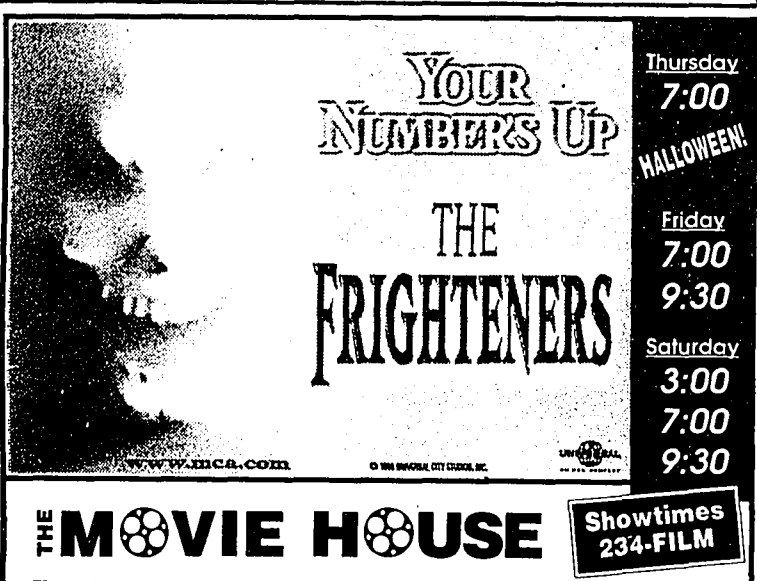


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"THEN I TAKE IT 'HA HA' MEANS THE EARLY ROMANS WEREN'T PEOPLE WHO ROAMED A LOT."

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49ers edge Oilers

NEW YORK (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers lost Steve Young again, and won again. The Green Bay Packers lost another receiver, and won again.

Young got a concussion on the third play of the game and was replaced by Jeff Brohm, who completed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens with 4:27 left Sunday as the 49ers rallied for a 10-9 American National Football League victory over the Houston Oilers.

The Packers, who lost top receivers Sterling Sharpe for all of last year and Robert Brooks for the rest of this season, had to rely on their ground game in a 13-7 victory over Tampa Bay after Antonio Freeman broke his left forearm in the first quarter.

Dallas (5-3) scored 20 straight points in the second half to beat Miami 29-10 after trailing 10-9 at halftime. The Troy Aikman-to-Michael Irvin combination clicked 12 times for 186 yards, and Aikman was 33-of-41 for 363 yards and three touchdowns.

Elsewhere in the NFL on Sunday, it was Philadelphia 20, Carolina 9; Washington 31, Indianapolis 16; Cincinnati

28, Jacksonville 21; the New York Giants 35, Detroit 7; Pittsburgh 20, Atlanta 17; Baltimore 37, St. Louis 31 in overtime; Denver 34, Kansas City 7; the New York Jets 31, Arizona 21; and Seattle 32, San Diego 13; and New England 28, Buffalo 25.

On Monday night, Chicago is at Minnesota.

Packers 13, Buccaneers 7

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Edgar Bennett rushed 20 times for 93 yards and Dorsey Levens ran seven times for 21 yards and a touchdown. Chris Jacke had field goals of 40 and 48 yards for the Packers (7-1).

The Bucs (1-7) closed to 13-7 when Trent Dilfer hit tight end Dave Moore with an 11-yard touchdown pass with 5:28 left in the game.

Eagles 20, Panthers 9

At Philadelphia, Ty Detmer followed a four-touchdown performance last week against Miami by passing for a career-high 342 yards and a touchdown to rookie tight end Jason Dunn.

Irving Fryar, who caught eight passes for 116 yards and all four touchdowns last week, caught seven passes for 143

yards for the Eagles (6-2).

Cowboys 29, Dolphins 10

Dallas finished with 482 yards to 221 for Miami (4-4), which couldn't win despite the return of injured quarterback Dan Marino.

Aikman's most damaging completion to Irvin came in the third quarter when a breakdown in the secondary left Irvin wide open on third-and-17. The result was a 61-yard gain, setting up a 2-yard touchdown pass from Aikman to Irvin for a 22-10 lead.

Redskins 31, Colts 16

At Washington, Terry Allen rushed for 124 yards and had his second consecutive three-touchdown game, while Brian Mitchell returned a punt 71 yards for Washington (7-1), extending its winning streak to seven.

Indianapolis (5-3), which has lost three of four after a 4-0 start, had 185 yards and trailed only 17-13 at halftime, but it managed only 113 yards and a field goal in the second half.

Ravens 37, Rams 31

At Baltimore, Vinny Testaverde threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jackson with 10 seconds left

in overtime as Baltimore avoided the first NFL draw in seven years.

The Ravens (3-5) won despite committing four turnovers and missing two field goals and a conversion. The Rams (2-6) blew a 14-point lead in the second half and botched a field-goal try in overtime.

Giants 35, Lions 7

At Pontiac, Michigan, New York snapped Detroit's 10-game home winning streak by forcing six Lions turnovers. In addition to an opportunistic defense, the Giants (3-5) also had a creative offensive game plan against the Lions (4-4). Dave Brown completed 15 of 27 passes for 221 yards. The secondary picked off five passes and helped hold Barry Sanders to 47 yards on 16 carries.

Steelers 20, Falcons 17

At Atlanta, for the second straight week, Atlanta came close to knocking off one of the best teams in the NFL, only to fall short in the fourth quarter. Norm Johnson kicked a 20-yard field as time ran out, giving Pittsburgh (6-2) the victory and sending the Falcons to

their eighth straight loss.

Bengals 28, Jaguars 21

At Cincinnati, Jeff Blake threw a touchdown pass and Ki-Jana Carter ran for two scores in Bruce Coslet's coaching debut for Cincinnati.

The Bengals (2-6) broke their season-long pattern of folding at the end, scoring 21 fourth-quarter points to get Coslet a win in his first game since replacing Dave Shula.

Broncos 34, Chiefs 7

John Elway threw for 286 yards and three touchdowns, two to Shannon Sharpe, as Denver (7-1) took command of the AFC West against division rival Kansas City (5-3).

Jets 31, Cardinals 21

Adrian Murrell rushed for 191 yards, including a 78-yarder to the 2 that set up the clinching touchdown as New York won for the first time in nine tries this season.

The Jets, who had lost 12 straight overall, also got a strong game from rookie Keyshawn Johnson, who had seven catches, including a 34-yard scoring reception. Arizona fell to 3-5.

Takanohana . . .

Continued from page 20

ing 4-11 record in September, was demoted to No. 9 from No. 4 in the makuuchi, sumo's top division.

Kyokushuzan, or Batbayar Davaa from Mongolia, was promoted to No. 7 from No. 15. Kyokushuzan became the first wrestler from his country to reach the makuuchi division.

In the 26-member juroyo division, Yamato, or American George Kalima, was promoted to No. 1 from No. 4 after going 10-5 in September.

Sunahama, or William Hopkins of the United States, rose to No. 8 from No. 9 after posting a 8-7 record in the previous tournament.

In makushita, the top junior division, Kyokutenho, or Mongolian Tsevegnyam Nyanyjav, fell back to No. 1 in that division from No. 8 in the higher-ranked juroyo division after going 5-10 in September. Sentoryu, or

American Henry Armstrong Miller, rose to No. 5 from No. 13.

Daiki, or American Percy Kipapa, rose to No. 8 from No. 15. Hoshiandesu, or Jose Antonio Juarez from Argentina, rose to No. 16 from No. 29. Hoshitango, or Imach Marcelo Salomon from Argentina, rose to No. 20 from No. 43. Ikemori, or Luis Go Ikemori from Brazil, was promoted to No. 21 from No. 28. Kuniazuma, or Brazilian Vander Ramos from Sao Paulo, rose to No. 26 from No. 42 in sandanme, which is below makushita.

In sandanme, Takamio, or American John Feleung, fell back to No. 3 from No. 35 in the higher-ranked makushita division. Kyokutenzan, or Mongolian Enkhbat Batmunkha, fell to No. 35 from No. 21. Azumakaze, or Brazilian Tussato Giuliano Kotinda, was demoted to No. 60 from No. 37.

Koryu, or American Eric Gaspard, rose to No. 64 in sandanme from No. 6 in jonidan, the third highest junior division.

Lizama . . .

Continued from page 20

Lawrence Camacho bagged the closest to the pin award in hole number three while Tony Rogolifo copied a similar prize in the 13th hole.

There were a total of 15 golfers

who showed up the greens for the qualifier.

Lizama's 69 will be the score to beat in the forthcoming RGA November Ace Tournament which is tentatively set at the Marianas Country Club Golf Course on Sunday, November 10.

Sportsbits . . .

Continued from page 20

years old and under, 13 and 14, 15 to 19, Open, 30 and over, and 40 and over—for men and women.

Medals will be awarded for the top three finishers in every age bracket.

Entry forms are available at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym. Deadline for submission of entries is on November 8 at 5 p.m.

Entries will no longer be entertained on the day of the competitions.

For more information, call Elias Rangamar or Ray Kapileo at 234-1001 or 234-1002. (EAC)

Oreos . . .

Continued from page 20

Semerina Simram took the win while Juanette Camacho picked her fifth straight loss.

After picking up their third loss earlier in the day, the Striker tossed their ire on erstwhile unbeaten Power Raiders toek out 7-5 victory. Miriam Illemong debuted in the tournament

by going 3 for 4 and in the process scored two runs. Lani Buckis and Tonic Taitano combined for 4 of 7, two runs and a walk, as the Strikers halted the Power Raiders' winning rampage.

The loss spoiled Polly Omehelak perfect 3 for 3 stint at bats for the Power Raiders. Omehelak suffered her first loss of the season while Meng Yamada got the win.

The league's second round will start on November 10.

Fate and fortune gave NY the title

By BEN WALKER

NEW YORK (AP) — The bullpen was exceptional, as expected. Jim Leyritz delivered a big home run, Andy Pettitte threw a marvelous game and Paul O'Neill made a nifty catch.

The New York Yankees had it all — pitching, hitting and fielding in one of the finest weeks in their history.

But what about it, Joe Torre? Was there something else on your side? Did you think the Yankees were destined to win the World Series?

"I guess I did, but I wouldn't let it happen because once you think it's fate, you stop working," the manager said after Saturday night's clinching 3-2 win over Atlanta in Game 6. "What made it happen were people like John Wetteland and Bernie Williams and Cecil Fielder.

"Everybody has a piece of it," he said. "We went through a series and every player on our roster helped us win a game."

The result was the Yankees' record

23rd championship and first since 1978, along with one of the most remarkable turnarounds in baseball history. New York became only the third team in 92 World Series to win it after losing the first two games at home.

Wade Boggs and Fielder wound up with the first championships in their long careers, while emerging stars Derek Jeter and Williams also celebrated in a pileup on the mound after the last out. At Torre's suggestion, the team took a victory lap around the outfield, with Boggs riding a police horse.

Certainly a lot of casual fans found themselves pulling for the Yankees, mostly because of Torre. He'd lost his brother, Rocco, to a heart attack this season. He'd finally made it to the World Series after 4,272 games as a player and manager, the longest such drought in major league history.

His brother, Frank, had undergone a desperately needed heart transplant at a New York hospital a day before Game 6. His sister, Sis-

ter Marguerite, is a principal at a Catholic grade school in nearby Queens.

The Yankees were sentimental favorites, for sure, compared to Atlanta. Manager Bobby Cox and the Braves already had won last year's title, and were appearing for the fourth time in the last five World Series.

"I think the thing with my brother passing away and my brother, Frank, has taken the game and put it more on a personal playing field. I think maybe this humanized the game," Torre said. "I think it's unfortunate for Bobby Cox, because we seem to have more people praying for us," he said. "The story is about more than wins and losses and has a bit more human interest in it."

No doubt, the catch by that 12-year-old boy in right field during Game 1 of the AL championship series against Baltimore seemed to indicate luck was in the Yankees' corner.

Tenorio topped both the high scratch and high handicap games with 268 and 282 pins. Robert Talavera won top honors in the high scratch series with 651 while Ric Cuizon bagged the high handicap series with 704 pins.

Talavera made it a twinkle when his 185.69 average was the league best in the high individual average category. Romy Guevarra copped the most improved average with an 18.10 pinfall increase.

For both men and women in this year's run.

The Turkey Trot, which will start at the Public Works Beach, pass through the Capitol Hill and will end at the top of Mt. Topagchau, will cover a distance of at least 4.2 miles. There will be a minimal entry fee.

In last year's turkey trot, a

Annual . . .

Continued from page 20

ested individuals who are fit and in good condition to run.

In this year's edition, there will be four age brackets—the 19 years and under, the Open, 30 years and above, and 40 years and above categories—

SPORTS



1996 Palau Women's Slowpitch League

Oreos extend win streak

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

with reports from Patrick Tellie
THE OREOS scored their fourth straight win in the season while previously unbeaten Power Raiders suffered its first loss in as the 1996 Palau Women's Slowpitch League concluded its first round of eliminations last Sunday at the Koblerville Ball Field.

The Oreos became the league's

hottest team by whitewashing the Strikers, 14-0, in the first game. The win gave the Oreos a piece of the leadership in the six team field with a 4-1 win loss slate.

The Power Raiders, who played two games for the day, won their first encounter in the second game by outlasting the slumping Hot Peppers, 15-5.

The team, however, failed to sweep the first round after losing an exciting

encounter with the Strikers in the fourth game of the day.

With the loss, Power Raiders is in joint first with Oreos with identical 4-1 slates.

In the third game, Sakau tallied its third win by thrashing the Mixers, 17-2. The defeat was the Mixers' fifth straight in as many games.

A n n i e Emiliano led the Oreos by scoring three runs, including a three run homer; three RBIs on perfect 3 for 3 at bats.

Emy Quituga added her own three

run homer and Brenda Haddox also went perfect, 2 for 2, as the Oreos' proved to strong for the Strikers.

Miyang Aguon led the Strikers' losing bid by going 2 for 3. Oreos' pitcher Jennifer

Germance took the fourth win while Remy Celis took the loss.

In the second game, the Power Raiders took their fourth straight win at the expense of skidding Hot Peppers.

It was Hot Peppers' third straight loss after opening the season with two straight wins.

Power Raiders' Mary Skilang, Joyce Taro, Dolores Rangamar, and

Polly Omchelang combined for 11 for 14 attempts at bat to lead their team. As if it wasn't enough every Power Raider batter got at least one hit in the game.

Pauline Tudela hit a two run triple for the Hot Peppers but her efforts went to naught as the her team sank lower in the team standings. Omchelang took the win while Sue Ellis was tagged with her third straight loss.

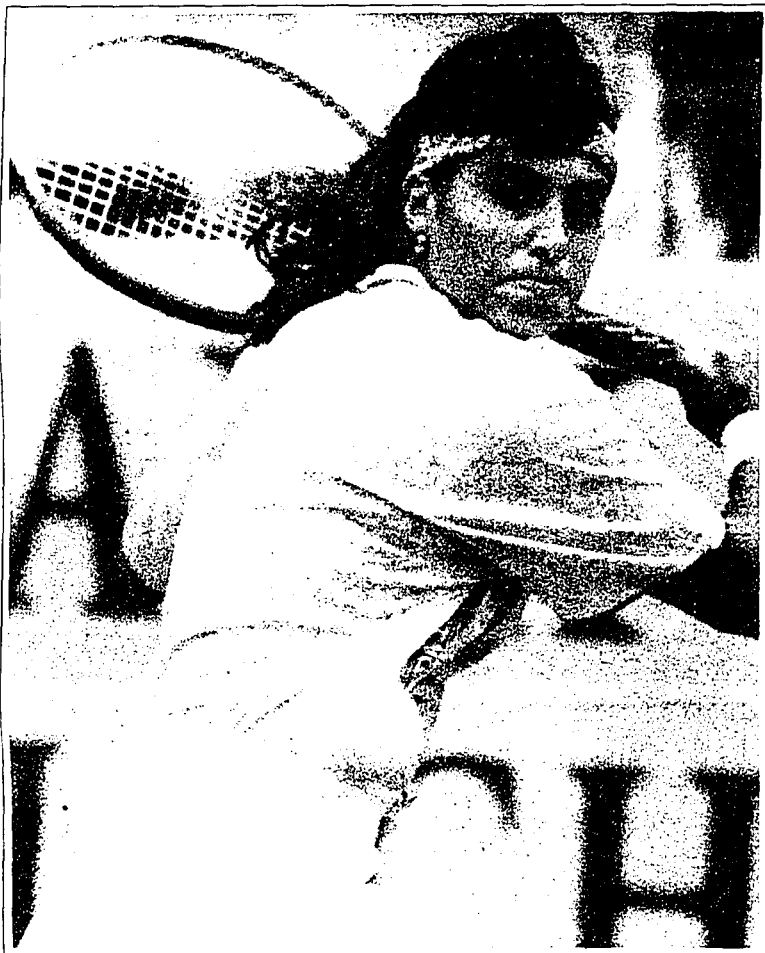
Sakau scored in every inning enroute to a 5 inning 10 run mercy rule over the hapless Mixers. Jovie Omar went perfect at 3 for 3 and scored three runs aside from two RBIs while Bertha Sablan hit a three-run homer to lead Sakau.

Mae Dikito paced the Mixers with a 2 for 2 with one RBI.

Continued on page 19

Team Standings

	W	L
Power Raiders	4	1
Oreos	4	1
Sakau	3	2
Hot Peppers	2	3
Strikers	2	3
Mixers	0	5



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina returns the ball during her match against Australian Nicole Bradtke at the German Open in Berlin. Sabatini is set to retire, ending a career in which she was once one of the biggest stars in women's tennis but has been unable to win a tournament in nearly two years.

AP photo

Toshiba bags FIL bowling tilt

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

SAVING the best for their showdown against the pacesetter PSTC Bowlers, Toshiba scored a scintillating four-game sweep in the final round to reign supreme in the Friday Intercommercial League Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Down by two wins at the start of the final round, the Toshiba team composed of Ruben Avendano, Rey Ferrez, Mike Macam, Val Marcelo, Aro Marquez, Efren Puse, Rommel Ruiz, and Jun Villalaz, needed nothing but win all their encounter against the PSTC. Toshiba did it none-

theless.

Toshiba caught PSTC at one of its off nights that by the end of two games, PSTC remained winless. Sensing an upset in the works, Toshiba went on for the kill and for the title.

Toshiba finished with a league best 59-37 for a 61.46 winning percentage. PSTC, after leading the league for the most part of the six month tournament, fell to second with 57-39.

In the battle for third, Marpac/Michelob blanked Saipan Steve-dore, 4-0, then relied on a superior pinfall total to bag second runner-up honors. Both teams finished the tournament with 54-42 win loss slates but Marpac/Michelob enjoyed a 72 pin-edge

over Saipan Steve-dore.

Joeten Enterprises moved one rung up in the final team standings by winning three out four games against Halina's Kitchenette. Joeten bagged fifth with 51.5-44.5 mark. Halina's, which only needed two wins to preserve its hold on fifth place, fell to sixth with 50-46 record.

Duty Free Shoppers preserved their hold on the seventh slot by whipping L&W/Len's, 4-0. DFS has a final 49-47 slate while L&W/Len's winds up with 43-53, good for ninth overall.

Micro/Toyota racked three wins over Wushin Corporation

Continued on page 19

Lizama tops RGA qualifier

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

JOELIZAMA emerged as the top qualifier for the Refalawach Golf's Association's (RGA) November Ace Tournament when he scored a net 69 last Saturday to win the RGA's qualifying round held at the Lao Lao Beach Resort's West Course.

Lizama actually finished the round with 74 but his five handicap gave him a net 69 to tie two more golfers for the top honors.

Jess Castro and Jess Lizama scored similar 69s but Joe was declared the winner in the tiebreaker. Castro eventually finished second while Jess was declared third.

Continued on page 19

Takanohana seeded first

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) - Takanohana, who won his fourth straight championship in September, retained the highest position in rankings for the Grand Sumo tournament in southwestern Japan next month.

Rankings for the Kyushu Grand Sumo Tournament, which gets underway Nov. 10 at the Fukuoka Kokusai Center, were announced Monday by the Japan Sumo Association.

The 24-year-old Takanohana defeated fellow yokozuna (grand champion) Akebono on the last day of the September tournament held in Tokyo, finishing with a perfect 15-0 record.

It was Takanohana's 15th career victory and his fourth 15-0 tournament. Akebono, formerly Chad Rowan from Hawaii, will hold the top spot in the west side rankings after finishing 10-5 in the previous tournament.

The 27-year-old Akebono, the first foreigner to become a yokozuna, was granted Japanese citizenship in April. Ozeki (champion) Musashimaru and maegashira (senior wrestler) Konishiki, both from Hawaii, have also gained Japanese citizenship.

Musashimaru, formerly Fiamalu Penitani, was ranked just below Akebono in the west side. Musashimaru was 11-4 in the September tourney.

Ozeki Wakanohana, Takanohana's elder brother, will hold the top ozeki position in the east after finishing 11-4 in September. Fellow ozeki Takanonami, who was 9-6, is ranked just below Wakanohana.

Konishiki, formerly Salevaa Fuauli Atisanoe, who finished at a disappoint-

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Annual Turkey Trot up

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

FOR THE second year in a row, Plumeria Hotel will sponsor this year's annual Turkey Trot to the

top of Mt. Topagchau on November 28, 1996.

Now on its 11th year, the annual fun run is open to all inter-

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Sportsbits

Youth Soccer Meeting
THE CNMI Youth Soccer Organization will have a meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 1996, 7 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Important matters such as the planning for the new 1997 soccer season for boys and girls whose ages range from eight to 13 years old, will be discussed.

Parents, coaches and volunteers are requested to attend the gathering.

For more details, call the CNMI Youth Soccer Organization at 235-2397.

Cross Country Championships

THE Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Federation will hold its annual Cross Country Championships on November 9, 6:45 a.m. at the Airport Road.

The Cross Country Championships feature six categories—12

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