



# Marianas Variety

News  
& Views

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*Babauta appeals to Murkowski:*

## 'Don't allow OIA to cut CNMI funding'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI's representative to Washington D.C. is asking the chair of the US Senate committee that has jurisdiction over the islands not to allow the Clinton administration to reduce the CNMI's infrastructure funding by \$16.7 million.

Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta, in a letter to US Sen. Frank H. Murkowski (R-Alaska), noted that the senator was one of the sponsors of a 1995 Senate bill that authorized the funding for the CNMI's capital infrastructure projects (CIP), which was based on the 1992 agreement between the Bush administration and the Commonwealth government.

Babauta said the Clinton administration's proposal, contained in its fiscal year 2000 budget package, would cut in



Juan N. Babauta

half the CNMI's funding for the final three years of the agreement.

He said the White House's proposal "repudiates all that went before: the recommendation of your authorizing committee, the law [US P.L. 104-134] enacted by Congress and

**Continued on page 46**

## Micronesian leaders seek regional airline

Variety News Staff

MICRONESIAN leaders yesterday pushed for the establishment of a regional airline as they took turns criticizing Continental Micronesia for the airline's "lack of commitment" to the region.

Addressing the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Federated States of Micronesia Sen. Peter Christian said Micronesia needs to have a single regional airline to ensure affordable and reliable air service for the region.

"A regional airline is important to both the political and economic development of Micronesia. We need to establish a regional airline either from scratch or through a combination of existing airlines serving the region," Christian said.

Both Continental Micronesia and Air Nauru, he stated, work "too independently" and should enter into inter-airline agreements



Pete P. Reyes

so that the people of Micronesia could have more affordable fares, more frequent services, and smoother transit times.

"By networking all resources and equipment of the two airlines, fares can be tailored to generate more interest to travel and we can achieve more attractive

positioning and transit times," the senator pointed out.

Christian said he is amenable to allowing government subsidies to help start up the formation of a single regional airline.

He added that he is also in favor of setting up a body that would regulate airline operations in Micronesia to ensure that the interests of the region are protected.

For his part, CNMI Sen. Pete Reyes said he will introduce a bill that will provide incentives towards the formation of a regional airline.

Describing Continental Micronesia as a "fair weather" friend, Reyes said the CNMI has suffered economically because of Continental's lack of cooperation and the airline's decision to lessen flights and use smaller planes.

"I can understand the profit

**Continued on page 46**

## Palau gov't bans Bangladeshis

By EILEEN O. OREIRO  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — The Republic of Palau has temporarily banned the entry and hiring of Bangladeshi workers due to problems emanating from their "cultural beliefs."

The suspension, which took effect last Feb. 20, will be up until such time the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) enacts Senate Bill No. 5-59, now pending at the House of Delegates. The bill seeks to legalize the creation of recruitment

agencies in the Republic.

This was the first time that Palau banned foreign workers on the island.

Commerce and Trade Minister Okada Techitong made this urgent action as he noted the mounting social tension between local employers and Bangladeshi employees.

"The increase in Bangladeshi population contributes a great deal to the almost insurmountable social tension between local employers and the former,"

Techitong said.

He further stated that there is a grave concern which presents the urgent need to enforce the ban as the desire by the local people to employ these nationals is still on the rise despite the persistent calls made by the Division of Labor (DOL) not to hire them.

In an interview with *Palau Horizon*, Labor Chief Henaro Antonio said the action was made due to the absence of formal foreign relations between Palau and

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## CHC gets Feds' OK

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

AFTER three days of grueling inspections, federal health care representatives gave the Commonwealth Health Center a "thumbs up" evaluation which automatically means a re-certification of the hospital, it was learned yesterday.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez disclosed that the five-member Medicare inspection team's re-certification of CHC guarantees the continuous financial assistance to CNMI's health care system.

"Without their certification, we will not be able to get a lot of resources that they are able to provide every year," Villagomez said, adding that Medicare is a federal program which provides

**Continued on page 46**

'Sale' causing 'panic' in jail

# China, Russia rap US plan

BEIJING (AP) — China and Russia have held talks about a proposed U.S. anti-missile umbrella and are united in their opposition to the system, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao gave no details on the Chinese and Russian "consulta-

tions" about the proposed Theater Missile Defense system. He also refused to say what if any action the two countries would take in future.

But the Japanese news agency Kyodo, quoting an unnamed Russian government source, reported Wednesday from Moscow that security experts from the foreign

and defense ministries of China and Russia have been meeting every two months to exchange information about the anti-missile system.

The talks began late last year at Kyodo's request, and the two sides will likely end up making a decision on a united approach, possibly jointly asking that the United States and Japan terminate development of the program, Kyodo's source said.

Zhu, the Chinese spokesman, said the two sides held talks "because this issue has bearing on global and regional security and stability and affects the security interests of many countries."

China fears the system, also known as TMD, could spark a costly arms race. It also is determined to ensure that any anti-missile umbrella is not extended to cover Taiwan, the island that China regards as part of its territory.

"China and Russia have both indicated and made clear their opposition to TMD," said Zhu. "Russia is opposed to TMD and we have also expressed our strong opposition to this, so the two sides share a position on this issue."

The United States has rebuffed Chinese concerns, saying it is still studying the system and has not decided yet whether to use it.

## Senate President Manglona:

# 'Marianas to weather storm'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

SENATE President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) yesterday expressed confidence that Guam and the CNMI will "weather the storm," adapt to the changing needs of the Asia-Pacific economy

and bring back the tourists.

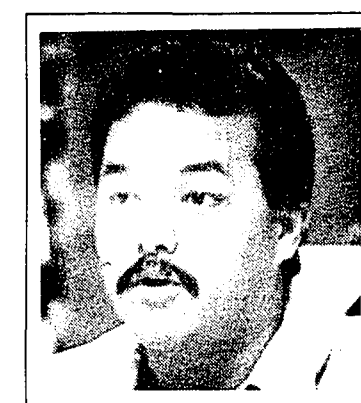
In his remarks during the air transportation conference on Guam sponsored by the Association of Pacific Island Legislature (APIL), Manglona at the same time acknowledged that "certain economic factors are beyond our

control," but added that if "we pull our resources together and work as a team...we may better adapt" to the current economic situation.

The Senate president, however, offered no specifics of how the Marianas—Guam and the CNMI—could "work as a team." But he noted that to attract more tourists the islands have to capitalize on their unique characteristics and improve their tourism infrastructure.

Manglona cited Tinian as an example, saying that its residents' decision to establish a casino industry has positioned the island "as a very exciting tourist destination in the Pacific."

Still, he added, "there is still the critical need for direct air service



President Paul A. Manglona

in order for Tinian to reap the benefits of its...casino industry."

Rota, for its part, has chosen to promote "eco-tourism" travel alternatives, which are based on the "natural beauty" of the island's environment.

Meanwhile, he said, to attract more visitors, the CNMI is banking on a newly enacted law that could attract Japanese retirees to move into the islands, and on the creation of free trade zones.

Regarding airport expansion, Manglona said the CNMI government is now trying to "avoid putting all of [its] eggs in one basket," and has chosen to continue with renovation projects in a "phase by phase process [that] will best utilize our resources while at the same time benefit our overall economic growth."

Besides Manglona, House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) and several other legislators attended the conference held at the Pacific Star Hotel.

## Continental announces new jets for Micronesia

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Continental Micronesia yesterday unveiled plans to bring in new and more modern planes to service Micronesia to help in the region's economic development.

In a presentation during the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Continental Micronesia Vice President for Sales and Marketing Walter Dias said Continental will be bringing in up to seven new 737-800s to serve the region within the next 12 to 18 months.

"They cost \$35 to \$40 million each and they have more capabilities than our existing planes. These are new investments and this demonstrates Continental's continuing commitment to the region," Dias said.

According to Dias, the first 737-800s should be ready to serve the

region by September of this year. "That's why we are working with some of the islands in the Micronesian region to have their runways upgraded to accommodate these new planes."

During his presentation, Dias assured that Continental Micronesia remains and will always be committed to the Micronesian region. He said Micronesia is very integral to the airline and Air Mike will continue to service the needs of the region.

"I want to reassert Continental's commitment to the region. We have more than \$200 million worth of airplanes already operating in this region and we have more on the way. Our chairman who was here recently also reiterated that the airline is committed to this region."

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Marines block protesters outside the Philippines Senate in Manila as senators conduct their last public hearing on the Visiting Forces Agreement Thursday in Manila. The VFA will allow back US troops in the Philippines to conduct joint military exercises. AP

## Tokyo candidate promises to have U.S. air base returned

TOKYO (AP) — The controversial author of the 1989 best seller "The Japan That Can Say No" has made the return of Yokota, a major U.S. air base in Tokyo, a key part of his campaign platform for Tokyo governor.

The U.S. Forces in Japan refused comment Thursday on the pledge by former lawmaker Shintaro Ishihara, who announced his candidacy Wednesday in the April 11 election.

"It would be inappropriate to comment on a domestic political debate," said spokesman Lt. Col. Billy Birdwell.

"The Japan That Can Say No" stirred protest in U.S. Congress by arguing that Washington's

complaints about the trade imbalance with Japan were motivated by racism.

Coming at a time when American "Japan-bashing" was at its peak, the book also suggested Tokyo had the prowess of the U.S. military under its thumb because its computer chips were all "Made in Japan."

Ishihara has repeatedly criticized the U.S.-Japan security arrangement, arguing that Tokyo would be better off defending itself.

Promising a "revolution" in Tokyo, the award-winning writer vowed to push for the return of Yokota.

Some 47,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan — the largest U.S. military presence in Asia — mostly

on the southern island of Okinawa. Both Washington and Tokyo see their security arrangement as a pillar of Asian and Pacific regional security.

Chief government spokesman Hiromu Nonaka slammed Ishihara Thursday on the Yokota issue, Japanese media reports said.

"The issue is not something that should be included in election promises," he was quoted as saying.

Although he retired from politics in 1995, Ishihara remains popular among conservative Japanese. His 1996 book about his younger brother, movie star Yuiyuri Ishihara, who died of cancer in 1987, was a huge hit.

## RP Senate mulls VFA

By OLIVER TEVES

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Thousands of left-wing protesters, students, nuns and priests rallied against a proposed military agreement with the United States Thursday as the Philippine Senate wound up public hearings on whether it should ratify the pact.

The proposed Visiting Forces Agreement would allow the United States to resume large-scale military exercises in the Philippines. U.S. officials said a joint exercise involving about 500 U.S. Marines based in Okinawa is tentatively

scheduled at the end of May if the VFA is approved. The two-week exercise would involve amphibious landings and jungle training, the officials said.

Several political and religious groups joined Thursday's protests outside the Senate building. A group of several hundred priests and nuns wore headbands reading "No Way VFA" in red letters, while others sang anti-VFA songs.

The government of President Joseph Estrada has mounted a campaign to rally public acceptance of

Continued on page 50

## Palau gov't to sue tobacco firms

By MALOU L. SAYSON

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The Republic of Palau is gearing up for a monumental litigation against American tobacco companies for having acted in a "conspiratorial concert" in selling "dangerous" products which may have caused top killer diseases in Palau and thus escalated medical costs incurred by the government.

Coming at the heels of the immediate passage of House Bill no. 5-178-8, HD1 by the 5th Olbil Era Kelulau (OEK) is a ground-work preparation being beefed

up by the Alaska-based Cowan, Gerry & Aaronson (CG&A), the law firm that will represent Palau in the proposed tobacco litigation.

The CG&A is working closely with a local counterpart. The bill, however, was referred back to the OEK by President Nakamura in the light of giving [it] "more teeth" to go through a rigorous litigation process.

House Bill No. 5-178-8, HD1, which is sponsored by House Speaker Ignacio Anastacio, authorizes the Republic to bring a direct "third party payer" action against the manufacturers of defective

products (tobacco).

It seeks to bring about legal action for recovery of damages for the costs and expenses incurred or as may be incurred for Palauans' health care needs.

In Standing Committee Report No. 5-175 submitted to Senate President Isidoro Rudimich last Feb. 4, the SCHSW reported the progress of ground preparations being undertaken to lodge a monumental litigation before the court here in Palau.

At least 26 giant tobacco manufacturing and other related firms

Continued on page 42

## GovGuam to take over \$40M shipyard property

By Eric F. Say

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — "Fantastic news!" said Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez when he heard that the Government of Guam will soon take ownership of personal property at the former Ship Repair Facility (SRF).

The property includes all tools and equipment at the shipyard including floating cranes, shipyard vessels and two medium sized dry docks valued at between \$30 and \$40 million.

Gutierrez said "once the ownership of the land and buildings is received by the end of this year we will be able to move closer to our goal of creating a premier shipyard in the Western Pacific,



Carl T.C. Gutierrez

capable of generating 800 to 1,000 new jobs."

Gutierrez said that he is also confident that the recent trips to Guam by several key Washington

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## Bill for easier transfers

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

SENATE President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has introduced legislation that would ensure that local residents applying for private sector jobs are given preference, and would require the Department of Labor and Immigration to regularly and thoroughly "screen" any employer of alien workers, who would now be allowed to transfer to another company even without the consent of their employers.

Manglona, who has, since last spring, expressed willingness to

introduce such legislation, said S.B. 11-123 is a comprehensive measure that would also expand the so-called Nonresident Workers' Cross-Utilization Act, and establish a mandatory group medical insurance for alien workers, who would be required to pay half of the coverage, provided that they receive more than the \$3.05 an hour minimum wage.

Manglona said his bill at the same time proposes granting a tax credit to employers who pay the medical insurance of their local workers.

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Mrs. Annie Sablan (left), wife of Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, was among some 450 participants to the recently-held 'Healthy Families, Strong Community Summit.' Also in photo are 1999 Miss NMI International Michelle Sablan, Dr. Richard Ludder of SDA Dental Clinic, 1999 Miss NMI Universe Cherylin Cabrera and Sister Remedios Castro (right).

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Deadline for submittal of proposals in 2:00pm, March 26, 1999

**JAMES H. UNDERWOOD**  
General Manager

## FORUM

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## EDITORIAL

## Fallacy of a policy

WHATEVER good that may come out of the newly-enacted law imposing a three-year limit on the stay of non-resident workers could get negated by the impact this new imposition will have on the business sector and the economy as a whole.

The law is simply short-sighted, unnecessarily burdensome, impractical and ill-timed, considering that it came at a time when all businesses are reeling from the effects of an economic crisis. It can make things worse.

Since the new law's proponents disregarded the impracticality of its provisions for business, there is that tempting conclusion that its passage and enactment reek of election year posturing.

While the measure may elicit kudos from the local voting public, the latter should look beyond the "pro-local rhetoric."

Before they pat their lawmakers on the back, they should see if indeed the legislation will do them good.

They should not rush into concluding that the measure will land them the good jobs in the private sector.

It should be noted that while government can force a turnover of workers on a three-year interval, it is still up to individual businesses whether they would hire locals, still get non-resident workers from the on-island pool, or not to hire at all anymore.

There is just no assurance that the stay limit policy will translate to jobs for locals, even if government narrows down the choice for businesses.

And even if the jobs become available, there is no assurance that the local workforce would like to take them.

On the other hand, as HANMI President Ron Sablan notes, the new law could lead to lower productivity and level of service.

Workers can get "de-motivated" by the thought that whatever amount of effort and dedication they put in their jobs, they won't have job security as they will leave after three years, just the same.

So the headache is for employers to bear, most especially. At a time when business and industry is experiencing the worst of times, government has chosen to make things harder for them.

Ultimately, the policy becomes just that—a big burden to the business, which ultimately passes on the worries to the public in the form of higher prices of their goods and services.

The senselessness and futility of the three-year limit brings to light the instability of the CNMI's business policies. It shows how easily politics can put industry and investors down on their knees, and that does not augur well for the economic future of the islands.

Wasn't it only about five or six years ago, this same policy of setting a stay limit and exit provision for workers got scrapped due to its senselessness and impracticality?

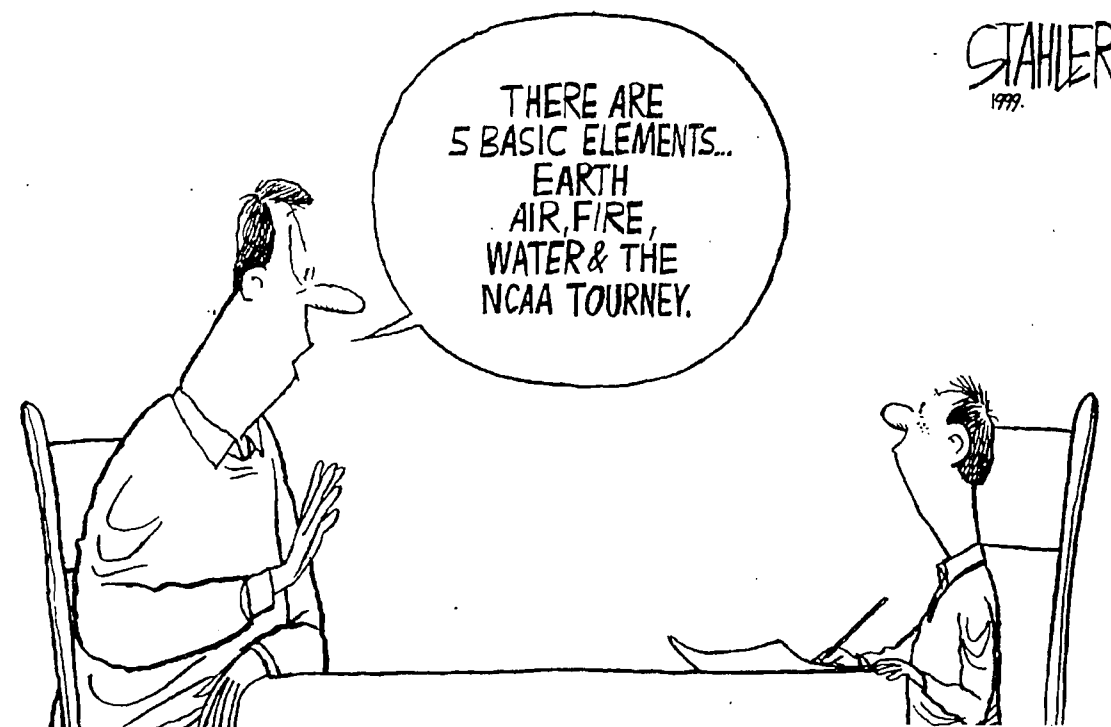
Or have CNMI leaders simply developed a penchant for passing ill-conceived legislation which burden people and businesses, instead of making things easier and better for them?

While CNMI elected officials are expected to be sensitive to the wishes of their constituents, it is hoped that they will also be more proactive to matters pertaining to the overall economic well-being of the islands as a whole.

A balance needs to be stricken between what is politically laudable and what is economically feasible.

Policies ought to be weighed with extreme caution.

Otherwise, the entire CNMI, the local community and industry included, will find things in a greater mess.



## Cops and robbers

DECLARING that they're not animals, the convicts in the riot incident last Tuesday acted in a manner intriguing only to ethologists. Saying that the prison facility was in very poor condition, they proceeded to wreck whatever they could lay their hands on. Claiming that they wanted to be corrected, they committed wrongdoing...again.

Amazingly, several persons have expressed sympathy with these criminals, on grounds that they should have been treated like "human beings." But were these inmates' conditions such that they could not have acted differently?

Humans, being what we are, and no matter what the circumstance is, usually have a choice of action, says the psychiatrist and author Victor E. Frankl, who was a former inmate in the Nazi concentration camps in Auschwitz and Dachau—"correction" facilities compared to which Susupe jail would be the Waldorf-Astoria. Dr. Frankl says everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the freedom to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances; the freedom, that is, to choose one's way. Hence, it has never been too much to ask of humans to be both accountable and responsible for their actions.

Now these criminals who again broke the law and destroyed taxpayers' property last Tuesday have no excuses for such behavior. They knew that the commonwealth has already signed an agreement with the Justice Department regarding the improvement of the islands' jail facilities. Indeed, convicted robber Bill Sablan specifically mentioned the US attorney general's concerns during his live phone interview with KPXP. They knew, too, that there is pending legislation that would appropriate money for the prison project. If they felt that the legislative process was taking too slow, they could have staged a hunger strike, wrote letters to the editor or even passed around a petition. Instead, they decided to riot, grab a gun, fire "warning shots" and claim that they were

holding "hostages." When they finally surrendered, the government, to its credit, did treat them like human beings. They were held accountable and responsible. They were slapped with new criminal charges.

But what about those in authority whose responsibilities include preventing such incidents from occurring? We are told not to be too harsh with the officials of the Department of Public Safety, understaffed and underfunded as it is. Very well then. They have "an excuse." But how about replacing them with officials who can perform their duties competently even if their department is understaffed and underfunded? DPS, to be sure, have such men and women whose sense of leadership compels them to do their best, no matter the circumstances. These are the same men and women who, when they swore to protect the public, knew that their oath did not contain a clause stating "some restrictions apply."

This community should no longer tolerate officials who will not own up to their responsibilities. Moreover, we can no longer have a corrections system in which convicts can easily escape and stage riots while demanding to be corrected, while police officials point fingers and, well, point some more.

Only recently, Japan's justice minister resigned amid criticisms over his handling of—of all things—Arnold Schwarzenegger's entry into the country without a passport. Here in the CNMI, we just had the worst jail break in this commonwealth's history and its first jail riot slash hostage-taking incident *all in a span of three weeks*, for which DPS officials are apparently to be excused.

I mentioned this to a ranking legislator who replied that if the CNMI government would adopt the Japanese code of honor at least one official may have to resign every day.

Considering that the government is cash-strapped, that might not be a bad thing.

## Letters to the Editor

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.

## Why invite problems, Mr. Pierce?

Dear Editor:

SGMA Executive Director Richard Pierce's recommendation to member factories to open up to OSHA inspections is ill conceived and foolish (Marianas Variety March 2, 1999). I can't believe he is speaking for the entire membership.

Every business should turn away OSHA inspectors unless

they arrive with a warrant. Only an employee complaint to OSHA or safety and health violations that are apparent to the inspector from off premises will result in a warrant to inspect. Why invite problems?

Maybe the reason is to sell more safety equipment. Maybe the reason is to sell safety consultation by Safety First. This in spite of there being no Certified Safety

Professional employed at Safety First. Do SGMA members realize that Richard Pierce is a principle owner of Safety First?

As recently as five years ago before Mr. Pierce was Drug Czar for the previous administration, he was constantly asking me how do we keep OSHA out of here. I told him that the best way to deal with OSHA was voluntary compliance and good attorney. That

has not changed.

If your attorney is advising you to turn OSHA away from your front door, you should listen to him. The combination of a Certified Safety Professional and an experienced attorney have reduced violations significantly and averaged over 80% reduction in fines levied by OSHA.

If the Regional OSHA Administrator is retaliating with 8-hour inspections instead of the planned 2-hour walk through, as Pierce alleges, this is your first argument for unfair treatment in a court of law.

Judge Munson will probably throw the whole case out. That's

why employers need a lawyer for advice and not someone shooting from the hip.

Federal OSHA inspectors have unfairly targeted the CNMI with far more inspections and resultant fines than anywhere else in Region IX. There is nothing to be gained with an open door policy.

The federal government is bent on making the local garment industry look like sweatshops in spite of the vast improvements most factories have made.

That's not likely to change anytime soon with or without Pierce.

WILLIAM K. DEAN SR.

## Proud Chamorro and satisfied Continental client rebuts critic

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the "Airline Critic" letter to the editor dated March 10, 1999.

I have also had a few unanticipated situations with airline policies and procedures, but at least I'm grateful to them for getting me to and from my destination. I understand the problems that I encounter with them and I understand the reasons for why sometimes the cargoes get ruffled up.

If the airline had over 150 passengers then it would have had over 300 baggage. Your box was in a group of over 300 other baggage that rubbed against each other for hours. Aside from that, the baggage handlers have only so much time to load these baggage onto the airline. You

shouldn't have expected yours to come out perfectly neat just because it had a "Fragile" sign on it.

You complained because you have to pay for extra baggage. You claimed that you only pay extra baggage if you're going to the Philippines. Guess what, that policy applies to everybody carrying extra baggage to anywhere, not just "kababayans" going to the Philippines.

You said that you Filipinos have a habit of bringing gifts back to your country for your relatives. Do those gifts have to weigh more than a hundred pounds that it takes two baggage handlers to load, which also may be a factor of the poor condition of your baggage at the time of your retrieval, if I may add.

When we Chamorros go off-island, sure we love to bring gifts

back to our loved ones, but we are also generous and thoughtful of the people that are going to handle our baggage and we try not to overwhelm them. If we have really heavy things to bring, we send them over.

I am a proud Chamorro and a satisfied client of Continental Micronesia.

My advise to you ( Mr./Ms.) Ariel R. Dumapit and your fellow *kababayans*, the next time you leave this island, and you are still dissatisfied, and feel discriminated against, then don't come back.

After all the hospitality of the CNMI people, we don't want you to feel like you don't belong. Salamat Po.

ELVIE CAMACHO

## Separate DOC from DPS?

Dear Editor:

It takes Secretary of Justice Janet Reno to bring a lawsuit about the poor condition of the inmates in the Division of Corrections.

If I remember it correctly DOC was inspected by Congressman Oscar Babauta and Congressman Frank Cepeda, both Republicans for a spot check. It has been two and a half year that had past yet there were no corrective measures.

They just waited for Reno to put this concern in public. We could have done something earlier so that outsiders will not be able to find fault on us.

Indeed Washington is "hellbent" in destroying this Commonwealth so federal takeover will be justifiable.

If I remember it correctly, in 1987, during Gov. Pedro P.

Tenorio's second term, he addressed the problem to DPS Director who is now Judge Eddie Manibusan to build the Corrections in Kagman II.

However, the plan did not materialize. When the administration of Guerrero-Manglona changed the plan, for the Corrections site to Kalavera in favor of Lau Lau Golf Resort under the management of ZHIMIZU.

The members of Congress never pushed this program. Now the criticism is getting into our skin.

Former Gov. Froilan Tenorio during his term awarded the Korean, sole source financing, which somehow prompted the Public Auditor and members of Congress to seek the investigation of the Director of Public Works for wrongdoing but by that time, the Korean

contractor had backed out, the allegation was never proven.

Now, the governor is facing a lawsuit and Reno is riding high on us. We could have avoided such investigation and retain our rights to govern on the principle of self-government.

The recent jailbreak was exacted by Section A, B, and C, like it's well planned to embarrass the governor right in the presence of Congressman Young and others. Then the riot.

We could have avoided all these if the officials concerned made sure that this incidents should never happen.

Probably it is high time for the government to separate the DOC from the DPS.

JESUS TAISACAN

## Govendo: Outrageous Reyes

Dear Editor:

Only the most outrageous elected representative would suggest spending millions of taxpayer dollars on lobbyists to protect Saipan's garment industry when many local people are facing serious financial hardships because of shortened hours, payless paydays or loss of their government

jobs due to a shortage of revenue. Yet, that is exactly what Senator Pete Reyes wants. He wants to spend government money protecting an industry that he and his fellow garment representatives wouldn't dream of investigating or taxing more no matter how bad things get for the average person.

I have a better idea. Since it's obvious that Senator Reyes serves

to further the interests of the garment industry, he should resign from the Senate, go to Washington and become the industry's lobbyist himself!

For Mr. Reyes, this will not be a change in job description at all. When it comes to defending the garment industry, he's our new Froilan Tenorio!

Continued on page 42

## Is Saipan really safe now?

Dear Editor:

As we all know, and some better than others, crime is on the increase here in the CNMI.

I know people who have had their homes broken into as many as four times. My wife and I feel among the fortunate few who haven't been robbed, but figure it is only a matter of time.

By word of mouth we have recently learned that Government Housing on Capitol Hill, once considered a safe place to live, has fallen victim to an increasing number of break-ins. Some have been at night while people were asleep in their beds. Others have been during the day when no one was at home.

We are also learning that some places on the island are safer than others, which has prompted us to think about taking the meager housing allowance offered us and go look for a nice safe barracks some place.

Then I remembered that ransacking barracks on the week-end is a favorite week-end sport for some teenagers. Not only that, but the police don't seem so feel that sort of activity should be treated as a serious crimes, especially when these acts are against non-resident workers.

Soon, I fear, it will not be safe

anywhere on the island unless we start turning neighborhoods into little Fort Apaches, with barbed wire fences and guard towers.

My next question is, what are the police doing? I don't read about many arrests being made. And when I do read about arrests I don't read much about trials, convictions, and time spent in jail. From time to time I read something in the newspaper to the effect of "All of which was suspended except for the five minutes they spent in custody..."

I do get the impression, which I have found is a commonly held impression, that the police are unable or unwilling to make many arrests—something to do with the extended family, perhaps. Or, is it lack of training?

If an arrest is made I can see the rest of the family coming down to the police station and saying something like, "How can you even think about throwing one of your own in jail?" I hear talk of hiring more police officers, but more does not equal better.

We used to hear about the days, not too many years ago, when nobody locked their doors. Now, we see iron gates and barred windows. Regardless of ethnicity or nationality, are any of us living on Saipan really safe?

BRUCE M. PETTY

## Kudos for 3-yr limit

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Senators Juan P. Tenorio and Thomas Villagomez and the rest of the members of the Senate and the House who supported what is now Public Law 11-69.

Eventually, we should propose a three-year, non-renewable contract or perhaps, even a four-year, non-renewable, non-resident contract. There is, I think, a large pool of unemployed good workers in our Asia/Pacific region.

While this is good news for some of us we should now be

thinking of our minimum wage. A ten or twelve cents per year increase, until we reach the federal minimum, would probably do when the times are right, but it should be more attractive for skilled workers.

Otherwise, no one would be willing to be trained and be educated in skilled trades. This will still be resulting on almost total dependence of foreign workers.

We should also be looking at Northern Marianas College to establish a technology campus so that we can offer courses in the field of automotive & diesel, airconditioning & refrigeration.

Continued on page 42

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## Heinz: Riot cost gov't hundreds of thousands

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE CHAIR of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's prison task force said Wednesday that the damages caused by the inmates who staged a riot may cost the government hundreds of thousands of dollars, mainly in the repair of facilities that have to be replaced next year.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) said Tuesday's riot destroyed the prison's toilets and fixtures, rendering the facility "almost useless."

"Now we may have to spend additional money on something that has to be replaced in the next two years," Hofschneider said, referring to the CNMI's consent decree with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), which

states that the commonwealth should begin construction of new prison facilities by May of next year.

The CNMI agreed to enter into a consent decree after DOJ sued the commonwealth for dismal prison conditions that allegedly violate the inmates' human rights.

Hofschneider said the riot, which was staged by inmates protesting prison conditions, "threw a curve" at the task force's plans.

"We've been trying to move on an accelerated pace, but now, on top of all the long-term plans for improvement, we may need to pump money to get back the Susupe jail into working condition," he said.

"We're still assessing dam-

Continued on page 44

## Hiraga, CDC face \$30M suit

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

JAPANESE businessman Shigenori Hiraga and his companies are facing a \$30-million lawsuit filed by a private firm for alleged abuse of legal process and slander.

Sekisui House, Ltd. asked the Superior Court to order Hiraga, C.D.C. Japan Ltd. and C.D.C. Saipan Ltd. to pay \$20 million in damages for abuse of process and \$10 million in damages for slander.

The Japan-based Sekisui, through counsel David A. Mair, sought damages in its counterclaim against Hiraga and C.D.C. Japan and Saipan.

Hiraga, a convicted bribe-giver, is president of C.D.C. Japan and Saipan, according to court records.

When contacted by the Variety

Continued on page 44

## Winners of FSM election declared

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSMIS)

The FSM National Election Director Max Mallarme on March 8, declared the winners of the March 2, FSM Congress General Election this week.

The election was held in the four FSM States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap to fill the 14 seats at the FSM Congress.

The seats include four At-Large, one from each of the four states and the Two-Year Term including five from the State of Chuuk, three from the State of Pohnpei and one each from the States of Kosrae and Yap.

For the At-Large seats, President Jacob Nena in Kosrae, Vice President Leo A. Falcam in Pohnpei, Chairman of Resources

and Development Committee Redley Killion in Chuuk, and Floor Leader Joseph Urusemal in Yap were declared winners.

It was also declared that the Two-Year Term winner in Kosrae is Vice Speaker Claude Phillip.

In Pohnpei, the Two-Year Term winners are the Chairmen of the Standing Committees on Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure Peter Christian; Judiciary and Governmental Operations, Wagner Lawrence, and incumbent Senator Dohsis Halbert.

In the State of Chuuk, declared winners of the Two-Year Terms are Chairmen of the Standing Committees on Ways

Continued on page 44

## CNMI lists 120 'certified' travel consultants

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

WITH THE series of promotional tour of travel agents and media from Japan in the last two years, the CNMI now has some 120 "certified" travel consultants in its prime tourism market, it was learned.

The promotional tour, which is now the Fourth Annual Marianas Tourism Academy, aims to broaden the Japanese representatives'

knowledge of the Commonwealth through their certification as a CNMI travel consultant.

It was developed two years ago by the Marianas Visitors Authority (formerly Marianas Visitors Bureau) in conjunction with Japan Airlines Group of Companies.

JAL-Saipan Sales Manager Kaishun Nishigaya yesterday disclosed that MTA has already recruited in some 120 certified travel

consultants since it was first held in March 1997.

The Fourth MTA is slated from March 10 to 13.

Norman Berg, MVA director of marketing, said this year's participants totalled 34. Of this figure, 22 are from the media, while the remaining 12 are travel agents.

"The MVA is an advocate of this 'creative learning approach' for

Continued on page 42

# NMI stands pat vs takeover

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT would continue to lobby against the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage to the CNMI, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Tenorio made the statement in light of reports that United States Senator Frank Murkowski is introducing a new federal takeover bill that would increase minimum wage in the CNMI to \$6.15 per hour.

While admitting that he is not aware of the legislation that would be filed, the governor said his

administration will insist that the CNMI government be given the opportunity to present its side before any action is taken by the US Congress.

Tenorio also disclosed that during his recent meeting with the senator, Murkowski did not give any assurance or commitment that he would not introduce a legislation that will place CNMI's immigration and minimum wage under federal control.

"He (Murkowski) never said that he would not introduce a new legislation. He just told us to do everything possible in order to

address the accusations hurled against the CNMI," he told reporters.

Tenorio met with the US Senate natural resources committee chair during his recent trip to

Washington. "We met with Murkowski and we provided him a copy of our progress report on the reforms that we have undertaken," he said.

Murkowski last year sponsored

an amended version of the takeover bill which will place the ultimate decision of making federal immigration law applicable to the CNMI in the hands of the Attorney General.

Continued on page 44

## Saipan sweatshop story wins award

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

THE STORY aired by the ABC about alleged sweatshop conditions in Saipan's garment industry has garnered an award for two of its reporters in the recent 1998

Polk Awards.

Brian Ross and Rhonda Schwartz were honored for television reporting for their story on American clothing manufacturers' labor practices on Saipan which was aired over the television's news program

20/20 last year.

A story carried out by the New York Times two days ago said, the two television journalists have been chosen as the best reporters in the electronic field for the

Continued on page 44

Libre Libre Libre

Sa Lahat Ng Filipinos/Overseas Filipino Workers

Kayo ay inanyayahan na maglaro ng Table Tennis, Chess, Dart o magbasa ng mga bagong Filipino magazines, gumamit ng computer, mag-internet at mag-enjoy sa ating Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC), 1st Floor Nauru Bldg., Susupe, na laging bukas para sa inyo mula alas 8:30 n.u. hanggang alas 6:00 n.h. Lunes hanggang Linggo.

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MIDDLE ROAD, GUALOBAI

# PSS pushes school zoning

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE CAPITAL Improvement  
Projects committee of the Public

School System has drawn out a proposal for the creation of attendance zones throughout Saipan. Once the proposed zoning is

approved by the Board of Education, students residing in nearby villages would only be allowed to enroll in a designated school around their area.

The idea of zoning was discussed during a recent board meeting relative to a strategic plan for the busing system of PSS.

At present, some public school students are enrolled in schools that are far away from their villages and this triggers a problem in the bus system.

The zoning project was referred to the CIP committee yesterday and is set to be presented at next month's BOE meeting.

The proposed project is divided into ten zones.

Zone 1 consists of villages including Kagman, As Teo, Papago and Lau-lau. The school assigned will be Kagman Elementary School which is presently under construction.

Tanapag Elementary School is the assigned school for zone 2 which consists of As Mahelog, Lower Base and Tanapag villages.

Garapan Elementary School will cover Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill, Puerto Rico, Navy Hill, Maturana Hill, Sugar King, China Town, Chalan Galaide, Garapan and Gualo Rai for zone 3.

Residents who are residing in Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya, Oleai and San Jose will be included in zone 4 which designates Oleai Elementary School for the areas.

William S. Reyes Elementary School will cover zone 5 which include Susupe and Chalan Kanoa villages.

Zone 6 includes Chalan Piao, As Perrido and San Antonio that designates San Antonio Elementary School.

San Vicente Elementary School covers zone 7 which include Kanat Tabla, San Vicente, As Lito and Fina Sisu and As Terlaje villages.

Koblerville Elementary School is on zone 8 to cover the whole Kobler ville area while the new school Dandan Elementary School, slated to open later this month, is on zone 9 and covers the

whole village area.

Zone 10 which covers Marpi, As Matuis, Paupau, Achugao and San Roque will be designated to GT Camacho Elementary School.

The CIP committee is hoping that the board will pass the proposal especially now that the idea of zoning is possible due to the erection of new schools this year such as Kagman and Dandan.

## CPA bond gets 'triple B' rating

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority (CPA) could prevent increase in the \$53 million bond floated last year, following a BBB- investment grade given by a recognized bond rating agency.

CPA officials have anticipated and worked hard to be able to get a triple B rating from bond and credit rating agencies in efforts to arrest any possible increase in the outstanding airport and seaport bonds sold in March 1998.

The BBB- investment grade rating given by Fitch IBCA to the more than \$20 million of total airport revenue bonds was expected to have multiplier positive effects to the ports authority, said CPA spokesman Travis Coffman.

This include the possibility of blocking any increase in the bond's interest rate which CPA had targeted to ease internal financial crisis hounding the ports authority. CPA was trying to halt the possible 6.70 percent increase in bond interest from the current 6.25 percent.

The bond rating agency has noted a significant growth in the airport system's enplanement growth which reportedly increased at an annual nine percent average rate, as well as CPA's solid relationship with its major air carriers.

According to Fitch IBCA, the capital improvement program of CPA's airport system does not include any additional revenue bond debt and that the system's management team has yielded favorable financial operations in the past.

CPA's credit strength, however, was counterbalanced by the dramatic drop in visitor arrivals to the CNMI resulting to a nearly 25 percent decline in fiscal year 1998 enplanements compared with the previous year.

A master indenture separates the debt obligations of the airports from the marine division. CPA maintains independent rate making flexibility for the airport system within the confines of its airline use and lease agreements.

Franklin Fund, a large financial company in the United States, was the sole buyer of the CPA's \$53 million bond.

Bond proceeds had been used to finance CPA's existing projects like the \$7.6 million dredging

Continued on page 44

# CUC: \$1.2M more from sector

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

WITH THE long-awaited construction of the 80-megawatt power plant in Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation stands to generate some \$1.2 million in monthly revenues from the garment industry alone.

CUC currently supplies around 9.6 megawatts of load to certain garment firms on a monthly basis.

More garment firms are expected to connect to CUC once the 120-million power plant is already operational.

It expects to supply an additional monthly 12 megawatts of load to garment firms that will be connecting to the utilities agency once the construction of the power plant is finished.

For the month of December 1998 alone, CUC generated approximately \$554,803 million in revenues from garment firms. This amount represents around 10 percent of CUC's monthly revenues.

Board chairman Juan S. Dela Cruz disclosed that with the power plant in place, the utilities company estimates additional 12 megawatts of load from garment factories in Saipan which are still unconnected to CUC.

The additional load from these firms will represent additional \$650,000 per month in potential revenue for CUC.

"The 12 megawatts of load amounts to an estimated \$650,000. So when you add that to what we are currently getting from some garment companies, then we will have approximately \$1.2 million per month," said Dela Cruz.

He pointed out that the additional revenues will shoulder some of the costs that will be entailed by the construction of the power plant. "The power plant will convince

the still unconnected garment firms to connect to us," said Dela Cruz.

The garment industry is one of the two income-generating businesses in the CNMI, the other one being the tourism industry.

Meanwhile, CUC is still awaiting for the final evaluation report by Burns & McDonnell International

among the 13 bidders of the power plant project.

CUC expects to receive the final report on March 19, which ends the first phase of the re-evaluation. Another round of re-evaluation will follow before the CUC Board decides who among the 13 bidders will undertake the project.

## Service stations get fire safety reminders

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

GAS stations have been asked to strictly adhere to the fire safety code by the Fire Division as it prepares for the coming dry season, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

During the dry season, which will begin in May, accidental fires are expected to occur more frequently.

As a precautionary effort, the division's fire safety section has already called on all the gas station dealers to observe the "No Smoking" warnings.

In a letter to a gas station, fire

director Herman P. Sablan said, "Please see to it that proper no smoking signs and stopped all vehicle engine during dispensing must be displayed at all fuel service stations."

DPS information officer Rose Ada said they have been receiving numerous calls from concerned motorists that some gasoline stations are not displaying the no smoking signs.

Ada also disclosed that a past unannounced check on trailers and trucks revealed that these types of vehicles were carrying extinguishers that have either expired or are empty.

## Hopwood student hit by a car

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

A 13-year-old student of Hopwood Jr. High School is now in hospital after she was hit by a car driven by a Taiwanese national just in front of the school.

The victim, a girl, was recuperating at the Commonwealth Health Center from injuries on the left side of her body which she sustained during the accident.

The driver who was identified

Continued on page 44

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## Palau to change its labor code

By EILEEN O. OREIRO  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — The Palau's Labor Division is battling for "revolutionary changes" in its nearly two-decade old labor law to effectively address the prevailing tension in the labor front.

According to Labor Chief Henaro Antonio, the proposed amendments in the current labor code, which was created in 1969, are urgent because some of the provisions under this code are already "obsolete."

These provisions include the creation of a Labor Commission; extending the one-year work period to two years; speedy resolution of labor cases against undesirable non-resident workers; and the transfer of 25 percent of the

total filing fees to the labor account.

Antonio said these proposed changes will have to be reviewed first by the Ministry of Commerce and Trade (MCT) before it goes to President Nakamura and the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) for legislation purposes.

Antonio said that he is currently discussing possible amendments with the Attorney General's Office, House of Delegates Committee on Trade and Labor, and the Senate Legal Assistant.

The Labor Commission, which will consist of a number of employers and employees and the government, will do the thorough review of a Protection of Workers Act.

The labor chief also bats for a

Continued on page 43

## Senator pleased Andersen got salary raise, to stay on

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
ACTING Senate President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) yesterday said he's glad that lawyer Celeste Andersen will continue to work for the government, but added that he's still concerned over what he described as the questionable hiring practices of the Attorney General's Office.

Villagomez said he learned that Andersen, the assistant attorney general who serves as the Department of Public Health's (DPH) legal counsel, will be given a slight increase in her salary.

Acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara, in a separate interview, confirmed this information, saying that "it is now



Thomas P. Villagomez



Celeste Andersen

likely" that Andersen will get a pay hike.

Villagomez, however, said Andersen, whom he described as a "tested and very competent" attorney, should not have been

"given a hard time," referring to the lengthy review of her pay hike

request.

"They gave her a hard time supposedly because of the austerity measures, but AGO [meanwhile] was trying to hire two new attorneys who were offered the same amount of salary that

Continued on page 43

As 51 Sugar King units go up for sale:

## NMHC asks tenants to move

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Housing Corporation has decided to sell 51 of 52 housing units located in Sugar King, according to NMHC corporate director MaryLou Ada.

Ada told the Variety yesterday that the NMHC board of directors concluded at their previous meeting that they will go out and sell the

Sugar King housing units in the open market.

Ada said NMHC has started sending notice to the tenants who are presently occupying some units to vacate the premises by May 1.

"We gave our tenants notice that they have to vacate...we're not renewing their contract or their lease agreement because we are going to sell these units to first time homeowners," Ada pointed out.

NMHC stated last year that the agency has been working a settlement with the Commonwealth Development Authority as to the Sugar King or the Upper Miha units because the project is tied to a \$10-million loan.

Ada said from May 1, NMHC can now start announcing or advertising that the 51 units are for sale.

Of the 52 units, one shall be

reserved for the police substation which is currently occupying four units, said the corporate director, adding that the substation has done a tremendous community service in the surrounding areas over the years.

She said at least 22 units are currently leased and the rest are unoccupied.

"Some units are already falling

apart so the board is saying we better sell these units so that we will see a lot of families occupying these units," Ada said.

The corporate director stressed that the sale will be done on a lottery basis for the qualified first-time homeowners.

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## CNMI to host Pacific Education conference

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

CNMI will be hosting one of the largest educational conferences in the Pacific to be led by respected educators in the region from July 27 to 29 at the Marianas High School.

The 16th Annual Pacific Educational Conference (PEC) with this year's theme, "Pacific Communities: Leaders of the New Millennium" will have the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), CNMI Public School System and the Northern Marianas College to co-sponsor the event.

This would be the third time that PEC will be conducted in the

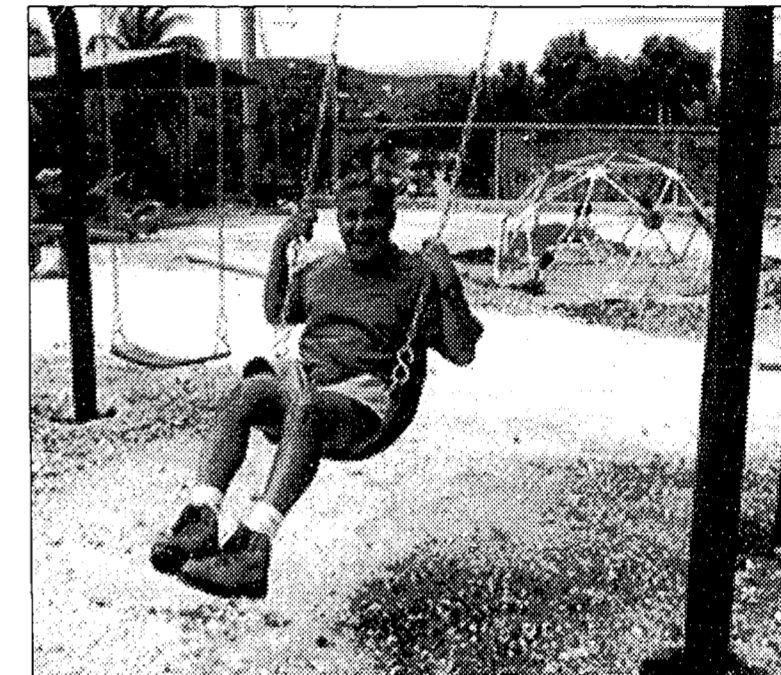
CNMI.

For the past 15 years, the Pacific nations and their respective school systems and Departments and Ministries of Education have taken turns hosting the PEC which is an event planned by Pacific educators for Pacific educators.

The annual PEC started in a Pacific school library in Guam and has now grown to become of the largest educational conferences in the region, with an attendance exceeding 1,000 participants every year.

According to a PEC news release, majority of the workshops at PEC this year will once again led by Pacific educators, sharing

Continued on page 43

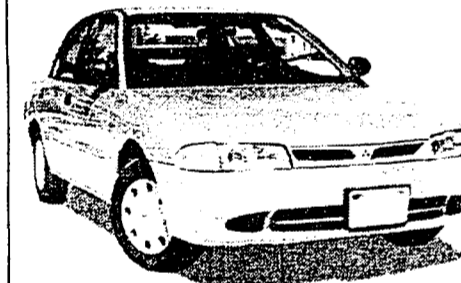


Swinging Mayor. Mongmong-Toto-Maite Municipal Mayor Andrew C. Villagomez tries out the brand new playground swing in Mongmong yesterday afternoon. Funds were made available through his budget, equipment donated by IT&E and installation done by his employees in cooperation with the Guam Air National Guard.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

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## Worker wins DOLI ruling

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

A DIVISION of Labor hearing officer has ordered an employer to pay his former worker \$600 in backwages.

Lyn Bugarin Centeno, was also allowed by hearing officer Linn Asper to look for another job.

Should Centeno decide to return to the Philippines if she fails to find another employer in 60 days, Asper said her airfare has to be provided by her former employer, Paul Zak.

Centeno was, at first, reluctant to accept the remaining balance of \$640 from her employer—an initial payment has been made—as there had been an earlier order from Asper stating that Zak was going to pay double the amount.

However, Asper later said he had reversed his previous verbal order of default and permitted Zak

to initiate the payment of the remaining balance.

Centeno and Zak had earlier agreed to settle the amount.

The employer gave an initial payment of \$300, with the balance to follow soon.

On Feb. 11, a notice of violation was issued against Zak for failing to complete the settlement. A hearing was set and an additional \$500 fine was imposed on Zak.

During the hearing, the employer failed to appear which prompted Asper to enter a default against Zak, who was slapped with liquidated damages and fine.

A day after the verbal order was issued, the employer appeared before the hearing officer and explained that he did go to the building where the labor office is located but that it was closed.

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## Verdict on Camacho today

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE JURY is likely to render anytime today a verdict in the murder case filed against Jesse James Camacho over the killing of a boy in Dandan Homestead.

Both the prosecution and the defense are scheduled to present their closing arguments in the morning today.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas yesterday told the jurors that after the arguments, jury instructions will be explained to them.

After jury instructions, Bellas said jurors shall begin deliberating the

case which may be to start in the afternoon.

The court held the jury selection last Monday. The trial, however, commence Wednesday because of Tuesday's hostage drama at the Division of Corrections.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry Hirschbein, on behalf of the government, presented several witnesses, including a teenager who admitted stabbing the victim.

Defense counsel G. Anthony Long called only a police detective to the witness stand.

The 17-year-old Camacho was charged with murder in the first degree in the adult court. He was also charged one count each for

solicitation and conspiracy to commit murder in juvenile court.

Camacho was among three teenagers accused of killing Anthony S. Sablan in April 1998.

Camacho's two co-defendants, both teenagers, signed a plea agreement with the government. They are currently serving jail terms.

Sablan was 13 years old when he was stabbed to death. His body bore at least 30 stab wounds when found in his room.

According to witnesses, it was Camacho who gave a knife to a co-accused and ordered to kill the victim allegedly upon request of a Red Rum Gang leader.

### Commission recommends:

## US Ninth Circuit should stay intact

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Circuit Judge Procter Hug, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, praised the final report of the congressionally-created Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals for its deliberative study and positive principal recommendation to maintain the century-old nine-state circuit as a single administrative entity.

In support of its conclusion, the commission stated: "There is no persuasive evidence that the Ninth Circuit... is not working effectively, or that creating new circuits will improve the administration of justice in any circuit or overall."

The Commission did, however, recommend structural changes to the method of operation of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals through the use of intra-circuit divisions.

The Commission's recommendations have now been incorporated into proposed legislation (S. 253) in the United States Senate.

Hug has released a detailed analysis of the report's recommendations and has appointed a circuit-wide committee of judges and lawyers to address the concerns raised by the Commission.

"The Ninth Circuit has always been willing to re-evaluate itself, its performance, and to experiment with innovations that would lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness... Concerns that have surfaced in the Final Report of the Commission can be addressed with far less disruption than a whole new divisional structure," Chief Judge Hug stated.

He announced the appointment of a 10-member Evaluation Committee to investigate and report its recommendations for improvements on a wide range of issues raised by the Commission.

Chaired by Senior Circuit Judge David R. Thompson of San Diego, Calif., the Evaluation Committee is charged with examining the limited in banc process, the monitoring of panel opinions, regional considerations, and disposition times, among other issues.

In the report, Hug concluded that "...the evidence does not justify the recommended change to a divisional structure for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals." "The disadvantages of such a structure far outweigh the claimed advantages and do not justify disrupting a court that the great majority of judges and lawyers within the circuit are convinced is operating efficiently and effectively."

Earlier recommendations and proposed legislation sought to restructure the existing 280-judge Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by dividing it into three autonomous divisions—Northern, Middle, and Southern.

Generally, the judges residing in each division would be restricted to hearing cases that arise in their division.

Decisions handed down by one division would not be binding on another division.

A new layer of judicial review — by a 13-judge Circuit Division — would be established solely for the purpose of resolving conflicts between two divisions. The use of a circuit-wide en banc court to establish law for the entire circuit, as is used now, would be prohibited under the

Continued on page 43

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| <b>Armour Vienna Sausage</b> (9.25 oz)<br><b>\$1.29</b>          | <b>MORTON Salt</b><br><b>59¢</b>                             | <b>Golden State Vinegar</b> (1 gal)<br><b>\$2.39</b>         | <b>TANG</b> (20 Q/T)<br><b>\$8.95</b>                    | <b>Ground Beef</b> (10 lbs.)<br><b>\$15.95</b>       | <b>Portuguese Sausage</b><br><b>\$1.95</b>              |
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## Uncle jailed for 'sexual conduct'

By Eric F. Say  
Variety News Staff

AN uncle of a 15-year-old minor boy has been jailed pending two charges of criminal sexual conduct.

Vicente Manibusan Ogo is being held at the Territorial Detention Center charged with second degree criminal sexual conduct and a first degree felony and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct as a misdemeanor.

The charges against Ogo stemmed from two incidents that occurred between Sept. 1, 1998 and Sept. 30, 1998.

According to court documents filed by Assistant Attorney General Alicia A. Limtiaco, the victim, only identified as Z.E.C., was riding in a vehicle with his uncle Ogo.

The defendant was to have al-

Continued on page 43

# Nielsen dispels pay cut rumors

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
THE GOVERNOR's special assistant for education issues yesterday dispelled rumors that he suggested a salary cut for public school teachers.

issues clarified that he never told any teachers that Public School System's teaching staff will experience a salary cut. "Those are simply not true," Nielsen told the Board of Education during a meeting yesterday.

tant added that he always said that BOE has a standing policy of honoring the contracts of teachers in full.

"The rumors (which) said that teachers will not be paid or some benefits that is guaranteed in the contract that would not be met is not true. I always stated from what I understand in the policy and it is exactly that. The contracts will be honored in full," Nielsen said in an interview.

Nielsen suspected that some people had used his name to get

other people's attention.

The special assistant reacted after BOE's Teacher Representative Dave Borja brought out the discussion to the board that some teachers allegedly "have heard from the Governor's Special Assistant on Education and news articles in the local media that teachers will receive a salary cut."

Nielsen asked Borja not to listen to rumors because he had never spoken with teachers on that issue.

"I would very much appreciate

if we would cite the name of teachers who said that. Please don't listen to rumors. Listen only to what the education commissioner said," Nielsen told the board.

Borja told the Variety after the meeting that all the issues that he brought into the board such as the teacher certification, salary cut, teachers' payments on June 18 and the teacher-student ratio were all brought up to him by concerned teachers from the three principal islands of the CNMI.

## PSS assures teachers on salaries

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System yesterday pledged to fulfill its obligations to its teaching staff under the 190 days ratio in an apparent effort to allay teacher's fears about not getting their remaining salaries after the June 18, 1999 contract expiration.

Legal Counsel Tim Connor of the school system yesterday said, teachers have the set number of 26 paydays under the 190 school days.

Connor added that if there are still some remaining paydays

that teachers have not received by June 18, PSS will still be paying their salaries.

"Payments depend on the date the contract is effective and we have always honored the 1/190 ratio and we will continue honoring it regardless when the contract ends. If the contract ends on June 18 but we still owe the teacher payments under the 190th ratio, he or she will always get those payments and they will always have it," the legal counsel added.

The issue of teachers' salary payments were brought to the Board of Education meeting

yesterday by Teacher Rep. Dave Borja to pacify teachers from the three principal islands of CNMI.

Connor stressed that PSS will be and is consistently honoring its commitment and obligation to pay teachers under the 1/190 ratio.

Board member Tony Pellegrino assured the teachers' representative that teaching staff will be paid accordingly.

Pellegrino said that PSS has no history of not paying its staff, with or without contract.

## 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

## Rota youth camp-out dubbed 'big success'

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

A TOTAL of 19 male teenagers from the island of Rota recently participated in the first Teenbound Camp-out this year hosted by the House of Manhoben and the Rota Mayor's Office.

According to coordinator Simon Kihleng of the House of Manhoben, the activity was a huge success as different agencies including the Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 4-H Club and the Northern Marianas College came together for the camp-out in Rota two weekends ago.

Kihleng added the aim of the program is for at-risk youths to have a weekend of good and clean fun away from their home surroundings.

Speakers who participated in the camp-out discussed important issues to the 19 participants.

Part of the discussion include the importance of wildlife preservation, health and hygiene, and the effects of drugs and substance abuse in the society.

Representatives from the K-9 unit of the Division of Customs demonstrated how to intercept drugs through the use of trained dogs.

The 19 participants also engaged in various sports activities such as basketball.

Kihleng said the House of Manhoben is targeting four camp-outs this year.

The second camp-out for Saipan youth will be sometime this month

while the Tinian activity is slated tentatively either in May or June.

Funds for the program is being provided by the Division of Youth Services' federal grant

Last year, a total of 100 male and female teens participated in the event and the coordinator is hoping to at least get the same number of youth in this year's four camp-outs.

This summer, the House of Manhoben through a grant from the Criminal Justice and Planning Agency will stage a goodwill sports activity which will include participants from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Kihleng said the activity is set to forge sportsmanship and good relationship among the participants in the three principal islands of the CNMI.

## DFS honors top employees

MARIAN Aldan-Pierce, President of DFS Saipan Limited, is pleased to announce that Shruie Mongkeya and Pedro San Nicolas were selected as first recipients of DFS Employees of the Month in 1999.

An awards ceremony was held by members of Store Operations, Human Resources, and Administration.

Galleria General Manager, Dan Mayer and Asst. Training Manager, Miyuki Kamada conducted the ceremony held in the Galleria Coffee Shop.

Each recipient was presented an Employee of the Month Certificate and \$100 merchandise coupon.

They are now eligible candidates for 1999 Employee of the Year in their respective categories.

Shruie has been employed by DFS since April 1991, and she is currently working at the DFS Airport Shop as a Team Leader. She

was recommended by her Manager Irene Facey.

Pedro has joined DFS since

Continued on page 43



DFS officials pose for a photo with the awardees. From left Dan Mayer, Ben Babauta, Pedro San Nicolas, Shruie Mongkeya, Irene Facey, Rick Lemaich

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|  | <b>COCOA KRISPIES</b> 15 OZ.<br><b>\$2.99</b>        | <b>SNOW P-7 MILK</b> 400 GR.<br><b>\$3.89</b>         | <b>Beachcliff SARDINE</b><br><b>79¢</b>                 | <b>VLASIC DILL PICKLE</b> 1 GAL.<br><b>\$5.99</b>     | <b>PAMPERS</b> 112/96/88<br><b>\$28.95</b>             |  |
|  | <b>LUVS BABY WIPES</b> 84'S<br><b>\$2.99</b>         | <b>COAST BATH SOAP</b> 5 OZ.<br><b>\$1.99</b>         | <b>CLOROX</b> 1 GAL.<br><b>\$2.45</b>                   | <b>SURF</b> 85 LOAD<br><b>\$16.95</b>                 |  |  |
|  |  |   |   | <b>BOUNTY Paper towel</b> 1 ROLL.<br><b>\$1.39</b>    |  |  |

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## DPS reminds boaters on law

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety is reminding the general public about a newly-enacted law that prohibits driving of motor vehicles onto the islands' beaches.

Last month, Public Law 11-61, was signed into law prohibiting the launching of boats or other water-craft from beaches.

PL 11-61 reads that it is "unlawful for any motor vehicle to enter or go upon any beach area or historic site or tourist site within the Commonwealth."

The new law also reads that "it is unlawful to launch boats and other water-craft by means of a motor vehicle, boat trailer or any similar device into the ocean from any beach site other than a launch pad specifically designed for such as use."

Violators will be fined \$200 and/or imprisoned.

In other words, the public is not allowed to drive their motor vehicles, of any type, on the beaches, aside from being prohibited from launching their boats and/or water-craft from the beach.

Continued on page 43

## MARCH MADNESS CLEARANCE SALE

|   |  |   |   |   |
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| <b>Sandwich Prep. Station 48"</b><br>Reg. Price \$2,697.00<br><b>Special \$1,759.00</b>               | <b>Pizza Prep. Station 67"</b><br>Reg. \$4,179.00<br><b>Special \$2,986.00</b>         | <b>Solid Two-Door Freezer</b><br>Reg. \$4,649.00<br><b>Special \$3,119.00</b>         | <b>Freezer w/ Work Top</b><br>Reg. \$2,047.00<br><b>Special \$1,309.00</b>  | <b>3-Door GlassBar Cooler</b><br>Reg. \$3,415.00<br><b>Special \$2,298.00</b> |
| <b>Fryer Station includes 2 Fryers/ Filter System</b><br>Reg. \$2,834.00<br><b>Special \$1,989.00</b> | <b>Lava Rock Char-Broiler</b><br>Reg. \$1,659.00<br><b>Special \$918.00</b>            | <b>4-Burner Range w/ Griddle/Oven</b><br>Reg. \$4,089.00<br><b>Special \$2,919.00</b> | <b>Also available:</b><br>• Exhaust hood 4x8 \$1,372.00<br>• 3 Compartment Bar sink 8" \$913.00 7" \$854.00 6" \$768.00<br>• Stainless Steel Worktable \$394.00<br>• 10" Manual Slicer \$847.00 |   |
| <b>1000 lb. Ice Machine w/ Bin</b><br>Reg. \$7,255.00<br><b>Special \$5,178.00</b>                    | <b>600 lb. Ice Machine w/ Bin</b><br>Reg. \$3,649.00<br><b>SOLD Special \$3,029.00</b> | <b>320 lb. Ice Machine w/ Bin</b><br>Reg. \$4,029.00<br><b>Special \$2,697.00</b>     | <b>20 Qt. Mixer w/ attachments</b><br>Reg. \$3,649.00<br><b>Special \$2,586.00</b>  |   |

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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

## Rota, DOLI to publish mag for both workers, employers

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration, Division of Employment Services will be publishing F.A.M.E. For You Magazine every month. The publication's contents will assist resident workers find a meaningful employment in the private business sector. It will also assist employers

locate qualified resident workers to fill their employment needs, DOLI Rota said in a news release.

The program is in line with Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona's Administration's Pledge and Secretary Mark Zachares' plan to unite the

Continued on page 43

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## Musical extravaganza readied for Flame Tree

FROM the soothing island sounds of the Oloomway Band, to the original folk oriented songs of Kelvin Atalg and the pounding Polynesian rhythms of the Holumua Dance troupe plus the modern synch performances of the Boyz 2 Mix dancer, the Flame Tree Arts Festival's main stage has served to highlight the best of the Northern Marianas' diverse performing arts community.

This year's 18th Annual Flame Tree Festival will continue to feature a wide array of musicians and dancers of all ages and styles. This year's Festival will also see the return of a rear stage, which was included for the first time last year to accommodate all of the performers and performances.

In addition to established and newer performers from the Commonwealth, the two stages will feature traditional dancers from



The Napun Antigo Cultural Dancers at the 18th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

the Republic of the Marshalls, bands and a traditional dance troupe from Guam, the Re Chuuk band from Chuuk and the Xenon Modern Dancers from mainland United States.

The Arts Council encourages anyone who is interested in performing to contact their office at telephone 322-9982 or 322-9983. Bands, soloists, instrumentalists, chanters, solo and group dancers, and drama/theater organizations may register.

Registration is free and their is no age limit for performers. Registration will close today, March 12.

The 18th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is slated for April 23 through 25, 1999 at the American

Continued on page 43

## USS Vandegrift coming

AMBYTH Shipping Micronesia, Inc., as agent for the United States Navy Vessels calling at Saipan announces the scheduled R&R port call of the "USS VANDEGRIFT" March 12th-18th.

The "USS VANDEGRIFT" is under the command of Commander Neal Kusumoto and has 24 officers and 198 enlisted personnel assigned.

The "USS VANDEGRIFT" will be berthed at Saipan Seaport "Baker Dock" and will be available for public tours on March 13th, 14th and 16th from 9-11 am and 2-4 pm.

## Museum fundraiser

FRIENDS of the Arts and Future Friends of the Museum will be holding a fund raising Wine and Cheese event today, March 12, from 5 to 8 pm.

Entertainment for the event will be provided by several island musicians and will include selections for the piano and violin as well as a solo vocalist.

A silent auction will be held highlighted by over 30 pieces of

art by local artists and artisans. A pre-view of auction items will be held at the museum on Thursday evening from 5 pm until 7 pm.

"We invite the public to take part in this worthy fundraising event," the group said.

Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased at the CHC Gift Shop, the NMI Museum, the NMC Bookstore and Coffee Care.

## Join O' Rudolpho OR St. Patrick's Day

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# Palau projects underway

By MALOU L. SAYSON

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Year 1999 marks the start of sculpturing a new development landscape for Palau as a total of eight major infrastructure projects entailing the government to cough up over a quarter billion dollars get underway almost simultaneously.

The top four capital-intensive projects that are in the pipeline include the \$149 million compact road, the biggest project ever to be implemented in Micronesia; the \$36.37 million capital relocation project; the \$1.45 million demolition of the failed and \$28 million construction of the new K-B Bridge; and the \$20-24 million new airport terminal building.

The other four projects are the \$10 million Palau International Coral Reef Center; the \$6.36 million Outlying State Electrical Power Project; the \$3.2 million Peleliu Channel Dredging Project; and the \$3.34 million Malakal Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project.

The approximate total cost of the eight major projects is \$261.73 million.

According to the Capital Improvement Programs Design and Engineering Office of the



Kuniwo Nakamura

Ministry of Resources and Development, the bigger projects are projected to be completed by year 2001 while others like the Outlying State Electrical Power Project are to be finished within the year or by year 2000.

The compact road construction should be completed by October 2001, the same date of completion given to the construction of the new K-B Bridge. The Republic is also bracing itself for the relocation of the seat of government from Koror State to Melekeok State.

According to Ron Gonzales, president of the Winkler & Kelly Palau, Ltd. Consulting Engineers, they did the engineering design for the capital relocation which will be carried out in three

phases.

President Kuniwo Nakamura is hoping that the project cost of \$36.37 million be appropriated this year as he wishes that the construction of the Executive Building be completed within his term before year 2000.

The President told Palau Horizon in an earlier interview that each of the three phases would require \$12 million each, with Phase II covering the construction of the Legislative and the Judiciary Buildings while Phase III for various infrastructure works such as sewerage system, water system and roads.

"It would be very difficult for us to get a grant-aid of \$24 million from Japan for the two last phases," the President said.

Of the \$24 million needed, \$5 million will be sourced from local revenues while the remaining \$9 million will be obtained through a soft loan possibly from Japan, according to the President.

The \$12 million required for the construction of the Executive Building will be acquired through a grant-aid from the government of Japan, he added.

The \$20 to 24 million funding for the construction of cargo building, rescue/fire fighter building and 300-space parking lot for the New Airport Termi-

nal Building Project still needs the approval of the Olbiil Era Kelulau.

Also expected to commence this year is the Peleliu Channel Dredging Project which is also funded by the Japanese government through a grant-aid.

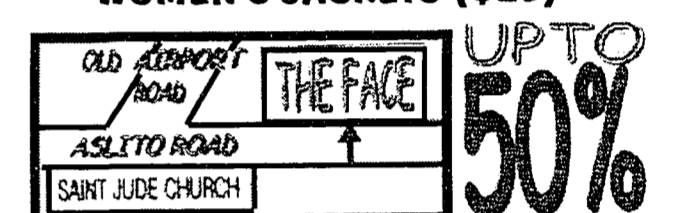
The electrification project for the states of Kayangel, Paleliu, Angaur, Hatohebi and Sonsorol is underway while the notice of award for the Malakal Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project is expected to be issued within this month.

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| <b>H&amp;G Beef Stew</b><br>24 oz<br>\$1.95                                  | <b>Master A-1 Tuna</b><br>\$1.79¢  | <b>MILO</b><br>750 g.<br>\$3.45   | <b>Del Monte Corn</b><br>.69¢                      | <b>SPARKLE Paper Towels</b><br>\$1.15 roll                                       | <b>HORMEL CORNER BEEF</b><br>\$1.19  |
| <b>OX &amp; PALM Corned Beef</b><br>Friday, Saturday & Sunday only<br>\$1.59 | <b>Wesson Veg. Oil</b><br>64 oz.<br>\$3.99                                 | <b>Del Monte Fiesta Fruit Cocktail</b><br>\$1.49                                  | <b>HUGGIES DIAPERS</b><br>1-5 regular<br>\$9.29    | <b>TULIP Luncheon Meat</b><br>12 oz.<br>Friday, Saturday & Sunday only<br>\$1.39 |  |



Children take a bath along a street as they take advantage of a leaking pipe at the financial district of Makati on a warm Wednesday. The Weather Bureau announced that summer is just around the corner despite a very unusual global weather pattern brought about by La Nina. AP

## RP's Maynilad Water plans to raise \$300M from bank loan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Maynilad Water Services Inc., one of two consortiums that secured the concessions in 1997 to run Manila's water and sewage system over the next 25 years, said Wednesday it plans to raise at least \$300 million in a syndicated bank loan.

The loan will be used to finance Maynilad's capital expenditures for the coming five years.

Maynilad, a joint venture between Philippine diversified group Benpres Holdings Corp. and Suez-Lyonnaise des Eaux SA of France, supplies water and operates the sewage system in the western part of Manila, where it currently serves more than 7 million customers.

Maynilad President Jose Gabriel Olives said Bankers Trust has been hired to arrange the loan. He said the loan syndication should be completed by the third quarter.

Olives said Maynilad should turn a profit in three years to five years, with the pace de-

pending on how quickly it can recoup lost water due to leaks and pilfering.

At present, Maynilad gets revenue on only 35 percent of the water it extracts from its reservoirs. Losses due to leaks and pilfering are estimated to have cost the company yearly around 3 billion pesos (\$77 million) in foregone revenue.

Benpres, which owns 60 percent of Maynilad, and Lyonnaise des Eaux have so far infused more than 3 billion pesos (\$77 million) in equity into the joint venture.

Long plagued by a decrepit government-run waterworks, Manila decided to split the system in two and hire separate companies to upgrade and operate each part.

Manila Water Co., a consortium led by Ayala Corp., Bechtel Enterprises Inc. and United Utilities PLC of Britain, won the concession to operate the waterworks in the eastern part of the city.

Olives said Maynilad plugged more than 55,000 leaks last year, but these repairs only resulted in a temporary dip in lost water to around 50 percent. So far this year, the level of lost water has risen, he said.

Maynilad's pipeline network is more than 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) long, through which more than 2.1 billion liters (546 million gallons) of water pass daily. Much of the pipeline was built before World War II and is dilapidated.

Furthermore, water is either rationed or has to be supplied by tank trucks in many areas of the city.

Olives said a large portion of the investments will be used to rehabilitate the waterworks system.

Under its agreement with the government, Maynilad must provide water and sewage services to 90 percent of its service area by the year 2002, and the whole area by 2007.

## Myanmar foreign minister to visit RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Myanmar Foreign Minister Win Aung will make a three-day visit to Manila to seek Philippine support for his country's participation in a meeting between the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, an official said Wednesday.

Win Aung, who arrives Sunday, will discuss a "possible formula for unraveling the deadlock" with the EU on Myanmar's status in the ASEAN-EU meeting, the Philippine foreign affairs official said.

The foreign ministers of ASEAN and the EU are scheduled to meet at the end of March in Berlin, but the European nations have said they do not want Myanmar to attend because of the military government's poor human rights record.

Myanmar, formerly called Burma, was admitted to ASEAN in 1997.

In their meeting with Win Aung, Philippine officials will "express disappointment" on human rights conditions in Myanmar, said the foreign affairs official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We'll say that ASEAN is hav-

ing difficulty defending Myanmar in the international community over recent political developments there," he said.

ASEAN also includes Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Win Aung is scheduled to meet Philippine President Joseph Estrada on Monday, a day after his meeting with Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

The official also said Win Aung will be briefed by Philippine officials on recent developments in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which are claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

Tensions over the Spratly chain heated up following the enlargement by China of concrete structures on Mischief Reef, which is also claimed by Manila.

Manila will also seek Myanmar's support for Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rosario Manalo's bid to head the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Manila is the last leg of Win Aung's tour of ASEAN. He also is scheduled to visit Japan and South Korea, the official said.

## RP food poisoning downs over 100 athletes, coaches

CEBU, Philippines (AP)—More than 100 student athletes and their coaches attending a regional Philippine sports festival were hospitalized with food poisoning, officials said Wednesday.

All but 21 of the 110 people hospitalized Tuesday in the town of Bantayan in central Cebu province were later discharged and planned to rejoin the annual high school sports competition, the officials said.

Maria Luisa Loberanes, an official at a town hospital where the victims were taken, said they suspect the food poisoning was caused by spoiled ham eaten by the victims at the start of the sports festival Tuesday.

Those who fell ill were part of about 400 delegates from Negros Oriental province who were served rice, eggs and ham, she said.

About three hours after eating the food, many of the athletes began having stomach pains.

Each of the four provincial delegations, consisting mostly of about 1,400 public and private high school students, brought their own food to the island, located 88 kilometers (54 miles) north of Cebu City.

"The ham could have been spoiled because of improper storage or preparation," Loberanes said.

Bantayan Vice Mayor Gerilyn Escario said they requested extra doctors and medical supplies, including 250 bottles of dextrose, to treat the food poisoning victims.

## Economic zone for info tech eyed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government is considering the establishment of a special economic zone, primarily for information technology companies, within a 64-hectare (158-acre) site at Fort Bonifacio, a former military camp near Manila's financial district of Makati.

This was disclosed Wednesday by Rogelio Singson, chairman of the government's Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The authority, along with a consortium led by local holding concern Metro Pacific Corp., is

developing 214 hectares (528 acres) of the 440-hectare (1,086-acre) Fort Bonifacio into a corporate city.

Singson said President Joseph Estrada has already ordered a study of various ways of maximizing the benefits of the 64-hectare (158-acre) area inside the military complex.

The lot was originally meant to house a sports and recreation area and a golf course, as part of the agreement between the bases authority and the Metro Pacific consortium, which won the right to develop Fort Bonifacio with the

government in 1995.

Estrada, however, ordered a review of the agreement after the government failed to clear the lot of squatters.

Singson said that while there has been no official green light from Estrada on the proposed economic zone, "there appears to be a strong preference" for such a project because of its vast revenue and employment generation potential, compared with a golf course and sports and recreation area.

He said the bases authority is preparing a feasibility study for the proposal.

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## Forest rangers on fire alert

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Despite an expected longer rainy season, the government has ordered the country's 6,000 forest rangers to be on a 24-hour alert to prevent a repeat of last year's destructive forest fires, an official said Wednesday.

Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles said the rangers have been asked to man 133 forest watch stations nationwide and conduct fire prevention drills in villages close to

forests in drought-prone regions starting this month.

Although forest fires occur yearly in the Philippines, a severe drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon triggered wildfires that destroyed thousands of hectares (acres) of forest lands last year and in 1997.

Most of the blazes were believed to have been started by the use of fire to clear land, mostly by farmers and agricultural firms.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific

# S. Korea denies part in Kiribati escape of ship

TARAWA (Pacnews) — A South Korean diplomat has assured his country will deal with a fishing vessel incident which caused a diplomatic row between Kiribati and South Korea last month.

The former South Korean Ambassador to Kiribati, Moon Byung Rok, says his country

regrets the actions of the crew of the vessel, the Jasmine Nine, which escaped from Betio Port last month.

The Korean longliner was under detention for allegedly fishing illegally in Kiribati waters.

The President of Kiribati, Teburoro Tito, accused the Fiji-based South Korean Ambassa-

dor of being involved in the escape.

Ambassador Moon, who met with Kiribati officials in Tarawa last week in one of his last official assignments before his departure, stressed that his Government nor its agents are in any way connected or respon-

Continued on page 31

## Race on for Vanuatu presidential elections

PORT VILA (Pacnews) — In Vanuatu, 23 candidates have put forward their names to become the next President of the South Pacific republic succeeding Jean Marie Leye.

Besides Leye, who is candidate to his own succession, are Sethy Regenvanu, once deputy Prime Minister, and Father Bani, a Presbyterian pastor who has been a companion of the late Father Walter Lini, since the struggle for the independence of Vanuatu in

the late seventies.

To be elected, the candidate must gather two thirds of the vote of the electoral college, composed of the 49 members of Parliament, and the heads of Vanuatu's six provinces.

As none of the major parties hold a two third majority in the electoral college, intense negotiations have already started about who is to be Vanuatu's next President.

The election will be held on March 17.

## Rodent-borne virus outbreak in Fiji

SUVA (Pacnews) — Medical authorities in Fiji have confirmed three people have died from an outbreak of a virus carried by rodents.

The leptospira-rois virus causes fever, muscular pains and jaundice, and is contracted by consuming food and water

contaminated with urine from rats and other infected animals.

Authorities have urged the public to observe general hygiene in food preparation.

Senior Health official, Doctor Bijen Ram says several cases of leptospira-rois and viral hepatitis have been detected

in the last few weeks.

He says the number of cases has been rising steadily since January.

Doctor Ram says health centres in the main urban areas have treated several patients affected by the two viruses.

## Tonga King's son elected

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — The King of Tonga's second son has been elected ahead of the veteran speaker of the Kingdom's Legislative Assembly in this week's national elections.

Honourable Ma'atu is among two newcomers in the line-up of nine noble representatives.

The 33 members of the nobility have elected them for the next

three years.

The King's son won over Honourable Fusitu'a, who's been a member of the Assembly for eight years.

Another sitting member, Honourable Kalanivalu-Fotofili, lost his seat to Honourable Fohe.

The other noble representatives who've been elected include the

Continued on page 33

## PNG, Australia to negotiate a new treaty

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — The Papua New Guinea Government is preparing to hold fresh talks with Australia in efforts to draw up a new Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between the two countries.

The current aid treaty expires next year.

PNG Prime Minister, Bill Skate, says he is keen to see a new treaty in place that would benefit Papua New Guinea in its current tough economic times.

Skate says Papua New Guinea needs help through partnership.

He says he is sure Australia will listen to its needs and that both sides can amicably negotiate a treaty that is good for both countries.

PNG's Opposition warned this week that the issue of a new treaty is critical, because of a recent warning by the Australia-PNG Business Council that Australian businesses could progressively pull out of PNG in the next 10 years if PNG's economy does not improve.

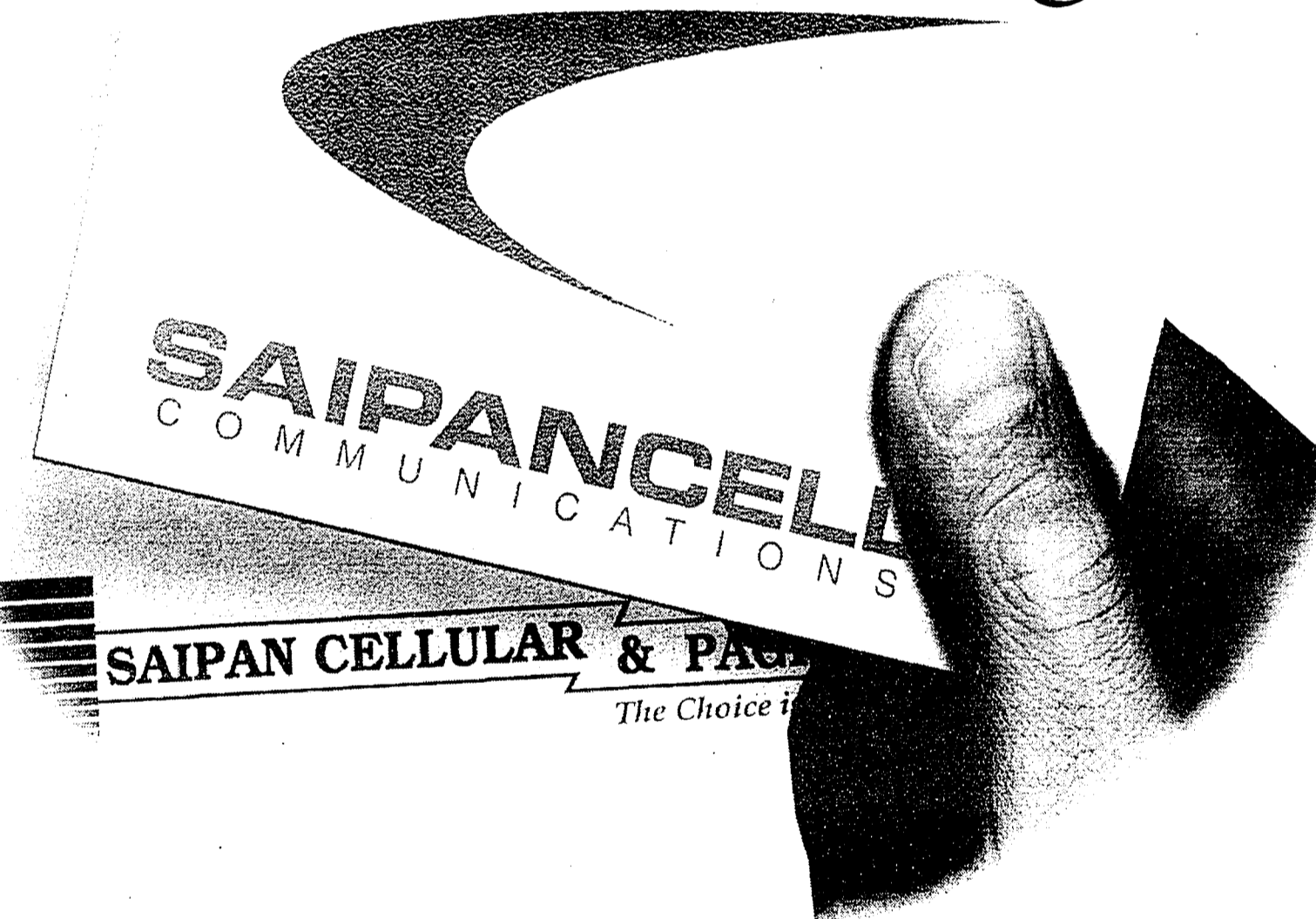
## Solomons warned of economic crisis

HONIARA (Pacnews) — Solomon Islands Opposition Leader, Solomon Mamaloni, warns his country faces economic collapse if the Government's economic reform programme is implemented.

According to a Radio Australia report, Mamaloni reiterated that the Government's reform programme is not homegrown, but is a set of proposals designed by overseas experts for consultation work with the Solomon Islands Government in June 1997.

# Nice to meet you.

(again)



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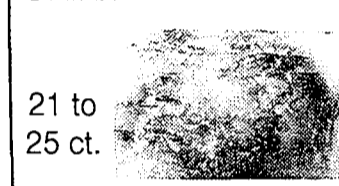
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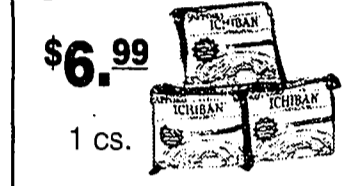
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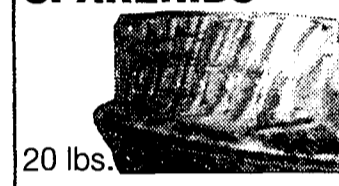
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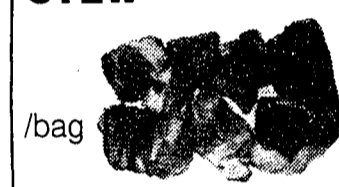
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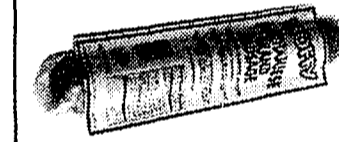
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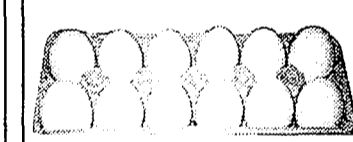
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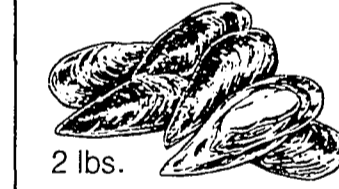
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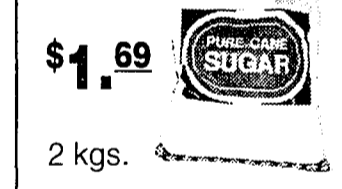
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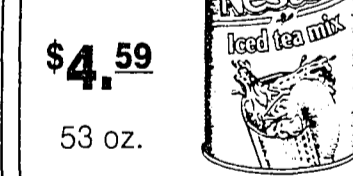
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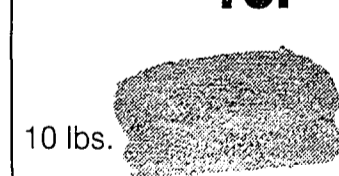
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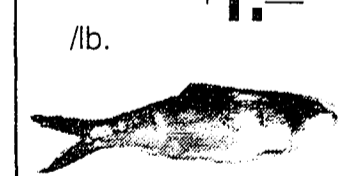
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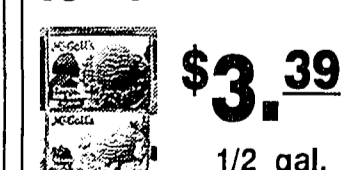
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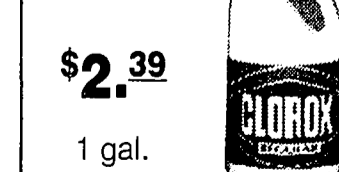
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## Japan urges US for telecom deregulation

By J.L. HAZELTON  
TOKYO (AP) — The United States must be ready to compromise if Japan is to sign off on a progress report on opening the two countries' economies, a senior official said Wednesday.

"A two-way dialogue must be secured for the government of Japan to sign the report," said Toshiyuki Minami, director of the trade policy office in the Post and Telecommunications Ministry.

Last year's deregulation report was 100 percent for the United States and zero for Japan, he said, and Japan won't let that happen again. Both sides have to make concessions, he insisted.

The two countries hope to reach concrete agreements in such areas as telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and construction by the end of March.

That may not happen, but by the time U.S. President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi meet in Washington, possibly in May, something should be worked out, Minami said.

One of the top priorities has been telecommunications. Washington wants Nippon



Keizo Obuchi

Telegraph and Telephone Corp. to lower the fees it charges other carriers for connecting to its local lines. It also wants wider access for new companies to NTT's underground networks and the poles of utility companies.

Minami, in a briefing for English-speaking journalists, discussed Japan's efforts to deregulate its telecommunications industry, offered a rebuttal to some U.S. complaints, and listed five points that he said Japan must see progress on.

Japan wants the United States to do away with the right to deny foreign telecommunications companies entry into the U.S. market on the "ambiguous" grounds of "foreign policy" or "trade concerns."

It complains that a two-tiered system of regulation — on the state and federal level — hinders entry into the U.S. market.

It wants to see the so-called "benchmark rules" abolished as interventionary. These are meant to bring international phone rates for Americans closer to the actual costs of providing calls by setting benchmarks above which U.S. companies would not pay foreign carriers.

Japan also wants to see an imbalance in Internet connection fees rectified. Currently, all costs for leased circuits between Japan and the United States are born by the foreign telecommunications operators and Internet service providers.

And finally, Japan wants to see the United States introduce a new method of calculating charges that accounts for the likelihood that costs will fall in the future.

## Instant nail polish machine



Eriko Hayashi, an employee of Atlas Inc., shows off newly-painted finger nails before her company's NailMore machine in Tokyo Tuesday. The machine — a coin-operated nail painting provider — offers more than 100 different designs at 150 yen a nail. Targeting high school students, the machine will make its debut this summer. AP

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Surrounded by reporters U.S. envoy William Perry delivers a statement at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo Wednesday after meeting with top Japanese officials. Perry concluded his Asian tour to Beijing, Taipei, Seoul and Tokyo and left for Washington later in the day. AP

## Marine in Okinawa gets 14 mos.

TOKYO (AP) — A U.S. Marine was sentenced to 14 months in jail reduced to seven months for binding a fellow serviceman by the wrists and ankles in a hazing case, a Marines spokesman said Wednesday.

Lance Cpl. Martin P. Sewell, 20 of Saihat Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, will serve only four months of his sentence in military prison as he has already spent 95 days in pretrial confinement, the Marines spokesman Maj. Dan Ryan said.

Sewell was found guilty at a court-martial Tuesday in the hazing attack against Pfc. Aaron T. Lemon on Nov. 29, 1998, Ryan said.

Sewell's sentence was reduced to seven months under the plea agreement, Ryan said. Sewell has been in pretrial confinement since Dec. 4 with his co-defendants Pfc. Shaun M. Duckworth, 22, of Fairborn, Ohio and Lance cpl. Ronald F. Morris Jr., 20 of Dallas, Texas.

The three, based at Camp Fos-

ter in Okinawa, were charged with binding Lemon of Columbia City, Indiana, in his barracks, and covering his mouth with heavy tape. Lemon was bound until he broke loose about 12 hours later.

An injury on Lemon's hand was discovered during a regular inspection on Nov. 30 and he was operated on and spent five days in the hospital.

Ryan said the trial date for Duckworth has been set for Thursday and the trial date for Morris on March 15.

## Bomb explosions rock Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Three bombs exploded in the Sri Lankan capital, killing one person and injuring 12 others, police said Wednesday.

Deputy Inspector General of Police T.N. de Silva blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the blasts around midnight in the business district of Pettah and near the Maradana railroad station in central Colombo.

Police detained eight Tamils for questioning. "The blasts had the hallmark of the LTTE," de Silva told The Associated Press.

The rebels want a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.3 million Tamils, accusing the 14 million Sinhalese majority of discrimination, a charge the government denies. Over 57,000 people have died in the insurrection since 1983.

The Pettah bomb hidden in a tape recorder was left on a bus with 22 passengers. It was bound for the southern port city of Galle, 110 kilometers (70 miles) south of Colombo when the bomb went off.

Eleven people were injured, and one died later in hospital.

The second blast occurred near Maradana station, injuring two railroad workers.

The third blast damaged an electricity transformer, also in the Pettah area, which disrupted

electricity supply to parts of the business district.

In the northern war zone, Tamil snipers shot and killed an army captain and two soldiers Wednesday in an area which the military claimed to have seized from the rebels over the weekend, military officers said.

The incident was about 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Vavuniya, said the officials on condition of anonymity.

The military said it took control of more than 200 square miles (500 square kilometers) without a fight over the weekend, with more than 10,000 people in 17 villages. Some 3,000 soldiers carried out the offensive, code-named "Operation Battle Cry."

Sri Lanka's 16-year-old separatist war is mainly fought in the north and east. But the rebels often target Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, to cause economic losses or to focus attention on their campaign.

Last year, the Tamil Tiger rebels were blamed for two major attacks in Colombo.

In March, a bomb hidden in a bus exploded and killed 43 people.

A month earlier, a suicide bomber blew up herself at the gate of air force headquarters in downtown Colombo, killing eight people.

## Cathay Pacific sees \$69M loss

HONG KONG (AP) — Cathay Pacific Airways said Wednesday it lost 542 million Hong Kong dollars (\$69 million) last year, running up its first red ink since 1963 as passenger traffic plunged amid Asia's economic crisis.

The loss compared with Cathay's profits of 1.69 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$217 million) in 1997.

Experts had widely predicted a loss for the carrier that also was hurt by a deep recession in Hong Kong, but Peter Tang, airline analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd., said the results were above his expectations.

Earlier in the day, Cathay said it had seen signs of a turnaround, with January revenue higher than expected. In an internal newsletter, Hong Kong's flag carrier also reported a record number of passengers on flights out of Hong Kong before the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday last month.

Cathay shares rallied by 5.1

percent in a trading session that ended before the company announced its losses.

The airline said its 1998 revenue fell to 26.70 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$3.4 billion) from 30.65 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$3.9 billion) in 1997.

Cathay said it got hit by a number of one-time charges that came to 869.0 million Hong Kong dollars (\$111.4 million), up from 347 million Hong Kong dollars (\$44.5 million) in exceptional items a year earlier. Cathay spent millions on severance payments to employees, while writing down the value of some retired aircraft and parts.

Cathay has been seeking cost-savings from its workers, leading it into a drawn-out confrontation with flight attendants late last year when the company said they would have to work more hours to get a pay increase. Cathay has recently said it wants to cut the salaries of its pilots but might offer them stock options in return.

## China complains to US on banned satellite sale

BEIJING (AP) — China warned Wednesday that the United States' cancellation of a \$450 million commercial satellite sale to a Chinese-controlled consortium would harm trade relations.

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation spokesman Hu Chusheng said Beijing lodged a strong complaint with Washington over the cancellation of the sale by Hughes Electronics.

The United States was using "the excuse of foreign affairs policy and national security interests" to quash the deal, Hu said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Hu warned the cancellation would have "a negative effect" on China-U.S. trade and eco-

omic cooperation, but did not elaborate.

The Clinton administration said the decision to reject the sale, initially approved in 1996, came after Asia Pacific Mobile Telecommunications, the Singapore-based consortium that was to purchase the satellite, took on more Chinese investors with direct links to the Chinese military.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry earlier said it strongly resents the cancellation of the deal and dismissed suspicions of military uses as groundless.

Foreign trade spokesman Hu reiterated that China follows international norms for civilian-use satellites and that the deal would have been in the interests of both China and the United States.



People gather at Hong Kong's Time Square to attend a switch-on ceremony of the first millennium countdown clock in Hong Kong Sunday. AP

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# Microsoft eyes China expansion

By MARCOS CALO MEDINA  
SHENZHEN, China (AP) — Microsoft Corp. moved boldly Wednesday to increase its presence in China, with one deal to let the Chinese get onto the Internet via their televisions and another selling lots of software to the mainland's central bank.

China's Internet market is tightly restricted by authorities who want to control the dissemination of information, but it is growing rapidly all the same. And Microsoft boss Bill Gates said a new joint venture with state telephone monopoly China Telecom could bring the Internet to many more people.

"It will really open up Internet usage in a dramatic way," Gates told reporters at a signing ceremony in the booming southern border city of Shenzhen, where he appeared on stage amid blinking strobe lights to the sound of loud dance music.

Gates was vague about many of the specifics of his venture, dubbed "Venus," but he hopes to sell the Chinese products that will let them



Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corp. (left) and Linus Cheung, Chief executive of Hong Kong Telecom (right) push a giant replica of "Start" button at a ceremony in Hong Kong Tuesday to launch their Internet joint venture to provide movies and other home entertainment to people in Hong Kong via computer. AP

download movies, music, e-mail and other services through televisions, computers and video equipment.

Gates said Microsoft also will sell the People's Bank of China, the mainland's central bank, enough software for 10,000 desktop computers in "the biggest agreement of its kind that we have done." No purchase price was disclosed.

In the Internet deal, Gates teams up with China Telecom, which operates Chinanet, the mainland's biggest Internet system. Microsoft is banking on electronics manufacturers to install the necessary hardware into their products that are distributed across China, so consumers can then use Microsoft software to get onto the Internet.

Gates, the world's richest man, hopes to give his U.S. software giant a stronger presence in China, where it began selling software in 1985 and now operates a research center in Beijing.

China Telecom gains a blue-chip foreign partner with expertise in software, marketing and the management of online services.

At his stop in Shenzhen, not far from the Hong Kong border, Gates told local reporters that Internet growth in China was encouraging.

At one appearance by Gates, foreign reporters were cordoned off so they could not ask questions; at another, Gates declined comment about Microsoft's antitrust case in the United States.

Despite threats to information dissemination in China, Internet use has soared. Users topped 2.1 million in 1998, a fourfold growth in a year, and another 1.5 million accounts are expected to be opened this year.

High-tech analysts believe the growth is unstoppable.

"Sooner or later, technology will find a way to circumvent restrictions," said Charlie Peza, a telecommunications analyst at the Hong Kong office of investment bank Salomon Smith Barney. "The policy direction in China seems to be one of opening up."

Microsoft's venture is the second of its kind in China. Microsoft went to Shanghai last year with a similar deal that offers Internet services over small, handheld computers.

The deal comes at a time when the Chinese government has been seeking encourage more use of the Internet, but also to control the Internet and other innovative forms of telecommunications and multimedia services, both so it can make money and block online political dissent and pornography.

China has deployed special computer crime squads to help police the Internet.

In a case that drew fierce criticism from human rights groups last year, a Shanghai court sentenced a computer entrepreneur to two years in prison for exchanging 30,000 e-mail addresses with an Internet democracy magazine run by U.S.-based dissidents.

Microsoft would not comment on China's suppression of the free flow of information, according to Juliet Wu, general manager of Microsoft (China) Co. Ltd.



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If bankruptcy law amended:

# Thai official warns of doom

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's finance minister predicted a national nightmare will engulf the country if the Senate weakens bankruptcy legislation drafted by the coalition govern-

ment. The Nation newspaper reported Wednesday.

"All hell will break loose," Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, the finance minister, told the paper in an exclusive interview.

A Senate vetting committee has already taken the bite out of many of the clauses in the bill written by the government and passed by the House of Representatives.

The full Senate will hear a sec-

ond reading of the bill on Friday and vote on it. However, three readings are required before legislation is considered passed.

The bankruptcy bill is designed to make it easier for creditors to recover collateral from debtors who haven't paid, and ultimately reduce the amount of nonperforming loans held by Thailand's banks, estimated at 46 percent of all loans.

"A crisis will spread like wildfire, and it is the country and the majority of Thai people who will suffer," Tarrin told the paper.

"The government will have to use more public money to keep banks afloat, and yet banks will not release much-needed liquidity into the economy because they will consider bankruptcy tools a toothless tiger. Foreigners will turn their backs on us and our economy will go under," Tarrin said.

Tarrin has vowed to reduce that percentage to 30 percent by year's end, and the bankruptcy bill is crucial to achieving that goal.

The finance minister is under fire from adversaries in the opposition, some coalition partners and farmers and activists groups who accuse him of ignoring their plight while bailing out rich bankers.

The bankruptcy bill is part of a package of 11 bills aimed at reforming the economic and legal system that have been urged on the country by the International Monetary Fund, which is overseeing a \$17.2 billion bailout of the Thai economy.

The Senate has been a stumbling block for attempts by the government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai to pass reforms wanted by the IMF.

The Senate, which is an appointed body consisting mainly of wealthy businessmen, contains some of Thailand's biggest debtors.

A statement by the Senate committee said it toned down the bills because now "is a time for humanitarianism, not for going after thieves."

## WB forecasts contraction of Indonesia's economy

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's economy would contract mildly in the 1999/2000 fiscal year before returning to modest growth the following year but only if it sticks to an economic reform program, the World Bank predicted Wednesday.

In a report, the Washington-based bank warned that if global conditions worsen the economy could dip by as much as three percent in the next fiscal year — which begins April 1 — and could remain stagnant the following year.

The Indonesian economy contracted by 13.7 percent in the 1998 calendar year, according to Indonesian Government estimates.

The Government predicts it will contract by 12 percent during the fiscal 1998/99 year, while the World Bank estimates the contraction will be closer to 13 percent.

The World Bank forecasts Indonesia's budget deficit will remain stable at about 4.8 percent of gross domestic product in 1999/2000, roughly the same as in the current fiscal period.

Assuming the Government sticks with reform and the rupiah's exchange rate remains stable, the bank sees a one percent GDP contraction this year, while the economy should grow by three percent the following year.

The World Bank forecast the inflation rate for 1999/2000 at 20 percent, and at 10 percent the following year.

The Government has predicted inflation at 17 percent for the upcoming fiscal year.

Forecasting macroeconomic data for Indonesia under current circumstances is clearly difficult however, the Bank noted.

"It is virtually impossible to project alternative trajectories of social and political developments within Indonesia and the effects they will have on the economy," the report said.

"These will have to be monitored carefully as they occur and their economic consequences assessed on an ongoing basis."

Indonesia is facing landmark, multi-party elections in June with many predicting renewed social and political unrest on the country's streets in the lead-up to and beyond those elections.

Elsewhere in its report, the World Bank said its aid strategy for Indonesia is "subject to considerable risks and uncertainty," namely that of political and social unrest.

It also referred to possible political interference in planned bank restructuring, the continued fragility of the banking system and "possible opposition from vested interests," which may lead to more delays in reform.

This in turn, could mean that "economic stability may not return to Indonesia for some years and normal access to international capital markets may be delayed."

The Bank said it was unlikely that private international investment would return to Indonesia any time soon, "at least (not) until urgent bank and corporate restructuring efforts proceed further."

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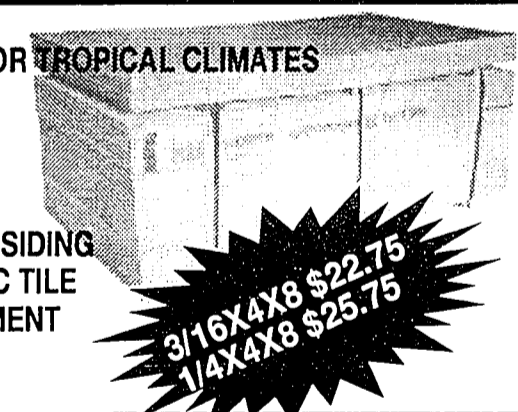
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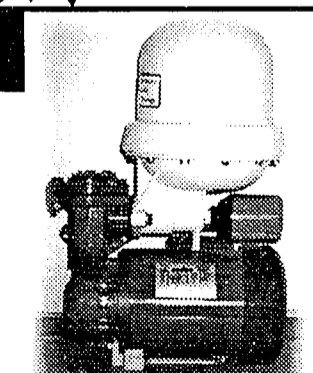


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## In Cambodia

## Toxic waste cleanup begins

By CHRIS FONTAINE  
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A Taiwanese petrochemical firm has begun cleaning up nearly 3,000 tons of toxic waste in Cambodia that has been blamed for the deaths of six people, the government official who negotiated its removal said Wednesday.

Local newspapers reported Tuesday the recent arrival of 20,000 containers at Sihanoukville seaport, 10 kilometers (six miles) from where the mercury-laced waste of Formosa Plastics Corp. was dumped in December.

Formosa has hired 160 Cambodian soldiers to pack the waste and surrounding top soil into the environmentally-sound containers, said Om Yentieng, a top aide of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"They have started the operation," Om Yentieng said. "It is a military job. They will repackage, clean up and transport the waste," out of Cambodia, he said.

The Taiwanese company negotiated an agreement with Om Yentieng on Feb. 25 to clean up the dump site within 60 days, but has so far refused to discuss the Cambodian government's demands for a multi-million-dollar compensation package for damage to the environment.



Singaporean opposition politicians Chee Soon Juan (left) and Wong Tong Hoy release a pigeon to symbolize freedom in front of the Queenstown Remand Prison from where they were released Saturday in Singapore after serving twelve day sentences for violating a public speech law.

If the cleanup is not completed by the 60-day deadline, Formosa faces penalties of \$1,000 to \$5,000 a day. The United States-

based environmental management company CDM International has been hired as an independent monitor to ensure the operation is done to international safety standards.

The waste—described as "brine sludge contaminated with mercury"—was discovered by environmental officials in a crude dump outside Sihanoukville in southwest Cambodia.

## Singapore needs 'detention without trial law,' says gov't

By LAURINDA KEYS  
SINGAPORE (AP) — A 50-year-old security law designed to combat communists by detaining them without trial is still necessary because other nations are plotting against Singapore, the government told Parliament Wednesday.

"China doesn't present the same threat as before," Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong acknowledged in answering an opposition member's call to repeal the Internal Security Act, first passed as an emergency law by British colonial authorities in 1948.

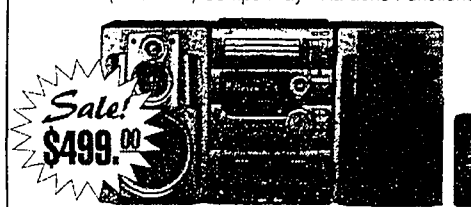
But he said, "We are not in toyland where everyone can be taken at face value. There is a certain amount of cloak and dagger and skulduggery" against Singapore, Lee said, even though the problem of the communist menace "is much less now."



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## Over missiles, strikes comment

## China lashes out at Japan

BEIJING (Reuters) — China lashed out at Japan on Wednesday, saying Tokyo's interest in a U.S. missile defence shield and its debate on launching pre-

emptive strikes against threatening states made Asia uneasy. "The defence rhetoric and actions recently taken by Japan have aroused wide concern and

uneasiness among East and Southeastern countries including China," the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

"All countries concerned have been monitoring Japan's movements, which could have a profound impact on regional and global security," Xinhua said in a signed commentary.

Last week, Japanese media said a draft paper by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party called on the government to consider pre-emptive strikes if threatened by imminent attack, including one by missiles.

Xinhua noted the negative reactions of South and North Korea and repeated Foreign Min-

istry spokesman Zhu Bangzao's comment on Monday that Japan's idea "would only lead to new confrontations and tensions in the region and be quite disturbing for Japan's neighbours."

The idea was prompted by North Korea's launch of what was believed to be a new three-stage Taepodong rocket last August. It soared over Japan and splashed down in the Pacific, indicating all of Northeast Asia was within Pyongyang's range.

Shortly after the surprise test, Japan decided to launch four spy satellites with the aim of gaining advance warning of bal-

listic missile launches.

In addition to the satellite programme, Japan has decided to conduct research on a multi-billion dollar joint project with Washington to develop the so-called theatre missile defence (TMD) system.

Though it would take years to build, China has lashed out at the TMD scheme, fearing it would be extended to protect rival Taiwan.

On Tuesday Akitaka Saiki, deputy press secretary for Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, said China was "overreacting" to Japan's plan on the missile defence system because it was only in the early theoretical stages.

## Vietnam PM Khai set to visit Japan, Australia

HANOI (Reuters) — Vietnam Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will make official visits to Japan and Australia in late March and early April, a government spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

"In order to further strengthen the multi-faceted cooperative relations between Vietnam and Japan, and Vietnam and Australia, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will visit Japan in the last week of March 1999, after that he will visit Australia," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Phan Thuy Thanh said in a statement. She did not elaborate.

Australian diplomatic sources said that while Khai's visit "was likely" they had received no official communication to specify the dates.

Other sources expressed concern that Khai may face loud protests from sections of Australia's large, and predominantly anti-communist, Vietnamese community.

Former Communist Party chief Do Muoi was the last senior Vietnamese leader to visit Australia when he went to Canberra in 1995, but his trip was marred by controversy when John Howard, then the leader of the opposition, refused to meet the aging revolutionary.

Howard is now Australia's prime minister.

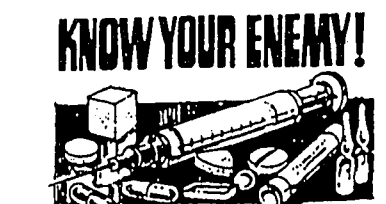
Japanese Premier Keizo Obuchi visited Hanoi in Decem-

S. Korea ...  
Continued from page 20

sible with the escape of the ship. The former ambassador says South Korea will bring to justice under Korean Law those behind the ship's illegal departure.

Kiribati's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kaburoro Ruaia, says the incident has strained relations between Kiribati and South Korea and both governments are working hard to put things right.

He says Kiribati will watch how the South Korean Government addresses the issue, because the outcome would determine the Korean commitment to the two countries' bilateral relations.



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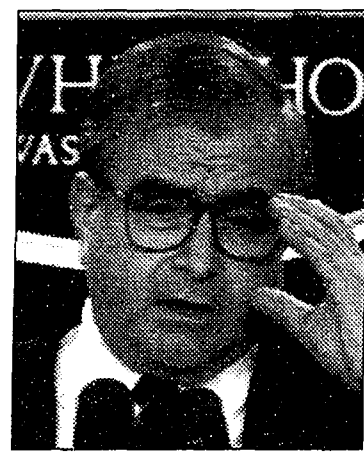
# White House defends Berger

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The White House defended National Security Adviser Sandy Berger on Wednesday after two Republican presidential candidates called for his resignation over the China nuclear scandal.

Republican presidential candidates Lamar Alexander and Pat Buchanan issued separate statements demanding Berger explain what Buchanan called his "dereliction of duty" in failing to alert congressional leaders to the alleged theft of top-secret U.S. nuclear warhead technology.

Lockhart said Clinton had no intention of firing Berger.

"Regrettably it's another example of the Republican attack politics that makes accusations first and gets information later," presidential spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters on Air Force One, travelling with President Bill Clinton between San Salvador and Guatemala City. The New York Times reported



Sandy Berger

on Saturday that China had obtained in the 1980s U.S. secrets for making small nuclear weapons that could be carried on multiple-warhead missiles.

Berger was allegedly informed of the theft in 1996 but reportedly failed to tell Congress.

"In response, Mr. Berger did nothing," said Alexander. "For his unwillingness to act on this

serious matter, Mr. Berger should resign. If he does not, he should be relieved of his duties by President Bill Clinton."

Buchanan said, "The allegations surrounding the transfer of atomic secrets to a potential enemy are the most serious since the Rosenbergs went to the electric chair for atomic espionage in 1953."

"Our security has been compromised, our technology stolen and our cities placed in mortal peril," Buchanan said.

Responding to Alexander's statement, Lockhart said, "This is a particularly unusual one because ... Alexander was involved in the administration when these alleged secrets were stolen. What we really don't need is the kind of grandstanding politics from someone who could offer some insights how this all happened."

Alexander was education secretary in the administration of President George Bush.

Buchanan, who was a senior adviser to President Richard Nixon, was communications director for President Ronald Reagan in the mid-1980s.

Senior U.S. officials, grappling with the growing controversy as Clinton tours Central America, insisted the White House had taken steps to deal with the alleged espionage from the 1980s.

They were quick to blame what they called a scientific, academic culture at U.S. national weapons labs that created a tendency toward sharing information.

"It was quite clear that the labs were very porous, and that the scientists view information as something to be shared," said a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The culture of the labs was not a national security culture."

The allegations have sparked renewed Republican attacks on

U.S. policy toward China, and Vice President Al Gore responded on Tuesday by laying the responsibility on the Republican administrations of Reagan and Bush.

China has denied the charges.

## FAA finds safety gaps at some US airports

DALLAS (Reuters) — Serious security breaches at some major U.S. airports have been discovered in recent tests by undercover federal agents, who were able to sneak by security doors in terminals and get aboard parked planes, the Dallas Morning News said on Wednesday.

As a result, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials are expanding their scrutiny from five to 70 of the country's largest airports for the next six weeks, the newspaper said.

"During recent surprise exercises, federal agents were able to sneak 46 times through security doors at four major airports and then walk around on the tarmac, boarding 51 airplanes unchallenged," the Morning News wrote.

The newspaper said the findings were described in a letter from a senior FAA security official, Retired Admiral Cathal Flynn, to airport officials nationwide.

Flynn warned in the letter that it might be necessary to post guards at every airplane if these security problems were not solved.

"If the testing shows that intruders can still board aircraft, it will be necessary to remove the demonstrated vulnerability by imposing redundant measures, such as guarding the individual aircraft," Flynn wrote.

The letter did not specify which airports failed the tests, but sources familiar with the situation told the Morning News that none of the nation's five largest airports - in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles and New York - was involved.

Flynn's letter was written ahead of a closed-door hearing in Washington on Wednesday by a congressional watchdog, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation.

The findings of the undercover tests were detailed for the hearing in a confidential report from the U.S. Transportation Department, the newspaper said.

The FAA has spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the past 10 years on sophisticated equipment that is supposed to limit access to areas such as terminal backrooms, the tarmac and airplane parking ramps.

# Elizabeth Dole forms exploratory committee

DES MOINES, Iowa (Reuters) — Elizabeth Dole on Wednesday edged closer to becoming a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination by forming a committee to raise money and explore her chances in the already crowded field.

Dole made the announcement at a campaign-style rally in downtown Des Moines, centre of the state which will hold one of the first important tests when voters in the year 2000 choose the party candidates who will slug it out to succeed President Bill Clinton in the White House.

As the 62-year-old Harvard-trained lawyer and former Cabinet secretary made the announcement, she was already airing TV commercials in Iowa and New Hampshire - another crucial early test state - presenting herself as a political outsider offended by Clinton's morals.

"Yes we've been let down, and by people we should have been able to look up to," she tells viewers, adding that she is "not a politician."

Dole carries a familiar name - her husband, former Sen. Bob Dole, lost as the Republican candidate facing Clinton in 1996 - and she has a long record of non-elective government service in addition to heading the American Red Cross. Early polls have indicated she was running second behind undeclared candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush for the Republican nomination.

A new poll released on Wednesday by four TV stations serving Iowa found Bush supported by 36.7 percent of Republicans who will likely attend next year's Iowa party precinct caucuses. Dole was second with 16.4 percent and the rest of the dozen or so GOP hopefuls had 8 percent or less. That poll covered 300 people and had an error margin of plus or minus 5.5 points.

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## Tonga ...

Continued from page 20

Honourables Veikune, Lasike, Tu'ivakano, Fuliwai, Malupo, Nuku and Havea-Tu'ina'angana.

The elections for the nine seats reserved for commoners will be held Thursday.

Tonga's Pro-Democracy Movement is hoping for a clean sweep of all these seats.

A total of fifty-two candidates have been nominated for the nine generally elected seats in the 30-member Parliament.

The election will not involve a change in Government because the King appoints the Prime Minister and the entire cabinet; all the members of which automatically become members of Parliament.



Elizabeth Dole speaks during a rally after announcing that she has formed an exploratory committee to test the waters for a presidential bid in the year 2000 Wednesday in Des Moines, Iowa. AP

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# Leading Republican favors income tax cut

By Adam Entous

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Despite opposition from many moderate Republicans, the powerful chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said on Wednesday he wanted his tax bill to include an across-the-board income tax cut of at least 10 percent.

Breathing life into a controversial tax proposal that appeared to be losing Republican support, Chairman William Roth told Reuters he was "very much in favor" of using bigger-than-expected budget surpluses to fund an across-the-board income tax cut of 10 percent or more.

But Roth, the Senate's chief tax writer, said the cuts should be phased in slowly to leave room for more targeted tax breaks. "I don't think it's too big," the Delaware Republican said of the 10 percent income tax cut. "If anything, I'd like to have it bigger."

Republican leaders have made tax cutting the centerpiece of their post-impeachment agenda, even though Democrats point to polls showing that Americans are more interested in bolstering the Social Security retirement programme and the Medicare health care programme for the elderly and disabled.

So far, however, the Republican majority in the House and Senate has been unable to reach a consensus on which taxes to cut or when to start cutting. Republicans would need unity to pass any tax-cut bill, especially in the House, where they hold a razor-thin 222-211 majority over Democrats.

Failing to pass a big tax cut

could hurt Republicans at the polls in 2000 because the party wants to prove it can do more than impeach a popular president.

Under a draft House-Senate budget blueprint unveiled last week, Republican tax cuts would start off small, \$10 billion to \$15 billion in fiscal year 2000. But Republican tax cuts would grow to at least \$800 billion over the next decade.

The tax cuts would be phased in slowly because Republicans have promised to set aside "every penny" from federal budget surpluses owed the nation's Social Security retirement system.

Non-Social Security surpluses that Republicans could use for major tax cuts would emerge in later years, unless government revenues grow faster than expected.

Many top Republican leaders besides Roth favour an across-the-board income tax cut of 10 percent or more, which would cost \$743 billion to \$900 billion over the next decade.

But that proposal had drawn heavy fire from the White House, congressional Democrats, and some moderate Republicans. Democrats say it would make rich Americans even richer, and give little money back to the poor and middle class. Many moderate Republicans complain about the price-tag.

Several less-costly tax cutting proposals have emerged in the House and the Senate. One of the most popular would ease the so-called "marriage penalty," which results in some married couples paying more in taxes than when they were single.

## NISSAN MARCH SAVINGS

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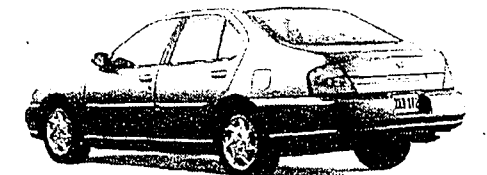
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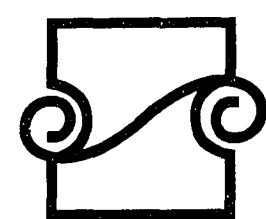
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With livability agenda'

# Gore woos US suburbs

By Randall Mikkelsen  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Vice President Al Gore is sounding a new theme as he gears up for a run at the presidency in 2000: making America nice for suburbanites.

The vice president used this week, while President Bill Clinton travelled in Central America, to promote what he calls a "livability agenda" that addresses headaches of the vote-rich suburban middle class, such as traffic jams, urban sprawl and airline hassles.

"When parents are on the car phone talking to their kids, explaining why they can't be home for dinner, why they can't read a bedtime story, that really has an impact on the quality of life in families," Gore said on Monday in

promoting modest new steps to fight traffic congestion.

On Wednesday, he announced steps to make "airline travelling more pleasant for everyone."

Although Gore's effort departs from traditional working class Democratic concerns such as labour issues, even Republican operatives acknowledge that Gore has seized on a potent issue at a time of peace and prosperity in America.

"Gore has got the right idea," said Republican pollster Frank Luntz. "People focus on standard of living when their jobs are in jeopardy and when their wallets and pocketbooks are empty, but when jobs are plentiful and money is available they look at what some people would call the finer things in life but what the smart individual



Vice President Gore, flanked by Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater (right) and James Corsetty of Rockville, Md., unveils the Airline Passenger Fair Treatment Initiative during a ceremony in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington Wednesday. The initiative will help ensure that airline consumers are treated fairly before and after a flight, and provide more information to passengers. Corsetty wrote a letter to Continental Airlines after an unpleasant flight earlier this year. AP

would call ... life's decencies."

Gore points out that in 1998 elections, more than 200 communities voted on, and most passed, measures to "manage sprawl and enhance local livability."

Much as the 1996 election campaign catered to the busy "soccer mom," the 2000 campaign is expected to focus on a battle for the suburbs where voters are more politically moderate than the Democrat's traditional urban constituency.

In most recent polls on the 2000 campaign, Gore, regarded as the likely Democratic nominee, trails the two Republican front-runners for the presidential nomination, Texas Gov. George W. Bush and ex-Cabinet official Elizabeth Dole.

Luntz criticised Gore's proposed solutions for relying too much on government actions, and said they

created an opening for Republicans.

"If life were perfect, Republicans would seize the quality of life initiative and Republicans would talk about common sense solutions for a better quality of life ... individual solutions, community solutions, neighbourhood solutions," Luntz said.

Gore advisers acknowledge that issues on the livability agenda are a pitch to the suburbanites, but they say the problems he seeks to solve, such as urban sprawl, affect a broad swath of Americans.

"It's very much a suburban issue, but what really makes it transcend is that it's both a rural issue and an urban issue as well, because how communities grow affects all three," said one aide.

Gore also argues that improving the quality of life in communities

makes them economically more attractive.

The agenda overlaps with traditional Gore issues such as the environment - for example, by promoting ways to protect urban green space and national parklands. But it also wraps in more conservative issues such as fighting crime by helping police forces in different jurisdictions work together.

Aides also say Gore's attention shows that he is in touch with concerns of ordinary Americans. "I think the vice president's recognising that on the local level traffic is an important issue shows that he knows what kinds of issues people are really caring about and facing," the aide said.

Gore's livability agenda comes as he is trying to sharpen his political image after loyally serving Clinton for six years.

"As a presidential candidate, when I become one, I will be in a very different relationship to the American people," Gore said in an interview Tuesday with CNN television.

## ATM fee restrictions supported in US House

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The House of Representatives Banking Committee on Wednesday adopted a measure to make operators of automatic teller machines notify customers of any fees for the use of their machines.

The committee is debating a bill to modernise the U.S. financial services industry by allowing banks, brokerages and insurance companies to enter each other's businesses.

Many ATM networks already notify users of the fees they charge for withdrawals and other services, though there is currently no law mandating they do so. The new measure would require operators to post notices prominently on their machines and to include fee information on screen during the transaction process.

The amendment was sponsored by Committee Chairman Jim Leach, an Iowa Republican, and ranking Democrat John LaFalce of New York. It was adopted by a 48-1 vote.

The issue has received close attention in Congress, with several lawmakers advocating a complete ban on ATM fees. Leach said the current amendment was as far as the committee could realistically go on the issue.

"This is the best chance for the most progressive change at this time that could prevail," he said. "This is the most progressive thing that Congress can pass at this time."

The committee is still meeting on several contentious issues that stand in the path of reform of Depression-era U.S. banking laws.

A looming fight over the Community Reinvestment Act, which forces banks to lend in low-income neighbourhoods where they take deposits, appeared to have been defused, though.

Leach said members of both parties had agreed not to push controversial amendments to either expand or restrict the CRA.

Congress has tried for two decades to revise banking laws to facilitate the formation of one-stop financial conglomerates that could meet all of a consumer's banking, insurance and investment needs. A bill that passed the House by a single vote last year failed in the Senate during the last Congress.

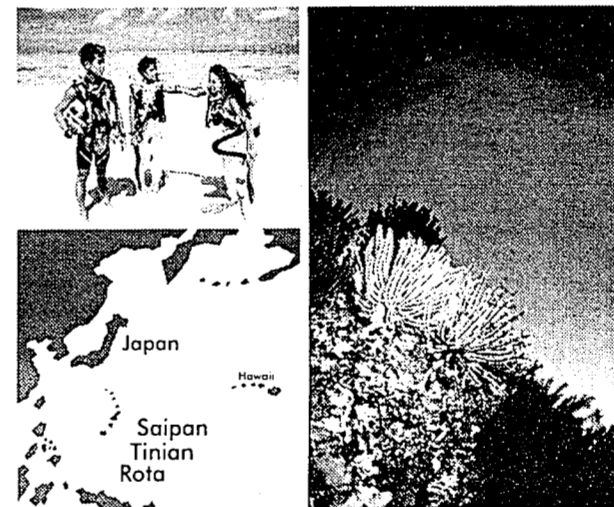
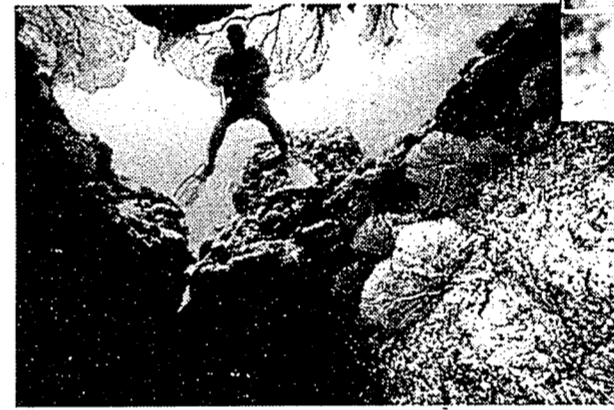
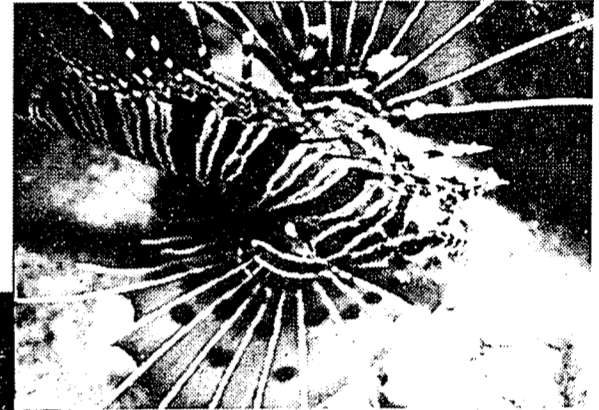
Last week, the Senate Banking Committee voted along party lines to support a bill to modernise the banking industry that Democrats warned would draw a veto from President Bill Clinton because he believes it weakens the CRA.



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When: April 17, 1999 - 7:00am check-in (Reservations required)

Registration deadline April 9, 1999

\$20 ENTRY FEE PER DIVER - Includes entry to the achievement banquet.

Dive sites:

Saipan: Chinsen shipwreck • Tinian: Barcinas Bay • Rota: Snake Eyes shipwreck

Orientation: Friday, April 16, 1999

6:00pm at American Memorial Park Amphitheatre

Banquet: Saturday, April 17, 1999 - location to be announced

- You MUST be a certified diver to participate.
- Please contact participating MVA member dive shops about \$20 entry fee.
- Completed applications must be turned in to the MVA office by 5:00pm on April 9, 1999.
- Only the amount of divers that can be accommodated at the selected sites will be picked. (Example - 400 divers can dive the site(s), 400 applications will be pre-selected by raffle on April 9, 1999. The drawing date will allow time to inform those that were picked.
- All divers must participate in the orientation on Friday, April 16, 1999 - 6:00pm at American Memorial Park Amphitheatre. All divers must follow instructions given by officials at the orientation day. Divers who do not follow the instructions given will not be allowed to participate.

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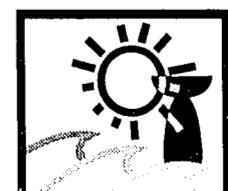
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
PSS IFB 99-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of Pedestrian Covered Walkway to the cafeteria located on the Hopwood Junior High School campus on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Specification requirements may be obtained at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 during regular working hours except holidays. Copies of these documents may be obtained by payment of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each set to the PSS Treasurer, CNMI Public School System, 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid a copy of his business license as compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A pre-bid conference for this project will be held at 8:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at the project site at Hopwood Junior High School, Chalan Phao, Saipan. If bidders would like to visit at any other time, they are required to get prior approval from the School Principal Mrs. Lourdes Mendiola. All questions/concerns must be submitted in writing at the pre-bid conference.

A bid bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be a certified check, cashier's check, bid bond or other forms acceptable by the government made payable to the PSS Treasurer, CNMI Public School System, 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid a copy of his business license as compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All bidders are required to submit their responsibility determination documentation in compliance to PSSPR3-201. Responsibility determination documents must be submitted in separate envelope and facemasked "IFB99-003 Responsibility Determination" and the responsibility determination documents are due on the date, time, and place of the bid opening.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Public School System and will be required to deliver performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified on the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is forty five calendar days. Liquidated damages to be assessed at a rate of \$100.00 for each and every calendar day work is delayed beyond the specified completion date.

Attention is called to the Labor Standards Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure plans and payments of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth. All documents received shall be the sole property of the Public School System. Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the bid bonds certified checks or cashier's check which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specification "Individuals for bidders" page 1-2 No. 5 Bid Guarantee.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to award or to reject any or all bids if in its sole opinion to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

S. RITA HOCOG INOS, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

S. LOUISE CONCEPCION  
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Department of Labor and Immigration  
Division of Labor

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following person (employee of Handford Dev. Inc.) with pending Labor and Agency Case is hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Enforcement Section (J.V.S.), Located on the 2nd Floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan on the date prescribed below:

| NAME          | LABOR & AGENCY CASE NO.              | INVESTIGATION DATE & TIME    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dongmei Li | Labor Case #98-125<br>CAC #98-081-03 | March 23, 1999<br>10:00 a.m. |

Failure to appear at the Division on or before the date and time specified above shall be ground for dismissal of the above cases and appropriate action and/or sanction shall be taken against the above individual, including the referral of this matter to the Immigration Office for their actions.

Dated this 9th day of March, 1999.

/s/JOE S. ADA  
Acting Director of Labor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council  
Assistive Technology Project

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance to the "Open Government Act", the second CNMI Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Board Meeting will be held at the Office of the Aging Conference Room, Garapan on March 29, 1999 at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Interested persons are invited to attend.

**AGENDA**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Quorum Present
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Last Meeting
- E. Amendments to AT by-laws
- F. Update on AT Center
- G. Assistive Technology Act (ATA) 1998
- H. Updates on Conference
  - RESNA Conference
  - Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program (ATAACP)
- I. Miscellaneous
- J. Adjournment

If you would like to present information to the Advisory Board during the session, please contact the CNMI Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council Assistive Technology Project Office at 322-3014 (Voice/FDD) or 322-3015 (Voice) to schedule a five-minute time on the Agenda. If you need accommodations for orally or visually communicated information, please contact our office seven(7) days prior to the meeting to request such accommodations.

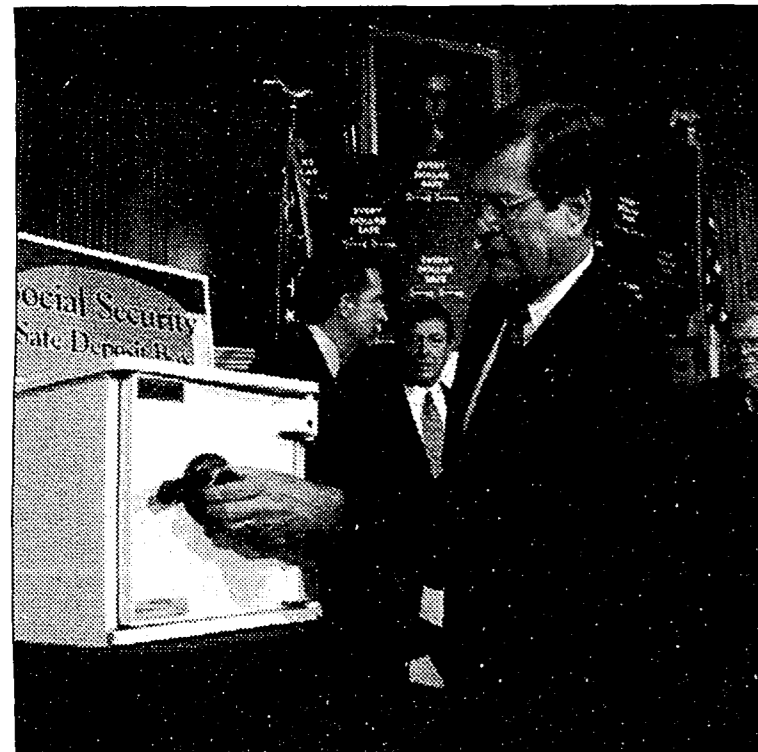
/s/Daniel L. Canuacho  
Chairman, CNMI AT Advisory Board

Happy Birthday!

**James Ivan Castro**

We love you and may the lord bless you more.

With Love & Care, Mom & Dad,  
Your Brothers & Sister



Senate Majority Leader Sen. Trent Lott plays with a safe Wednesday in Washington. The GOP announced a plan to lock away all of the Social Security Trust Fund surplus for seniors. In background are Sen. John Ashcroft and House Speaker Dennis Hastert. The safe was a prop used for a photo opportunity by the group. AP

## US House votes to protect patients

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a bill that would prevent nursing homes from evicting Medicaid patients, who are generally less profitable for the homes than those who pay privately.

The House voted 398-12 to approve the bill, sponsored by Florida lawmakers after scandal last year in which a Tampa nursing home tried to kick out 53

Medicaid patients when it decided to stop participating in Medicaid. The Senate has not yet voted on the bill, but it has bipartisan support there and is expected to pass fairly soon.

The bill protects Medicaid patients from being evicted if a nursing home decides to withdraw from Medicaid, a federal health-care program for indigent patients.

Many elderly nursing home patients spend down their assets

and end up relying on Medicaid for their long-term care, making them less profitable for the homes than higher-paying privately insured patients.

Under this bill, nursing homes could not evict current patients, but if the homes voluntarily withdraw from Medicaid they would have the right to warn incoming private-paying residents that they might have to move if they use up their funds and become Medicaid beneficiaries.

In April 1998, Vencor Inc was fined \$260,000 by Florida regulators for evicting 53 Medicaid residents from a Tampa nursing center.

The company had said the discharges were necessary so that it could renovate the facility. In addition, Vencor attacked what it said were flaws in Medicaid, saying they made it uneconomical to house Medicaid recipients.

The company said it has since readmitted the evicted residents in Tampa.

## US steel quota bill clears House panel

By Donna Smith

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — A key House of Representative's panel on Wednesday sent a bill that would slap quotas on cheap foreign steel imports to the full House for a vote despite opposition from a majority of its members.

The House Ways and Means Committee decided by voice vote to send the bill to the full House with a recommendation that fellow lawmakers reject it. But House members are expected to ignore that advice as well as White House opposition and pass the bill supported by U.S. steel companies and workers who say they are suffering from a flood of cheap imports.

The bill could make President Bill Clinton politically uncomfortable because it is backed by many of his own Democrats including House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, who has fought the president on other trade measures. Administration officials said it would violate international trade rules.

"Because of these concerns, the president's senior advisors would recommend that the president veto the bill," White House Chief of Staff John Podesta said in a letter to Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer.

The Texas Republican also opposes the legislation, but brought it before the committee at the request of House Republican leaders who said it should be sent to the full House despite committee opposition.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to drive a wedge between the president and House Democrats who stood by him during the impeachment proceedings. But Republicans said they decided to send it to the floor to avoid procedural maneuvering that could have forced it to come to a vote anyway.

Archer said he feared a move to limit steel imports would spark a round of global protectionism.

"It strikes fear in my heart as to what might happen to our economy and the rest of the world if everybody in the world goes



Bill Archer

protectionist," Archer said.

"This legislation sets a bad example for our trading partners, many of whom are recovering from the global financial crisis and have themselves resisted closing their markets to imports in times of trouble," said Representative Philip Crane, an Illinois Republican who heads the Ways and Means trade subcommittee. But supporters of the bill say it is needed because the White House has failed to take action to curb a surge of cheap steel imports. The administration has resisted calls by U.S. steel companies and workers to initiate a case under safeguard laws that allow the president to impose temporary curbs on surging imports if they are found to be hurting U.S. companies.

The administration has threatened to take action against Japan if imports from that country fail to decline to 1997 levels, but has been reluctant to move against other countries struggling to recover from financial crisis.

Officials negotiated an agreement with Russia to curb imports from that country in exchange for suspending an anti-dumping case brought against Russia by U.S. steel companies and workers. Imports from Japan and Brazil have fallen sharply in recent months as the Commerce Department put importers on notice they could pay hefty anti-dumping duties on those supplies pending the outcome of an anti-dumping complaint brought by the industry and workers.

## Woman gets \$3.7-M in Isuzu case

**VENTURA, Calif. (AP)** — A woman who lost a leg and suffered brain injuries in an Isuzu Rodeo accident has been awarded \$3.7 million by jurors who found the auto company negligent in testing the sport utility vehicle.

Irene Gutierrez, now 23, was one of four passengers in the 1995 Rodeo that tipped over in 1996 when the driver lost control while changing lanes at about 70 mph.

Driver Richard Soliz, who suffered a separated shoulder, previously settled with Gutierrez and was dismissed as a defendant, said Christine Spagnoli, Gutierrez's attorney. The other passengers received minor injuries.

Isuzu was ordered to pay \$3.7 million for economic, pain and suffering damages. Soliz was found partially responsible.

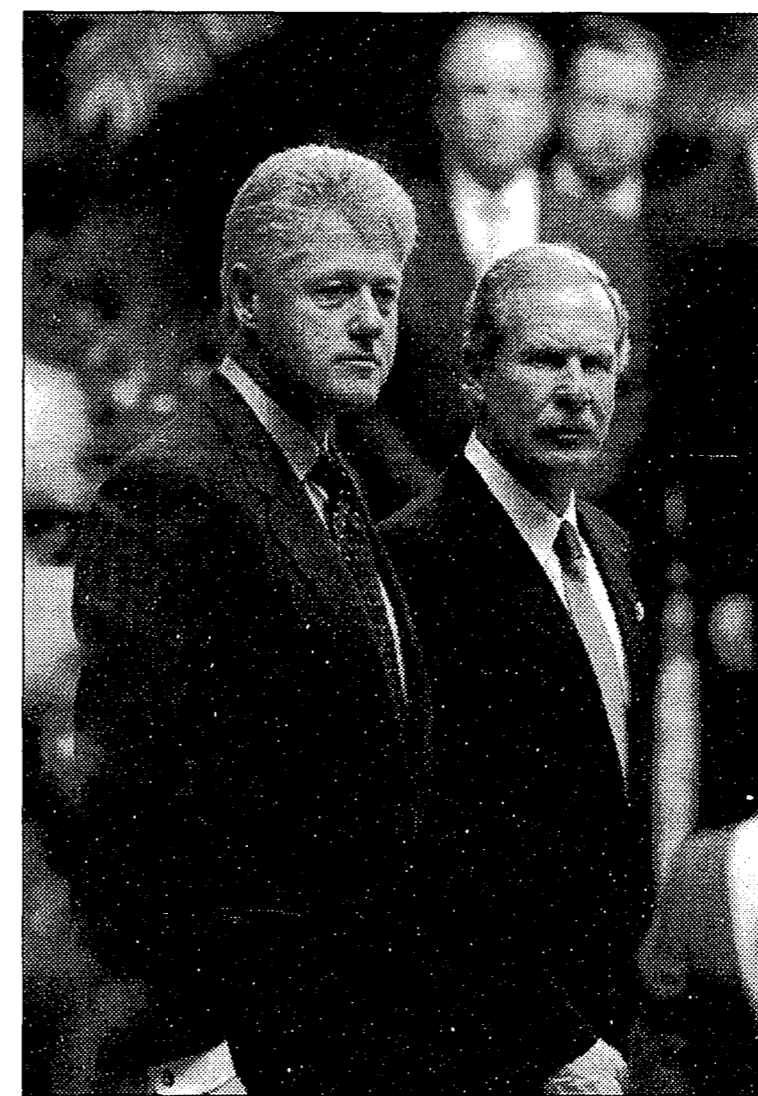
Isuzu Motors America Inc. had not decided if it would appeal Friday's ruling, said Terry Maloney, vice president of corporate relations.

"The driver handling of this vehicle and a driver's input has much to do with how a vehicle reacts," Maloney said Tuesday. "I think it's important to note in this case, the jury did not find the design of the Rodeo to be defective in any way."

Maloney did not know if the 1995 Rodeo had been tested specifically for "rollover resistance." Gutierrez's attorneys had the vehicle tested for rollover resistance and presented evidence that the vehicle tipped at 42 mph.

Gutierrez, a college student at the time of the accident, now lives with her family. She suffers from memory loss and impaired judgment, and uses a prosthetic leg.

# Clinton arrives in Guatemala



President Clinton (left) stands with Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu during official welcoming ceremonies at the presidential palace in Guatemala City Wednesday. Guatemala is the final stop for Clinton on his four-nation, four-day Central American tour. AP

**By Arshad Mohammed GUATEMALA CITY (Reuters)**

U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in Guatemala from El Salvador on Wednesday facing recriminations over Washington's decision to resume deportations of illegal immigrants fleeing the fury last autumn of Hurricane Mitch.

Before leaving El Salvador, Clinton said in a speech to the Legislative Assembly there he agreed most illegals sneaking into the United States were just looking for a dignified life.

"Nevertheless, we must continue to discourage illegal immigration for it undermines control of our borders... and even more punishes hard-working people who play by the rules and who wait for their turn to come to the United States."

"Therefore we must enforce our laws, but we will do so with justice and fairness," he said on the third day of a goodwill tour of a region devastated last October by one of the strongest Atlantic storms on record.

As in El Salvador, Clinton was expected to hear appeals in Guatemala for a continuation of an amnesty for refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador fleeing the disaster, which killed an estimated 9,000 people and caused billions in damages.

The Miami Herald reported on Wednesday Guatemala and El Salvador were balking at signing a communiqué being drafted for a summit with Clinton because of disagreements over immigration and child labor.

But Guatemalan and U.S. officials denied that acrimony over the looming deportations cast a cloud over Thursday's summit, due to be held in Guatemala's museum-city

of Antigua, one of the first colonial settlements in Latin America. Guatemalan officials told Reuters they were trying to change the wording of the final communiqué, but they denied categorically that Guatemala would not sign the non-binding document unless Washington changes its immigration policies.

"Guatemala has never said it will not sign the document, but since the deportations are still planned, the wording has to be changed," said Ella Molina, assistant to Foreign Minister Eduardo Stein.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters on board Air Force One that U.S. officials had checked with Guatemala and El Salvador following the report and "could find no evidence of resistance." "There's nothing to that (report) as far as I know," Lockhart said.

But the decision by U.S. authorities to soon resume deportations has certainly ruffled feathers.

The United States suspended deportations of illegals in November to help Guatemala and El Salvador recover, but now believes they are ready to resume taking their citizens back.

President Alvaro Arzu called the decision "incoherent."

Lockhart said U.S. immigration officials and the U.S. Justice Department were studying whether Guatemalans and Salvadorans could benefit from special treatment given to Nicaraguans under a 1997 law that takes account of "extreme hardship." He said the White House believed applying the exception did not need Congressional approval.

"We do believe that we have the legal authority to give what's called

"a presumption of extreme hardship" to Guatemalans and Salvadorans," he said.

He added that he had been told the study would be completed "relatively soon."

Clinton also said in El Salvador he hoped Central America will see the United States as a partner in strengthening democracy as he acknowledged the dark role the United States played in the region's brutal civil wars of the 1980s.

"The wars are over," Clinton said. In his speech to the Salvadoran legislature, Clinton did not apologize for the U.S. role in a "dark and painful period" - U.S. support of authoritarian right-wing governments against leftist insur-

gents. The policy generated deep mistrust among Central Americans of their giant neighbor to the north. "I hope the people of Central America now see the United States in a new way, as a partner, a friend, a colleague in the process of strengthening democracy, in reconstruction and reclaiming your right future," Clinton said.

## USED CARS SALE

| STOCK#  | CARS | MODEL            | LIC.#    | SELL  |
|---------|------|------------------|----------|-------|
| U97-284 | 1991 | CADILLAC DEVILLE | AAZ-759  | 2995  |
| C98-034 | 1998 | CADILLAC         | ABV-662  | 1995  |
| C98-004 | 1991 | BUICK CENTURY    | ABA-217  | 2495  |
| U98-205 | 1991 | CAMARO           | AAR-479  | 3995  |
| C99-002 | 1989 | BMW              | ABO-853  | 3495  |
| U98-231 | 1995 | CAMRY XLE        | ABB-877  | 13995 |
| C98-035 | 1992 | CAMRY XLE        | AAW-849  | 4995  |
| U99-050 | 1994 | CAMRY V6 LE      | ABA-240  | 10995 |
| U98-269 | 1991 | CAMRY LE         | AAZ-411  | 3595  |
| U99-045 | 1990 | CAMRY            | AAZ-204  | 3595  |
| U99-019 | 1990 | CAMRY            | AAZ-171  | 3995  |
| U99-010 | 1996 | CAMRY            | ABW-572  | 12495 |
| C98-032 | 1992 | CAMRY            | ABL-421  | 5995  |
| U98-148 | 1992 | CAMRY            | ABL-211  | 5995  |
| U98-215 | 1992 | CAMRY            | ABC-280  | 4995  |
| U98-113 | 1992 | CAMRY            | AAZ-620  | 4495  |
| C98-036 | 1991 | CAMRY            | AAW-175  | 3995  |
| U98-155 | 1991 | CAMRY            | ABB-471  | 3995  |
| U98-243 | 1996 | CAMRY XLE        | ACB-811  | 14995 |
| U98-209 | 1996 | COROLLA          | ABJ-787  | 3995  |
| C99-001 | 1996 | COROLLA          | ACA-232  | 10995 |
| U99-047 | 1995 | COROLLA          | ABT-701  | 6995  |
| U98-046 | 1995 | COROLLA WGN      | ABT-252  | 8495  |
| U99-048 | 1994 | MAZDA PROTEGE    | AAW-399  | 2495  |
| U98-189 | 1993 | MAZDA 626        | AAZ-127  | 5595  |
| U98-236 | 1992 | MAZDA 4DR        | AAZ-244  | 8995  |
| U98-194 | 1995 | MAZDA            | ABK-309  | 8995  |
| U98-220 | 1992 | MAZDA            | ABK-302  | 6495  |
| C98-025 | 1991 | MAZDA            | ABC-362  | 1495  |
| U98-273 | 1997 | HONDA CIVIC      | ABE-697  | 8995  |
| U99-030 | 1995 | HONDA CIVIC      | TAXI-642 | 6995  |
| U99-036 | 1991 | HONDA            | ABE-582  | 3995  |
| U98-270 | 1990 | HONDA ACCORD     | ABD-992  | 4995  |
| U99-035 | 1995 | NISSAN SENTRA    | ABS-932  | 6995  |
| U98-212 | 1991 | NISSAN SENTRA    | ABD-999  | 3995  |
| U98-205 | 1992 | DIAMANTE         | AAZ-706  | 5295  |
| C98-033 | 1991 | SUBARU WGN       | AAU-568  | 1995  |
| U99-059 | 1998 | HYUNDAI ACCENT   | ABL-138  | 7295  |
| U98-161 | 1993 | HYUNDAI SCOUTER  | AAZ-187  | 11995 |
| U98-257 | 1995 | SONATA           | AAZ-606  | 4595  |
| U98-147 | 1994 | SONATA           | ABO-682  | 4995  |

| STOCK#  | TRUCKS | MODEL               | LIC.#   | SELL  |
|---------|--------|---------------------|---------|-------|
| U98-035 | 1991   | 4-DR CAB            | AAZ-544 | 2995  |
| U98-264 | 1991   | 4-DR CAB            | AAV-275 | 2995  |
| U98-222 | 1991   | 4-DR CAB            | ABO-812 | 2995  |
| U97-118 | 1990   | 4-DR CAB            | AAM-987 | 2995  |
| U98-255 | 1991   | 4-DR CAB            | ABF-230 | 2995  |
| U98-041 | 1991   | 4-DR CAB            | AAZ-469 | 6995  |
| U98-037 | 1995   | 4-DR CAB            | ABA-497 | 5995  |
| R98-011 | 1998   | TACOMA 4x4          | ABD-899 | 13995 |
| C98-031 | 1997   | TACOMA 4x4          | ABJ-345 | 10995 |
| C98-043 | 1996   | TACOMA 4x4 N-CAB    | ABC-547 | 11995 |
| C98-022 | 1997   | T100 4x4 N-CAB      | ACC-231 | 13995 |
| C98-021 | 1996   | T100 4x4 N-CAB      | ABD-136 | 11995 |
| R99-001 | 1996   | T100 4x4 N-CAB      | ABD-247 | 11995 |
| R98-013 | 1996   | T100 4x4 N-CAB      | ABC-700 | 5995  |
| U98-016 | 1995   | T100 4x4 N-CAB      | ABU-872 | 11995 |
| C98-002 | 1995   | T100 4x4            | ABC-296 | 9995  |
| U99-054 | 1993   | T100 4x4            | ABA-948 | 6995  |
| U98-118 | 1989   | MAZDA 4X4 B2000     | AAM-114 | 1595  |
| U99-040 | 1995   | FORD RANGER         | ABD-765 | 9995  |
| U98-130 | 1996   | GMC SIERRA PR P     | ABE-273 | 16995 |
| U99-028 | 1992   | ISUZU 4X4 SPACE CAB | ABA-445 | 4995  |

| STOCK#  | SPORTS UTILITY | MODEL           | LIC.#   | SELL  |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------|
| U98-013 | 1996           | RAV-4 2DR       | ABF-948 | 12495 |
| U98-178 | 1996           | RAV-4 2DR       | ABE-426 | 10995 |
| U99-008 | 1990           | 4-RUNNER        | AAK-747 | 6995  |
| U98-268 | 1990           | 4-RUNNER        | AAP-146 | 6295  |
| U98-094 | 1990           | 4-RUNNER        | AAM-139 | 8495  |
| U97-034 | 1991           | 4-RUNNER        | AAV-815 | 7995  |
| C98-003 | 1991           | 4-RUNNER        | AAZ-125 | 7495  |
| U98-204 | 1993           | 4-RUNNER        | AAZ-550 | 11495 |
| C98-029 | 1994           | PREVIA          | ABC-773 | 7995  |
| U98-074 | 1989           | PATHFINDER      | AAS-291 | 2995  |
| U98-054 | 1991           | MAZDA MPV       | AAV-795 | 4995  |
| U98-199 | 1990           | JEEP 4DR LAREDO | ABL-013 | 6695  |
| U98-242 | 1994           | MONTERO         | AAZ-834 | 7995  |
| U99-027 | 1992           | ROCKY           | AAZ-700 | 4995  |

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### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is selling a used fire truck and generator by soliciting for the "best offer" on the following:

- Two (2) Fire Trucks (RFP: CPA-99-01)
- One (1) 900 KVA, Self-Contained Caterpillar Generator (RFP: CPA-99-02)

#### Equipment Description:

##### Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Trucks

- Engine model D3474A/M180, P-4, (1)
- 6 Cylinder Diesel, 395 cu. in. displacement
- Transmission (importable) model CLT4601, 6 speed fwd., 1 reverse
- Air compressor model TU FL0500, Capacity: 12 cfm at 1250 rpm
- Water Pump model CH04, single stage centrifugal, discharge capacity: crash mode 1200 gpm @ 240 psi; struct mode 1000 gpm @ 150 psi
- Water Tank - 1500 gal. Foam Tank - 200 gal.
- 8 cylinder, 2-cycle Detroit Diesel engine, 350 hp, 2300 rpm, type A/532 P-2; one each
- Allison automatic HT-740D transmission, 4-speed fwd., one reverse; one each
- Water pump - centrifugal, gear driven with 1,400 gpm @ 250 psi
- Foam pump - centrifugal, gear driven with 120 gpm @ 250 psi
- Water tank - 2300 gal. Foam tank - 200 gal.

##### Caterpillar 900 KVA Generator Model 350S

- Self-contained in a 40' container, complete with 500 gal. fuel tank
- Rated speed (rpm) is 900 to 1800
- 2 cylinder 50° engine
- Displacement, Cylinder 2-3 cu. in.
- Control panel with complete features
- 371 operation hours

A more detailed description and specification of the above equipment is available at the Office of the Executive Director, Second Floor, Airport Building, Saipan International Airport. Equipment may be inspected by contacting Mr. Herman B. Hernandez at 44-3555.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP numbers to the office of the Executive Director no later than 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 26, 1999.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please call CPA Administration Office at 44-3553 or the CPA Engineering Department at 44-3554.

\* CARLOS H. SALAS  
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293  
Saipan, MP 96950

### Request for Proposal

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting as RFP from a marketing, advertising, public relations firm or other company to prepare its 1998 annual report. Proposals for this project should be submitted to CDA no later than 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 5, 1999.

Interested firms are requested to obtain a copy of the RFP package at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. MaryLou S. Ada, Executive Director at telephone no. 234-6245 or 234-7145.

The Commonwealth Development Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal in the interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/MaryLou S. Ada  
Executive Director

## Guatemalans tell Clinton

## 'Peace process difficult'

By ELOY O. AGUILAR  
GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — After 36 years of fighting and two of peace, Guatemala has come to the end of its civil war, but is far from the end of its pain.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was meeting late Wednesday with a carefully chosen group of nearly 60 Guatemalans to discuss the war and the process that led to the peace agreement signed in Oslo in De-

cember 1996.

The one-hour session was to be Clinton's first official activity in his visit to Guatemala, part of a four-country tour of Central America, and came two weeks

after Guatemala's truth commission issued its long-awaited report on the war.

The commission found enough blame to go around, saying all participants were guilty of the deaths and disappearances of more than 200,000 people: the government, the leftist guerrillas and the United States, which provided arms, money and spies to the government.

The commission also blamed racism, an unequal distribution of wealth, the Cold War and the anti-communism of the United States.

The commission recommended that Guatemala's president, "before the whole of Guatemalan society, ask for forgiveness" for the

murders and the violations of human rights. It made a similar request of the former commanders of the guerrilla groups.

Clinton was a strong supporter of the peace process, and the United States helped finance both the negotiations and the commission.

President Alvaro Arzu was to attend the meeting, at which several participants planned to tell Clinton of the difficult peace process — much of which remains ahead.

"We expect that President Clinton will make some comments along the way," Foreign Minister Eduardo Stein Barrias said.

No former guerrilla leaders were invited to the meeting.



University students burn an effigy of the United States flag outside the presidential palace in Guatemala City on Wednesday. President Clinton was received at the palace by President Alvaro Arzu of Guatemala. AP

## Site of Clinton summit is tranquil former battlefield

By ELOY O. AGUILAR  
ANTIGUA, Guatemala (AP) — Ten years ago, soldiers stood behind sandbags in front of centuries-old buildings facing the main square.

It was a time of civil war, massacres and middle-of-the-night arrests.

Today there could hardly be a place more peaceful than Antigua, an old Spanish capital that is now a tourists' oasis ringed by three volcanoes and lined with cobblestone streets and whitewashed buildings.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, who helped work out the peace agreement that removed the soldiers and the sandbags, will spend the night here before meeting with Central American presidents in a hotel built over and into the ruins of a 17th-century Dominican monastery.

Antigua Guatemala, the first capital of a Spanish captaincy that included all of Central America, sits among the greenery of the Panchoy Valley. Like most Spanish cities of colonial times, its history is full of tragic love.

This is the city of Pedro de Alvarado, a Spanish soldier who accompanied Hernan Cortez in the conquest of the Aztec empire and was later sent to extend the

empire into Guatemala.

Two decades later he was killed in fighting in Mexico, leaving his 22-year-old widow, Beatriz de la Cueva, in Antigua. She covered the city in black cloth, ordered nine days of mourning and renamed herself "the Unfortunate One."

Torrential rains fell for three days during the mourning, and on the third day an earthquake caused the wet, soft side of the volcano to collapse over the city, burying the Unfortunate One and hundreds of others.

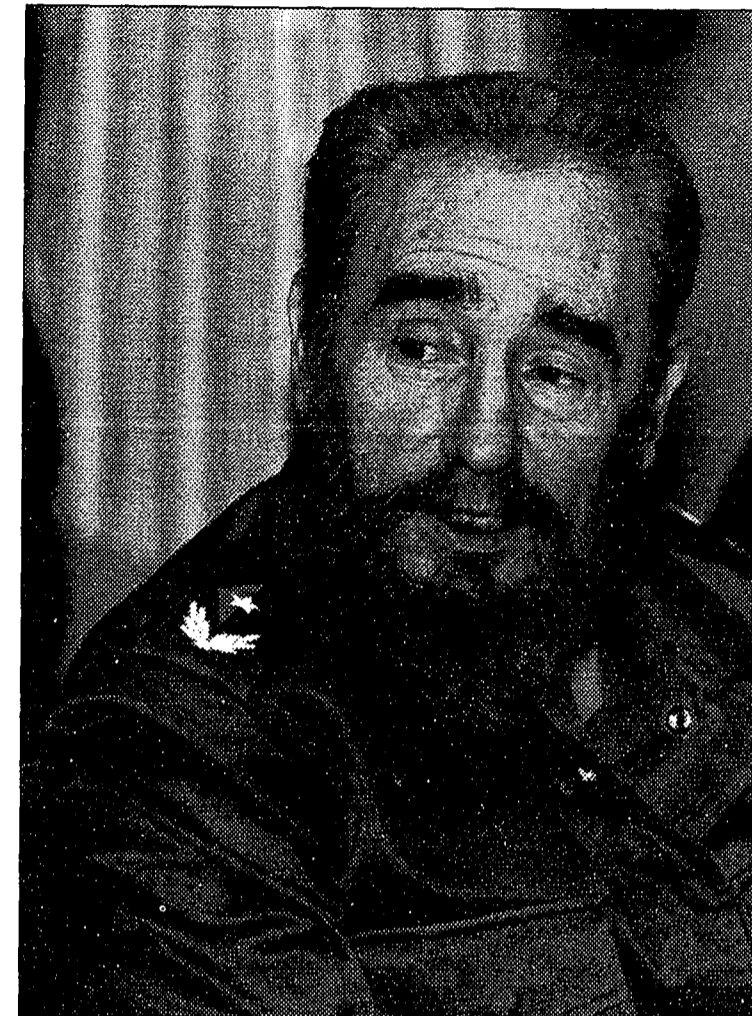
Years later in 1773, more earthquakes nearly destroyed the city, and the Spanish king ordered residents to move 20 miles (30 kilometers) to the east, the site of the modern capital of Guatemala City.

More recently, Antigua was the site of fierce battles during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended with a peace treaty in December 1996.

Antigua was between rebel and government territory, and fighting raged all around it. An estimated 200,000 people died or disappeared during the war.

Antigua Guatemala — "old Guatemala City" — is now a square kilometer of renovated churches, monasteries and old homes.

## Cuba defends anti-US law



Cuban President Fidel Castro gestures Tuesday during a meeting with Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Mitchell at the Revolution Palace in Havana, Cuba. AP

By Andrew Cawthorne  
HAVANA (Reuters) — Havana on Wednesday defended tough new legislation, aimed at curbing internal political opponents accused of fomenting U.S. policy against Cuba, as a legitimate response to decades of "aggression" from Washington.

Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, wrote to parliamentarians around the world explaining the law, which he said had been grossly misrepresented in the foreign media.

"We have the right to protect ourselves and protect others from that (U.S.) aggression - which in four decades has not ceased - and to preserve our independence and sovereignty," wrote Alarcon, a senior member of President Fidel Castro's government.

"As is customary in almost everything about Cuba, the law has been the target of distortion and manipulation by some media accustomed to 'inform lightly and frivolously' to use the words of our apostle Jose Marti more than a century ago," wrote Alarcon, referring to Cuban independence hero Marti.

His letter, dated March 9, was released on Wednesday by Alarcon's office, which said it was being circulated to most parliamentarians around the world.

Havana's new "Law No. 88 for the Protection of the National Independence and Economy of Cuba" stipulates penalties of up to 20 years in jail for collaborators either with the U.S. economic embargo or the 1996 Helms-Burton law intended to tighten those sanctions and back internal opposition in Cuba.

The Cuban law, which came into effect on Monday, has been

ring to label them "counter-revolutionaries."

Cuba held a closed trial last week of the island's best-known four opposition figures - who are still awaiting a verdict for the sedition charge against them - and detained for periods rang-

ing from one to a few days scores of dissidents planning to attend the court.

State-run media has also published a series of attacks on the dissidents in recent days, mocking the four as U.S. puppets in cartoons, and condemning op-

position activists in general as "traitors" and "mercenaries" living off Washington's payroll.

The four dissidents deny they were U.S. agents, saying they are representatives of a peaceful opposition to Castro's one-party political system.



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## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF ANNUAL MEETING

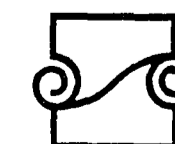
The annual Shareholders meeting of The Bank of Saipan, Inc. will be held on Saturday, March 20, 1999, 10:00 a.m., at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel Conference Room, Chalan Kanoa.

Those not attending may mail proxies to Tomas B. Aldan, Chairman and President; Bank of Saipan, P.O. Box 690, Saipan, MP 96950, or proxies may be hand delivered prior to the start of the meeting.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting will include the President's Report, election of Board of Directors, naming of an independent auditor for fiscal year 1999 and any other matters for discussion.

Immediately after adjournment of the Annual Meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors will meet to elect officers for the current year.

/s/BENIGNO FITIAL  
Secretary



BANK OF SAIPAN  
CHALAN KANOA OFFICE



WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## Notice of Public Meeting:

## 99th Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

15-16 March 1999 at Guam Hilton Hotel  
and  
17-18 March 1999 at Saipan Diamond Hotel

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from 15-18 March to address a number of important fishery management issues. Included on the agenda are: 1) fisheries enforcement and vessel monitoring system issues; 2) Pelagics - tuna fisheries assessments, Guam tuna transshipment, Hawaii and Am. Samoa longline reports, comprehensive data amendment, status of protected species interactions, shark finning, international meetings; 3) Bottomfish: summary of Guam and NMI deep and shallow water bottomfish fisheries; 4) Native and Indigenous Rights: marine conservation plans, community development program, update on sea turtle research, NMFS fisheries loan programs; 5) Ecosystems and Habitat: coral reefs and other issues/activities, summary of Guam's coral reef fisheries and management needs, revised draft refinements needed for essential fish habitat, E&H Advisory Panel recommendations, CRE Plan Team recommendations; 6) administrative matters; and 7) other business, as required. The public is encouraged to attend and public hearing/comment periods will be provided throughout the agenda. Fishermen forums are planned for Tuesday, 16 March (Guam) and Thursday, 18 March from 1:30 to 5:00 pm both days. Topics to be discussed during the forum include: the development of Pacific island fisheries - a view from the water; what HACCP means to the local fishing industry; carbon monoxide treated tuna: The position of the US Food and Drug Administration; the role of cooperatives in fisheries development; and an update on economic survey of local fishing industry.

For agendas or more information contact the Council at:  
1164 Bishop Street Suite 1400, Honolulu Hawaii, 96813  
Phone: (808) 522-8220; Fax: (808) 522-8226; http://www.wpcouncil.org

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW99-1FB-010  
March 12, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Lands & Natural Resources (DLNR) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of an Air-conditioning System for the New Fish and Wildlife Office Building, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed bids, in triplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Friday, April 9, 1999, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. Certified Checks or Cashier's Check must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466". Bid Bond must be executed by a CNMI approved surety.

The project package is available on or after Monday, March 15, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A cost of seventy-five dollars (US\$75.00) is required for each set; payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer. A receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

A Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, March 26, 1999 at the DLNR Conference Room, Office of the Secretary, Lower Base, Saipan. All questions/concerns regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on the Pre-Bid Conference date to the Office of the Director, Technical Services Division, DPW, Lower Base, Saipan.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is ninety (90) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per calendar day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/DR. JOAQUIN A. TENORIO  
Secretary of Lands & Natural Resources

# US eyes G8 in Cyprus plan

NICOSIA (Reuters) — The United States is considering involving the G8 group of major powers in a bid to get divided Cyprus's opposing sides negotiating again, government sources said on Wednesday.

Washington's envoy Thomas

Miller started a two-day visit on Wednesday to sound out prospects for new talks, a visit likely to be his last before he becomes ambassador to Bosnia.

No invitation is expected to be issued to the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides until after Turkish

elections in April.

"He shared his views with us on how they are thinking of proceeding, maybe through an invitation from the G8," a Cypriot government source said.

The G8 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the

United States and Russia.

The leaders of Cyprus's two communities last met 18 months ago, but their negotiations collapsed.

Miller refused to go into details on his two hours of talks with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides. "I had a very good meeting with the president... We discussed a wide range of subjects. Don't ask me, I won't tell you anyway," he said.

He was scheduled to meet Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in northern Cyprus on Thursday.

Miller, who has been Cyprus co-ordinator at the State Department for two years, is one of a small army of mediators trying to make headway in an issue which is a festering sore in relations between NATO allies Greece and Turkey.

Turkey invaded the north of Cyprus in 1974 after a brief Greek Cypriot coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. The breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus is recognised only by Ankara, which keeps 30,000 troops there.

## Russia spent \$1-B last month on debt payments

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia spent \$1 billion of its dwindling gold and hard currency reserves in January to pay off part of its foreign debt, a top official said Wednesday.

Deputy Finance Minister Oleg Vyugin said the government will have to pay \$4.6 billion in foreign debt in the second quarter of the year. He promised Russia would meet the obligation even though the Central Bank's reserves are running low.

"The Central Bank pays the government's foreign debt under the budget law and will continue to do so," he said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Russia's foreign currency reserves are already dangerously low — about \$11.3 billion as of mid-February.

Bank officials have said they will not be able to keep up with the government's debt payment schedule as the reserves continue to shrink.

The Central Bank used up billions of dollars of its foreign currency reserves last year to prop up the ruble.

The bank finally gave up in August, sparking a currency devaluation and inflation of about 80 per-

cent in the latter part of the year. Finance Ministry officials have appealed to the International Monetary Fund and other lenders to agree quickly on a loan package to help Russia pay off some of the \$17.5 billion it owes foreign lenders this year.

## Medicines sent to disease-hit Afghan region

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has sent about 900 pounds (400 kg) of medical supplies to a remote mountainous region of northern Afghanistan where an influenza-like mystery disease has claimed nearly 200 lives, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

A helicopter flew the supplies on Tuesday from Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to Faizabad, Afghanistan, from where they would be carried into the affected areas.

The WHO last month sent two epidemiologists to the region to try to diagnose the mystery disease.

The U.N. spokesman said it had been determined that it was not plague, typhoid or a number of other suspected diseases.

## No to Kosovo peace plan:

# Milosevic stays defiant

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

— Following eight hours of talks, U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke said Wednesday there had been "no change" in Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's opposition to the Kosovo peace plan.

"We've completed a long day of talks with President Milosevic," Holbrooke told reporters at his hotel following the session. "In nearly eight hours of talks, there has been no change of the Yugoslav position, and needless to say, there has been no change in our position."

Holbrooke said he would leave Thursday for Washington to report to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"We had very engaged, very intense talks today," Holbrooke said, including "every aspect of the situation in Kosovo."

Holbrooke declined to say whether he would be returning to Belgrade, saying the decision was up to Albright and President Bill Clinton.

"We're in a very difficult situation tonight," Holbrooke told CNN. "But the full engagement of the West, in order to keep the fighting at lower levels and in order to resolve these 80 to 90

## Ukraine gov't falls short of revenue collection targets

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — In more bad news for Ukraine's struggling economy, the State Tax Administration said Wednesday that government budget revenues fell short of target in February by 2 billion hryvna (\$583 million).

Ukraine's economy has been shrinking steadily since the country gained independence in the 1991 Soviet breakup. Revenues were already about 10 percent below target at the end of January.

The Finance Ministry said it would try to cut spending sharply and limit the deficit to 620 million hryvna (\$167 million) in order to compensate for the shortfall and avoid higher inflation.

The ministry has also acknowledged that the government was having trouble raising money to finance the 1999 budget deficit, projected to be 1.24 billion hryvna (\$333 million).

International lenders have put most loan programs on hold, demanding that Ukraine carry out key market reforms before it gets new help.

Budget revenues for 1999 were forecast at 34.2 billion hryvna (\$9.2 billion), but the Finance Ministry said last month that the figure would likely be at least 2 billion hryvna less.

Revenues have already dipped below that level in the first two months of the year, and the final 1999 budget income is likely to be far lower.



U.S. troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke (left) meets with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade Wednesday. Holbrooke arrived in Yugoslav capital to pressure Milosevic into accepting an internationally-sponsored Kosovo peace agreement. AP

year old issues, is continuing."

Conflict between Serbs and ethnic Albanians dates back to 1912 when Serbia conquered Kosovo, ending more than 500 years of rule by the Ottoman Turks.

The failure to overcome Milosevic's opposition to the U.S.-backed peace plan — especially the stationing of 28,000 NATO troops to police the accord — casts doubt on the prospects for success when peace talks resume Monday in France.

The first round of negotiations ended Feb. 23 in Rambouillet, France. With both ethnic Albanians and Serbs refusing to sign the accord, the United States and its European partners have not carried out threatened airstrikes against the Serb-led Yugoslav government.

Holbrooke said Milosevic understands that NATO's threat is "alive and viable."

## Death and Funeral Announcement

# Cecilia Tenorio Sablan

"Nan Chilang Deda"

July 21, 1921 ~ March 9, 1999



Cecilia Tenorio Sablan, lovingly known to her families and friends as NAN CHILANG DEDA, was called to her eternal rest on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 at the age of 77 years.

In her death, Nan Chilang now joins her husband, Manuel Blas Sablan; children, Efrain, Beatrice, Ricardo, and Luis; parents, Juan Pangelinan Tenorio and Francisca Taimanao Camacho; parents-in-law; Jose Palomo Sablan and Magdalena Blas; brothers and sisters; Ana Camacho Tenorio, Luis Camacho Tenorio, Albert Camacho Tenorio, Maria Tenorio Guerrero, Jose Camacho Tenorio, Santiago Camacho Tenorio and Froilan Camacho Tenorio; in-laws, Rita Sablan Tenorio, Herman Reyes Guerrero, Juan and Beatrice Sablan Palacios, Jesus Blas Sablan, Isidro C. Chargualaf and Ireneo Blas Sablan.

Her peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of her:

Children/spouses and grandchildren:

Frances S. and Nick Sabo Ramon (Blumel & Francisco S. Ada [Jesse Brandon Ramon], Antonette and Warren Villagomez, Nick S. Ramon, Jr., and Manny S. Ramon); Josephine S. and Jerry Hall (Jeremy, Jenna & Sidonia); Magdalena S. and Bruce Barker (Eric); Joseph T. Sablan; Rita S. and Jose Dela Cruz (Roxanne, Renee & Rica-Ann); Juan T. and Gloria G. Sablan (John Manuel & Lorenzo Luis); and Larissa S. and Joseph A. Flores (Joey, Monique, Meagan & Manuel). Brother and In-laws: Antonio Camacho Tenorio and Janet Sakihara Tenorio, Rita Cruz Tenorio, Soledad Takai Tenorio, Maria Sablan Tenorio and Maria Sablan Chargualaf.

She is additionally survived by a special grand uncle and grand auntie Antonio Pangelinan and Rita Dela Cruz Tenorio and also survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and Godchildren.

Rosary is being said nightly at the San Antonio Church at 7:00 p.m.

Last respects may be paid on Wednesday, March 17, 1999 at 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Funeral Mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church same day. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

## Second Anniversary Rosary

We, the family of the late,

**GONSOLACION AYUYU SANTOS**

better known as Nan-Chong



would like to invite our family & friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 2nd Anniversary Rosary of our beloved one.

Nightly rosary is being said at their residence in As Teo at 8:00 p.m. beginning Thursday, March 11, through Friday, March 19, 1999.

On the final day, Friday March 19, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at their residence in As Teo. Mass will be offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. After the Mass dinner will be served at the family residence in As Teo.

Thank you very much  
Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
Ginen I Familia

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

**HERBERT SAN NICOLAS**

Mitchang

Would like to extend our invitation to all our family and friends to join us in prayers for our beloved as we commemorate the FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY of his passage into eternal life.

Starting Monday, March 8th thru March 15th. Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m., at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral (except on Sunday, March 14th, mass will be offered at 9:00 a.m.)

Nightly Rosary will be held at the residence of Mrs. Ignacia M. San Nicolas in Janapag beginning Monday, March 8, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

On the final day, Tuesday, March 16, 1999, special mass of intention will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Final Rosary will be said at 6:00 p.m. at the above residence.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
Ignacia M. San Nicolas and Children

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We would like to invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved.



**VICENTE TAKAI DELEON GUERRERO**  
(better known as Ben Kumoi)

Daily Memorial Masses will be offered at the San Vicente Church on Saipan at 6:00 P.M., followed by the nightly rosary at the family home in San Vicente, at 7:30 P.M., beginning on Thursday, March 11, 1999.

On Friday, March 19, 1999, the Rosary will be at 12:00 noon; the Anniversary Mass will be at 5:00 P.M. Dinner will be served afterwards at the family home in San Vicente.

Your prayers and your presence are very much appreciated.  
Dangkulo' Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From the Family

## Continental...

Continued from page 3

Dias acknowledged that there have been instances when Continental had done poorly in communicating with the community it serves. "I take the blame for that and probably that's why there have been some misunderstandings in the past."

To correct this, Dias announced plans to set up an organization called Continental Micronesia Island Advisory Council. The mem-

bership of this council will be composed of key transportation leaders from each Micronesian island as well as Continental Micronesia officers and staff including Continental Micronesia President Bill Meehan.

"This will serve as a mechanism for continuous dialog between Continental and the communities it serves. Bill Meehan, our president, has committed to attending these meetings. We will also be bringing in technical people from our staff who can answer questions on service, tick-

eting, prices and any aspect of the airline's operation that the community would like to be clarified on."

Through this body, Dias said Continental can listen to the problems of the community and at the same time explain its side so that together both parties can solve problems to their mutual satisfaction.

"We want to make sure that we will have open dialog because we're going to be here another 30 years. We are fully committed to Micronesia."

## Palau...

Continued from page 3

were included in the preliminary list of defendants. As of this writing, the names of the parties identified as defendants are still withheld pending the filing of the case in court.

The complaint emanates from the long history [spanning more than four decades] of the tobacco cartel's "illegal and fraudulent conduct," related to the manufacturing and sale of millions of cigarettes bought and consumed by the Palauans. This has resulted to thou-

sands of Palauans becoming severely ill and succumbing to untimely deaths.

The situation in Palau is much worse considering that the locals "ingest orally, including mixing tobacco with betel nut and chewing it."

According to Anastacio, the people and the government will be able to get more compensation from the tobacco companies for health-related problems as approximate result of the use and consumption of their products. "Afterall, Palauans do not only smoke but chew tobacco," the house speaker said.

It would be noted that some 46 States of the Union, Guam and possibly the Republic of Marshall Islands filed suits against tobacco companies.

Except for the Marshall Islands, the settlement for the tobacco litigation amounted to some \$206 billion, according to the Palau Ministry of Health (MOH).

The United States Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (SAMHSA), as stated by the MOH in its report to the SCHSD, noted that the annual economic cost to the U.S. hit approximately \$72 billion, making the settlement pay for about 2.86 years.

## Crisis...

Continued from page 3

He said before the advent of the crisis, taxicab drivers were able to earn \$500 or more in a day.

Compounding the problems of taxicab operators is the imposition of flat rates by tourist shops and hotels.

The taxicab operators complain that sometimes they are not able to use their taximeters, and instead rely on the fixed rate imposed by hotels when picking up tourists from one destination to another. They also voiced out how ex-

pensive it is to repair and maintain taxi meters just to find out that they cannot use it.

Last year, a survey was conducted by three legislators. The survey results showed that 55 percent of taxi operators or owners are US citizens, while the rest are Micronesians or immediate relatives, and permanent residents.

Furthermore, the survey showed that more than half, or 58 percent of the taxi operators, own one taxi cab. The remaining 42 percent own two or more cabs.

Sixty-seven percent or two out of three cabs are financed through banks and other credit institutions.

fornia, and other junior colleges in the U.S. Many have trade school programs and other certifications, licenses, and two-year degrees.

The U.S. military, I think, has surplus of tools and equipments and I am sure they will be happy to donate or loan us these things to operate our trade school facilities.

## Kudos...

Continued from page 5

carpentry & cabinet-making, plumbing & electrical, machining & sheet metal workings, masonry & welding, etc.

Our leaders and college officials should visit and get ideas from trade schools like Los Angeles Trade Tech in Los Angeles, Cali-

fornia, and other junior colleges in the U.S. Many have trade school programs and other certifications, licenses, and two-year degrees.

The U.S. military, I think, has surplus of tools and equipments and I am sure they will be happy to donate or loan us these things to operate our trade school facilities.

## Govendo...

Continued from page 5

Maybe he can join up with Tom DeLay and they can become the

garment-loving team of "DeLay & Slow!"

It was only due to Teno's popularity that Reyes was able to ride in on his coattails and narrowly beat Stanley Torres for senator. It won't happen again.

Should Pete become a professional garment lobbyist? Why Not?

KENNETH L. GOVENDO

## CNMI...

Continued from page 6

mat as we find this type of direct sales for potential long-term business to supplement our existing markets," said Berg.

Aside from giving the Japan-based media and travel agents an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the CNMI, the MTA also allows participants to return to their offices with a fresh perspective of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

In addition, participants will become their company's in-house source of information for fellow agents having specific questions about traveling to the CNMI.

"We believe that their certification as travel consultants will ensure the consistent and accurate dissemination of information regarding our destination," said Berg. MTA was first held in March 1997, and the second one was in September of the same year. The third event was held in May 1998, and then the fourth one is currently being held.

Participants yesterday met with officials of MVA, CNMI Customs Services, Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Department of Labor and Immigration to be able to get a picture of what the CNMI is, together with how different tourism-related agencies work.

The Japan delegates are set to leave Saipan on Saturday.

Berg also said that the MTA, which is budgeted for some \$40,000 per event, has been helpful in enticing more Japanese tourists to come to the CNMI.

JAL arrivals for each of the first two months of the years posted a 119 percent growth versus the same period last year. The said airline recorded an arrival of 17,523 in January, and 16,072 in February.

## Rota...

Continued from page 16

government and business community in reaching a common goal.

Both entities will work together and cooperate to deplete the unemployment rate of our beautiful island of Rota, a step in promoting economic growth, the release said.

## Musical...

Continued from page 16

Memorial Park, along the walkpath west of the Belltower Memorial.

The Festival is coordinated by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and sponsored by the Marianas Visitor's Authority, Mobil Oil Marianas Islands Inc., GTE Pacifica, the National Endowment for the Arts and many public and private contributors.

## DFS...

Continued from page 15

December 1991, and currently working for the DFS Galleria as a Stock Clerk. He was recommended by Warner Bros. Manager Benny Pinaula.

He is credited for his self-starting attitude for completing painstaking floor requests, and his exceptionally friendly smile.

## DPS...

Continued from page 15

All boats and water-crafts are to be launched at the designated launching areas, Smiling Cove or

Sugar Dock.

Anyone caught violating this law will be fined \$200 and/or imprisoned for a month.

For more information, contact the DPS Boating Safety Section at 322-4037.

## US Ninth...

Continued from page 12

proposed legislation.

Because the proposal would divide California between two divisions, its citizens could be subjected to two different inter-

pretations of the same law, depending upon which part of the state they were in.

In his analysis, Chief Judge Hug pointed out that numerous comments expressing opposition to the divisional structure proposal had been filed with the Commission.

## Uncle...

Continued from page 12

legedly taken the victim's hand and put it on his private parts. The victim tried to pull back but the

defendant persisted with the encounter.

Ogo has been remanded to the Detention Center. No bail or bond has been ordered by the Superior court, nor has a hearing date been set.

## CNMI...

Continued from page 11

their successes with colleagues from throughout the region.

Workshops and activities that appeal to teachers, principals, parents, students, and community members will be offered each day of the conference.

According to PEC organizers, the so-called "Pacific-way" is the quality of the event that sets it apart from other professional education conferences.

Among the traditions in the conference is the sharing of songs, dances, stories, gifts and other

activities that expand learning into "the realm of cultural understanding."

These activities will also provide many opportunities to create and build friendships and professional relationships.

Special cultural presentations will be held each evening of the conference.

Participants that are expected to attend include delegations from American Samoa, CNMI, Federated States of the Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

## Palau...

Continued from page 10

two-year contract of non-resident workers instead of the current one year.

He said he found out that a lot of nonresident workers lack expertise in their fields.

"They're being trained for four to six months. When they go through that training, then the contract is already up. Their actual employment is very short," he pointed out.

He explained that the labor already informed employers about this concern by indicating it in the application form.

The form states that employers should bring their unskilled workers to the labor division for changes in the employment contract at least 20 days after arrival.

Under such circumstance, the labor division can change the workers' position and the salary scale in the contract.

The labor chief added that he also wants to limit the procedures of hearing labor cases up to the MCT rather than the usual process of going through the court, citing the length of time "undesirable non-resident workers" will have to stay in the country while waiting for the court decision.

"If they want to appeal the decision of the labor they should go to the (Commerce and Trade) minister. And that's final," Antonio said, adding that he will still resolve these cases at a "situational settlement" level.

Antonio said he would also propose that 25 percent of the yearly income of \$300,000-\$400,000 from filing fees to go directly to the Labor account.

## Senator...

Continued from page 10

Celeste was requesting," Villagomez said.

He said AGO's application of the austerity measure is "something to be concerned about."

"I'm glad Celeste is still with DPH," Villagomez, who is one of Kara's most vocal critics in the Legislature, said.

Kara, however, reiterated that

it was not her who initially denied Andersen's pay hike request.

"She's a valuable attorney, a good attorney, and it has always been my position that it's better and less expensive for us to retain good attorneys by giving them a modest pay hike than to recruit from off-island," Kara said.

She also revealed that one of the two attorneys AGO was trying to recruit has "turned us down."

### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

March 11, 1999

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
Saipan, MP 96950, Tel. (670) 664-2000

These Notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 24, 1999 the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the purpose of the following project:

Project : Kagman Community Center  
Purpose : Construction of a Multipurpose Community Facility

Location : Kagman III, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP

Federal Funds : Federal Community Development Block Grant will finance approximately 47 percent or \$400,000 of the total cost of the project.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the project will have no significant impact on human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (EER) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, and may be examined or copied weekdays 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), P.O. Box 514 Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received within Fifteen days or by Monday, March 26, 1999, will be considered by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to submission of a request of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the Government of the Northern Mariana Island and the Governor, Pedro P. Tenorio consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and allow the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objection to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Area office, Seven Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4918. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ PEDRO P. TENORIO  
Governor

### COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

#### Invitation to Bid

CUC-ITB-99-0013

March 12, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on surveyed property. Generally, the surveyed properties consists of the following:

- 1) Split and Window Type Air Conditioners
- 2) 48" and 96" Fluorescent Lighting Fixtures
- 3) Surveyed Vehicles

The vehicles for bid are located at CUC's Office in Tinian, and the rest of the items are at its Saipan location.

Bid Forms and other relative information may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room #4 at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., during-normal working hours and before bid closing date and time.

All inquiries may be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG Fajardo, Supervisor for Procurement & Supply at phone number (670) 235-7025, ext. 128/129.

All bids must be in sealed envelope marked CUC-ITB-99-0013 and submitted to the Supervisor for Procurement & Supply at Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, no later Tuesday, April 12, 1999, at 2:00 p.m.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bids, or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Timothy P. Villagomez  
Executive Director

*Happy Birthday  
and Best Wishes!*

Senate Staffer  
**Glenn S. Palacios**  
March 14, 1999

From  
your Variety friends

*Happy Birthday!*

**Eva  
Wong**

March 11, 1999

From your friends

## Heinz . . .

Continued from page 6

ages, but I don't think we can spend a lot on a facility that has to be destroyed and replaced eventually."

The task force, meanwhile, has selected a planner for the project and is now waiting for the enactment of House Bill 11-380, or the so-called CIP bill, which would

appropriate \$1.5 million for the improvement of the current prison facilities, and \$8.84 million for the construction of an adult prison, crime laboratory, and detention facilities for the youth and the Division of Immigration.

"We are moving fast and I think we could meet the deadlines set in the consent decree," he said.

The bill, which returns to the House of Representatives, was

amended by the Senate to allow the governor to waive any CNMI procurement regulation to expedite the construction of new jail facilities.

The governor, for example, could award the contract without going through the bidding process.

His predecessor, however, proposed a prison construction project that was also "sole-sourced," but it was rejected by the Legislature, which preferred a bidding process.

## Hiraga . . .

Continued from page 6

yesterday, Richard W. Pierce, counsel for Hiraga and C.D.C., refused to comment, saying he has not seen the counterclaim yet.

Pierce, on behalf of Hiraga and C.D.C., filed last year a sealed complaint against Sekisui for defamation. The court denied Sekisui's motion to dismiss the case and the matter was unsealed.

Mair in the counterclaim stated that Pierce filed false declarations and representations pertaining to the 1995 C.D.C. lawsuit against Sekisui not for legitimate purposes of advancing his clients' interests in the litigation.

Rather, C.D.C. through Pierce, used a legal process or processes against Sekisui primarily to accomplish a purpose for which it was not designed, thereby harming Sekisui, said Mair.

Citing Pierce interview on MCV on March 12, 1997, Mair also said that the lawyer's statements were made the public to believe that Sekisui wrongfully intended to interfere with the political processes of the CNMI.

Mair said such Pierce's statements made the people to believe that Sekisui agreed to purchase land in the CNMI and yet willfully failed to sustain its obligations regarding the alleged land purchase.

With regards to Hiraga and C.D.C.'s unsealed lawsuit filed

against Sekisui, Mair stated that the primary reason was not for legitimate purposes of advancing Hiraga's interests.

"Rather, Hiraga used a legal process or processes against Sekisui primarily to accomplish a purpose for which it was not designed and Sekisui was harmed thereby," Mair added.

C.D.C. sued Sekisui in 1995 over a verbal agreement in which Sekisui allegedly promised to pay C.D.C. millions of dollars for the latter's interest in the land near Hopwood School to develop a hotel/condominium.

After 13 weeks of trial, the jury reached a verdict in favor of Sekisui. It was said to be the longest trial so far in the CNMI.

## Winners . . .

Continued from page 6

and Means Committee Nishima Yleizah, Health, Education and Social Affairs John R. Petewon, and Incumbent Senators Roosevelt d. Kansou and Simeon R. Innocenti.

And in Yap State Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs Isaac Figir is de-

clared winner for the Two-Year Term in that state.

It will be in the Congress Regular Session in May when the president and vice president will be elected among the four At-Large members.

The states which the president and vice president are being elected from will hold special elections in July to fill the two vacated seats in Congress.

## Saipan . . .

Continued from page 7

awards' 50th anniversary.

The Polk Awards, was put up in honor of former CBS correspondent George W. Polk, who was killed in 1948 while covering the civil war in Greece.

## NMI . . .

Continued from page 7

ney General.

Tenorio, however, is standing firm against proposals from the Clinton Administration to federalize the Commonwealth's minimum wage and immigration control amid reform policies enforced by the CNMI government.

The local chief executive cited

The award was being administered by the Long Island University.

The two television journalists, along with the other recipients for the different category will be recognized on April 14, at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan, New York.

The adverse effects a federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage would have on the local economy, especially at a time of plunging visitor arrivals and low business activities.

"We maintain that we would like to see that the federal government would consider our request to that we continue to control our immigration and minimum wage," Tenorio said.

He said the government has instituted labor and immigration reforms that would address the concerns raised by the federal government when strong federalization proposals surfaced last year.

"We are working so hard in trying to resolve some of the problems that happened in the past. We hope the federal government would finally see the merits of these labor and immigration reform programs," he added.

## CPA . . .

Continued from page 8

work at the Saipan Seaport and the corridor expansion of the International Airport and other federal-funded projects that require a 10-percent share on the entire contract price.

San Francisco-based Altura Nelson and Company floated the bond, which is the same company that handled the CPA's air and sea ports bonds in 1985 and 1995, respectively.

The bond is payable within a 30-year period at an interest rate of 6.4 percent per annum.

The Commonwealth Development Authority earlier asked CPA to increase the proposed bond flotation from \$60 million to \$80 million to accommodate the expansion and improvement of the West Tinian Airport.

But CPA did not heed the suggestion, citing the Port Authority's declining revenues.

## Hopwood . . .

Continued from page 9

as Huei Yin Chang, 39, was held by the police.

According to Rose Ada, the DPS information officer, Chang was driving on the inner lane of Beach Road, in Chalan Piao, heading for North direction when the girl ran to cross the street.

The girl had come from a store located just across the school.

Chang maneuvered his Mazda Protege car, but still the vehicle hit the victim.

The accident happened late Tuesday afternoon.

## From Knucklebones to box cars

### Life is chances

Unlike playing cards, invented about 700 years ago, dice games can be traced back to over 5000 years ago. Yet the first dice were a far cry from the fine-tuned regular hexahedra (cubes) we are accustomed to today.

In fact, we now know that, including the familiar six-sided dimpled die, there are 30 possible isohedra from which fair dice may be made. A fair die is one in which each face or side must have the same relationship with all other faces, and each face must have the same relationship with the center of gravity.

Such solids are polyhedra for which Euler's famous formula holds; that is, if you count the number of vertices and the faces, and then subtract the number of edges you will always get 2. (For a fascinating look at these isohedra, as well as some interesting links, check out <http://www.mathpuzzle.com/Fairdice.htm>).

Getting back to the long ago, things were not so precise. The Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans used what is known as "astragali" or heel-bones of deer, sheep and dogs for dice, from which the cubical variety evolved over a period of about a thousand years. In the literature on the subject, the term astraga-

lus is used synonymously with the terms "talus", "hucklebone", and "knucklebone".

The astragalus had only four sides on which it could land, two broad sides counting for 3 and 4, and two narrow sides counting for 1 and 6. The other two sides were rounded. The word "knucklebone" may have evolved from a game in which four astragali were balanced on the knuckles of the hand, tossed and caught again.

In ancient games of chance, or rolling the bones, four astragali were usually used. It was estimated that the chance of rolling a 1 or a 6 was about 1/10, and the chances of rolling a 3 or 4 about 4/10.

The Greeks and Romans called "one" the "dog" and getting four one's was considered a bad throw and dangerous omen. The best throw was called a "Venus" and occurred when all four astragali showed a different number, that is the throw was 1, 4, 3, 6. Thus we have the complaint of the Roman Propertius: "...when I was seeking Venus with favorable tali the damned dogs always leapt out."

I find the idea of throwing a Venus (Lady Luck) is in marked contrast to today's dice games where the highest number of pips showing is usually the best score. It is something like playing poker with the

low hand winning.

"Knucklebones" made from actual sheep bones are still available and may be obtained from Rose & Pentagram Design in Minneapolis, Minnesota, or ordered over internet.

The familiar six-sided die may have evolved when the round ends of the astragalus were ground down to create flat surfaces. One of the first popular dice games with the six-sided die is called Hazard, said to come from "al-zhar", the Arabic name for a die.

This game was very popular in 18th and 19th century England. Hazard is played with two dice, and rolling two one's was called "crabs".

In the American Colonies, the word "crabs" became "craps", which became the word for the American version of hazard.

Two one's became, of course, "snake eyes". It is estimated that in North America alone, some thirty million people play dice every year. So, in one sense we have come a long way from the four sided sheep bones of long ago, but the crapulous desire to roll the bones has remained a constant. We look for Lady Luck (or is it Venus?) against all odds, and wind up in the dog house (or was that snake eyes?).

It remains a mystery why the ancients used the numbers 1436

and omitted 2 and 5. But, like all numbers, 1, 4, 3, and 6 have mystical connotations and mathematical relationships. For example if you take the numbers 1, 2 and 3, and raise each to the power of n, and substitute for n the whole numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, ..., in succession, adding the three results together each time, you will create a sequence which begins 3, 6, 14, 36, ... Moreover, 36 is the sum of the first four even and the first four odd numbers, as well as the first number which is both the product of two squares (4x9) and the sum of three cubes (1 + 8 + 27). It is related to the cosmic great year of Plato, which is 36,000 years. Lastly, twice 14 is 28, which is the second perfect number, and the number the ancients associated with the lunar cycle. It is also the sum of the first three squares (1 + 4 + 9).

In other words, can you find a way to plant nine trees so that there are 10 rows of three? To give you an idea how this works, suppose you wanted to plant 7 trees in 6 rows of three. Then draw an equilateral triangle, connecting lines through the mid-points and vertices.

3. Consider the number 48. If you add 1 to it you get a square number (49 = 7 x 7). And if you add 1 to half of 48, you again get a square number (48/2 = 24 and 24 + 1 = 25 = 5 x 5). Can you find three more numbers which have these properties?

"Your aid I want, Nine trees to plant,

In rows just half a score, And let there be,

In each row, three - Solve this: I ask no more!"

In other words, can you find a way to plant nine trees so that there are 10 rows of three? To give you an idea how this works, suppose you wanted to plant 7 trees in 6 rows of three. Then draw an equilateral triangle, connecting lines through the mid-points and vertices.

3. Consider the number 48. If you add 1 to it you get a square number (49 = 7 x 7). And if you add 1 to half of 48, you again get a square number (48/2 = 24 and 24 + 1 = 25 = 5 x 5). Can you find three more numbers which have these properties?

### Answers to Last Week's Puzzles

#### Puzzles

1. In how many different ways may the numbers, 1 through 6, on a single die be marked. The following conditions hold:

the 1 and the 6, the 2 and 5, and the 3 and 4 must be on opposite sides.

2. From an book on mathematical recreations written in 1821, we have the following poem:

1. A few phrases with the same number of letters as the number referred to are: "Two cubed," "Twelve plus one," and "square root of nine hundred sixty-nine."

2. Benjamin takes four-sevenths, and Jasmine three-sevenths.

3. 9801, since  $98 + 01 = 99$  and  $99^2 = 9801$ .

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



# Dominique Buckley

April 17, 1961 -  
March 10, 1999

Formerly of Montreal, Canada, presently residing in Santa Lourdes, As-Teo, Saipan. Joined her creator on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Her peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of her:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Husband                   | - Alan Taylor   |
| Daughter                  | - Celine Lourdes Buckley-Taylor                         |
| Mother                    | - Lorraine Buckley                                      |
| Father                    | - Paul Buckley  |
| Brother & Spouse          | - Paul and Nicoletta Buckley                            |
| Sister & Spouse           | - Melina Buckley and J.J. Camp (Meaghen, Maija & Mieka) |
| Parents in law            | - Ed and Mary Taylor                                    |
| Brothers & Sisters in law | - Ed Taylor & Sabine Smead (Jasper & Jonas)             |
|                           | - Andy Taylor & Anna Villachica                         |
| Adopted families          | - The Borjas of As-teo                                  |

Rosary is being said nightly at the residence of John & Vicky Aguon of As-Teo at 7:00 p.m.

Viewing and funeral mass will be announced at a later date.  
Her remains will be flown to Vancouver, Canada for cremation & burial.

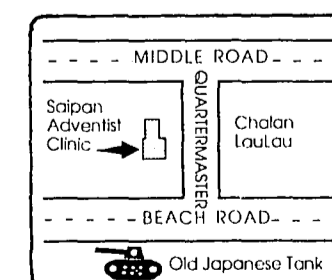
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

TO: ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

This is to inform the General Public that **Cornelio D. Alomia (a.k.a. Ellie)** Maintenance Repairer, whose picture appears hereon, is **NO LONGER** connected with Great Pacific Ent., Inc.

dba Great Pacific Trash/Refuse Collection effective immediately. Any transaction and dealings he has from this day on will not be honored by the company.

From the management of Great Pacific Ent., Inc.  
Dated: March 12, 1999

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

Bank of Guam Plaintiff  
v.  
William A. Taitano and Eleanor M. Taitano, Defendants

Civil Action No. 97-1020 A

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGEMENT

Date: April 14, 1999  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Judge: Edward Manibasan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 14, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon as thereafter counsel can be heard, PLAINTIFF BANK OF GUAM, by and through counsel, will move and hereby moves for judgment by Default against William A. Taitano and Eleanor M. Taitano, pursuant to Rule 55(b) (2) of the Commonwealth Rules on Civil Procedure.

Dated this 2nd day of March 1999.

Respectfully submitted,  
By: /s/ Gregory J. Koebel

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

In Re: Bar Matter:  
Mark A. Pisker  
Case No. 97-530 A

**SUMMONS**

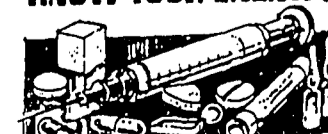
TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT: MARK A. PISKER

A complaint has been filed by the Disciplinary Council against you. If you wish to defend this lawsuit, YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve on Disciplinary Council and file with the clerk of this court a responsive pleading to Disciplinary Council's within 21 days after March 19, 1999, the date of the last publication of the summons. You may serve your responsive pleading by delivering or mailing a copy of it to Jesus C. Borja, Disciplinary Council, whose address is Garapan #1309, Post Office Box 10011, Saipan, MP 96950.

If you fail to file a responsive pleading 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: 12-15-98  
/s/Dep. Clerk of Court

**KNOW YOUR ENEMY!**



## Don't ...

Continued from page 1

signed by the President, and good faith negotiations conducted by the CNMI with the Bush administration.

To justify the unilateral proposal, the US Interior Department has pointed to the previous years' federal grants that remain unmatched by the CNMI.

However, Babauta added, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has been addressing the backlog since last year.

"The governor has increased the drawn down for 1998 was \$10 million, very nearly the annual amount appropriated by Congress," he said.

Further, Interior failed to acknowledge that spending slowed down because the CNMI was working with the department in the drafting of the CIP master

## CHC ...

Continued from page 1

financial aid to health care institutions in the U.S. and its flag territories.

Villagomez explained that the team conducted ocular inspection of the health care facilities, and even opened up policies and procedures.

"They went through charts to make sure that doctors are documenting the right things. They inspected the operating room, checked if the fire sprinklers are working. Nothing was left uninspected," he said.

In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Linda Cruz Pangelinan,  
Pedro P. Pinalua  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.  
Chang K. Ahn, d/b/a YWC Corporation, Jade Investments Corporation, Apex Sai Phil, Joong Gun Kwon, Seung H. Choi, Hyunsook C. Kwon, Yeong Bin Cho, Defendants.  
Civil Action No. 98-1309A

**SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICE OF JOHN M. CHAMBERS, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Garapan #1176, P.O. Box 10011, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

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

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

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Dated: 12-15-98  
/s/Dep. Clerk of Court

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plan as required by US P.L. 104-134, Babauta said.

"No matter the...rationale," he said, "the fact remains that the existing schedule of aid has the approval of your committee, the Congress and the President...."

"We have an agreement, and we should stick to it," Babauta said.

He added that continued federal assistance has allowed the CNMI to achieve a higher standard of living, and the Commonwealth government to eventually match federal grants dollar-for-dollar.

The chair of the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources earlier "scolded" the Interior for proposing "to go back on" the federal government's commitment to the CNMI "and take [CIP] money from the [Northern] Marianas to give" Compact-Impact assistance to Guam, particularly when the effects of

The health secretary said the Medicare team consisted of two groups; one for the hospital inspection and the other one is for the hemodialysis unit inspection.

"At first I was very concerned with a lot of things because they could cite us with a lot of issues. But they said this has been one of the best inspections they ever had on this hospital," said Villagomez.

At the same time, the Medicare team also approved CHC's request for four additional hemodialysis units on top of the 10 existing ones.

"We would be happy if they give us two, but they gave us four because they saw how we operate efficiently here, from the nursing side, to the medical staff, ancillary side, the biomedical staff, even the cafeteria," said Villagomez.

The team was also pleased with the newly-replaced reverse osmosis system at the hemodialysis unit.

## Sole-sourcing ...

Continued from page 1

would like to see that they expedite and try to meet the (compliance date). If sole-sourcing is needed to facilitate the prompt construction of the new jail, I have no objection. If they can do it and that would be for the best interest of the CNMI, why not," he said.

The US Department of Justice last month reached an agreement with the CNMI government to improve correctional and detention facilities, a deal that will require local officials to develop long- and short-term plans to comply with its provisions.

The consent decree under the CNMI-US DOJ agreement requires the local government to rehabilitate and improve the corrections center in 180 days.

The 14-hour hostage standoff Tuesday has rendered the Susupe correctional facilities damaged and Tenorio said the government would have to put up additional money for the repair.

Hofschneider said the government had been faced with so much difficulty prior to the tension last Tuesday with regards to sourcing out money for the rehabilitation and repair of the existing detention center.

He added that the hostage standoff has changed the scenario since the government will continue to

Micronesian immigration in both the CNMI and Hawaii have not been addressed.

In his opening remarks during the March 2 budget hearing for Interior, Murkowski noted that the requirement that the CNMI come up with a 50 percent match for the grants is "remarkable."

"I am concerned about tapping into the [CNMI] entitlement to fund" an increase of assistance to Guam, he said.

Murkowski added, "While the [CNMI] has not yet matched available funds, that is not an excuse for withholding and in effect canceling scheduled payments to the [Northern] Marianas."

He then told US Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt that "I simply do not understand how you can propose an...increase...for your favorite constituencies, yet must steal \$5 million [a year] from the [CNMI] to fund [President Clinton's] promise to Guam."

At the time of the interview, Villagomez was preparing a memorandum for all DPH staff for the teamwork they have showed during the inspection and throughout the year.

"It's not so much of what we will receive, but the level of delivery of health care that is expected from us and we surpassed that level even during this time of economic crisis. Their comment is that our facility is just as good as the other facilities in Hawaii," said the health secretary.

While last year's Medicare inspection team only had two members, this year had five members led by Nancy Defiesta and Sharon K. Matsubata.

The inspection team left yesterday. Villagomez said CHC expects an official written report on the findings after 10 days.

## require more funding for the repair of the damages sustained by the facility during the riot.

"We have an additional cost that we never anticipated. CNMI will shoulder these expenses," said Hofschneider who also chairs the House committee on health, education and welfare.

He stressed that it is now a matter of bringing up the correctional center on minimum expectation as enumerated in the agreement reached between the CNMI and the US DOJ.

## Micronesian ...

Continued from page 1

motive for a company. But Continental should also share in the pain that the region is experiencing at present. If the Continental is more creative in marketing it can still make money," he said.

In contrast, Reyes said, Japan Air Lines is showing "a real" commitment to the region by recently announcing plans to reduce rates and increase flights to the region.

"APIL must act now and start the mechanics for the establishment of a new regional airline that can provide more reliable and more affordable service in both good times and bad times. The perfect opportunity to do this is during the next APIL board meeting in Nauru," Reyes added.

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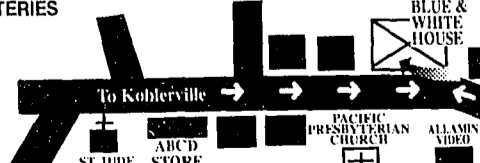
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Position Description:  
Manages hotel to ensure efficient and profitable operation, establishes standard for personnel administration and performance service and type of patronage to be solicited, plan dining room, bar and banquet operations, allocates funds, authorizes expenditures and assists to evaluate personnel. Answer patrons complain and resolves problems. Delegates authority and assign responsibilities to department heads. Inspects guest rooms, public access areas and outside grounds for cleanliness and appearance. Process reservations and adjust guests complaints in the hotel shall prepare and present written and oral reports on the company financial and operation status to the Board of Directors. Must attend the yearly General Managers meeting in Japan with the other subsidiary company General Managers. Must provide periodic correspondence to all the subsidiary company. Must speak and write Japanese and English.  
\*MANAGER, SALES AND MARKETING  
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# Marianas Variety

## Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

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

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Knowledge in writing/speaking & reading Japanese language to promote business and sales preferred.  
Contact: DIVING TOUR CENTER SPN, INC. dba D.T.C. Dive Tel. 235-7621(3/19)F30194

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.25-3.75 per hour  
01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.50-5.25 per hour  
01 CRANE OPERATOR-Salary: \$5.50-6.50 per hour  
01 STEVEDORE 2-Salary: \$3.25-3.45 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. Tel. 322-6469(3/12)F77251

04 WEDDING CONSULTANT-Salary: \$1,890.00 per month  
Contact: FUKADA ENTERPRISES INC. Tel. 234-3850(3/12)F77255

01 INSURANCE UNDERWRITER-Salary: \$1,300.00 per month  
01 INSURANCE UNDERWRITER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC BASIN INSURANCE, INC. Tel. 234-5860(3/12)F77263

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,300.00-1,800.00 per month  
Contact: ERNST & YOUNG (CNMI), INC. dba Ernst & Young Tel. 234-8300(3/19)F77393

01 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: ISLAND HOME PHARMACY CORPORATION dba JPA Homecare & Medical Supplies Tel. 233-7404(3/19)F30201

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.25 per hour  
01 AUTOBODY REPAIR-Salary: \$3.25 per hour  
Contact: AUSIA INT'L (SPN) INC. dba Ausia Auto Rep. Shop Tel. 288-2217(3/19)F30200

Classified Ads  
FIRST

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: TIRSO J. ADRIATICO dba Micronesia Woodcraft Inc. Tel. 235-7631(3/12)F30074

01 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JUAN S. TORRES dba Kobler Mobil Gas Station Tel. 235-7368(3/12)F30071

01 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENT., INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club Tel. 234-6622(3/12)F30089

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
02 MAINTENANCE, REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JOY ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-3476(3/12)F30068

01 SUPERVISOR, WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.75 per hour  
Contact: WAYNE A. SHIMABUKURO dba Stop Light Night Club Tel. 288-7817(3/12)F3009

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: SOON SIK CHOI dba Choi's Enterprises Tel. 233-4242(3/12)F30070

02 FLORAL DESIGNER (FLORISTS)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: RITA C. CRUZ dba The First Floral Shop Tel. 234-7482(3/12)F30073

01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$4.00-4.05 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hadafai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495(3/12)F77237

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$650.00 per month  
Contact: TEODOSIA V. DAVIS dba Arabella's Beauty & Dress Shop Tel. 235-6841(3/12)F30065

02 (GAMEROOM) ATTENDANT, ARCADE-Salary: \$3.05-3.35 per hour  
Contact: JESUS V. DLGUERRERO dba Tuba Arcade Tel. 235-4710(3/12)F77241

01 GENERAL MERCHANDISE SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN GARDEN CENTER Tel. 235-4710(3/12)F77239

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.25 per hour  
Contact: JESUS V. DLGUERRERO dba JM & Associates Tel. 235-4710(3/12)F77242

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: CHARM INC. dba Venus Beauty Salon Tel. 233-9391(3/12)F30077

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$7.00 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC SECURITY ALARM, INC. Tel. 234-5626(3/12)F30078

02 HOSTESS/RESTAURANT (SUPERVISOR)-Salary: \$3.70-4.25 per hour  
Contact: NIIZEKI INT'L. SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba GIG Discotheque Tel. 234-5050(3/19)F77368

01 PROJECT MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: ROY W. PANGELINAN dba Marianas Home Builders Tel. 256-7769(3/19)F30179

01 PILOT, AIRPLANE-Salary: \$1,600.00 per month  
Contact: AVIATION SERVICES dba Freedom Air Tel. 234-8328(3/19)F30180

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.75 per hour  
Contact: WON'S CORPORATION Tel. 234-3429(3/19)F30192

02 AUTOBODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour  
Contact: PHILIPPINE EAGLE CORPORATION dba Philippine Eagle Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-0928(3/19)F30193

01 MANAGER, RETAIL-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month  
Contact: GLOBAL INTERLINKING ESQUIRE dba Shahnaz Herbal Tel. 234-7000(3/19)F30197

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 STEEL WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC DRILLING LTD. Tel. 235-8531(3/19)F30198

01 SALESPERSON/MARKETING-Salary: \$528.00 per month  
Contact: TRIPLE M CORP. dba Fong's Bakery Tel. 234-5828(3/19)F30188

23 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JIN APPAREL, INC. Tel. 234-3252(3/19)F30187

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: JAE HOON CORP. dba Pacific Grocers Tel. 288-1238(3/19)F30176

02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: FEI MA INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. dba Minami Bar Tel. 234-5522(3/19)F30177

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: U.S.A. FANTER CORPORATION LTD. dba G.C. Construction Contractor Tel. 234-5828(3/19)F30178

02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.50 per hour  
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS CORPORATION Tel. 322-0407(3/19)F30182

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: PLAZA CORPORATION dba Highway Market Tel. 233-0386(3/19)F77366

01 ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK-Salary: \$6.00 per hour  
Contact: O'CONNOR, BERMAN DOTT & BANES Tel. 234-5684(3/19)F77367

01 (DMS DATABASE) SYSTEMS ANALYST-Salary: \$24.42 per hour  
Contact: MICRONESIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. dba Telecommunications Tel. 234-2611(3/19)F30190

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.25 per hour  
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,386.67 per month  
01 STEEL WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

105 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
04 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
03 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

02 INSULATION WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
25 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

02 (ASSISTANT) FACTORY MANAGER-Salary: \$1,675.00-1,700.00 per month  
05 TAILOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
10 IRONING (PRESSER MACHINE)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

04 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour  
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.25-4.80 per hour  
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour

01 BAKER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
03 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour

04 COOK-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412(3/26)F77491

01 BAKER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
03 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour

04 COOK-Salary: \$3.25-3.30 per hour  
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412(3/26)F77491

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour  
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Arjay Construction Tel. 234-8779(3/26)F77494

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CORP. Tel. 234-8779(3/26)F77495

01 TRUCK DRIVER (LIGHT)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Empire Apartment Tel. 234-8779(3/26)F77496

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour  
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Golden Lobster Restaurant Tel. 234-8779(3/26)F77497

01 SUPERVISOR (PRODUCTION)-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. dba Marianas Variety News & Views Tel. 34-6341(3/26)F77503

01 DISC JOCKEY-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: NIIZEKI INT'L. SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba GIG Discotheque Tel. 234-5050(3/26)F77502

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month  
Contact: MARIANAS PARAMOUNT CORPORATION Tel. 233-4030(3/26)F30263

03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour  
Contact: EASTERN HOPE CORPORATION dba Keeraku & Rakuen Restaurant Tel. 233-4242(3/26)F30265

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: EVERTRUST CORPORATION dba 123 Discount Store Tel. 233-4242(3/26)F30266

03 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SOON SIK CHOI dba Choi's Enterprises Tel. 233-4242(3/26)F30267

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JIN APPAREL INC. Tel. 234-3252(3/26)F30268

05 COOK-Salary: \$3.30-4.00 per hour  
Contact: AUNTIE MAGS CATERING Tel. 288-0964(3/26)F30269

02 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour  
01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.50-4.75 per hour  
04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$4.50 per hour  
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS CORPORATION Tel. 322-0407(3/26)F30271

**LOCAL HIRE**  
BOAT CAPTAIN  
JET'S SKI INSTRUCTOR  
U.S. Coast Guard License  
Japanese speaking A plus.  
Contact: Saipan E Tours  
235-8815

**FOR RENT/LEASE**  
Concrete House, 6 Big Rooms,  
2 Bths, 24 hrs. water.  
Ideal for staff housing or a big size family. Near school, airport, hotels, stores. Located in Kobleville. For more info. call  
234-5495 or 323-6001.

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JOHN B. MATSUMOTO dba Matsumoto Trust Tel. 322-7733(3/26)F30275

10 HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888(3/26)F30278

01 CLEANER, BUS-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour  
01 SUPERVISOR, MECHANIC MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$900.00-2,000.00 per month  
Knowledge in Japanese language preferred, to write & report all daily transaction to Japan.  
Contact: SAIPAN SANKO TRANSPORTATION, INC. Tel. 235-7621(3/26)F30279

83 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: 3.05 per hour  
102 OVERLOCK SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
05 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary: \$1,666.00 per month  
15 IRONING (PRESSER MACHINE)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: HSIA-LING H. LIN dba Net Apparel Company Tel. 235-6888(3/26)F30280

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$850.00 per month  
Contact: SAIPAN SHALOM CORPORATION dba Dandan Champion Auto Care Tel. 234-6266(3/26)F30283

01 (ASSISTANT) OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00-3,200.00 per month  
Knowledge in pre-arranging & activities of in bound tours. Speak/write/read Japanese is preferred. Knowledge in data base computer required.  
01 MANAGER, TRAVEL & TOUR AGENT-Salary: \$1,000.00-6,000.00 per month  
Knowledge in pre-arranging & activities of in bound tours. Speak/write/read Japanese is preferred. Knowledge in data base computer required.  
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00-1,040.00 per month  
Contact: R & C TOURS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 235-7621(3/26)F30281

04 GAS ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ISLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION dba Dollar Rent A Car Tel. 234-5230(3/26)F30282

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: LFP CORPORATION dba Marg's Kitchen Tel. 234-3706(3/26)F30284

01 REFRIGERATION AND AIRCONDITIONING TECH.-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour  
Contact: TORRES REFRIGERATION, INC. Tel. 234-6098(3/26)F30270

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
\$350.00 per month  
San Vicente  
2 Bedrooms, Great for Family and Kids  
Phone: 235-3310 After 5:00 pm

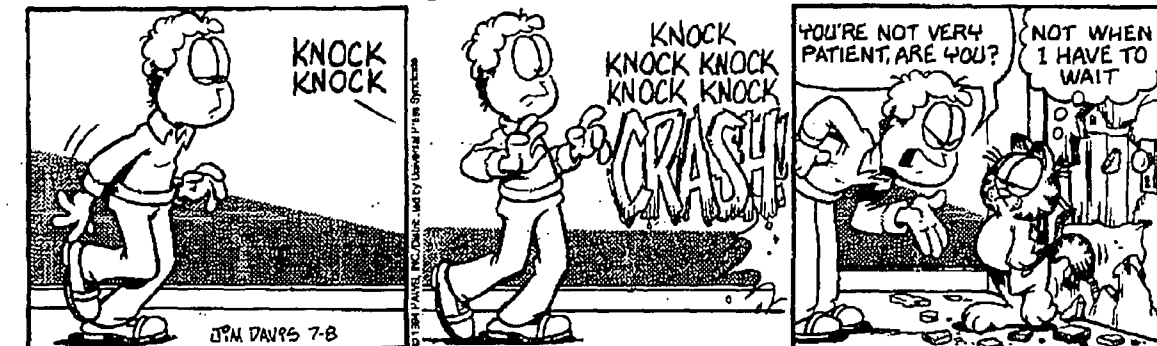
**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
Fully Furnished • Swimming Pool  
21 hrs. water • Restaurant  
Contact: 233-4378 anytime

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
3 BEDROOM  
LOCATED IN AS LITO  
CALL: 288-1496

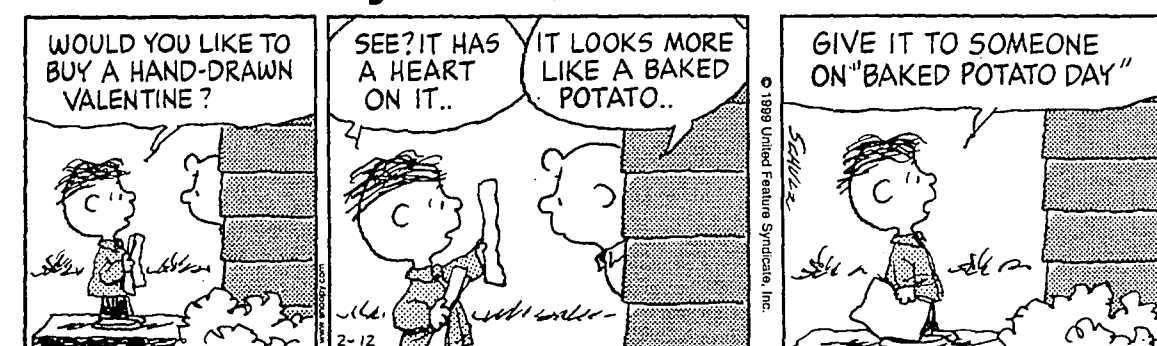
## EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



## Garfield® by Jim Davis



## PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

## YOUR BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999

Born today, you are a fascinating combination of the inspired go-getter and the ill-prepared procrastinator. You are so eager to accomplish the new and unexpected that you will go to great lengths to achieve your ends, even if it means crossing that fine line into the realm of the risky, dangerous or illicit. Sometimes, however, your ideas are so "big" that you are unable to swing into action in a timely fashion. You must always be careful to stay on the right side of the law, for it would be quite easy for you to embrace the romantic idea of being an "outlaw" — but that way of life has far less to offer you than you might think! You'll have a far greater impact being a "good guy."

You are seldom concerned with saying the "right" things at the "right" times, and though your intention is not to shock or surprise, you simply cannot help doing just that more often than not. Indeed, you can attract a great deal of attention with the words you use and the ideas you express.

Also born on this date are: Liza Minnelli, actress, singer, entertainer; Al Jarreau, singer; James Taylor, singer-songwriter; Darryl Strawberry, baseball player; Edward Albee, playwright.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You may be acting in a manner that is unbefitting to your position or current status. Now is not the time to try to fill someone else's shoes.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Focus today on domestic affairs. There is much you can accomplish around the house, so devote your energies to organization and entertainment.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You better know the difference between fact and fiction today, or you better be willing to learn, a.s.a.p! The game has already begun!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Your knack for getting in and staying out of trouble may desert you briefly during midday, giving you cause for concern. Be conservative today.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Though many may consider you to be an "expert," you know that you have much more to learn before you are fully comfortable in your current situation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — This is a good day to break from routine, to get out and about, and to enjoy all that your surroundings have to offer. Don't miss out!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — The reality of your present situation may not fully live up to your expectations. Still, you can prove you know how to "make the best of it!"

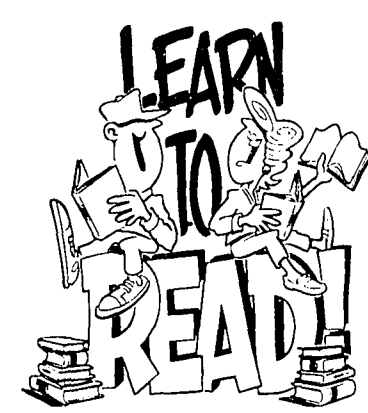
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — You may resent being told what to do today, but now is not the time to rebel in any way. Patience and cooperation are essential at this time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — You'll want to be noticed wherever you go today. In the end, however, you may attract the wrong kind of attention if you're not careful!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — You run the risk of becoming overly involved today. The dangers are very real if your mental and physical fuel reserves begin to run low.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Avoid being showy, flashy, or overly dramatic today. Now is the time to assume a more quiet, accepting and cooperative demeanor.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Don't take things too personally today. If you're not sure you should be offended, then give the other guy a "break." If so, react accordingly.



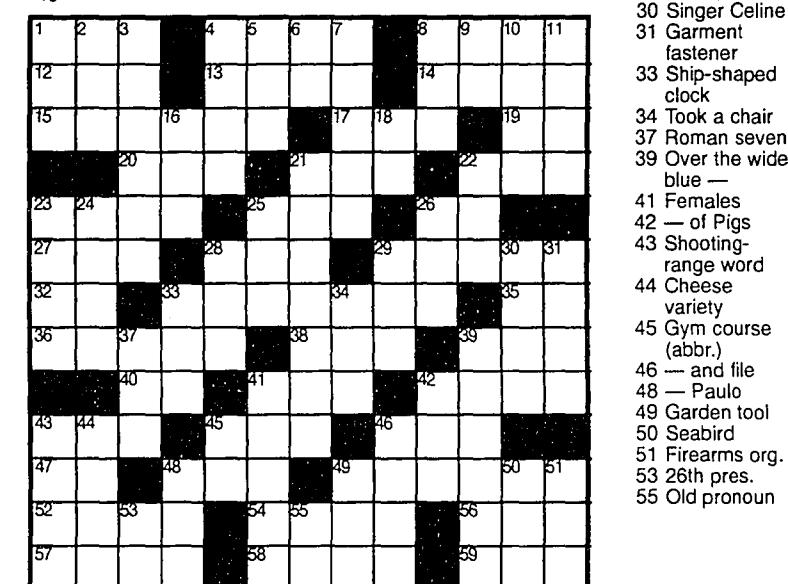
## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Asian ox  
4 Whirling sound  
8 Ms. Sorvino  
12 Here (Fr.)  
13 A Williams  
14 Alleviate  
15 Firecracker  
17 Family room  
19 Redgrave ID  
20 Explosive (abbr.)  
21 Still  
22 G.I.'s add.  
23 La — tar pits  
25 Animal's coat  
26 Credit (abbr.)  
27 Long period of time  
28 — de-sac  
29 Nullifies  
30 Louganis ID  
32 Inevitable conqueror  
35 "Tag" player  
36 Brad Pitt film  
38 Circuit  
39 "Mad About"  
40 —

DOWN

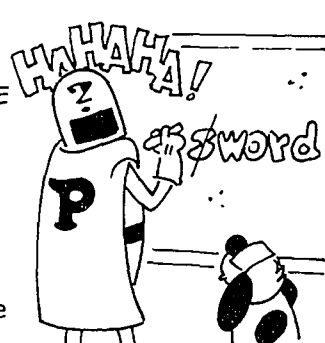
41 Obtained  
42 Connery role  
43 Investigative agcy.  
45 Porky —  
46 Raced  
47 Negative prefix  
48 Sun, talk  
49 "Coach" character (abbr.)  
52 Ms. Gam  
54 Actress Sue —  
56 Make a mistake  
57 Mr. Saarinen  
58 Search for  
59 Genetic material  
8 Males  
9 Allen ID  
10 Request for reply (abbr.)  
11 Flight prefix  
16 Collection of facts  
18 Film alien  
21 Christmas  
22 item (2 wds.)  
23 Pleads  
24 Actor's part  
25 Fe-H-to —  
26 Lettuce type  
28 100 yrs.  
29 Big shot (abbr.)  
30 Singer Celine  
31 Garment fastener  
33 Ship-shaped clock  
34 Took a chair  
37 Roman seven  
39 Over the wide blue  
41 Females  
42 — of Pigs  
43 Shooting-range word  
44 Cheese variety  
45 Gym course (abbr.)  
46 — and file  
48 — Paulo  
49 Garden tool  
50 Seabird  
51 Firearms org.  
53 28th pres.  
55 Old pronoun



## KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

### THE PUZZLER

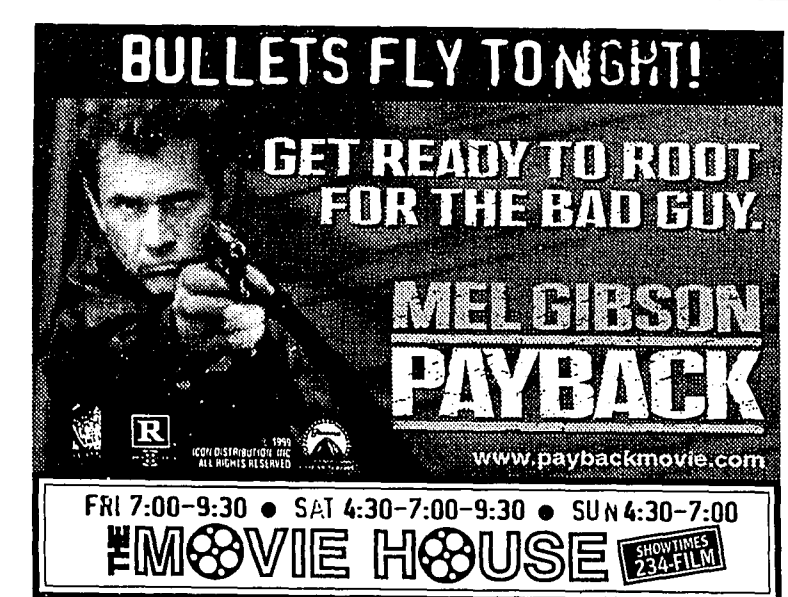
THIS PUZZLE SHOULD CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT A WORD. REMOVE THE RIGHT NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM THE WORDS BELOW AND SEE WHAT YOU'RE LEFT WITH.



The remaining letters must spell the words without changing their order.

1. Take one letter from BOAT to spell a night flyer.
2. Take three letters from WYOMING for a bird's arm.
3. Take two letters from CANDLE for a walking stick.
4. Take three letters from PILLOW to make you sick.
5. Take three letters from STRANGER for a rage.
6. Take one letter from PEARL to spell a fruit.
7. Take two letters from TENANT for a cloth shelter.
8. Take two letters from PLANET for a narrow road.

ANSWER: 1. BAT, 2. WING, 3. CANE, 4. ILL, 5. ANGER, 6. PEAR, 7. TENT, 8. LANE.



## IVYBL team standings

Islandwide Village Youth Basketball League, team standings as of March 10.

| Team                 | win | loss | pct.  |
|----------------------|-----|------|-------|
| San Antonio Sixers   | 9   | 0    | 1.000 |
| Tanapag              | 6   | 1    | .857  |
| Gualo Rai Rockers    | 6   | 1    | .857  |
| Capitol Hill Starzz  | 4   | 3    | .571  |
| Oleai Kings          | 4   | 4    | .500  |
| San Vicente Suns     | 4   | 5    | .444  |
| Garapan              | 2   | 5    | .286  |
| Chalan Kanoa Dist. 1 | 1   | 3    | .250  |
| Koblerville Stunners | 1   | 5    | .167  |
| Chalan Kanoa Dist. 4 | 0   | 9    | .000  |

| Player              | team         | gp | pts. | avg. |
|---------------------|--------------|----|------|------|
| Syl Teregeyo        | CK 4         | 9  | 255  | 28.3 |
| John T. Ngeskebai   | San Antonio  | 8  | 220  | 27.5 |
| Pedro Lizama        | Koblerville  | 6  | 129  | 21.5 |
| Thomas Aldan        | Gualo Rai    | 7  | 138  | 19.7 |
| George Lieto Jr.    | Tanapag      | 7  | 136  | 19.4 |
| Nicanor Ranas       | San Antonio  | 8  | 147  | 18.4 |
| Carlos Santos       | Capitol Hill | 6  | 91   | 15.2 |
| Raphael Magolina    | Tanapag      | 6  | 87   | 14.5 |
| Angel Cepeda        | San Vicente  | 9  | 130  | 14.4 |
| Jeremiah DLGuerrero | Tanapag      | 7  | 90   | 12.9 |

## Little . . .

Continued from page 52

Teammates Jesus Agulto and Danny Concepcion contributed to the Glazers win with the pair scoring three-runs.

New Starz's lone run came from John Tudela.

**Dandan Blue Jays 10, St. Jude Hustlers 0**

Matt Kintol and Mitch Rosco had two hits apiece. Rosco drove in two runs while Kintol scored twice in a ballgame shortened by the ten-run rule.

The ballgame ended in the fourth inning.

**San Antonio Cardinal 12, Kagman Rockies 5**

Thomas Joab went 3 for 5, at the plate, scored three times.

Gwen Sablan and Aloha Oei both scored 2RBIs and also scored twice on the Cardinals way to a victory.

**Padres 12, Toyota/Torres Cruisers 8**

Paul Lizama and Anthony Palacios both had two hits.

Donald Mendiola scored three times in an exciting ballgame, as the Padres held on to beat the tough Cruisers.

**San Vicente A's 28, Fielders 2**

Elton Agunon went 3 for 4, at bat, 4RBIs.

Paul Santos cleared centerfield for the three-run homer. Joshua Dela Cruz scored four times, while Gene Cameron added three more runs as the A's overwhelmed the Fielders.

Thorn Sablan and Jason Lizama scored Fielders' two runs.

**San Roque D-9ers 5, Little Knights 4**

Jumping to an three run lead in the first inning, D-9ers held off the Little Knights in the fourth ballgame in Little League action, Sunday at San Vicente ballpark.

Juan Dikito connected for two hits for the winning D-9ers.

Jonathan Lee Green had two hits for Little Knights loss.

## Sports . . .

Continued from page 52

On Tuesday and Fridays, practice will be from 5-6:30 p.m.

On Saturdays, practice is from 3-5:30 p.m.

Soccer practices will be at Airport Road football field.

For more information please call Naomi Oney at 235-6799, Stephan Bossler or Perry Lo at 234-0127.

## SPG . . .

Continued from page 52

petition, and to better their chances of bringing home the gold," added Techur.

The following players are reminded of the today's meeting at Ada Gym, conference room, beginning at 5 p.m.

CNMI men's slowpitch SPG team:

Nick S. Castro (pitcher)  
Juan D. Diaz (pitcher)  
Bart Jackson (pitcher)  
Peter R. Camacho (outfield)  
Roy L. Celis (outfield)  
Jesse J. Laniyo (outfield)  
Nick D. Leon Guerrero (outfield)

Tony G. Luzana (outfield)  
Sherman Mandarin (outfield)  
Landon Martin (outfield)  
Clark Ngiraidong (outfield)  
Luis Ngiraidong (outfield)  
Parthoon Rdiall (outfield)  
Alan S. Agunon (infield)  
Joseph T. Attuo (infield)  
Jerry L. Ayuyu (infield)  
William I. Benavente (infield)  
Edward A. Cepeda (infield)  
Eric T. Kani (infield)  
Ross S. Manglona (infield)  
Tony S. Mareham (infield)  
Winsor P. Ngiraidong (infield)

Percy S. Omechelang (infield)  
Brady K. Ubedel (infield)  
Bradley T. Ngewaki (infield/outfield)

## Palau . . .

Continued from page 1

the Bangladesh government.

With this, he said, it would be very difficult for them to regulate these workers since no one is representing them.

Another factor that prompted them to ban these workers was that their way of living is very much

different from the local people.

The DOL, the minister said, is now witnessing problems created by these workers. Recurring problems include group fighting against employers, cultural confrontation, religious differences, and unacceptable life styles, he added.

Palau began the hiring of Bangladesh nationals in 1989. Since July 1997, the number of Bangladeshis increased by 88.5

percent, from 244 to 460 as of this date.

For 1998 alone, Labor statistics indicated that there are about 200 Bangladeshis who came to the island. These workers mostly were employed in a managerial to service type of jobs.

Bangladeshis, who are still on the island, however, can request for transfer to another company, the labor chief said.

## GovGuam . . .

Continued from page 3

ton players, including H. Lee Buchanan, assistant secretary of the Navy who stopped on Guam a few weeks ago, brought success to the proposal.

Gutierrez credits Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Commander Naval Forces Marianas; the Navy and Defense Department Secretariat in Washington, D.C. for their efforts in pushing the return through. The approval Process, he said, is a complex one that takes the efforts of many

people concerned with the matter.

Gutierrez has just returned from an extensive trip to the mainland into which he brought a number of Guam's issues to the policy makers in Washington and to the National Governors Association Winter Meeting.

## Bill for . . .

Continued from page 3

He said the bill is an attempt to address some of the major concerns raised by members of Congress who do not necessarily oppose continued local control over immigration and minimum wage.

One of these concerns is the alien workers' inability to trans-

fer to another employer without completing a one-year contract or getting the employer's consent.

Manglona's bill would allow alien workers to transfer by merely giving their employers a 30-day notice. But an alien worker who wishes to transfer has to do so within 60 days from the date of notifying his employer.

Under the bill, alien workers

whose contracts were terminated for cause could also transfer to a new employer.

Further, the bill proposes that an alien worker who has been in the CNMI for six months or less could also transfer to another employer, provided that the new employer will reimburse the former employer for all costs associated with recruiting the alien worker.

## RP Senate . . .

Continued from page 2

the VFA, including television advertisements and participation of key defense and foreign affairs officials in regional hearings called by the Senate.

It says the Philippines, with one

of Asia's weakest militaries, needs U.S. defense assistance.

The pact, which must be approved by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate, provides legal protections for U.S. troops while they are in the Philippines. Critics say it would limit the Manila government's right to prosecute

American soldiers who commit crimes, promote prostitution and infringe on Philippine sovereignty.

Teodoro Casino, deputy secretary general of the left-wing New Patriotic Alliance, said the VFA would turn Filipinos into "second-class citizens in their own country" and make "a mockery of our sovereignty."

## SPORTS CALENDAR

| Friday Mar. 12   | (Ada Gym)   |
|--|---|
| <b>IVYBL</b>   | <b>Little League</b>                              |
| 6:30 p.m. Tanapag vs. Gualo Rai (Garapan)  | 9 a.m. San Vicente A's vs. San Antonio Cardinals  |
| <b>SML</b>   | 11 a.m. San Roque D-9ers vs. Cruisers             |
| 6:30 p.m. Miller Lite Brewers vs. Pepsi Saipan (Francisco Palacios Baseball Field) | 1 p.m. M.V Reyes vs. Ol'Aces vs. Dandan Blue Jays |
| <b>SSA</b>   | 3 p.m. Fielders vs. Kautz                         |
| 6:30 p.m. Sunrivers vs. Pacific Trading Lite Beer                                  | <b>Glass Glazers</b>                              |
| 8 p.m. Karl Reyes Islanders vs. CSI Hunters (Susupe softball field)                | (San Vicente baseball field)                      |
| <b>Saturday Mar. 13</b>  | <b>Senior League</b>                              |
| <b>IVYBL</b>   | 9 a.m. Tanapag Braves vs. Knights                 |
| 4:40 p.m. Garapan vs. Koblerville  | (Francisco Palacios Baseball Field)               |
| 6 p.m. Chalan Kanoa Dist-1 vs. Capitol Hill  | <b>Big League</b>                                 |
| 7:30 p.m. Chalan Kanoa Dist-1 vs. Garapan  | 1 p.m. Koblerville Hustlers vs. San Roque D-9ers  |
|  | (Francisco Palacios Baseball Field)               |
|  | <b>Sunday Mar. 14</b>                             |
|  | <b>IVYBL</b>                                      |
|  | 9 a.m. Oleai vs. Chalan Kanoa                     |

## Covenant . . .

Continued from page 52

The SSA will include for this year's SPG team lineup a, men's fastpitch team, a men's, and a women's slowpitch teams.

The cost of sending three teams to Guam will be expensive, and support from the public will get the athletes closer to getting there.

The entry fee for the Covenant Day Softball Tournament is set at \$200.

For more information call Joe Torres at 234-6098, Newman Techur 236-4836, Carol Ngiraidis at 323-4247.

## Domingo . . .

Continued from page 52

the Coca Cola Beverage Co.-sponsored junior chess tournament is still ongoing with the deadline set on Sunday, March 14.

The tournament is open to players below the age of 23 and will start on March 21 at the Pacific Island Club.

Venue for the registration is at Food Merchant International. For more information, call CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura at 234-6070, or CCA vice president Ed T. Benavente at 288-5516. (zd)

## Guam . . .

Continued from page 52

"We encourage all businesses to come together to volunteer their time and services to the Guam Special Olympics. Although times are hard, it is organizations like this that remind us how good it is to give," says Ruder.

Businesses interested in volunteering as a team can call Mike Files at 339-8833 to sign up.

For more information about the Guam Special Olympics, call Board Chairman Joe Zulkas at 477-8801 or Aubriene Merfalen at Glimpses of Guam at 649-0883.

# Holyfield predicts KO

By John Phillips

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — If, as Evander Holyfield says, his confidence was at an all-time low three years ago, these days he could give promoter Don King lessons in optimism, probably audacity too.

In the world according to Holyfield, he simply can't lose the heavyweight unification fight against Lennox Lewis on Saturday. His belief in God only makes the 36-year-old Holyfield stronger, he's immune to age in the ring and the past is dead.

"God is my strength," Holyfield said Wednesday for about the zillionth time since he became a "Born Again Christian" several years ago. He won't quite go as far as to say God is in his corner only, but it certainly appears he thinks his religious convictions have put him on a divine mission.

Holyfield said the low point in his confidence was in 1996, when he was

preparing to fight Mike Tyson the first time.

"The Lord told me victory was mine, but still I was getting beat up by sparring partners," Holyfield said. "I was wondering where my skills were." Then about two weeks before that fight it all came together, he said.

The rest is history - an epochal upset of Tyson in the first fight and the legendary ear-biting in the second bout, when Holyfield said Tyson, "did what was necessary to get out of there."

Holyfield got past his lack of confidence because "God lifted me out of there. And I said 'That's it. I will never lose again.'"

But despite his trove of heroics over the years, he said, people still don't recognize "what I have is something special, and you might not realize that until the game is over." But Holyfield insists, "I'm the best of my

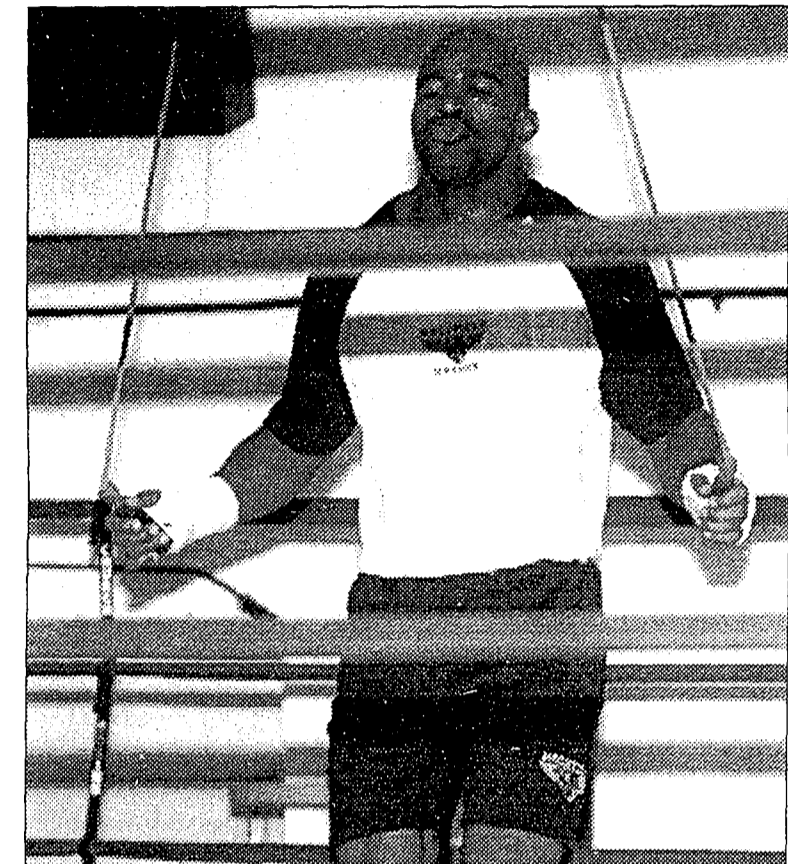
era."

Lately Holyfield has been insisting that, like wine and barroom stories, he only gets better with age, even though his clarity at least is open to question.

"The only thing I can see is improvement. I guess that's what makes me different," Holyfield said. "The majority of fighters start declining when they're 30, and as you can see I'm just ripe growing. The difference is that I've learned from my mistakes. But I do believe in God and that's the source of my strength."

His mistakes include earlier in his career too often jilting his game plan after he's been hurt and resorting to just whaling away at his much bigger opponents.

Holyfield flatly rejects the boxing fact of life that fighters who don't know when to quit simply get old in one night in the ring.



WBA and IBF Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield jumps rope during an open workout at the Church Street Gym Tuesday, New York. Holyfield and WBC Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis, of Britain, step into the ring on March 13, at New York's Madison Square Garden to defend their respective titles. AP

# Sampras, Hingis both lose

By KEN PETERS

**INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)** — Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis, the world's top-ranked tennis players, each lost to unseeded players a few hours apart on the same court.

Clay court specialist Felix Mantilla shocked Sampras 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3 Wednesday in their evening match at the Newsweek Champions Cup.

In the afternoon at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort Stadium court, Chanda Rubin knocked off defending Evert Cup champion Hingis 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Sampras, spraying shots outside the lines, looked rusty as he lost to Mantilla, ranked 20th in the world, for the first time in three meetings with the Spaniard.

Sampras won the Champions

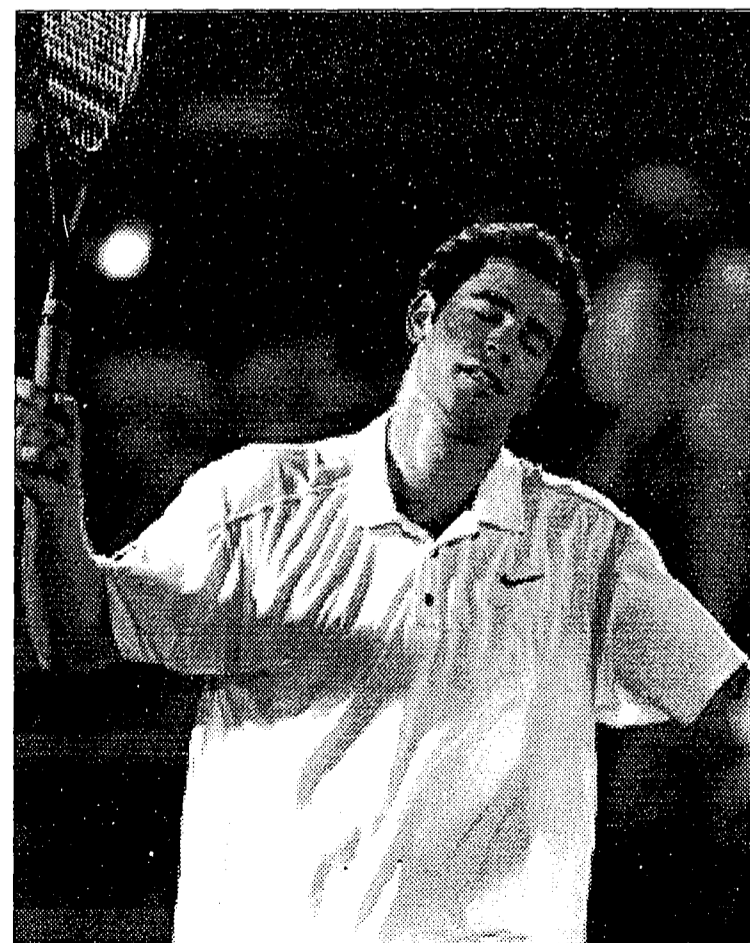
Cup in 1994 and 1995, but has been knocked out early the past four years.

Serena Williams, like Rubin unseeded, advanced to the Evert semifinals with a 7-5, 7-6 (7-1) victory over Mary Pierce. Williams, coming off her first career title last week in Paris, upset second-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the second round of this hard court tournament.

Williams' sister, Venus, is playing only doubles in the tournament, teaming with Serena.

Also advancing to the singles semifinals were Steffi Graf, who rolled to a 6-2, 6-0 win over Jana Novotna, and Sandrine Testud, with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Henrieta Nagyova.

Graf, the 1994 and 1996 Evert champion, faces Rubin in the semis.



Pete Sampras reacts after losing a point against Felix Mantilla, from Spain, during the second round of Newsweek Champions Cup men's tennis tournament. Mantilla ranked 20th upset the then No. 1 ranked Sampras, 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3. AP

# N.Y. Yankees's Joe Torre has cancer

**TAMPA, Fla. (Reuters)** — New York Yankees manager Joe Torre said Wednesday he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and will temporarily leave the team he guided to the World Series championship in 1996 and 1998.

Torre made the announcement at the baseball club's spring training camp just as hitter Darryl Strawberry was returning to the field following October 1998 colon cancer surgery that forced him to miss the playoffs and the World Series.

"I feel fine," said Torre, who will leave the team for an unspecified time to have treatment. "I am looking forward to taking care of this problem and getting back to work."

The news of Torre's illness came two days after Yankee legend Joe DiMaggio died at age 84. DiMaggio battled lung cancer and

other ailments for months.

Yankees principal owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement, "Joe will handle this situation with the same determination and courage that he has always demonstrated. Our prayers are with him."

The Yankees did not say who would run the club in Torre's absence, although bench coach Don Zimmer appeared to be the most likely candidate.

Torre signed a two-year contract extension February 24 worth a reported \$2 million per season to remain manager through 2001. He will earn slightly more than \$1 million in 1999.

Torre was named American League Manager of the Year for the second time in three years after sharing the award with Johnny Oates of the Texas Rangers in 1996.

# Martin to Nicklaus: Swallow pride, ride

By DOUG FERGUSON

**JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP)** — Jack Nicklaus was one of several golfers who spoke out against the court ruling that allowed Casey Martin to use a cart on the U.S. PGA Tour and in the U.S. Open.

Now that he has had hip replacement surgery, the 60-year-old Nicklaus says he might consider using one on the U.S. Senior PGA Tour during the early stages of his return.

"I have never taken a cart on the senior tour," he said. "If I had to use it... that's the rules of

that game. Do I want to take a cart? No. I much prefer to walk."

Should he be able to play in his own Memorial Tournament (doubtful), the U.S. Open (improbable) or the U.S. Senior Open (unlikely), Nicklaus would not be able to use a cart and wouldn't task for one.

"But the senior tour is the senior tour — it's not the walking tour," Nicklaus said. "It's the walking wounded, that's what it is."

Martin found the situation was "pretty ironic."

"However, I hope he uses one,"

Martin told CBS Sportsline. "I would feel really bad if the best player of all time didn't play because he testified against me. Swallow your pride and ride."

Martin has a rare circulatory disease in his right leg, making it nearly impossible for him to walk 18 holes. Martin said a cart would not give Nicklaus an unfair advantage. What it might give him, he said, is a new perspective.

"I just want him to play," Martin said. "In the back of my mind, I'm chuckling."



**Employ the Handicapped!**

## SPORTS



## SPG softball team named

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

AFTER many days spent practicing and just as many nights in

Susupe softball field playing their best, in local softball competitions, the selection for the CNMI National Slowpitch Men's Soft-

ball team, have been made.

The selection and list of player names were made available to the Variety from the Saipan Softball

Association.

The CNMI All-Star men's softball team will start preparing for the tough challenge that lay ahead. The challenge is to compete in the South Pacific Games (SPG), and bring home the medals.

The current (selected) crop of players have proven themselves to be excellent players in local competition.

Competition in the 1999 South Pacific Games—to be held on Guam—begin in May.

"The officers and boardmembers of SSA congratulate all the players for being selected. They will represent the CNMI in the SPG," said Newman

Techur.

"We encourage all the players to work hard and continue to improve their skills, to be better prepared for the expected tough com-

Continued on page 50



Boxing promoter Don King holds up the hands of WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, of Britain (left) and WBA and IBF heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, of Atlanta, Georgia, during a news conference Wednesday in New York. AP

## Covenant Day softball tournament in March

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

EAGER to play softball without, going to every practice your coach calls, and help the community as well?

This is the chance for most of the weekend athletes to get dirt between the cleats, savor the smell of leather (yes, the baseball glove in the trunk of the car), get the uniform dirty, and walk the talk, as the saying goes. And if the walk becomes too difficult to do, then may talk the walk, or something rather.

The Saipan Softball Association's Covenant Day Fundraising Softball tournament is scheduled for action over the Mar. 19-21, weekend.

Two divisions have been drawn up. A men's division as well as a women's division.

Players, however must be at least 16-years old to enter.

Twenty players is the limit for a team to put in their roster.

You may even get a change to take home a trophy, cool.

First, second, and third place finishers will receive trophies.

Other prizes will be given away to lucky winners as well.

The proceeds of the tournament will be used by the SSA to send the CNMI's softball teams to the South Pacific Games.

Continued on page 50

## Domingo tops chess tourney

REIGNING CNMI champion Manny Domingo, in one of the most impressive performances of his chess career, topped the eighth active tournament by winning all his nine games.

Lito Bermudez, whose only lose was to Domingo, finished a point behind to claim second place, while Ed T. Benavente notched third place with six points, half-a-point ahead highly ranked player Ely G. Buenaventura.

Sponsored by the CNMI Chess Association (CCA), the 10-man, 15-minute-per player event was held Sunday at Food Merchant International beside Gesaram Auto Shop in As Lito.

Meanwhile, the registration for

Continued on page 50

## Guam ad agency to sponsor Special Olympics

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Glimpses of Guam is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year by strengthening its commitment to Guam's community by dedicating its services to worthwhile organizations.

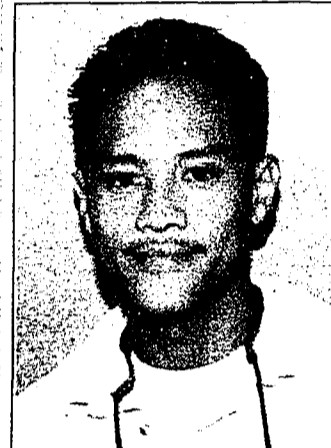
"The Guam Special Olympics approached us at a perfect time. We were looking to dedicate our 25th anniversary year by supporting the community that has supported us for the past 25 successful years," said Steve Ruder, president of Glimpses Advertising.

"The Guam Special Olympics is a worthy organization that has been around almost as long as we have, and is entirely dependent on committed volunteers and sponsors to manage its events."

Glimpses of Guam will be donating its time and expertise to help publicize the March 20 track and field event that will take place at the John F. Kennedy High School field from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Glimpses has also organized a team of volunteers to assist the athletes on the day of the event.

Continued on page 50

## NMASA Feb. Athletes



Ed Diaz-Basketball



Daryl Ada-Baseball



Tamiko Winkfield-Swimming



Ann Jordan-Windsurfer

## Little League round-up

Garapan Pirates 13, Tanapag Braves 4

JOHN PETER Sablan blasted a towering outside the park home run deep over the center field fence, knocking in two runs in the process. Sablan went on and score three times. Teammate Maynard Duenas had two hits and 3RBIs as well.

MVR Ol'Aces 13, Kagman Lions 3

In just three-half innings, Jack Lizama fanned eight of the fifteen Lion's batters he faced, gave up

three walks, and only one hit. The ballgame was called on a ten-run-rule after the fourth inning.

Teammate, Benwachi Taisakan had two hits, scored twice, with 3RBIs, while Daryl Ada scored three times as the Ol'Aces remain undefeated

Kautz Glass Glazers 17, New Starz 1

Zach Conception was perfect in the box, going 4 for 4, knocking in a record breaking seven-runs in one ballgame.

Continued on page 50

## SPORTS NOTES

NMASA SPG

TO ALL sports clubs who will be participating in the South Pacific Games, please take notes of the important dates below.

**March 15**, ten-percent (10%) of the airfare cost are due, for NMASA to reserve seats with the airlines, at the special fare price. Team must travel together on May 27 or 28, and return June 12 or 13.

**March 28**, the final entries are due to the NMASA office for all athletes, coaches, and officials. Entries must be accompanied with passport photos.

These dates are final!

Youth Soccer

Organizers of the Youth Soccer league will begin training the youngsters, beginning Tuesday Mar. 16.

Other practice days are scheduled for Friday and Saturdays.

Continued on page 50

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