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Gov't leaders not keen on gasoline tax hike

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT may not be inclined to raise gasoline taxes as recommended by an energy consultant for the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA).

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in an interview with reporters, said the CNMI's fuel tax is already high, and that any increase would affect the people's buying power.

Acting Senate President Thomas P. Villagomez, for his part, said "no outsider can just come to us and tell us what to do with out taxes."

Tenorio and Villagomez were reacting to the recommendation made by OIA's energy consultant, James P. Rizer, who had proposed that insular governments raise their gasoline taxes by at least 20 cents per gallon.

OIA announced Rizer's proposal through the OIA Flash Fax issued Feb. 13.

Rizer, according to the OIA report, believes that energy tax increase could alleviate the financial problems of island governments.

Last month, the CNMI lowered its fuel tax from 15 cents to 10 cents per gallon.

During a meeting organized last month by the Pacific Basin Development Council in Hawaii, Rizer remarked that Pacific islands affiliated with the United States "have some of the lowest energy taxes in the world."

"I don't know if he looked into our [situation]. I don't know his

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Minority lawmakers urge Teno:

Fire 'aliens' in gov't, not locals

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

FOUR OF the five minority members of the House of Representatives are urging Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to fire nonresident government employees or tap federal funds to accommodate local workers recently terminated.

In a letter sent to Tenorio yesterday, the minority congressmen said the local workers could also be moved to vacant positions or given an assurance that they will be hired once funds are available.

The congressmen at the same time expressed support for the new administration's cost effective approach in streamlining government, but added that termi-



Dino Jones



Maria T. Peter

nated employees and their families will suffer "economically."

They said the recent "mass termination" will lead to a "social problem, and the CNMI taxpayers will pay the price."

"The private sector cannot (hire) the terminated employees (due) to the (economic downturn trend) and businesses are suffering," according to the congressmen.

Those recently terminated, their letter said, are "victims of being

hired by the wrong administration."

The letter was signed by House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Pct. 4, Saipan), Reps. Maria T. Peter (Ind.-Pct. 3, Saipan), Rosiky F. Camacho (D-Pct. 1, Saipan) and Max L. Olopai (D-Pct. 3, Saipan).

Tinian Democrat Jose A. Hocog was not among the signatories.

In an earlier interview, the governor said the 40 or so employees

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Rota looks for new landfill site

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

ROTA is in the process of looking for a new landfill site to replace the existing Tatchog Dump located in an abandoned quarry site.

William T. Pendergrass, chair of the landfill task force and the coastal coordinator for Rota, told the Variety yesterday that three sites will be identified and evaluated out of which one will

be chosen for the new landfill.

Pendergrass declined to identify the sites for the time being.

Pendergrass said the present dump is almost filled to capacity and that it "is very unsanitary."

"That dump needs to be closed because there's a lot of contamination coming from that place," Pendergrass said.

The Physical and Economic Master Plan for Rota, released in

December 1995, found the dump to be without lining and a fence as normally required for modern sanitary landfills.

The master plan saw the need for a landfill that meets current standards to protect the quality of the groundwater and the nearby coastal waters.

Pendergrass said landfill committee whose members come from concerned agencies

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Froilan tells Teno: Find solutions instead of blaming previous gov't



Froilan Tenorio

By Ferdle de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FORMER Gov. Froilan Tenorio yesterday asked the Teno Administration to look for revenues to run the government instead of blaming him for the

financial difficulties the CNMI is facing.

"This administration will just have to find solutions to their own problems. What some Republicans are trying to do is to put the blame on my administration for the next four years. And I think that's wrong," Tenorio said in an interview.

Tenorio stressed that when he assumed office in 1994, his administration inherited millions of dollars in deficit but did not take action against his predecessor, former governor Larry Guerrero.

"We never threw them (Guerrero) in to explain what they did with the money. We never investigated anybody. We didn't do any of these things," said the former governor, in an apparent



Pedro P. Tenorio

jab at the current Administration's investigation of sole-source contracts during his term.

The present administration is reportedly forming a legal team

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Japan's Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko are welcomed by Monsignor Melencio De Vera, right, as they tour the Manila Cathedral on the second day of their five-day official visit to the Philippines Tuesday. AP

Taiwan jet crashes

By Christopher Bodeen
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - A China Airlines jet trying to land in fog crashed into a country neighborhood Monday, ripping the roofs off houses before skidding into a rice paddy and erupting in flames. Authorities said all 196 aboard and seven people on the ground were killed.

Firefighters went house to house in the blackened neighborhood, putting out the flames licking doors and windows and searching for survivors.

Searchlights illuminated a life raft from the Airbus A-300, wrapped around a broken tree stump. Seats from the plane were scattered in the dirt, one with a body trapped beneath it.

China Airlines said the dead included the governor of Taiwan's Central Bank and other key financial officials; Taiwanese families returning from vacations in Bali; and four Americans. Victims on the ground included a 2-month-old baby.

Witnesses said the airliner hit hundreds of yards short of the runway at Chiang Kai-shek airport, 25 miles west of Taipei. It tore through the second floors of homes strung along a highway before sliding to a stop in flames.

"I heard a blast, and was scared to death. Parts of the house started to fall down," said Chen Ah-mei, who had to crawl out of the ruins of her home on her hands and knees. She and her husband were being treated at a hospital.

"It happened so fast — noise and fire," said an elderly farmer who ran to the scene as soon as he saw the flames. He identified himself only as Chen.

The fiery impact scattered charred bodies and body parts along the road and throughout the sparsely populated area, home to fish farms, small factories and warehouses. The smell of jet fuel and burning rubber

Officials say 196 aboard, seven on ground killed



Rescuers remove charred bodies from the second floor balcony of a house at the scene of the crash of China Airlines flight CI-676. AP

lingered hours after the crash. Only the tail of the broken, burned jet was recognizable.

Authorities sealed off the neighborhood, leaving families of passengers to congregate at hospitals and the airport. Relatives broke into tears and fell into one another's arms as the extent of the disaster hit them; one woman collapsed to the floor.

"They all went to Bali on a trip — and they are all dead," said a woman whose four children were on the flight.

Rescue workers on the scene said they had given up looking for survivors, but the deputy director-general of Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration, Chang Kuo-cheng, said he still hoped to find survivors among the 182 passengers and 14 crew members.

Airport officials said two flight data recorders were recovered and were being analyzed to help de-

termine the cause of the crash.

The twin-engine Airbus went down while attempting to land on a second approach at 8:09 p.m. local time at the airport's northern runway, the Taipei-based China Airlines reported.

Heavy fog was reported around the airport throughout the afternoon and evening, and a light rain was falling at the time of the crash.

The plane had been asked to make the second approach to poor visibility, said Hamilton Liu, a China Airlines spokesman. Earlier, the Civil Aeronautics Administration had said the visibility was reported to be adequate.

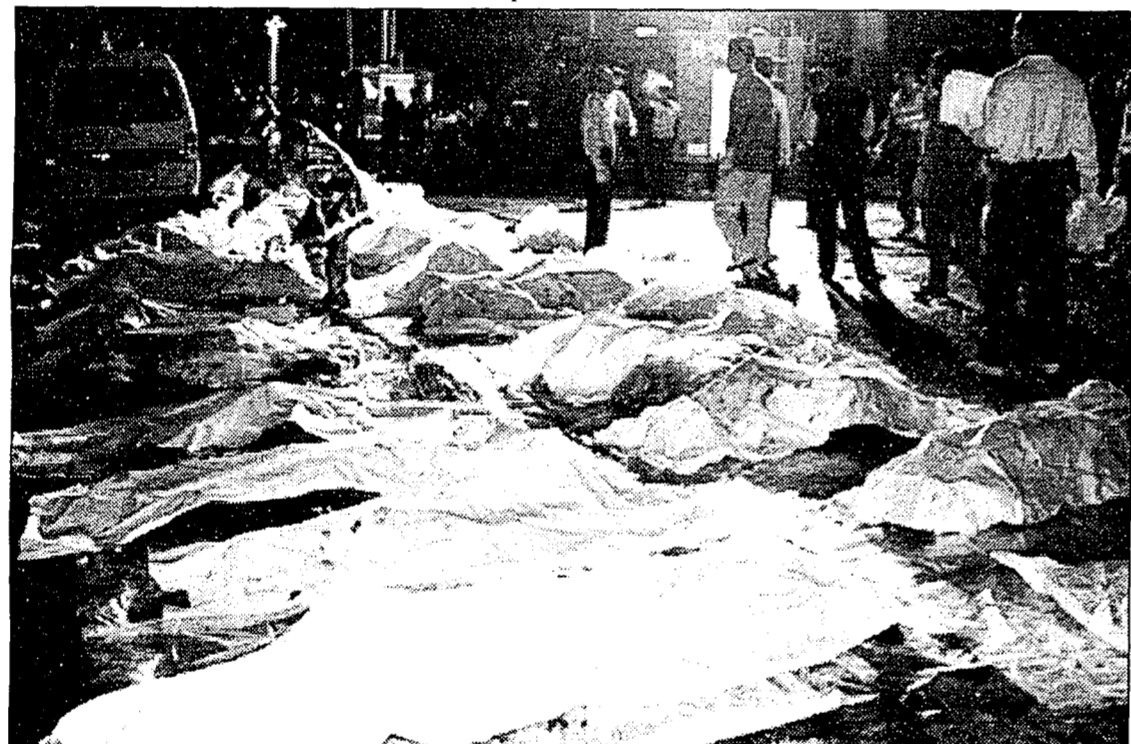
Tsai Twei, director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, resigned to take moral responsibility for the crash, which was the worst in the airport's history. It came after Taiwan's flagship carrier embarked on an extensive safety campaign that followed a crash in Japan in 1994 that claimed

264 lives.

Among the passengers on flight CI-676 were Sheu Yuan-dong, governor of Taiwan's Central Bank, his wife, and four other finance officials returning from a conference in Bali. They included Chen Huang, head of the bank's Department of Foreign Exchange, and Chien Chi-min, head of the Department of Economic Research.

China Airlines released the names but not the hometowns of the four Americans aboard. The names appeared to be those of three men and a woman.

In a statement, Airbus Industrie—based in Toulouse, France—said the plane that crashed was delivered to China Airlines from the production line in December 1990. By the end of January, the aircraft had accumulated approximately 20,070 flight hours in some 8,800 flights, Airbus said.



Bodies covered with sheets are lined up on the road at the scene of the crash of China Airlines flight CI-676, which killed all 196 on board and seven on the ground on Monday. The Airbus A-300 crashed in a semi-rural area near Chiang Kai-shek International Airport amid heavy fog and a light drizzle. AP

Korean president's son sentenced to 3 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An appeals court on Tuesday upheld a three-year prison sentence given to a son of President Kim Young-sam for bribery and tax evasion.

Kim Hyun-chul, 38, was also ordered to pay \$ 2.1 million in fines, about what he was convicted of taking in bribes and avoiding in taxes.

The prosecution had sought a seven-year sentence for Hyun-chul. It said he accepted \$ 7.3 million in bribes from six businessmen seeking government favors, far more than he was convicted of taking.

Hyun-chul admitted receiving

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Japan economic outlook grim

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's central bank said Tuesday the nation's economy remains stagnant with no recovery in sight because of sluggish consumption.

"Sluggish domestic demand, especially household expenditures, has been exerting a negative influence upon production, employment and income," the

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Tampa Airport rated No. 1 among all airports in the US

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP) - Detroit Metropolitan Airport last and Tampa, Fla.'s airport is best among the nation's 36 top airports, according to a passenger survey.

In four of eight categories — speed of baggage delivery, ease of reaching gates, available ground transportation and ease of following signs — Metro Airport earned the lowest scores of any airport in the survey of about 90,000 passengers.

In the remaining categories — cleanliness, quality of restaurants, attractiveness, and closeness of parking the 68-year-old airport rated near the bottom.

The private survey by Los Angeles-based Plog Research Inc. was commissioned by the 36 big airports. Passengers were surveyed in the first six months of last year and the study was completed late last year, but airport officials refused to release the findings.

It was obtained last week by The Detroit News, which published a story Monday.

Airport and airline officials acknowledge there are problems at Detroit, but say most of them cited in the survey have been fixed.

"It's not the Ritz-Carlton of airports, but we're trying to make Metro work," Northwest Airlines spokesman Jim Faulkner said. The airline has 70 percent of the airport's traffic.

The results came as no surprise to some passengers.

"It's just too far to walk between flights," said John Sebastian, a Grand Rapids businessman who regularly uses Metro Airport. "At 5 o'clock, this place is a mob scene."

Others disagreed.

"Metro's not bad for the amount of travel it gets," said Dean VanNatter, a Lansing business consultant and frequent traveler. "It's nothing like Atlanta, but it's not bad."

From best to worse, here's how the airports were ranked:

1. Tampa, Fla.; 2. Pittsburgh;
3. Charlotte, N.C.; 4. Nashville, Tenn.; 5. Denver; 6. Phoenix; 7.

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Audit suggests civil liability

Ex-CPA exec not off the hook

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

JOSE Aldan, former deputy director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has served the punishment for misusing a government car in 1996, but may still face civil liability for the same crime he had been punished for.

The Office of the Public Auditor has referred Aldan's case to the Attorney General's office to resolve the restitution issue which was not addressed by the Superior Court.

"Where disputed or otherwise complicated and not readily determinable, restitution is generally reserved for civil action," OPA said in a report released yesterday.

OPA investigation had found that Aldan "took full possession" of a government-leased black Toyota Camry which he had used for "personal and private matters" during his working hours.

Aldan obtained the Camry,

aside from another government car already assigned to him.

"As a result," the report said, "the government lost approximately \$3,275 and \$3,870 representing the lease costs.

Aldan had since resigned from office.

Upon OPA's recommendation, the AG's office filed criminal charges against Aldan in court.

On Dec. 20, 1996, Aldan was convicted and served his three-day jail sentence.

The Superior Court, however, did not seek restitution from Aldan, which the OPA remarked, is normally done in criminal cases.

OPA cited several factors that made it "impractical and futile" for the court to have considered restitution in Aldan's case.

For example, OPA said, criminal cases should move quickly and unhampered by restitution issues.

OPA noted that the restitution in Aldan's case would have

taken the court a long time to calculate.

"Although the lease payment cost in this case appears calculable, the hours of salary paid to the former CPA Deputy Director during his period of personal time during working hours are not," OPA said.

OPA said, however, that "any agreement not to seek restitution in a criminal case does not preclude civil remedies, i.e. a lawsuit for recovery of damages."

14 gov't officials to join Manila mission

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the financial crisis confronting the CNMI government, some members of the Eleventh Legislature have reportedly planned in Manila, way ahead of the trade mission organized by the Philippine Consulate.

Unconfirmed reports claimed some legislators have already left for the mission, which was scheduled to start February 20-24. No additional information was immediately available.

At least 14 officials of the CNMI government were among those listed in the 39-man delegation to the trade mission.

Seven legislators from both House chambers are expected to join the CNMI delegation to the Philippines visit.

Among them are: Senators Edward U. Maratita, Pete Reyes, and Juan Tenorio.

Representatives Manuel A. Tenorio, Karl T. Reyes, Herman Palacios and Frank G. Cepeda, along with former Congressman Crispin Guerrero, will fly to Manila for the mission.

Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja, as well as his assistant Henry Hofschneider, and Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan will participate in the trade visit.

Justo Quitugua, identified only to be from the Mayor's office, will likewise plane to Manila.

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona will also form part of

DCCA needs a 'little fixing'

By Lalla C. Younis
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Cultural and Community Affairs just needs a little fix-up in regards its personnel and programs.

"But overall, the Department is doing okay," said DCCA Acting Secretary Eloise Furey.

"There are some things we need to take care of in personnel and the organization of programs. We have to straighten it out before we can get started," she said.

Furey pointed out that as far as personnel, there are job positions that the Department cannot afford.

"There were positions created under the premise that the Department could reprogram funds



Eloise Furey

to pay for them. But there is no money to reprogram," said Furey.

"We will have to trim 'excess fat' and find ways to have the Department run more smoothly," she said.

For existing programs under

DCCA, Furey said that many of them could be more efficiently coordinated and be combined with other programs that have similar missions.

"The Department can't afford to have fragmented programs. We have programs that ask for the same materials. Instead of funding them separately, we can combine them," said Furey.

"Many programs under DCCA's division can be expanded and improved and we would like to see that happen," she said.

"We can have DCCA as the lead agency tap into other Divisions for their expertise and guidelines in combing efforts for the programs. We have to work together," she added.

Alarm goes off, preempts break-in at jewelry shop

By Ferdle de la Torre
Variety News Staff

AN ALARM device reportedly prevented a burglar/s from looting a jewelry shop in Afetas Square in San Antonio Monday before dawn.

Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro said the burglary happened at YTT Gold Shop at 4 a.m.

Castro said initial investigations showed that an unidentified person/s broke into the shop by damaging the window and cutting a ray bar.

The alarm, however, went on, prompting the suspect/s to run

OPM gears up for Public Service Recognition Week

THE OFFICE of Personnel Management has sought Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's support as began preparations for the week-long 14th Public Service Recognition Week gets under way.

In her memorandum submitted to Tenorio, acting Personnel Management Director Mathilda A. Rosario said the event, slated for May 4 to 11, requires her office "as the responsible agency, to spend some time to plan, organize, and to coordinate activities needed to achieve a successful celebration."

"As you (Tenorio) have experienced in the past," Rosario wrote, "the event would also require the support and assistance from all the departments and agencies."

"With your blessing and support," she added, "our office can begin making the required preparation for the upcoming celebration."

Government employees in more than 1,300 cities around the world, Rosario noted, will take part in the celebration of the 14th Public Service Recognition Week, "atime," she said, "both to honor the men and women who have devoted their careers to servicing our nation, and a time for government agencies to reach out to the public they serve."

Employees from all departments and agencies will be hailed during the celebrations for outstanding productivity record.

It was not immediately gathered exactly how many employees have been chosen as candidates. Jojo Bass

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Gov't not paying for Teno's airfare to D.C.

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio will avail of a free round trip ticket when he leaves tomorrow for an 11-day visit to Washington, D.C.

CNMI governors may get free tickets from Continental Micronesia, and Tenorio yesterday said he will take advantage of it to help the government save money.

Tenorio's entourage, moreover, includes only his wife Sophia and executive aide Mike Malone.

"This is not a luxury trip," the

governor told reporters. "I'm tired of traveling, and I really don't enjoy it. But I've to (be in Washington, D.C.)."

The governor, who will return on March 2, is scheduled to attend the US-wide governors' conference, and will meet with Clinton administration officials, key members of Congress and their staffers.

"I will try to explain the difficulties we're now facing, and our need for assistance," Tenorio said.

The governor is also slated to meet with lobbyists and consultants.

Due to the effects of the Asian

currency crisis and the reported dismal state of the government's finances, Tenorio has implemented several austerity measures, the most recent of which is a directive ordering all government officials traveling off-island to take economy class flights.

The economy-class policy, however, does not mean that the restrictions on government travel, which were imposed last month, have been lifted.

All government travel still requires the governor's approval.

In another directive issued

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

Flights

Mar-Vic C. Munar

Honking crazy

RECENTLY I went to pick up an American friend on Capitol Hill. As soon as I reached his garage. I did what Filipinos in general—and other Asians, for that matter—are expected to do: Honk the horn.

"This Filipino thing," my friend muttered as he was hopping into my car.

And as if that "racial" remark didn't embarrass me enough, he shook his head. Indeed, I was utterly embarrassed as I knew honking is considered rude by Americans.

On Saipan, when somebody honks at you in the middle of the road, it'd make you want to evaporate out of embarrassment as it is an abbreviated way of saying "You damn moronic driver, and I'm damn sure you're either from Manila or Korea, you gotta learn how to use the freakin' road properly!"

My friend and I both agreed that the passion for honking the horn is a cultural idiosyncrasy. We also agreed that etiquette guidelines are not universal, not even the Emily Post's GMRC (good manners and right conduct).

Slurping the soup, for example, is considered disgusting by people from most other cultures, but is just a normal thing for Japanese. Westerners dislike being touched when they're attention is being called, but to Chinese it's no big deal. In Denmark, a loud BURRRRP at the conclusion of a meal is considered a compliment to the chef for food well appreciated. Well, of course, to most of us, it's utterly gross.

How many of us are annoyed when we pick up the ringing phone, and without any introduction, the calling party would ask "Who's dis?" It is obviously the Chamorros' way of saying "Hello, good afternoon."

Welcome to Saipan, a melting pot for different ethnicities and cultures: a virtual sociological laboratory, where people learn to recognize and accept—not tolerate—differences.

I come from Manila, a place where drivers seem to live—and die—on their horns. They'd stop and shoot whoever cuts them off. Really.

If you can survive the traffic in Manila, well, Congratulations! That would be a hell of an achievement that you can include in your resumé.

A Time magazine article in 1995 made an amusing analogy between economic progress and the Asians' practice of honking the horn. The article said the analogy holds true for drivers in countries heading to the prosperity road, or those curving from Communism to Capitalism—or in the case of the Philippines, from dictatorship to democracy.

Foreign investments pour in; construction projects mushroom; everyone is in a hurry to get rich but there are not enough roads to get them there. Hoooonk! Hoooonk! Hoooonk! Get the hell out of my way!

In the early 70's, the former Philippine dictator, Ferdinand Marcos launched the New Society Movement with the slogan, *Sa Ikaunlad ng Bayan Disiplina ang Kailangan* (The Nation's Progress Requires Discipline), mounted everywhere like Orwell's bemoustached Big Brother Is Watching You. During those times, roads and traffic were indeed properly managed. Drivers drove like saints, as any violation could land them in the torture chamber.

Dictatorship fell in 1986; democracy was reborn. The Filipinos were overwhelmed by the newly regained freedom, but because we were deprived of it for two decades, we didn't know what to do with it. The pre-martial law generation had forgotten what it was; martial law babies like myself didn't know what freedom and democracy were like.

Many of us mistake democracy for anarchy—a conclusion that I've arrived at from the "wisdom" of a cab driver. I remember this cab driver snaking his way through the traffic, cutting off the vehicles ahead of him, and honking the horn with so much passion. Then he looked at me through the rearview mirror, and with full conviction, he said: "This is democracy; you can't do this under dictatorship."

Yes, honk your horn like crazy. In Manila, no one will hold that against you. No one really knows what the traffic laws are. The police implement the ones that they've just made up.

But of course, there is no excuse for rudeness. When on Saipan, do as Saipanese do.

Honk if you disagree.

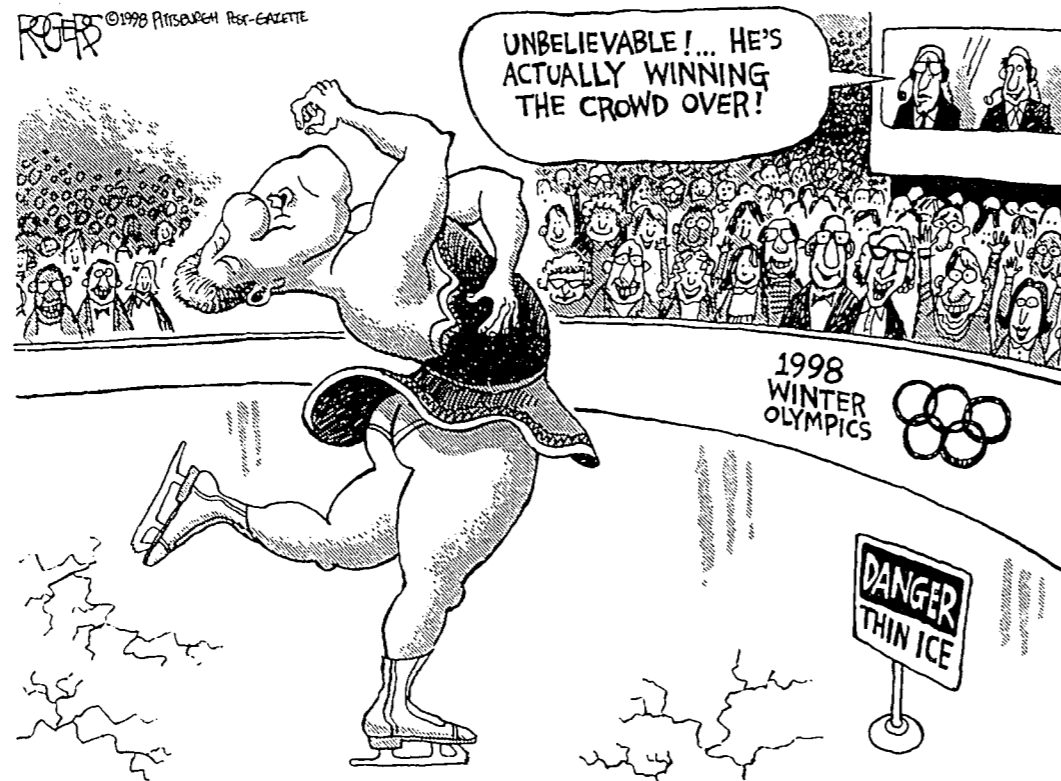
* * *

P.S. Our sports reporter, Pricilla Castro, said Chamorros also honk in front of other people's houses especially when there are dogs around.

She said she'd rather be rude than bitten by a dog.

"We hate dogs," she said,

In the Philippines, we eat dogs.



Letters to the Editor

Nick Sablan responds to letter sender

Dear Editor:

Can V.C. Camacho kindly explain how he will land us a great deal teeing off on a verdant green of our choice when he is against golf course development on public land? How is this possible?

I hope he is not thinking that he'll have control over matters that involve private properties.

And if he now wants me to stretch my ears for not participating in his crusade—protesting golf courses from being built on public land, I will not. Simply, because I am for a sound development and he is not.

Now, allow me to explain the so-called complaint. While it sounds like one to him, it was merely a request.

As I understand that Kingfisher is only using a portion of public land, I thought that maybe there is a clause in the agreement that gives us that opportunity to negotiate when-

ever they feel like raising their fee.

Otherwise, I don't give a damn if they'll charge a million bucks. The thing is, if I cannot afford it, I don't have to want it.

On his poker concerns, please assure him that I will not be silenced for all the money in the world.

And I am glad that he is supporting us and I agree 110% on what he said.

Perhaps, his like should join us in this worthy endeavor and his presence might also prevent others from being silenced.

By the way, my open letter to our leaders was merely a request to do the right thing.

After all, I don't think it is hard to do the right thing. Or is it?

Thank you.

Hafa Adai,
Nick C. Sablan

Grateful to EMS for job well done

Dear Editor:

My 74 year old father who is suffering from cancer was recently sent to Saipan on a medical referral from Tinian.

His whole day spent in the hospital was unpleasant and exhausting.

As if travelling in a small plane when you could hardly bend your back and walking under the hot sun was not tiring enough, he had to spend half of his day waiting for his doctor. Imagine the discomfort of a feverish patient who came from a hot sun and forced to wait in a cold place.

After a long day at the hospital he had no strength left to go back to Tinian. He must have been so exhausted that he started throwing up. When he finally got to my apartment his temperature rose to a point of getting delirious.

Being the youngest and the most inexperienced in caring for an elderly I decided to call my family on Saipan for help.

Disappointing, only my brother responded. I was already feeling helpless when he told me to call 911 and inquire on what to do. I was then told to call the EMS.

In no time, the EMS team came to my apartment and started checking my Dad. They took his pulse, blood pressure, temperature and started talking and comforting him.

They also talked to us and told us what to do in case of an emergency and stayed for at least 30 minutes to make sure that everything was fine.

They actually took the time to ask and talk to us about my Dad's situation. During the time they spent with us, there was no tinge of rush or discomfort on their faces even when my Dad started throwing up again. This was a very pleasant experience amidst an unpleasant situation. And I would like to take this chance to thank them for their concern and commend them for a job well done.

It is comforting to know that during times of crisis there are people like EMS who are ready and able to offer help. Thank you very much and I pray that you get all the support you need to continue this noble endeavor.

Sincerely,
Kevin Q. Castro

LETTERS to the editor must carry the full name of the writer and signature, with a telephone number (in case of faxed or mailed letters) for verification. Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld and unsigned letters will not see print.

Top Labor official warns against 'sham' contracts

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SHE brought her brother into the Commonwealth. But now she wants him out.

Why? He allegedly has a drinking problem and she's "tired" of him.

Timotea Bacarizas Borja, a Filipino national married to a local resident, facilitated the entry of his brother, Jose S. Bacarizas in 1994.

The arrangement was such that Bacarizas will "work" for Borja but will actually be illegally employed with other employers.

However, exhausted of the set up and Bacarizas' alleged habit, Borja sought the termination of

his "contract."

"This unusual case... upon review... is an example of a 'sham' contract," said Linn Asper.

"(It) has the goal of allowing a relative to reside... without the real intention of establishing an employment relationship," added the Supervisor of the Department of Labor and Immigration's Administrative Hearing Office, in his ruling.

"The Nonresident Workers Act," stressed Asper, "has (in this case) been abused by blood-related employers and employees who establish false contracts without any legitimate employment purpose."

Asper dismissed the case because "in essence, (it) was filed to notify the Department to take action to

resolve an illegal employment relationship."

"It should be dismissed without relief because it was filed by an employer who does not seek relief," he added.

Asper also barred Borja from employing nonresident workers and has referred Bacarizas to DOLI's immigration division for repatriation at Borja's expense.

The case brought government's attention to foreigners married to local residents who may have been employing the same modus operandi to bring relatives into the Commonwealth as employees.

Government has no records on the estimated number of such workers.

DOLI refers labor case to AGO

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration has referred to the Attorney General's Office a \$95,000 case involving five Chinese workers who claimed they were gyped by their employer into going to the CNMI for non-existent jobs.

Herbert D. Soll, an official of DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office, in his recent ruling also barred Pacific Trading Corp. (not to be confused with the wholesale firm, Pacific Trading Co. Ltd.), and three other Chinese nationals from "using or employing, directly or indirectly, any nonresident workers" in the Commonwealth.

The matter stemmed from complaints aired by 19 Chinese nationals who claimed they paid Pacific Trading and the three fellow nationals a total of \$15,750 for placement.

In turn, Pacific Trading and the three Chinese nationals, who "actively" recruited the workers in China, allegedly promised the workers that they will be paid \$6,344 each for a year's contract.

"At the time of the recruitment, the respondents knew that no job existed," said Soll in his findings.

"Although," he added, "they represented to each complainant, and to (DOLI's) Division of Labor that a specific job did exist."

None of respondents appeared during the DOLI hearing.

Soll nevertheless ruled that a total of \$94,940 be given to the five workers by Pacific Trading and its three alleged accomplices to cover expected wages, fees, transportation costs and liquidated damages.

The workers have also been given transfer relief where they were allowed to seek employment in the Commonwealth for a year's contract.

A separate hearing has also been set for the remaining 14 Chinese workers who failed to be present before Soll's sala when he issued his ruling.

The case is expected to be pursued by AGO to the courts for civil enforcement and possible criminal prosecution.

Rota Finance official: Push through with vital projects

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

PROJECTS that have been earmarked to spur economic activities will have to be pushed through and completed, and must not take the backseat, according to a ranking finance department official.

Efrain Atalig, Rota resident finance director, said capital improvement projects need not be suspended, especially when appropriations have already been made for these.

"These projects have already been allocated funds. The money is already there," he told Variety.

Atalig admitted that there

really is a need to slow down on unnecessary spending like the procurement of fixed assets and travel to bridge the gap in the funding requirement of improvement projects.

"We have to live within our means. We have to cutdown on office supplies and gas spending. I agree with the governor's call for austerity measures in light of the economic situation," he said.

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona asked the island's legislative delegation Monday to grant him a 100 percent reprogramming authority over the Rota's budget to head off the financial crisis.

The financial situation on

Rota has adversely affected the island's hospital nurses who have not been paid their salaries, and have been planning to walk out of their jobs.

Manglona claimed the local government has to pay the manpower agency, which hired the nurses, close to \$84,000, and that the situation could be offset if he would be granted "unlimited authority" over Rota's public funds.

"We are facing a budget crisis. I ask for flexibility to help the people of Rota. Denying my request would greatly affect the health and safety of our people," the mayor said in his letter to Rota legislative delegation.

Students get feel of public office

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

WHEN 12-year-old Jolyn Lieto entered the Senate chamber, she knew where she wanted to be seated: at the Senate President's chair.

"Yes, I want to be Senate President someday," said Jolyn, a sixth

grade student of Tanapag Elementary School.

Gemma Quitugua positioned herself at Steve Woodruff's seat. "I want to be a lawyer, and I want to be Senate legal counsel someday," she said.

Officers and members of the Tanapag Elementary School's stu-

dent council yesterday went on a field trip at the Legislature as part of their leadership training.

"They came here to find out how the laws are being made. The student council makes laws in the school, and we came here to enhance their learning," said the

Continued on page 19

Ruling nears on case of 200 Bangladeshis

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration is set to issue a final and executory ruling on the case involving close to 200 Bangladeshi workers displaced following complaints of alleged contract violations levelled against their employer, Benavente Security Agency.

"It is now just a question of calculating the amount (in fines) due to the workers," said Linn Asper, DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office Supervisor.

DOLI has proposed that each of the workers be paid \$4,656 by BSA in unpaid wages, or a total of about \$900,000 excluding fines and liquidated damages.

Antonio A. Benavente, BSA owner, has, Asper said, how-

ever maintained that he only owes \$126,566 in unpaid wages and another \$28,212 for underpaid work, or a total of about \$155,000.

"We are trying to reconcile BSA's figures," said Asper.

"We are still working on it." More than 100 of the BSA workers have, following a series of relief hearings before Asper's sala, obtained employment that may secure them a new year-long contract.

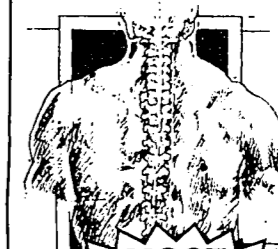
DOLI's AHO has set another relief hearing for April 29 to enable those who still have yet to find new employers secure jobs.

The BSA case takes its roots to last year's mass filing of grievances by BSA workers alleging a host of unfair labor practices

Continued on page 19

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Car sales in NMI decline

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

TOTAL vehicles sold by Northern Mariana Islands' automobile dealers dropped by over seven percent in December, compared with the tally during the same period last year.

Figures from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association (CADA) indicated that four of the six car dealers on the island registered lower sales volume during the month, while two dealers posted whopping increases in total sales.

Some 152 vehicles, including cars, trucks, vans and sports utilities, were sold in December, which dropped by 7.32 percent during same month last year's 164 tally.

The 1997 car sales figure released by CADA showed that 981 Toyota vehicles were sold last year, while Hyundai came in next with sales almost reaching the 500-mark at 491.

At least 466 Nissan and 249 Mazda vehicles were acquired. Some 235 Mitsubishi vehicles were sold during the same period.

Available data furnished Variety showed that only Microl Corporation and Midway Motors recorded a significant growth last December, while Joeten, Keico, Trans Mic and Triple J Motors registered dwindling sales during the same period.

Microl sales of Toyota vehicles increased by 15.63 percent from 64 in December 1996 to 74 during the same month last year. At least 264 Toyota cars, 252 trucks, 43 vans, 98 sport utilities and 324 used cars have been dispatched by Microl Corp. last year.

Midway Motors' sales tally for its Mazda vehicles also shot up by 175

percent from four cars sold in 1996 to 11 vehicles acquired during the same month last year. Some 66 cars, 60 trucks, 14 vans and 109 used Mazda cars were traded by Midway Motors in 1997.

Sales of Nissan vehicles by Joeten Motors remain at 28 units, but sales of Ford vehicles dwindled by 73.3 percent from 15 units in December 1996 to four units last year. Joeten Motors bartered 80 cars, 89 trucks, 15 vans, 70 sport utilities and 212 used Nissan cars last year.

There was only one Dodge automobile unit sold in December last year, a 66.67 percent decline from the previous year's three units. But Keico Motors dispatched two Jeeps and three Chrysler during the same period. The car dealer has sold 28 Dodge trucks, seven vans and 123 used cars in 1997.

Totals sales of Honda cars in December dwindled by 70 percent to three last year, compared with 10 sold units during the same month in 1996. In 1997, Trans Micronesia Motors traded 119 cars, two vans, 34 sport utilities and 68 used Honda cars.

Triple J Motors registered a 42.11 percent drop from its Hyundai vehicles sales figure during the month in review, from 19 in 1996 to 11 last year. But the company dispatched a total of 185 new and 306 used Hyundai cars in last year.

The CADA 1997 tally showed Toyota remains the Commonwealth's top vehicle brand, followed by Hyundai, Nissan, Mazda and Mitsubishi. Though Honda, Ford, Dodge, Isuzu and Chrysler are catching up.

I&S 'confused' by teno report but willing to defer payments

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

I&S CORPORATION, whose promotional work for the CNMI in the last six years saw a 40 percent increase in tourism, has expressed surprise over the transition report's opposition to its contract with the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

I&S, however, said it is willing to accept amendments to its yet to be signed \$3.5 million contract or to enter into a competitive bid for it.

Describing the CNMI as its "valued client," I&S said it is also willing to defer payment until the Commonwealth's financial situation has improved.

[Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who will be off-island for 11 days beginning Thursday, said yesterday that the contract is still under review, adding that his administration will come out with a decision "as soon as possible."

Sources said the continued opposition of a ranking member of the transition committee is behind the non-signing of I&S's contract.

But Tenorio said he has never

heard the committee member say anything regarding I&S.]

In a letter to the governor's transition committee, I&S managing director Akio Takeshi said the Tokyo-based advertising agency is "very confused and alarmed" at the transition report's one-sentence evaluation of I&S, noting that no details were given to back up the report's finding.

"We understand that the (transition committee) talked to MVB, but MVB has repeatedly approved of our work...and has strongly supported our contracts."

"So we cannot imagine why the good members of the (transition committee) would (say that the I&S contract should not be signed)," Takeshi said.

Takeshi noted that despite the Asian currency crisis, Japanese tourists—I&S's target audience—have continued to come here in good numbers.

The CNMI, Takeshi added, has "actually done better than comparable destinations in the last few months in terms of competing for Japanese tourists."

At any rate, Takeshi said I&S would like to discuss the matter with the new administration, add-

ing that I&S will provide any information the transition committee may require.

"All that we ask is that the (transition committee) give us some reason...why they opposed our contract," Takeshi said.

After winning a competitive bid against several other agencies, I&S has been working for the CNMI since 1992.

For the next two years, I&S worked without a contract and was paid for its services.

In 1995, however, MVB signed a three-year contract with I&S that was subject to an annual review.

Two years later, MVB renewed I&S's contract for another year, which was supposed to start on Oct. 1, 1997.

The money for the contract was already included in MVB's fiscal year 1997 budget, but then governor Froilan C. Tenorio did not sign the contract.

I&S then told MVB that it would withdraw from the contract, but was assured by MVB officials that it would be signed.

After four months of working without receiving any payment,

Continued on page 19

Yale Law School forum to discuss U.S. relations with insular areas

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

WHAT'S in store for insular territories in the future? Are they heading toward statehood? How far have Puerto

Rico and Guam gone since they were acquired by the United States one hundred years ago?

These are some of the questions that will be discussed at next month's conference organized by the Yale Law School. The conference, slated for March 27-28, marks the centenary of the United States' acquisition of its first "unincorporated" territories in 1898. It is titled "Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Reflections on the Centenary of the United States' Acquisition of Puerto Rico."

The U.S. acquired Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines from Spain through the Treaty of Paris.

The Philippines became U.S. commonwealth on Nov. 15, 1935, and was "granted" independence on July 4, 1946.

Guam remains a U.S. territory, while Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth.

The Yale Law School will revisit the questions on the

MVB meeting postponed due to quorum lack

PLEASE be informed that Marianas Visitors Bureau Special Board of Directors meeting scheduled for today, Feb. 18, has been postponed due to lack of a quorum.

We will publish notice of the next meeting at a later date.

status and the future of Guam, Puerto Rico, and other insular possessions of the U.S. including the CNMI, and American Samoa, in their "historical, global and constitutional context."

Among the speakers will be Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rosello, Juan Torruella, and Jose A. Cabranes, chief justices of the US the Court of Appeals, first and second circuits, respectively; Arnold Liebowitz, Prof. Juan Linz, Ruth van Cleve, Prof. Mark Tushnet, and Jose Trias Rico.

Invited to join the panel are Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Carlos A. Romero Barcelo, Guam Delegate Robert Underwood, and CNMI's Washington Rep. Juan Babauta.

Babauta said he will be discussing issues about the representations of insular governments in Congress.

Both Guam and Puerto Rico have delegates to the US House of Representatives, but they don't have a voting power.

"The CNMI doesn't even have a delegate," Babauta complained.



Grounded tanker gets towed to RP

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

M/V Shogun, the tanker that ran aground the reefs off Rota's harbor mouth on Nov. 6 last year, was towed to the Philippines yesterday morning, the Coastal Resources Management said.

The information was relayed to CRM acting Director Peter Barlas by Edwin M. Hofschneider, coastal coordinator for Tinian, to where the tanker was taken Dec. 9.

In his faxed message, Hofschneider said the tanker left Tinian Port for drydock.

Shogun was carrying some 5,500 barrels of petroleum products while on its way to Rota from Tinian when it ran aground.

It swept off half of the corals in the impact zone, according to a damage-assessment report of the Division of Environmental Quality.

The reef damage has been estimated at \$1 million.

The owner of the tanker, Chembridge Tankers Ltd., offered to donate the vessel and its salvageable parts and equipment to Rota and suggested that the cleaned vessel be sunk and made a dive attraction.

The Rota municipality was given up to Jan. 4 to decide whether to accept the donation.

Last week a meeting was held on Rota regarding the permitting requirements for sinking the vessel as artificial reef.

During the meeting the Rota municipal mayor and other officials were receptive to the idea of sinking the vessel.

The equipment in the vessel is worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to the owner.

Jury selection starts on C.D.C. lawsuit

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

JURY selection started yesterday for C.D.C.'s multimillion lawsuit against a Japanese firm.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro began to screen a pool of prospective jurors to decide the case.

As of press time, the jury selection was ongoing.

After selecting the jury, the trial is expected to start.

Several witnesses, including former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and convicted bribe-giver Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga, attended the hearing after they were summoned to appear in court.

C.D.C. Saipan and Japan, both private companies, sued Sekisui House over a 1988 "verbal agreement" whereby Sekisui allegedly promised to pay C.D.C. millions of dollars for the latter's interest in a land near Hopwood Junior High School.

Sekisui, a Japanese firm, filed last October a counterclaim seeking \$153.7 million in damages

Continued on page 19

Senator joins move to stop hiring thru manpower firms

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ACTING Senate President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) yesterday said he will support a move to ban the hiring of nurses through manpower agencies—a practice, he added, that only leads to low morale among the nurses.

"It should end," Villagomez said, "and I, together with the other senators, will back any proposal to stop the practice."

Currently, he said, there is an inequality in the treatment of government medical personnel, which results in low productivity the moment a nurse finds out that, compared to others, she is getting less pay for the same amount of work.

"We should pay an individual what he or she is re-



Thomas P. Villagomez

ally worth," Villagomez said.

Members of the Senate leadership, together with Rota's municipal officials and a top adviser of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, have recently expressed grave concern over the conditions of the nurses hired through agencies.

At Rota's health center, a "health crisis" was averted

only after Rota's municipal government and the Tenorio administration have identified funds to pay the nurses' salaries.

The island's resident director for public health services, Teresita A. Santos, said the health center owes the manpower agency \$111,853, which cover four months or nine paydays (and not four paydays as earlier reported).

Santos, in an interview yesterday, also clarified that the agency managed to pay the nurses three months worth of paydays.

But the nurses have yet to be paid for the past two pay periods.

Santos further clarified that the health center's debt was "already there" when she was named resident director last month.

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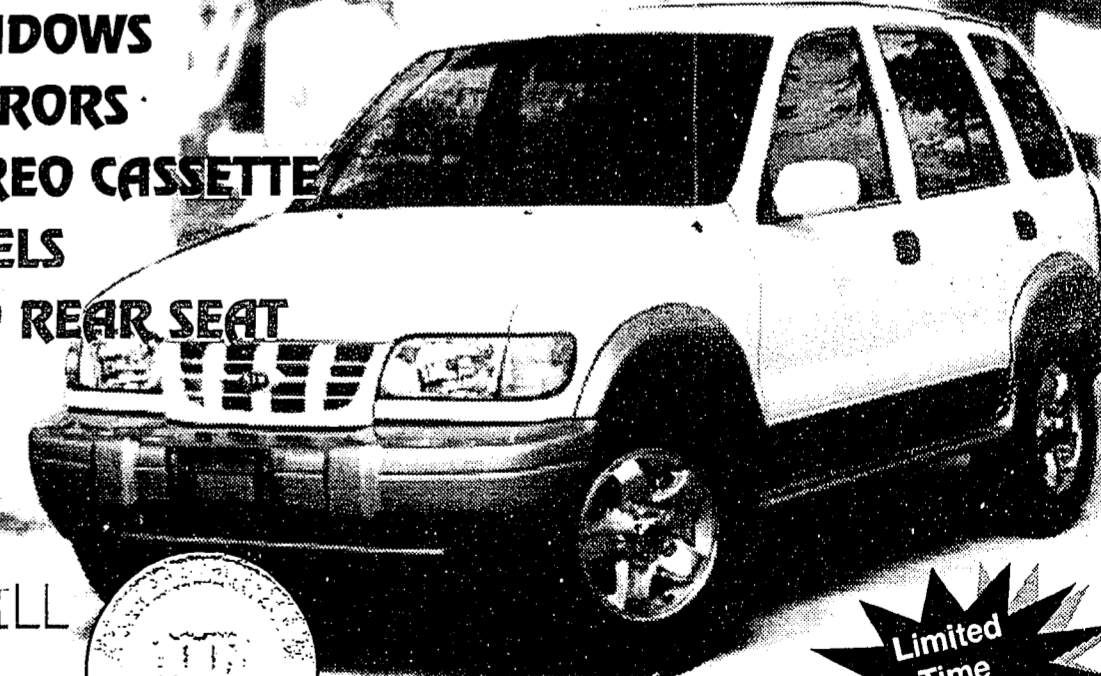
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Employees must complete a new enrollment card during the Open Enrollment period which ends March 15, 1998. Your local representative, General Agent Don Barcinas, along with IAC representatives, will be visiting your department to explain the new program and benefits. They will assist you in selecting Supplemental benefit packages in addition to the BASIC Group Life Insurance program that will best provide for the needs of YOU, and YOUR family.

In addition to the Open Enrollment meetings, Employees and Retirees may also enroll at the American Pacific Insurance Agency, (APIA), office on Capitol Hill, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also visit your Personnel Office for further details and to fill out an enrollment card.

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AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

Babauta nominates CNMI students for academy

RESIDENT Representative Juan Nekai Babauta has announced the selection of two more CNMI students as the 1998 CNMI nominees for appointment to the United States service academies.

The duo, Farrah Matsumoto and Ulysses U. Mafnas are "excellent candidates," says Babauta.

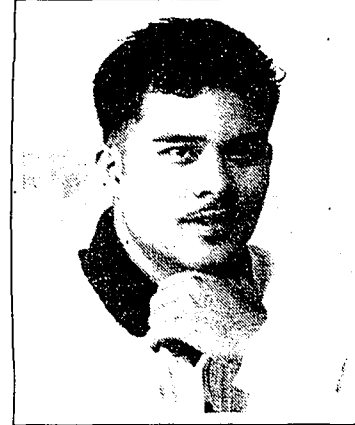
"Both exhibit a strong foundation in academics, physical fitness, community involvement, extra curricular activities, leadership and employment experience."

This is the second year Babauta has had the authority to nominate CNMI students to the academies. Two of last year's students were accepted, and are now attending one-year of preparatory schools.



Farrah Matsumoto

In his decision to give Farrah the nomination to West Point, Babauta noted that Farrah maintains a 3.29 GPA while taking a majority of the college preparatory courses such as biology, chemistry, two years of algebra, and a year of geometry.



Ulysses U. Mafnas

Farrah, a member of the Mt. Carmel girls softball and volleyball teams is also the editor of the school yearbook.

On the other hand, Ulysses is the oldest son of Cynthia Castro Mafnas and Antonio Pangelinan Mafnas, an Army Sergeant Major.

Ulysses' first choice is West Point.

In nominating Ulysses to the two academies, Babauta said, "Ulysses is a strong candidate in all areas."

Ulysses the Senior Class President of his high school, is captain of the school's wrestling team with an impressive winning record.

He carries a black belt in Karate. He is active in both his church and community.

And he maintains a 3.7 GPA while taking advantage of all the college prep courses and the advanced placement courses available in his school system.

The next step in the selection process is for the academy's admission board to decide whether to accept Babauta's nominees.

Students interested in competing for service academy nominations in the future are encouraged to start preparation at an early age.

Every year of high school



Juan N. Babauta

should include college preparatory math and science, extra curricular activity involvement, and competitive physical activity.

Other factors such as the responsibilities of part time employment show signs of maturity and direction and can help strengthen an application for a nomination.

For further information, please contact the Office of the Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta at 664-5651/2.

Preparations made for environmental week

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

PREPARATIONS are being made for the observance of Environmental Awareness Week, which will be on April 19-25.

Kathy Yuknavage of the Division on Environmental Quality, the lead agency in the planning of activities, said this year's theme is Solid Waste.

Yuknavage said they would retain past activities which

proved to be successful like the island-wide cleanup and the TV forum participated in by environmentalists from the DEQ, the Coastal Resources Management, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The culminating day also marks Earth Day.


Other entities actively involved in the preparations are the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the National Parks Service.

One of the new features pro-

posed for the EAW is the sale of the more environmentally friendly canvas shopping bags instead of T-shirts.

Yuknavage said that in the US many grocery stores use canvas instead of plastic bags, which are nonbiodegradable.

Some of the more environmentally conscious shoppers on Saipan actually bring their own canvas shopping bags and refuse the plastic bags used by stores.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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THIS IS A NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREQUALIFY FIRMS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW POSTAL SERVICE FACILITY IN SAIPAN. THE USPS-OWNED FACILITY IS APPROXIMATELY 14,815 GROSS SQUARE FEET ON A 50,567 SQUARE FOOT LEASED SITE WITH AN ESTIMATED COST RANGE OF \$2,500,000 TO \$3,500,000. THERE IS NO FIXED MECHANIZATION ON THIS PROJECT. PLANNED CONSTRUCTION STARTING DATE IS AUGUST 1998 WITH A 300 CALENDAR DAY CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. PREQUALIFICATION STATEMENTS WILL BE EVALUATED BY THE OFFICER'S STAFF. PRIMARY FACTORS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED AND ARE OF ALL EQUAL IMPORTANCE, ARE: QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT; SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A MINIMUM OF 3 SIMILAR SIZE PROJECTS WITHIN THE PAST 5 YEARS; FINANCIAL ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT; ABILITY TO BOND THE PROJECT; CAPACITY TO TAKE ON THE PROJECT. OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WILL INCLUDE: MANAGEMENT PLAN AND SAFETY PLAN; KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL AREA; FIRMS FLUENCY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - PRINCIPALS, PROJECT MANAGER, SUPERINTENDENT AND OFFICE STAFF. NO FEWER THAN THREE OF THE MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED PRIME CONTRACTORS WILL BE PLACED ON THE PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS LIST. IN THE EVENT THE NUMBER OF PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE ADEQUATE COMPETITION, THE POSTAL SERVICE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PREQUALIFY ADDITIONAL CONTRACTORS WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE SOLICITATION. INTERESTED PRIME CONTRACTORS MAY OBTAIN A PREQUALIFICATION PACKAGE AT NO COST BY SUBMITTING A WRITTEN REQUEST TO GRACE BATESTING AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, OR BY FAXING A REQUEST AT 650/615-7243. THE PREQUALIFICATION PACKAGE WILL BE SENT BY MAIL TO FIRMS THAT REQUEST IT, IT WILL NOT BE FAXED TO THE FIRMS. PREQUALIFICATION STATEMENTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED. INTERESTED FIRMS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR PREQUALIFICATION STATEMENTS VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FIRST CLASS, PRIORITY, OR EXPRESS MAIL.

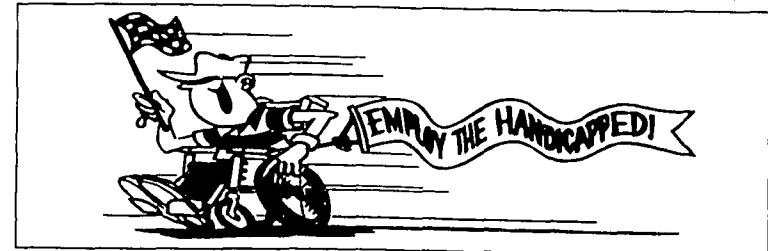
WSR Report Card Day

FOR ALL Green Track parents of William S. Reyes Elementary School, Report Card Day for Green Track students is on February 19, 1998 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parents are urged to come and pick up report cards.



Newly Weds. Mr. Ray Camacho embraces Mrs. Tanya Belyeu Camacho during their Valentine's Day wedding celebration last Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Frankie M. Elliptico



AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

DYS sponsors Parent and Home making workshop

By Laila C. Younis

Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Youth Services is sponsoring a "Parent Educator and Homemakers Training Workshop" at the Joeten Kiyu Library in an effort to expand its parental programs, according to DYS Coordinator Connie Cabrera.

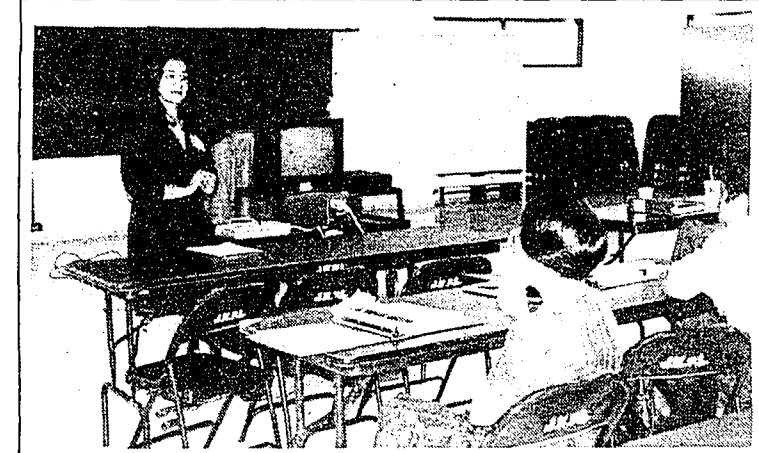
"We are experiencing a change in the public's response to DYS. There are now more families reporting in and requesting for services," said Cabrera.

"The awareness, I believe, comes from our public education programs that seems to be working well. Families are realizing that keeping their problems a secret is not really helping. More problems only paramount that way," she said.

"What we have here for this parental program are trainers who go out to the homes and provide services to the families," she added.

Acting DCCA Secretary Eloise Furey explained that the program consists of volunteers and certified instructors who can give tips on good parenting and advice in home making.

"Right now, we are training more volunteers and refreshing the certified instructors at the workshop. The foundation lies in good parental education," said Furey.



DYS Coordinator Connie Cabrera listens to a question during the DYS "Parent Educator and Home Maker Training Workshop" yesterday.

"We are reaching out to the community and becoming more community-based instead of saying you have to come to our offices," she said.

Cabrera also noted that DYS has a program called "Common Sense" offered twice a week that

parents can take advantage of. "It teaches parents how to discipline their children without resorting to corporal punishment," said Cabrera.

"We are hoping to have it soon in different languages so we can accommodate the diverse com-

munity. It encourages positive behavior and provides parents alternative ways to prevent physical and emotional abuse," she said. The three-day workshop started

yesterday and will continue to Feb. 19th.

For more information, contact Connie Cabrera at the DYS Office at 664-2550.

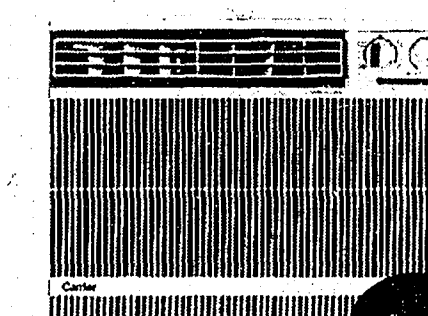
Study Time



Catching up. Father and son Dave and Joshua Sovarrubias do some studying at the Joeten Kiyu Library yesterday. They are here on a visit from California. Photos by Laila C. Younis

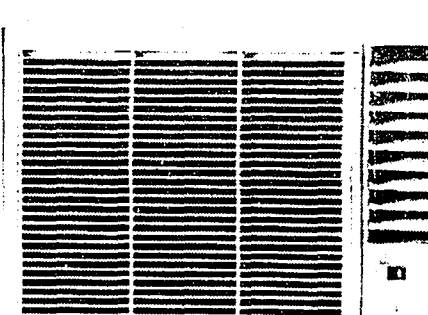
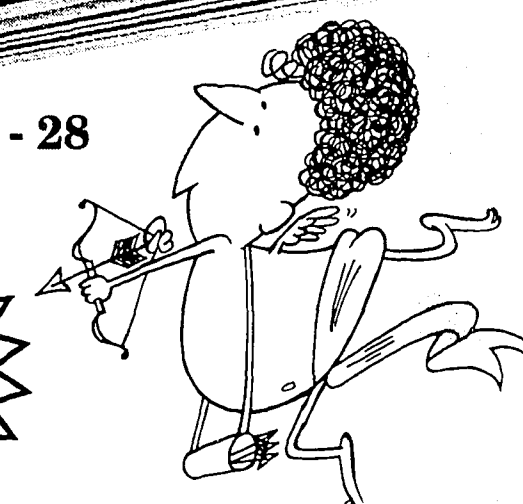
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The Carrier Man Car

CCAC happy with exhibit

By Laila C. Younis

Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Council of Arts and Culture wanted to give local photo journalists a "chance to shine," and the Council is happy with the turn-out for the "2nd Annual Photo Exhibit 1998," according to CCAC Coordinator Tina Foster.

"We are glad to see a number of new artists in our exhibit, including students from the College and our youngest one from Hopwood Jr. High," said Foster.

"The opening reception we held for the exhibit over the weekend had a great turn-out. We were able to sell some photos and we had kind donors," she said.

About 50 photographers, Foster noted, joined the exhibit ranging from professionals to beginners.

"We did not have a limit on selecting applicants. We tried to encourage everyone to submit their work. Some of them are doing it as a hobby and others as a career," said Foster.

"We wanted to give local photographers a time when they can expose their work. The local painters and weavers have many opportunities to show case their work," she said.

According to Foster, the Exhibit will be held until February 27, 1998. The CCAC Gallery's hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fiji PM calls on foes: 'Come out in the open'

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, has openly welcomed a challenge by government opponents in the next election. He said the sooner they reveal themselves, the better it would be, the Daily Post reports.

Rabuka was reacting to media reports of a plot by a secret group to oust him as Prime Minister and reverse government legislative programmes and policies. He said the group called "Cadra Mai" is opposed to the new Constitution and government's moves to deal with ALTA (agricultural landlords and tenants act) through a joint parliamentary committee. It is also opposed to government's liberal

multiracial policies.

Rabuka described the move as just politics.

He said the constitution is for the whole nation and not in the interest of the indigenous Fijians. But in a joint statement Monday the Vanua Tako Lavo Party and the Fijian Nationalist Party said the Cadra Mai group agrees with their position on the new Constitution which they see as anti-Fijian and a sell-out of their interests.

They said if the Prime Minister really wanted to test the true feelings of Fijians about the constitutional changes, then he should stand in a communal seat and not in an open seat in the next general elections in 1999.

Elsewhere in the Pacific South Pacific seeks new image to lure tourists

By ROBERT KEITH-REID
SUVA, Fiji (AP) - Thirteen Pacific island nations eager to lure more tourists are worried that travelers are confused about the South Pacific's image, so they want to market themselves with a brand name.

They want a trademark as recognizable as those owned by Coca-Cola, Rolls Royce, Heinz baked beans or the various brands of running shoes.

Their regional agency, the Tourism Council of the South Pacific, has asked nine international marketing companies for concepts that the 13 can jointly use to sell themselves as tourist destinations in competition with tropical islands in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.

Council chief executive Levani Tuinabua said Tuesday they had asked for "fairly general" preliminary ideas.

The Council will award a contract in consultation with an advisory committee of Pacific Island airlines, hotels and tour companies.

The issue was raised at the recent

inaugural South Pacific Tourism Convention in Tahiti by Jonathan Ray, marketing director for the Southern Pacific Hotels Corp., the largest hotel operator in the South Pacific.

He said the Pacific Islands have a "whole mixture of images that have nothing to do with promotion budgets."

They were being promoted as the Pacific Ocean, Southern Pacific, South Seas, South Pacific Ocean and under other names and images.

Are Australia and New Zealand part of the Pacific Islands? Some said yes, and others said no. "I am confused. You have to get a brand defined," Ray said.

"Overriding everything else is destination marketing. You have to have a strategy and market positioning and the resources to do the job."

Apart from some awareness of Tahiti, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and perhaps New Caledonia, the Tourism Council of the South Pacific's nine other members remained unknown.

Calling for a stronger brand focus depicting "a palette of 13 islands worthy of Gauguin," Ray said, "my personal favorite — 'Islands of the South Pacific' — is very emotive."

The Pacific Islands had the image of being peaceful, tranquil, clean, restful, fresh and unhurried. That was simplistic but had to be safeguarded, since the sun and sea image was presented by too many other regions, Ray said.

Air New Zealand executive Norm Thompson, supporting Ray's comments, said the South Pacific's image was a "bloody mess."

His airline's research showed that "Australasia" was perceived by travelers as being just Australia while "Oceania" was perceived as

Continued on page 11

Major tuna deal in PNG

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—A billion kina (\$US560m) tuna fishing project is expected to come into operation in Papua New Guinea soon giving the local economy a major boost. This was announced at the weekend, PNG Post-Courier reports.

Sokimona Fishing, a wholly-owned PNG company, which is setting up the project, said it had secured a financial package totaling K1.132 billion (\$US600m) to commission the construction of modern fishing ships and on-shore facilities. These facilities would service purse seiners, canneries, a wharf, a loining plant and associated infrastructures.

The proposed site for this project is Kavieng in the New Ireland province.

Vanuatu sees big drop in its tourist arrivals

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu is experiencing a big fall in the number of tourist arrivals. General Manager of Tour Vanuatu Jimmy Meameadola has confirmed the drop saying his staff now work half a day as a result, Radio Vanuatu reports.

He attributes the drop in tourism to the January 12 riot in Port Vila by about 500 disgruntled members of the Vanuatu National Provident Fund who wanted to

withdraw all their money from the retirement fund. Meameadola says February through March is normally a low tourist season but news of the riots overseas have caused tourist arrivals figures to sink further.

Sources say some hotels have also begun putting out casual workers, and Air Vanuatu has also confirmed the number of people it's carrying into the country has fallen during the last month.

Summit on in Pago Pago

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)—Foresters from the US Pacific States and territories have arrived in Pago Pago for a four day meeting to discuss the status of forests in the American Pacific.

The conference will look at how population growth and development has impacted forestry, the erosion of coastlines by hurri-

cans and rising sea levels and what islands are doing to combat the problem.

Training of locals to manage forests and eco-tourism as a viable forestry industry.

The participants will visit the National Park in Ofu, Manua and Vatia and will also tour the Land Grant forestry station at the

American Samoa Community College.

Participants for the conference are from Guam, Palau, Northern Marianas, Marshalls, Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii and American Samoa.

Observers from Samoa are also expected to attend the meeting which will begin Tuesday.

Nauru to be full member of C'wealth

SUVA (Pacnews)—Nauru will soon become a full member of the Commonwealth.

This was announced Monday by the Nauru government, the Daily Post reports.

Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku is currently in Nauru.

Continued on page 11

Solomons Gov't pays part of student debts

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Solomon Islands government had to pay half a million Fiji dollars to avert a ban on Solomon Islands students by the University of the South Pacific authorities. Government sources say university authorities had demanded that the money be paid or Solomon Islands students under government sponsorship would be banned from the university.

They say this was because the Solomon Islands government owes the USP about \$F6 million (\$US3m) in fees for its students. However, the payment of the half a million Fiji dollars Friday enabled the last lot of Solomon Islands students to leave Honiara Monday onboard a chartered Solomon Airlines flight for Fiji.

FSM joins climate change forum

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—FSM President Jacob Nena requested the four FSM state governors to nominate two candidates each to attend a workshop on consequences of the climate variability and

change for the Hawaii-Pacific region. The workshop on Consequences of Climate Change for the Hawaii-Pacific region: Challenges and Opportunities is scheduled to take place from

March 3 to 6, at the East-West Center's Hawaii Imin International Conference Center facilities located on the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The purpose is to examine the vulnerabilities of various regions of the United States to climate variability and climate change and to provide information to support development of a national assessment of the consequences of climate and global change.

Critical issues to be examined include:

- the nature and consequences of climate variability and change in the context of multiple environmental stresses facing ecosystems and communities in the region;
- enhance disaster preparedness associated with weather and climate-related natural

hazards such as tropical storms, prolonged drought, and floods;

- water resource management;
- economic development and community planning including coastal resource management and planning;
- critical habitat and resource management issues including fisheries and;
- the special challenges faced by island communities (including indigenous people) in adopting to and/or mitigating the impacts of the climate variability and change.

Workshops organizers are anticipating 100 to 120 participants from industry, scientific community, public interest groups and government officials from the state of Hawaii, the American Flag Pacific Islands and Freely Asso-

ciated States as well as associated agencies and organizations.

The conference will pay for air fare and six days per diem for two participants from each state, the letter stated, and participants could either be government employee, private sector or interested group representatives.

The workshop will be held at the East-West Center's International Conference Center under the auspices of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP).

Details of the workshop are available at the offices of the state governors or at the president's Climate Change office in the national government.

Disaster, Finance and Budget Officers meet

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—FSM National and State Disaster, Finance and Budget Office representatives met last week at the FSM Capital in Palikir, to review and update disaster control manual.

The review are to include finance procedures relative to FEMA projects, according to John Mangefel, one of FSM's designated disaster and special programs coordinators.

The participants reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Plan, the HMGP Administrative Plan, the FEMA financial procedures and to make recommendations for adoption and implementation.

The HMGP Plan requires annual review and updating by the status.

Participants in the Pohnpei meeting include Sihna Lawrence and Dohrina Gamule form FSM Finance and Brigida Edgar fro FSM Budget, John Mangefel, Josaiiah Waguk and Oleen Poll from the president's office; Dais Lorrin, Murphy Lipai and Thomas Pablo from Pohnpei State; Ermes Siales, Erik Paul, Nick Andon and Presenta Shirai from Chuuk; John Sohlith, Albert Fal'ruw, Paul Gapih and Kensley Ikosia from Yap; and Hiai Abraham, Tihser Raynold and Carmina Tulensru from Kosrae.

In the previous week, from Feb. 2 to 6, the FSM Disaster Control Office staff State Disaster Con-

South...

Continued from page 10

being Asian.

Air New Zealand has begun using "Pacifica" as a brand with increasing success and this term would be used with United Airlines of the United States in promoting the region.

The Council members are Fiji, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribati and American Samoa.

In 1997 they drew a total of about 880,000 visitors, compared with nearly 7 million attracted by Hawaii.

Nauru...

Continued from page 10

Until now Nauru has been the Commonwealth's only associate member and its leaders had not been able to attend the Heads of Government meetings.

Last month President Kinza Clodumar announced Nauru would seek a full United Nations membership.

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Franchise	Cars	Trucks	Vans	Sport Utilities	Used Cars (Dealer Total)	Total
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Hyundai	185	0	0	0	306	491
Nissan	80	89	15	70	212	466
Mazda	66	60	14	0	109	249
Mitsubishi	153	6	0	76	-	235
Honda	119	0	2	34	68	223
Ford	53	70	32	11	-	166
Dodge	0	28	7	0	123	158
Isuzu	0	18	0	18	-	36
Chrysler	16	0	15	4	-	35
Jeep	0	0	0	24	-	24
GM	8	0	6	0	-	14
Suzuki	4	0	0	3	-	7
Other	4	2	0	0	-	6

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Annan eyes Baghdad trip

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Secretary-General Kofi Annan failed Monday to win agreement among the five permanent Security Council members to endorse a personal mission to Baghdad to negotiate an end to the Iraq crisis.



Kofi Annan

Following an hour-long meeting, Annan said the permanent members told him they "need a little more time to arrive at a conclusion." He said he would meet the envoys again Tuesday and then address the full council on Wednesday.

Diplomatic sources said Annan was looking for a sign from Washington on Monday that it is ready for him to negotiate an agreement with the Iraqis.

Emerging from the meeting, however, U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson held firm to the

the two core principles," Richardson said. "First, clear unfettered access to all sites by UNSCOM inspectors and secondly the full integrity and professionalism of UNSCOM needs to be maintained."

Asked if he would accept any reduction of UNSCOM's role, Richardson replied: "the United States is not for any deals or compromises." Before the meeting, Annan said he was "getting close" to a decision to go to Baghdad to negotiate an end to the crisis between the United Nations and Iraq.

British Ambassador John Weston indicated his government would not object to such a visit.

Britain has been Washington's strongest ally on the Security Council in demanding that Iraq grant unrestricted access to all

suspected weapons sites.

But Weston said after the meeting that "we are not talking about compromises. There are no compromises between what is right and what is wrong."

"What is right here has been written down by the Security Council of the United Nations and has the force of international law, and the duty of all member states including Iraq is to comply with that," Weston said.

Before the meeting, diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Annan was leaning toward making the trip to Baghdad in one last effort to resolve the crisis and prevent a U.S. military attack.

But the issue remains what Annan would negotiate once he arrives.

Russia, France and China have suggested compromises, such as a new set of inspectors to visit eight presidential sites that the Iraqis have placed off limits.

Russia, France, Arab states and scores of other countries have privately urged him to go.

The United States and Britain have insisted on full access for the U.N. Special Commission to suspected weapons sites.

The commission oversees the destruction of Iraqi long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction under Security Council resolutions passed at the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

A widely discussed compromise calls for diplomats from Security Council members to accompany U.N. inspectors to off-limits sites.

Iraq would have to drop demands for a 60-day time limit on the inspections and allow the U.N. Special Commission to take the leading role in inspections.

Annan had said he would not go without an agreement among

the permanent council members—the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China. On Monday, however, Annan indicated he might still go even if those differences could not be overcome.

Developments in Iraqi crisis

By The Associated Press
KEY DEVELOPMENTS
Monday in the Iraq crisis:

- Iraq warned Kuwait it will "bear the consequences" if it allows U.S. forces to stage attacks from its soil.
- Egyptian and Libyan lawmakers met with Iraqi parliament speaker, then joined in a march to a U.N. office in Baghdad, shouting "We are with you Saddam!"

- White House advisers met to plan public events designed to brace American public for any bombing of Iraq.

- About 3,000 infantry soldiers based at Fort Stewart, Ga, got orders to deploy to Kuwait.

- Vatican announces Pope John Paul II has urged U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to go to Baghdad to attempt a diplomatic resolution.

- French President Jacques Chirac said peaceful solution close at hand, but didn't provide details.

- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz greets Qatar's foreign minister in Baghdad, saying he hoped their talks would lead to Middle East being "spared any evil."

- Three U.N. cartographers spent a second day mapping out Saddam's palaces.

- Israelis bought up plastic sheeting and tape after army recommended buying materials to seal rooms against chemical or biological attack.

- Jordan announced it would close its border with Iraq to prevent being overwhelmed by refugees if United States attacks Iraq.

- Poll of 1,188 Palestinians by independent Jerusalem Media and Communication Center found 94 percent of Palestinians support Iraq in current crisis, though only 29 percent support Iraqi leadership. Margin of error: plus or minus 3 percentage points.

- Jamal Bustani, head of pro-Iraq Palestinian Baath Party, was in custody in West Bank town of Jericho. His wife, Muntaha, said he was arrested Saturday for participating in illegal pro-Iraq protest.

- Palestinian Authority, which is cracking down on public displays of support for Iraq, closed TV station that aired such viewer comments.

- More than 100 peace activists rally outside Royal Air Force base at Northwood, which would direct British strikes against Iraq.



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, right center, sits across the table from the five permanent Security Council members before their talks on Iraq at the U.N. Monday. Members at the table are, from left, French Ambassador to the U.N. Alian Dejammet; Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov; Chinese Ambassador Qin Huasun, Britain's Ambassador John Weston and the United States Ambassador Bill Richardson.

Opposition to Iraq military strike growing

By David Briscoe
WASHINGTON (AP) - Opposition to bombing Iraq is ground as Congress struggles over how far it should go in supporting military action. Catholic cardinals, former military and intelligence officers, longtime anti-war groups and Arab Americans say air attacks would do little more than kill Iraqis.

Opponents are scattered across the political spectrum. Some insist the bombing wouldn't go far enough, including conservative Republicans on Capitol Hill who believe the ultimate goal should be to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

Others fear a U.S. attack would go too far, killing thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, destroying Mideast peace efforts, and bypassing Congress in making war on another nation — all to punish the Iraqi president.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., one of the capital's most respected foreign affairs voices, said he backs Clinton's Iraq policy but

doesn't think force would diminish the threat of Iraq's weapons or its ability to threaten its neighbors.

"The administration, I think, has a very heavy responsibility now to articulate with very great precision what our purposes are in Iraq," Hamilton told Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who trooped to Capitol Hill nearly every day last week to talk about Iraq.

To bolster support, President Clinton plans a speech Tuesday at the Pentagon to make the case for why the United States may launch air strikes on suspected chemical, biological and nuclear weapons making sites in Iraq, which Saddam has ruled off limits to U.N. inspectors. His foreign policy team, including Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, will hold town hall meetings this week in Ohio and Tennessee, too.

The one thing bombing opponents and proponents have in common with Clinton is abhorrence of Saddam, who had agreed after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to allow

U.N. inspections to ensure he didn't rebuild his nonconventional war machine.

Those feelings initially translated into strong congressional support for Clinton. But support wavered last week, with Republicans and Democrats raising questions about what an airstrike could accomplish and at what cost. A supportive resolution was put off until Congress returns from a break next week.

A few members of Congress strongly oppose Clinton's Iraq policy.

Conservative Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, last week introduced emergency legislation to stop Clinton from using force in the Gulf.

"There is absolutely no moral or constitutional reason to go to war with Iraq at this time," said Paul, a former Air Force flight surgeon.

A liberal, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., also asked on PBS-TV's "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" last week: "How many people are we going to kill this time just because we don't want to set a

precedent for having a country dictate ... who can do an inspection?"

Beyond the capital, opposition also is growing louder.

All seven active U.S. Roman Catholic cardinals cautioned in a letter to Clinton that bombings could be impossible to justify. About one-fifth of the National Catholic Conference of Bishops already had signed on to a campaign to end U.S.-led sanctions against Iraq.

Two former CIA directors who served under Clinton joined a different sort of opposition chorus, advocating more than airstrikes.

"The problem with Iraq will not be solved by an air campaign," former CIA Director John Deutch said. His predecessor, James Woolsey, criticized Clinton's "flaccid responses" and advocated a combination of bombs, support for Iraqi opposition groups and imposition of a countrywide no-fly zone over Iraq.

Iraq warns Kuwait on US

By G.g. Labelle
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq warned Kuwait Monday it "bear the consequences" if it lets U.S. forces attack from its soil. Arab envoys and allies spoke out against the threatened American assault to end a standoff over U.N. weapons inspections — and urged Iraq to avert it by backing down.

Elsewhere, a team of U.N. cartographers worked for a second day mapping out President Saddam Hussein's palace compounds — the symbols of Iraqi sovereignty at the center of Iraq's dispute with the United Nations and Washington.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was "getting close" to a decision to go to Baghdad himself to try to negotiate an end to the crisis.

Diplomatic sources in New York said Annan would be looking for a sign from Washington that it was ready for him to try his hand at talks.

Iraq has barred U.N. inspectors from searching the eight presidential sites for weapons of mass destruction, leading the United States to threaten military strikes. U.N. officials hope to use the maps to determine which areas of the sprawling compounds are legitimate targets for inspections.

The foreign minister of Qatar, Hamad Bin Jassim al-Thani, arrived in Baghdad to try to defuse the crisis, and a delegation of Arab lawmakers talked with the speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Sadoun Hammadi.

The lawmakers, from Egypt and Libya, later joined in a march to a U.N. office in downtown Baghdad, shouting "We are with you, Saddam!"

Seeking to play up Arab backing in the conflict, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz met Qatar's al-Thani upon arrival and expressed hope the Middle East would be "spared any evil."

Saddam also met with al-Thani, who delivered a message from Qatar's emir, the Iraqi News Agency said. Saddam also received a telephone call from King Hassan II of Morocco, who pledged his opposition to "aggression against Iraq," the news agency said.

In Paris, French President Jacques Chirac said a peaceful solution to the standoff was near.

"An acceptable solution respectful of all U.N. resolutions is possible," Chirac said. "We are close." But there was little evidence Monday that Iraq was prepared to give way.

In an ominous warning, Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf urged Kuwait against allowing U.S. forces to use its territory to attack Iraq.

"We call on our (Arab) brothers — including the Kuwaitis — not to serve as a foothold for weapons that kill Iraqis," al-Sahhaf said in Beirut, the third stop on a tour of Arab capitals to seek support against a U.S. strike.

Al-Sahhaf said he was not threatening Kuwait, but "we hope they won't commit this deadly mistake."

"Those who open their territory for the Americans to shed the blood of the Iraqi children and women, will bear the consequences of their crime," Al-Sahhaf said.

He did not say what measures Iraq would take against Kuwait. In recent weeks, al-Sahhaf and other Iraqi leaders have said Iraq would not attack Kuwait in the event of a war.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, leading to the Persian Gulf War. While Kuwait has not said it would allow an attack to be launched from its territory, it has allowed the United States and Britain to station warplanes at its bases.

Still, Kuwait has called for a diplomatic solution, as have other Arab states that supported the U.S.-led alliance that routed Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991.

In a sign that Baghdad might be willing to offer concessions, state-



U.S. Army Pvt. Michael Dirck loads a 4.2 inch mortar shell while Cpl. Roy Buttle looks through an optical aiming device in their M106 Mortar Track vehicle during a live fire exercise in the Kuwaiti desert, near the Iraqi border Monday. The war games are a continuation of "Intrinsic Action 98" training exercises conducted by American forces deployed in Kuwait. AP

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run newspapers quoted Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying Iraq "is serious and earnest" in its pursuit of a diplomatic solution.

"Neither I, nor the Iraqi leadership, would like to see war," he said.

Iraq faces pressure from Arab countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, as well as China, Russia and Germany to abide by the U.N. resolutions requiring it to dismantle all its weapons of mass destruction.

International pressure also is increasing on the United States to refrain from attacking Iraq. China, Russia, Greece and France have come out strongly in favor of a diplomatic solution.

Iraq hopes the three-member U.N. map-making team will lead Annan to launch a last-ditch peace-making mission.



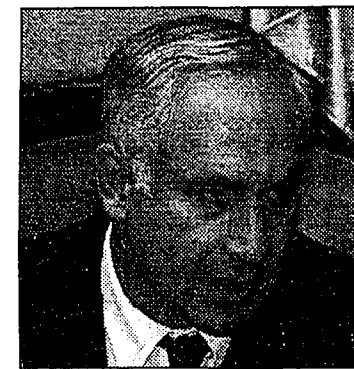
A bedouin woman from the Jahalin tribe, standing in what used to be her dwelling, is restrained by police women near the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim Monday. Israeli bulldozers guarded by police destroyed about 30 bedouin shacks belonging to the Jahalin tribe to make room for the expansion of the adjacent Jewish settlement. AP

Netanyahu cleared in Jordan scandal

By Dafna Linzer
JERUSALEM (AP) — An investigating panel appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cleared him of blame Monday in the botched assassination of a Hamas leader in Jordan. Netanyahu insisted Israel would stick to its policy of striking at terrorists "in any place." Israel's relations with Jordan remained deeply strained over the attack, however, and Jordanian officials said they would not resume security cooperation with Israel unless Netanyahu fires the Mossad chief who masterminded it.

The Sept. 25 assassination attempt sparked a crisis in Israel's relations with Jordan and infuriated Jordan's King Hussein, Israel's best friend in the Arab world.

The king still wants Mossad spy agency chief Danny Yatom fired, said a senior Jordanian



Benjamin Netanyahu

official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The three-member panel of inquiry pinned most of the blame on Yatom, but said it was up to the prime minister whether to dismiss him.

Netanyahu approved the hit on Hamas political strategist Khalid Mashaal without consulting his Cabinet — including his foreign minister, who subsequently threatened to resign

— and Israeli newspapers said he didn't bother to get an opinion from the chiefs of military intelligence or the domestic Shin Bet security service.

Mossad agents crossed into Jordan on forged Canadian passports for the high-risk assassination attempt. They were caught after injecting Mashaal with a poison and later exchanged for the jailed founder of Hamas, Ahmed Yassin, and 20 other prisoners. Mashaal survived.

Netanyahu met Monday with Yatom and said he would review the report, which includes a classified section of about 300 pages, before making any decisions regarding Yatom's future. Netanyahu refused to answer questions on the report but made a brief statement saying any decision concerning the Mossad was Israel's alone.

An Israeli government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was possible Yatom would be "quietly replaced in the summer."

Netanyahu also said Monday that Israel would not change its policy of striking at terrorists anywhere, despite the Mashaal fiasco.

"We will continue to use it (the Mossad) to strike at terrorism," Netanyahu told reporters. "We will not give it immunity in any place."

Netanyahu said an understanding had been worked out with Jordan on how to fight terrorism without having such a blunder recur, but did not explain further.

Hamas has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994, including two in Jerusalem in 1997.

Israeli opposition leaders dismissed the panel's report as a whitewash.

Opposition legislator Yossi Sarid said the probe was flawed because those investigating the affair were appointed by Netanyahu himself, rather than by the Supreme Court. In addition, the panel was given no special authority, he said.

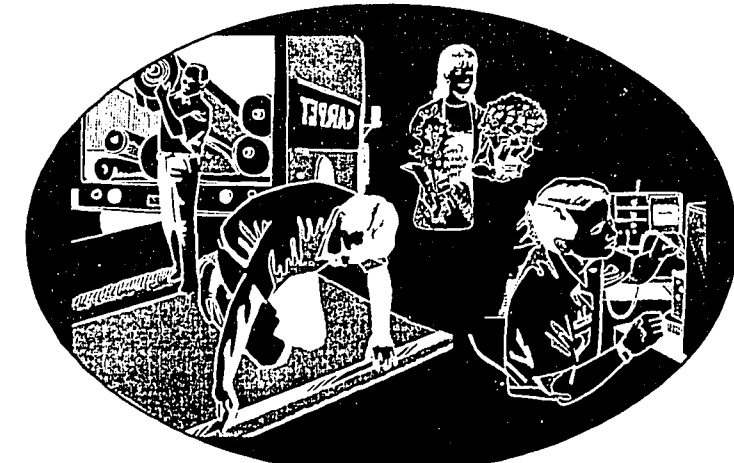
The failed attack shook Netanyahu's government and weakened King Hussein's position in light of an increasingly influential Islamic fundamental movement in Jordan.

Joseph Nevo, a professor of Middle East history at the University of Haifa, said future relations between the two neighbors would depend on Yatom's dismissal.

"Relations, at least between security agencies, will be very low key as long as Yatom is Mossad chief because King Hussein has made this an issue," Nevo said.

Respectfully,

/s/ Felix R. Nogis
 JTPA Executive Director
 xc: Public Information Officer



Sinn Fein wants to stay in talks

By Shawn Pogatchnik
DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — British and Irish leaders anguished Monday over whether to eject the IRA-allied party from Northern Ireland's peace talks after two killings blamed on the Irish Republican Army. Britain's Northern Ireland secretary urged that Sinn Fein be barred from the talks as punishment.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams appeared furious after a daylong debate with the two governments and the talks' chairman, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, behind closed doors at Dublin Castle.

"We're trying to make this thing work," Adams told reporters. "People who have no interest in trying to make it work have seized on two men being killed to try to bring this process down."

Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Mo Mowlam, presented a one-page paper Monday calling for Sinn Fein to be expelled.

The talks, which began in June 1996 and are supposed to conclude by May, are seeking to find a way to govern Northern Ireland acceptable to both its pro-British Protestant majority and Catholic minority. All participants must observe a formal renunciation of violence

authored by Mitchell or risk expulsion.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, speaking to reporters Monday alongside Mowlam, dismissed speculation that his government didn't support the push for expelling Sinn Fein.

Ahern said it was "regrettable" but necessary that the search for a compromise in Northern Ireland was being sidelined by lengthy debate over Sinn Fein's right to stay at the table.

Ahern said Mitchell was expected to call a full session of the seven participating parties Tuesday, "and then the governments will make up their minds — however long that takes I don't know."

Mowlam added: "There is no question of a difference between us and the Irish."

Northern Ireland's police chief said last week that the IRA killed Robert Dougan, a member of the north's major pro-British paramilitary group, the Ulster Defense Association, as well as a drug dealer, Brendan Campbell.

In Belfast on Monday, three men from the Catholic west side were charged with Dougan's murder. The three were not charged with IRA membership.



The President of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams talks to the media Thursday during a press conference in west Belfast, Northern Ireland. Adams warned that the peace process could fail if Sinn Fein was ordered out of the Talks after recent killings attributed by loyalist of the IRA. At right is Sinn Fein Chief negotiator Martin McGuinness. AP

Sinn Fein was allowed into the peace talks last September in exchange for an IRA cease-fire. An IRA statement Thursday said its 7-month-old truce was intact but did not deny killing either man.

Three weeks ago the British and Irish governments, co-sponsors of the talks, barred the UDA's Ulster Democratic Party from the table after police concluded that the UDA killed three Catholic civilians in

violation of its own October 1994 truce. The governments had indicated that the Ulster Democrats can return by the end of the month if the UDA doesn't kill anyone else.

Sinn Fein would similarly be allowed to return to the talks within several weeks if it is expelled. But Sinn Fein spokesmen suggested that might not be possible, since grass-roots frustration at the talks' lack of progress is growing.

Northern Ireland's major party, the Ulster Unionists, has threatened to boycott the talks if Sinn Fein remains.

"This is not a process where people can sit at the table while their minions murder," said Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble.

Participation by the Ulster Unionists, who represent about half of the north's Protestant majority, is considered crucial for the talks to produce an agreement. But if Sinn Fein is kicked out, many fear a return to widespread IRA violence.

"Our electorate isn't going to support a process that seems to be subject to blackmail by David Trimble and the Ulster Unionist Party," said Sinn Fein chairman Mitchel McLaughlin.

Bosnian Serb commander named

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian Serb president named a moderate on Monday as new military commander, replacing a hard-liner loyal to former leader and war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

President Biljana Plavsic appointed Lt. Gen. Momir Talic as chief of staff, sacking Gen. Pero Colic, who has been reluctant to support recent moderate changes within the Bosnian Serb leadership.

Colic replaced war crimes suspect Gen. Ratko Mladic in 1996 as the Bosnian Serb military commander.

But Colic maintained close links with Karadzic's allies opposed to Plavsic.

Talic, who led the Serb 1st Krajina corps during the 3 1/2-year Bosnian war, is considered a moderate and in favor of closer cooperation with the NATO-led peace troops based in Bosnia.

More purges of the Bosnian Serb military are likely soon, with the replacement of all corps commanders and leading officers still loyal to Karadzic. Karadzic has been indicted for war crimes by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Also Monday, thousands of women

and children gathered in Sarajevo to demand information about 6,000 men, missing after Bosnian Serbs overran the eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in 1995. For almost a year, the women have been protesting across Bosnia.

International forensic experts have found more than 1,000 bodies around Srebrenica, once one of six U.N.-protected "safe areas."

"I lost two sons, husband, brother and many relatives," said Sabra Mujic. "There are thousands of mothers like me and we will never give up."

Polish gypsies seeking World War II damages

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — About 2,000 Gypsies who were persecuted by the Nazis during World War II will seek compensation from Germany, the leader of Poland's Gypsies said Monday.

Roman Kwiatkowski said he gave a list with the first 137 names to the German ambassador in Warsaw, the PAP news agency reported. It was unclear when the rest of the names would be presented.

Gypsy victims of the Holocaust

around Europe are trying to obtain compensation from Germany. But it is proving difficult because many were unregistered in their native lands, or unregistered by the Nazis.

There are some 30,000 Gypsies, who prefer to be called Roma, living in Poland.

Like Jews, Gypsies were rounded up, brutalized, interned, deported, and killed by Nazi Germany. Between 200,000 and a half-million were killed.

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India election violence: 22 die

By Krishnan Guruswamy
NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Frustrated by a series of failed governments, barely half the eligible voters turned out Monday to choose a new Parliament in elections marred by at least 22 deaths.

Another 70 people were injured by land mines, in fights between rival political groups or in ambushes by rebels trying to disrupt the vote,

held three years ahead of schedule. Still, Monday's violence was not unusual in a democracy that endures despite sharp differences among its people.

Chief Election Commissioner M.S. Gill called the balloting "largely a peaceful exercise" given its scale: 222 seats of the 545-member lower house of Parliament — the Lok Sabha — were being

decided in the first of six days of balloting staggered by region.

About 250 million people were eligible to vote Monday. Elections officials estimated turnout at 50 percent.

After votes are counted in March, the party or coalition that wins a majority of seats nationwide will designate a prime minister. Nearly 5,000 candidates representing scores of parties are vying for 543 parliament seats, with the other two filled by appointment.

The Congress Party, which has governed India for all but five years since independence, has been battered by accusations it is corrupt and out of touch. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party was expected to win the most seats — but not the majority needed to govern alone, which would leave India with another fragmented government.

The outgoing United Front, a coalition of 14 parties that governed for 17 months until it resigned in December, was expected to fare badly after some of its parties splintered.

The vote is staggered to give federal forces time to move among areas where rebel groups are seeking independence or greater autonomy, or where ethnic or religious tension could be exacerbated by election disputes.

Thousands of troops were deployed in trouble spots Monday, but that did not prevent violent outbursts.

Violence was worst in the northern state of Bihar, the most undeveloped and lawless of India's 32 states.

Police blamed Maoist extremists, long at war with landowners, for triggering two land mines that killed four people. Sixteen others were killed in scattered fighting in Bihar, election officials said.

The Election Commission invalidated the vote and ordered a repoll in about 500 polling stations in Bihar following complaints of ballot stuffing or intimidation by armed gangs.

In the remote northeastern state of Assam, voter turnout was 43 percent — down from 79 percent two years ago — in response to a boycott called by the region's most powerful rebel group, the United Liberation Front of Assam.

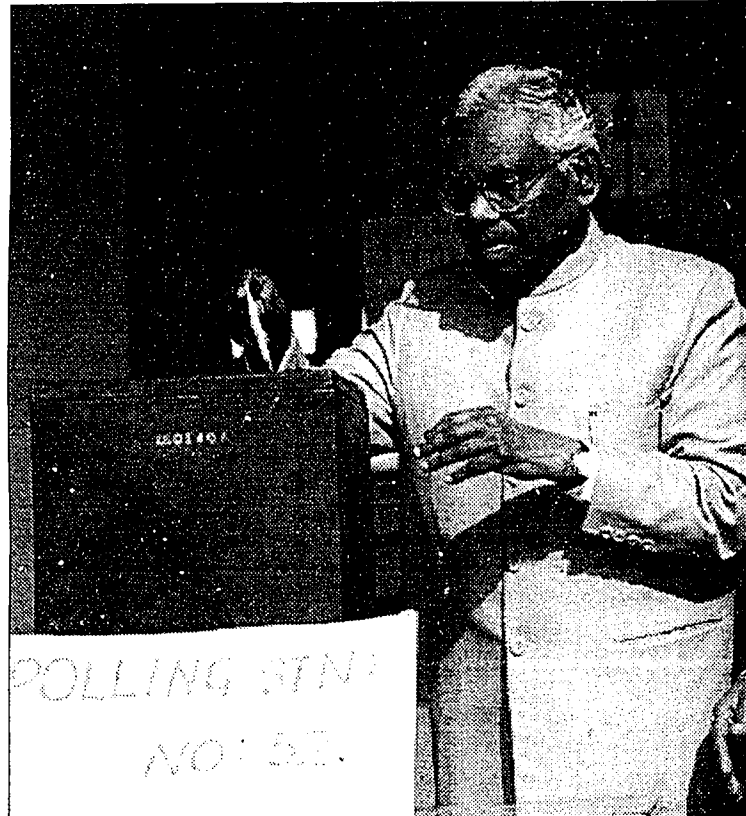
The rebels, who are fighting for an independent Assam, stormed more than 100 polling centers and burned ballot papers.

In Bongaigaon, 120 miles west of Assam's main city Gauhati, an argument between competing parties turned into a riot. Police opened fire to regain control, killing one person.

Violence was also reported in half the 42 constituencies in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

One political activist was stabbed to death, while 14 others were injured when supporters of rival groups hurled crude bombs at each other or fired guns.

Voting also took place in the neighboring northeastern state of Manipur, where eight soldiers were killed in an ambush by tribal rebels Sunday. Bomb blasts Saturday killed 54 people and injured 193 others in the city of Coimbatore, where voting is scheduled for Feb. 22.



Indian President K.R. Narayanan casts his vote at a New Delhi polling booth Monday. India goes to the polls to elect a 543 member Parliament for the second time in two years. AP



Bodies lying on the streets of Coimbatore Saturday where a series of bomb blasts killed 54 persons and injured 193 others. The attacks were blamed on two radical Muslim groups trying to disrupt election campaigning by Hindu nationalists. AP

Daley to Japan: 'Do more'

TOKYO (AP) — Japan should do more to revive its stalling economy and take a leading role in helping Asia overcome its currency crisis, U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley said Monday.

Speaking at a luncheon in Tokyo, Daley welcomed some steps taken by

Japan in recent months, but he said that Japan's fiscal policy was still too restrictive and "insufficient to move the economy forward."

Daley said the recovery of Asia's economies is dependent on a healthy and growing Japan, adding that Japan needs to further deregulate and open its markets.

The "eyes of the world are on Japan," Daley said, adding that "it is a time for leadership."

The economies of several Asian countries have been pummeled in recent months by a severe currency crisis, and three — Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea

— have received massive bailouts by the International Monetary Fund.

In recent weeks, U.S. officials have urged Japan to take a more high-profile role in spurring the economies of its troubled neighbors, in part by boosting consumption and opening up its markets to more Asian goods.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is scheduled to announce more economic support moves Friday, before the Saturday meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations. Japan is widely expected to come under pressure at the meeting to boost its economy.

Daley also said that Japan's booming trade surplus with the United States cannot be justified because of the strong U.S. economy.

American officials have urged Japan for months to build domestic demand rather than relying on exports to keep its economy going.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Daley, left, shakes hands with Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Mitsuo Horiuchi prior to their meeting at the ministry in Tokyo Monday. Daley is on a three-day official visit to Japan and is scheduled to tour South Korea and Singapore later. AP

1,502 Japanese firms had gone bankrupt in January

TOKYO (AP) — Battered by a painful economic slowdown, more Japanese companies — 1,502 — went bankrupt in January than in any single month since World War II, a private credit research agency said Monday.

The number of insolvencies skyrocketed 24.8 percent in January compared to the same month last year, but debts left behind dropped 4.6 percent to 684.9 billion yen (\$5.5 billion), Teikoku Databank Ltd. said.

The Japanese government has declared the economy "stagnant," and financial institutions are suffering under mounting debts. Bankruptcies in 1997 reached an 11-year high.

In January, insolvencies in all sectors except transportation and communications rose during the month, with construction and manufacturing particularly hard hit, Teikoku said.

Corporate collapses are likely to continue increasing as small and medium-sized companies had difficulty obtaining funds because of banks' reluctance to lend in the sluggish economy, the report said.

Government plans to inject up to 30 trillion yen (\$240 billion) of public funds into the banking system are not likely to prompt much new lending, the agency said.

Vietnam devalues currency

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — The government moved Monday to boost dwindling exports and jump start the foreign currency market, effectively devaluing the dong by 5 percent.

It was unclear if the move would ease concerns that the currency still is overvalued.

Companies and individuals alike have been hoarding dollars in expectation of a devaluation.

That has forced down the daily volume of interbank transactions from \$8 million in late 1996 to under \$200,000 in recent weeks.

"The move is designed to give commercial banks more flexibility in the interbank market, where transactions have been virtually frozen due to the artificially high-

valued dong," a State Bank official told The Associated Press. "The move will also help Vietnam's exports be more competitive."

A devaluation had been forecast after the recent Tet lunar new year holiday, when Vietnamese living overseas return and pump millions of dollars into the economy.

The State Bank of Vietnam, the nation's central bank, said Monday it has moved the target rate for the dong to 11,800 to the dollar from 11,175 to the dollar, where it had stood since October.

That amounted to an effective devaluation of about 5 percent because the dong typically

trades in a band of plus-or-minus 10 percent set by the central bank.

"A big depreciation would be a shock to the economy which the central bank, and rightly so, wants to avoid. But some action was needed," Jean Luc Bernasconi, an economist with the United Nations Development Program, told Dow Jones Newswires.

A Western banker said Monday the dong was being quoted at the new floor of 12,980 to the dollar. Previously, it had traded around 12,293 to the dollar.

Vietnam has resisted devaluation, but pressure has been mounting because huge declines in other regional currencies have made its exports more expensive.

Office of the Job Training Partnership Act

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On behalf of the Governor's JTPA Office and the Trainees, I would like to take this opportunity in extending our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following firms for your strong commitment and participation in accordng Employment and Training opportunities to our indigenous work force in an effort of finding meaningful employment.

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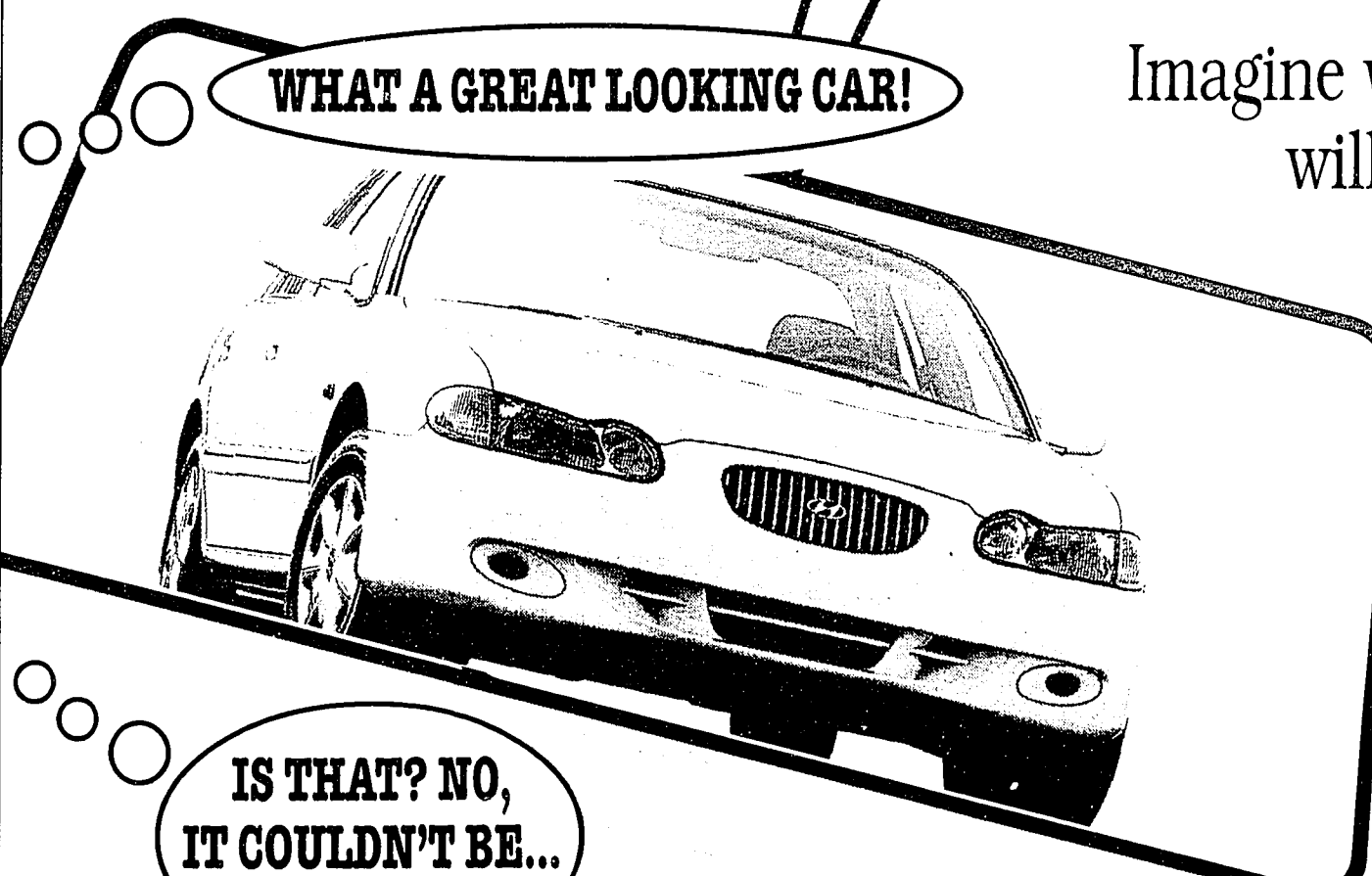
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- YCO Corporation
- Safety First Systems, Inc.
- Chong's Corporation
- Tan Holding's Corporation

Your willingness for such undertaking, exemplifies a shared commitment that this is a social issue, therefore, we must work collectively on effort to enable our people to become contributing members of our community and not reliant on welfare programs. I hope that in the future should the need arise for an additional staff, you would consider us to assist on the matter.

For those firms that are interested in "getting involve" on such worthy endeavor, contact Mr. Ray Cruz or Mr. Richard Santos at 664-1702. Once again, Si Yu'us Ma'ase', Ghillisow, and Thank You for your continued support and good luck in your business endeavor.

/s/ Felix R. Nogis
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Quebec secession hearings on

NOTICE OF MEETING

FIFTH SAIPAN & NORTHERN ISLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the FIFTH SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLAND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL will be held on Thursday, 19th of February, at the Conference Room of the Municipal Council at Chalan Kanoa, at 9:30 A.M.

By David Cray
OTTAWA (AP) - Opening a historic, high-risk court case, the federal government argued Monday before the Supreme Court that neither Canadian nor international law gives Quebec the right to secede unilaterally.

Quebec's separatist government is boycotting the case, contending that secession is a matter to be decided by voters — not judges.

"It's for Quebec to decide," a banner trailing an airplane flown over the courthouse declared. More than 1,000 separatists — based in Ottawa from their mostly French-speaking province — chanted the slogan repeatedly as they marched to the courthouse beneath dozens of Quebec's blue-and-white flags.

"I don't think it would be exaggerating to say there is a lot of tension in the air today," the government's lead lawyer, Yves Fortier, said in opening oral arguments.

The federal government inti-

ated the case last year when it asked the Supreme Court to rule whether secession is legal under either Canadian or international law, and which would prevail if there was a conflict.

Fortier stressed that federal officials were not trying to outlaw secession attempts, but rather to set rules for them.

"The federal government is not seeking to throw political roadblocks in front of the right of Quebecers to decide their own political future," he said.

What the government is seeking is some assurance that Quebec could secede only after a decisive vote on a clear-cut referendum question and only after negotiations that involved the other provinces, as well as federal officials.

Separatists narrowly lost a 1995 referendum on secession, receiving 49.4 percent of the votes.

Quebec's separatist premier, Lucien Bouchard, has promised to hold another referendum if his government wins a second term,

as expected, in an election that must be held by September 1999.

Fortier argued the only route to secession, under Canadian law, is a constitutional amendment — a process that would force Quebec to negotiate with Ottawa and the other provinces.

He also noted that virtually every new country to win recognition by the United Nations since 1945 has done so with the consent of its parent state. The main exceptions have been colonies breaking away from oppressive colonizers, he said.

Though Bouchard's government is not participating in the case, the Supreme Court has appointed a lawyer, Andre Joli-Coeur, to argue the separatist side. In written briefs, he argued secession is a political matter that can't be decided in court.

A dozen other parties have intervened in the case, nearly all to argue against the right of unilateral secession. These include Quebec's main aboriginal groups, the Cree and Inuit, who say they would have a right to remain part of Canada if Quebec became independent.

Three of the nine Supreme Court justices are from Quebec, but all were appointed by federalist prime ministers. The court is expected to issue its ruling in four to six months.

Barge hits oil rig off La.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A barge collided with an offshore oil platform in stormy weather in the Gulf of Mexico on Monday, starting fires on both and sending workers into the water, the Coast Guard said.

The accident occurred 20 miles south of Southwest Pass, just off the Louisiana coast.

Details were sketchy. There was no indication whether the workers jumped off either vessel or if they were knocked into the water, the Coast Guard said.

Coast Guard vessels, helicopters and firefighting equipment were en route to the scene.

It was the second day of rough-weather accidents on the Gulf.

On Sunday, the freighter Manzur, hauling calcium oxide and other chemicals, caught fire in the stormy Gulf.

The Manzur reached safe harbor Monday at Southwest Pass and stopped smoldering, the Coast Guard said.

The freighter, carrying 11 crew members, was met by firefighting boats and the Coast Guard was working with the vessel's owners, Forochari Shipping Co. of Germany, to determine how to dispose of any hazardous waste.

It was one of several vessels that got into trouble Sunday as heavy rain, stiff wind and high swells raked across the Gulf of Mexico. No one was killed or injured.

A tugboat sank in the Mississippi Sound and a fishing boat ran aground at Mobile Bay, Ala. Four people were taken off the sinking tug by helicopter.

Twist in Paula Jones case:

Claim can aid Clinton

By Larry Margasak
WASHINGTON (AP) - Providing a legal boost for President Clinton, a Richmond, Va. woman has told the president's lawyers that she was asked to lie about a friend's allegation that Clinton made a sexual advance in the White House.

The account by the woman, Julie Hiatt Steele, raises questions about the claims of Kathleen Willey — an acquaintance of Clinton who reportedly said in a deposition that the president made a pass at her in November 1993.

Alarm...

Continued from page 3

ompson in the complaint said during 1997 Evangelista

Ruling...

Continued from page 5

ranging from alleged contract violations and poor housing facilities.

The allegations have also prompted Asper to order Benavente to have payroll released within DOLI's premises for closer monitoring.

Benavente, who said the ruling as "embarrassing," has repeatedly denied the allegations.

I&S...

Continued from page 6

I&S was told last Jan 31, 1998 by then acting attorney general Loren Sutton that the agency was work-

Jury...

Continued from page 7

from C.D.C. for alleged breach of contract and fraud.

Hiraga claimed in an earlier deposition that he spent ¥124 mil-

Korean...

Continued from page 2

the money but claimed it came as gifts with no strings attached. The trial and appeals courts ruled that some of the money did not come from bribes.

Hyun-chul, free on bail, has one week to appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeals court continued his bail, saying there is no danger of him fleeing or destroying evidence.

It was the first criminal case involving a close relative of an incumbent president and one of the most publicized trials in South Korean history.

Though President Kim was not implicated, the scandal seriously eroded his authority in the closing months of his term. He leaves office on Feb. 25.

The case was uncovered during a government investigation into another corruption scandal in which several close aides to the president were involved.

Ms. Steele's lawyer, John West of Richmond, said in an interview Monday that lawyers defending Clinton in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against him recently contacted his client.

West said Ms. Willey had told his client, "It would be okay if you lied."

Steele's account cannot help Ms. Jones' attempt to prove that Clinton had a practice of making unwanted sexual advances. The lawsuit contends that as governor of Arkansas, Clinton rewarded women who succumbed to his desires — while

"knowingly and with reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered or remained in the Commonwealth in violation of the law,

Students...

Continued from page 5

council's adviser, Beth Roberts. While learning the government process, Roberts said, the students will, at the same time, learn how to apply the process in the school.

Acting Senate President Thomas Villagomez gave lecture on how a bill becomes law; who can run for office; and what it takes to get elected.

"I've learned that it takes a lot of money to get elected," said Lance

at its "own risk."

Sutton said the CNMI government could not be held responsible for paying I&S, which then announced that it could only work without a contract until the end of

lion in campaign loans and public relations giveaways to some CNMI government officials.

Hiraga mentioned Tenorio as among those officials who received such loans.

In an interview yesterday, Tenorio said there was nothing

Japan...

Continued from page 2

With consumers spending less, companies have been cutting back on production, the report said.

"As a result, the pace of improvement in employment and income conditions has continued to slow, and the positive growth cycle of production, income and expenditures has stalled," the central bank said.

As in other reports over the past several months, the Bank of Japan noted that the economy has been supported primarily by rising exports. Japan's economy is likely to remain stagnant for "a while," it said.

The Japanese government has announced a special 2 trillion yen (\$ 15.87 billion) income tax cut as part of measures to stimulate the economy.

On Monday, Japan's Parliament passed bills aimed at bolstering the economy by injecting about 30 trillion yen (\$ 240 billion) in public funds into the financial system.

denying Jones any advancement because, as a state employee in 1991, she rejected his advances in a Little Rock hotel room.

Dan Gecker, Ms. Willey's attorney in Richmond, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

In a separate criminal investigation of an alleged presidential affair and cover-up, the attorney for former White House intern Monica Lewinsky renewed his attacks on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

William Ginsburg, said he joins several Democratic members of

transported, concealed, harbored and shielded from detection an illegal alien."

Evangelista was summoned to appear in court on March 9.

Sablan, who said he wants to be governor someday.

After the lecture, the children started playing politicians.

"I'm gonna run for governor and I'm gonna beat you," Lance told Benneilyn Lizama, who said she also wants to run for governor.

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"We have a lot of students with leadership quality, and this trip would give them an opportunity to prepare for their career," Roberts said.

this month.

Industry analysts have conceded that without a Japan-based agency, CNMI will face difficulties in attracting Japanese tourists, who comprise the bulk of the islands' tourists.

wrong with his deal with Hiraga because it was a loan.

"They got papers showing that I mortgaged my property to C.D.C.," he pointed out.

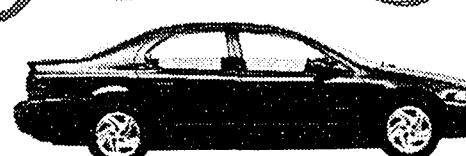




The former governor explained that although he is not paying the loan, his "land is there."

Tampa...

Continued from page 2

Las Vegas; 8. Salt Lake City; 9. Atlanta; 10. Baltimore; 11. Honolulu; 12. Seattle; 13. Kansas City; 14. Minneapolis-St. Paul; 15. Oakland, Calif.; 16. Memphis, Tenn.; 17. Houston; 18. Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; 19. Windsor Locks, Conn.; 20. Chicago, O'Hare; 21. San Francisco; 22. Sacramento, Calif.; 23. St. Louis; 24. Washington, D.C., Dulles; 25. Dallas-Fort Worth; 26. Newark, N.J.; 27. Miami; 28. Portland, Ore.; 29. Los Angeles; 30. Philadelphia; 31. New York City, LaGuardia; 32. Chicago, Midway; 33. Washington, D.C., Washington National; 34. Boston, Logan; 35. New York City, John F. Kennedy; 36. Detroit.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 DAVID A. WISEMAN, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 JING SHENG HUANG, a.k.a. ARLONG, Defendant.
 Civil Action No. 98-0013B

AMENDED SUMMONS
 TO: JING SHENG HUANG a.k.a. ARLONG
 YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Amended Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of David A. Wiseman, whose address is P.O. Box 2607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at 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.
 Dated this 26th day of January, 1998.
 /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 HAN-YOON KO, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 BYEOUNG BOG JEON, Defendant.
 Civil Action No. 97-1264C

AMENDED SUMMONS
 TO: BYEOUNG BOG JEON
 YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Amended Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of David A. Wiseman, whose address is P.O. Box 2607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at 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.
 Dated this 26th day of January, 1998.
 /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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 No phone calls please

Thailand seeks funds to destroy its opium fields

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) 00 A Thai drug enforcement agency, its budget cut in half because of the faltering economy, is seeking cash assistance from the U.S. government so it can destroy opium fields, an agency official said Monday.
 An official with the Narcotics Control Board in Chiang Mai, 580 kilometers (360 miles) north of Bangkok, said an agreement in principle had been worked out with the American Embassy in Bangkok.

300,000 baht (\$ 6,666) from the United States to replace that amount cut from its budget.
 He said there are about 10,000 rai (4,000 acres, 1,600 hectares) of opium fields scattered over eight provinces in Thailand.
 Because of drought, he said the price of a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of heroin had risen from 20,000 baht (\$ 444) to 30,000 baht (\$ 666) this year.
 Northern Thailand was once a major center for growing opium, the raw material for heroin. Crop substitution programs encouraged

by constitutional monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and stricter law enforcement, have greatly reduced the opium fields.
 Some still remain, however, and each year soldiers, border patrol police and provincial officials launch separate campaigns to cut the opium poppies and destroy them.
 Although Thailand is no longer a major opium and heroin producer, it is a key transit route for those drugs produced in neighboring Burma, the second largest producer of opium in the world.

As poor Indonesians riot, foreign tourists bask in tropical paradise

SENGGIGI, Indonesia (AP) — Standing in a swimsuit by the pool of a beachside resort, an Australian tourist was nonchalant about recent street protests in Indonesia.
 The riots, he mistakenly said Monday, were happening far away in the capital.

old Warren Bailey said before settling down on a stool at an outdoor bar. "I'm only on holiday, I don't read the newspapers."
 If he had glanced at a local paper a day earlier, Bailey might have got a jolt. The Suara Nusa daily carried frontpage color photographs of a riot Saturday in which two men were killed in Praya, just 20 miles

(33 kilometers) southwest of his luxury hotel.
 In Senggigi on Lombok island and other vacation spots, many tourists are largely insulated from a spreading wave of violent protests against price hikes stemming from Indonesia's economic slump.
 Five people have died since Friday.

Gov't . . .
 Continued from page 1
 basis for recommending 20 cents. We are already paying high gasoline taxes here," Tenorio said.
 The governor recalled that complaints about high fuel prices prompted a review of the energy tax by the Tenth Legislature last year.
 Meanwhile, Villagomez, chair-

man of the Senate committee on public utilities and communications, said he doesn't see the need to raise the energy tax at the moment.
 "I don't know what he (Rizer) wants the 20 cents for," Villagomez said. "I don't know where he's coming from. If he goes to California and tells the California people what to do, he would be

lynched."
 According to OIA, gas taxes in the US mainland are nearly three times higher than the insular areas.
 Motorists in the US mainland pay an average tax of 40 cents per gallon.
 Guam's fuel tax is 11 cents per gallon; American Samoa, 25 cents; Virgin Islands, 14 cents; and the CNMI, 10 cents.

Rota . . .
 Continued from page 1
 will be formed to take charge of the landfill project.
 These agencies are the Mayor's Office, the Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality, Historic Preservation Office, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and

Department of Public Works.
 CRM acting Director Peter Barlas said the new landfill will have to secure a federal permit as well as CRM permit.
 Under the regulations of the US Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, sanitary landfills are required to have a liner and drainage structures to alleviate the problem of rainfall and surface water

runoffs seeping through the trash in the landfill.
 According to a report prepared by EMCON Associates, the amount of Rota's daily solid waste is 7.67 tons or 15,340 lbs. based on Saipan's waste-generation rate.
 Rota's actual waste generation rate, however, may actually be lower since it has a fewer industrial and commercial activities than Saipan.

Froilan . . .
 Continued from page 1
 to look into some \$12 million worth of sole source contracts and whether the required services or products were delivered.
 According to the former governor, the only "unusual" action his Administration had taken was when he terminated three board members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in early 1994.
 "That was all we did because

there was a justification on our part to remove them and reorganize CUC. That's it. We didn't bring in Gov. Guerrero and investigate him. We went on and looked for revenues to run the government," he said.
 Tenorio said although it is tough for the Teno administration to find revenues because of the economic and currency crisis in Asia, they have to look for solutions.
 With regards to the sole-source issue, the former governor pointed out he did not see anything wrong with it because their actions were pursuant to the statutes.

"We have the right to do it. We did that pursuant to law. And I am sure that when this administration will be finished, they will do the same thing because they have to sole-source many contracts," he said.
 "Many times you just don't have the time to advertise for experts, attorneys, specialists to do the job. You have your own lists of people who can do the job so you sign the contracts pursuant to the regulations. And there was nothing illegal about that," he added.

Fire . . .
 Continued from page 1
 recently given a 60-day notice of termination were "misplaced," but will be given priority if they apply for other vacancies in the public sector.
 Politics, he added, has nothing to do with the "so-called

termination."
 Most of those who will be laid-off were hired by the previous administration.
 The notices of termination, however, came not from the governor but from the offices of the special assistant for administration and public information.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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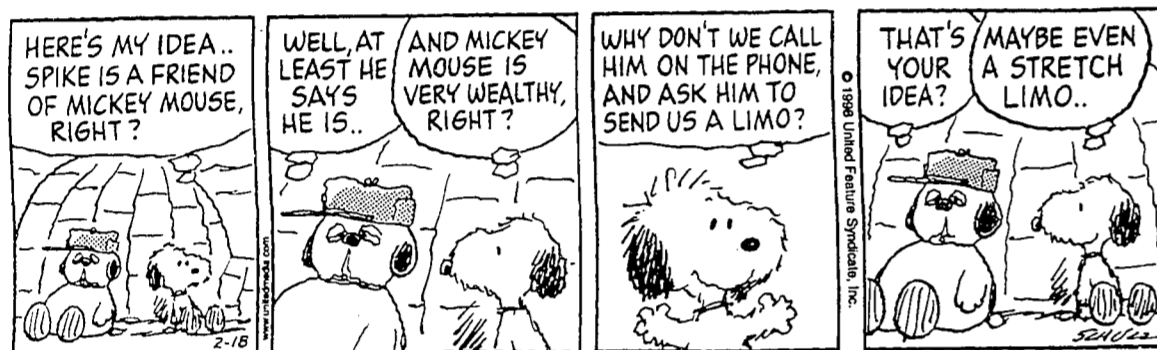
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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

BORN TODAY, you are a real sport, willing to give almost anything a try at the drop of a hat or after lengthy planning...

20) — A little strategy goes a long way today, as most people are just winging it and doing things in a random manner...

have it all — or give it up entirely. A little of this or that is no good for you at this time. Rethink your priorities.

Also born on this date are: Helen Gurley Brown, author and publisher; Matt Dillon, George Kennedy and John Travolta, actors; Cybill Shepherd, model and actress; Vanna White, TV personality...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You can learn quickly today and put yourself in a more beneficial position as a result, whether in a business deal or a recreational activity.

Those who get misty-eyed remembering vacations on Grandpa's farm aren't the same ones who had to help clean the stables.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down, and an answer key for a previous puzzle.

Tapia retains WBO, IBF titles

By Pete Herrera ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Junior bantamweight champion Johnny Tapia still is one of the best survivors in boxing.

holder, didn't dispute the outcome, but felt the fight was closer. "I've got no excuses," Blanco said. "I wasn't robbed, but 120 to 107, that's not close. I had a hell of a fight."

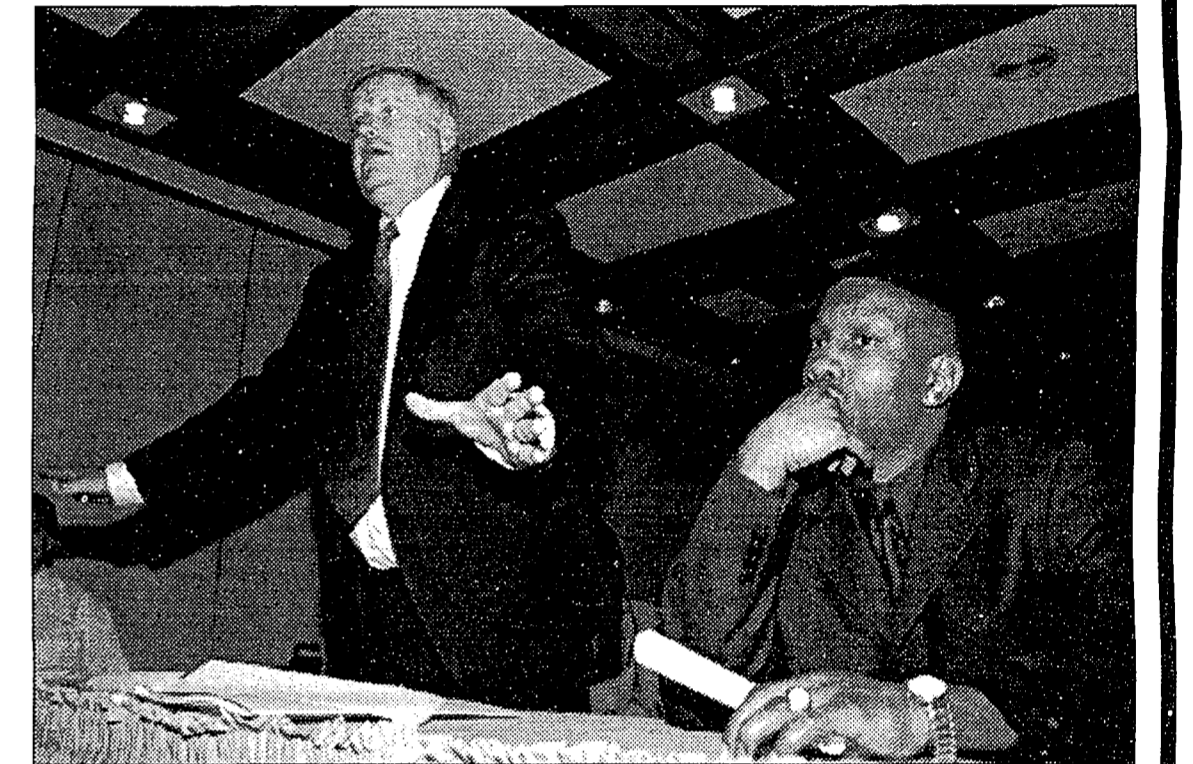
Tapia, who overcame drug problems to rise to a world championship, shook off a cut over his left eye and an injured right hand Friday night to score a unanimous decision over Rodolfo Blanco of Colombia.

Two of the judges called it a draw and the third favored Jones. Jones (22-1-1) did most of his scoring with a left jab, but each time he tried to slug it out with Boudouani, the Frenchman seemed to get the better of it.

against Guillermo Jones of Panama. Boudouani (35-2-1, 31 KOs) dominated the middle rounds with a potent right hand and a relentless left jab, but Jones rallied late, winning four of the final six rounds.

Two of the judges called it a draw and the third favored Jones. Jones (22-1-1) did most of his scoring with a left jab, but each time he tried to slug it out with Boudouani, the Frenchman seemed to get the better of it.

1, 6 KOs) of St. Paul, Minn., kept his U.S. Boxing Association flyweight title with a unanimous decision over Javier Cintron 10-5, 8 KOs) of Puerto Rico.



Patrick English, left, lawyer for Pernel Whitaker, right, is shown at a World Boxing Association (WBA) hearing for alleged cocaine use in Caracas Monday. Whitaker's suspension was lifted Monday after the WBA ruled that the test was invalid, clearing the way for the welterweight's April 25 bout with Ike Quartey.

WBA lifts Whitaker suspension

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - Pernel Whitaker's suspension for alleged cocaine use was lifted Monday by the WBA, clearing the way for the welterweight's April 25 title bout against Ike Quartey.

Pasana ... Continued from page 24

Richardson. Lucita Pasana narrowly took the 1998 Coconut Classic Women's title with a 7-6, 6-3 win over 14-year-old junior sensation Momoko Kobayashi, the #2 seeded. Pasana advanced to the final with a win over top seeded Arisa Sakai to set up the final confrontation.

with top seeds Race and Kobayashi, who dispatched Ayano Fujimoto and Eun Sung Jang 6-1, 6-1. Johnson and Lee took the final by default when Race was unable to play.

Roots ... Continued from page 24

game. Game Two MGD Starters defeated I Luv U Man, 15-5. The game was shut off in the fifth inning when the ten-run-rule was in effect.

ceived yellow painted coconuts as trophies at the pizza party following the competition. The next event is next weekend's Filata night tournament, the first of its kind, which will begin Saturday, February 21 at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Game Four

Pepsi SPEC shut off the La Familia, 18-3, in game four. The SPEC batted a total of five homers. Payton Sakuma batted two homers and had two rbis.

Game Five

Hit and Run defeated the Sedi Kau, 25-11. Ray Seman was 4 for 5 with one double, one homerun and four rbis.

Pacific ... Continued from page 24

Diego Masga with 22 points and Garry with 16 points. In the second game of the evening, Hi-Five defeated the Kontrarios, 110-74.

Wheels ... Continued from page 24

Guard Ed Palma came in second contributing 19 points. Manny Ojeda, also playing guard contributed 17 points for the victory.

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

KidSpot rebus puzzle featuring a picture of a boy and a rebus with letters t, pl, and p.

Advertisement for Mouse Hunt movie house featuring Nathan Lane and Lee Evans, and a Titanic movie advertisement.

SPORTS



A participant negotiates the rough waters off Micro Beach during the Micronesia Regatta race last weekend off central Saipan.

17th Micronesia Windsurfing

Shirowa, Tosa rule Regatta

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

NORIYUKI Shirowa ruled the Men's Open during the 17th Annual Micronesia Windsurfing Regatta held over the weekend.

Shirowa defended his title he earned last year.

This is the 10th year that Shirowa came to Saipan to participate in the windsurfing regatta.

He is one of the top profession-

als from Japan who come here to participate in the race.

He usually comes here early to practice with the local windsurfers before the race starts.

Kinichi Kodama came in second while Akihiko Yamada placed third in the men's open.

Bob Taguchi, a Saipan racer, placed 11th the best among the Saipan racers.

The rest of the racers came

from Guam and Hawaii.

In the women's open, Yoko Tosa of Japan, came in first. This is Tosa's first time to come to Saipan and compete in the Micronesia Windsurfing Regatta.

Yoshie Isinoda, last year's champ, came in fifth because of her windsurf had problems.

Second place went to Hisako Hagihara also of Japan and Sachiko Shibazaki also of Japan came in third.

Continued on page 23

Lizama hauls biggest catch in Tinian derby

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

MIKE Lizama caught the biggest fish which weighed 34 pounds during the 16th Annual Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby that started last Friday and ended Sunday morning.

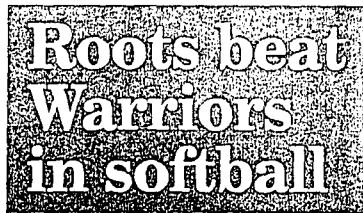
Second place Gene Sablan from Saipan caught a 14-pound Dog Tooth.

In the total weight category

Henry Mundo of Tinian took first place with a total of 36.8 pounds, Mundo won a trophy, \$150.00 gift certificate from Fishing Tackle, Sunset Dinner Cruise, Cap, drink cooler and a t-shirt.

Second place, also a Tinian fisherman, Ed Quichocho, caught a total of 20.7 pounds of fish. The only female partici-

Continued on page 23



By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

OPENING Game of the Men's Night League started off with the Camacho Roots defeating the Taga Warriors, 14-12. The league had stopped the games for two weeks because of the Kintetsu Buffaloes spring training.

It was quite a close game with only two runners to tie the game, but it was not possible. In the seventh inning visiting Camacho Roots ran in 14 players, while the Warriors in the bottom of the seventh needed 4 runs to tie and five to win but they were only able to score only two runs. Winning Pitcher Tony C. Camacho struck out five batters during the entire

Continued on page 23

1998 Masters Basketball

Wheels nip Old Aces

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE 30 and over basketball league started last Sunday with four teams competing for the first time at the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium. Most of the players for this league are veterans.

The Wheels defeated the Old Aces, 98-76. Veteran player Felix Palacios was the leading scorer for the Wheels when he scored 29 points.

Another veteran player Tony Sablan helped out Palacios for their teams' victory.

Sablan scored 27 points for the victory.

Leading scorers for the Old Aces were Tony Rogolifoi and Tony Barcinas who both contributed 18 points a-piece.

Elias Rangamar also contributed 16 points and Ben Duenas scored 12 points.

The Rainbows defeated the Ladrones, 94-63, in game two of the league. Playing center for the Rainbows, Noel Remolano was the leading scorer shooting 26 points.

Continued on page 23

Pasana wins Women's title

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

CNMI'S first tennis event of 1998, the Coconut Classic, was a success as each player was able to play at least four matches in the competition.

According to tournament co-director JJ Richardson, the tournament featured for the first time

the use in the CNMI of the new "compass" draw being promoted by the International Tennis Federation.

"The ITF is encouraging all national associations to use the new format, which increases participation and fun. Everyone thought it was great!" said

Continued on page 23

Pacific Trading Lite win over Spoilers in BANMI

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

PACIFIC Trading Lite outscored the Spoilers, 112-58, during the basketball game last Friday night at the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium.

Peter Camacho of the Lite was the leading scorer contributing 41 points.

In the first half of the game Camacho shot 20 points and in the second half, 21 points. In

the second half he even made five sharpshooting three-pointers.

Jerry Ayuyu, also a softball player, was the second leading scorer when he contributed 24 points to lead the Lite to a victory.

Junior Renguul with 19 points, was the Lite's third highest scorer.

Spoilers' leading scorers were

Continued on page 23



Champs. The Saipan Rugby champion team poses for a photo during the True GRIT International Rugby Tournament that was held in Guam over the weekend.

Photo courtesy of Saipan Rugby

Marianas Variety News & Views

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