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News
& Views

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Thursday • March 20, 1997

• Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 24 Years

50¢

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By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

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seemed futile to him after all.

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Gus Omar (in wheelchair), John Siren (with crutches) and Susan Karasek (with blindfold) play "disabled" during the drill conducted by organizers of the American with Disabilities Act workshop at the Hyatt.

Photo by Mar-Vic C. Munar

Governor wants non-US citizens barred from hiring alien workers



Froilan C. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he will propose a bill that would prohibit non-U.S. citizens from recruiting alien workers to the

CNMI.

Tenorio, at the same time, said he will ask the U.S. State Department to look into the possible extradition of Segundino Ubongen, the alleged swindler of 191 Bangladeshi and 2 Filipino workers.

It was Ubongen's case, the governor said, that prompted him to propose the bill.

"It seems like foreigners are taking advantage of the CNMI," he said in a media conference, "and I do not tolerate that any more."

"We give them opportunity to come here and do business, but they take advantage of us and (then) run away. A Filipino national, Ubongen, 42,

fled the CNMI last Feb. 26. He is reportedly in Manila where he runs a recruitment agency."

Tenorio said his proposed law would exempt employers who have more than 100 employees.

These employers could still hire directly, he added, but those with less than 100 employees would have to go through a CNMI recruiting agency owned by U.S. citizens.

Tenorio said these recruiters would be required to post bonds or deposit security money.

"I don't want (to give) fly-

Continued on page 16

Bill to check governor's emergency powers vetoed

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday vetoed a bill that would require the Legislature's nod on the extension of a state of emergency beyond 60 days.

He said such a requirement will be "unconstitutional."

Senate Bill 10-62 was critical of Tenorio for "abusing" his emergency powers when he declared a water state of emergency on March 22, 1995 and had it extended to 600 days "to address Saipan's water supply problem."

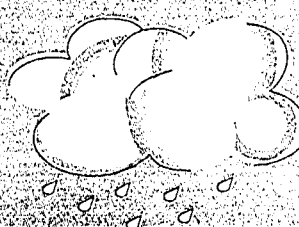
The lawmakers contend that Tenorio misconstrued the real intent of Section 10, Article III of the Commonwealth Constitution which he invoked when he made the declaration.

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Freedom Air suspends its Rota, Guam flights

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

FREEDOM Air suspended commuter flights to Rota and Guam yesterday, and they will remain suspended until Sunday, it was learned.

"We hope to resume flights next Monday," George H. Naputi, the airline's supervisor on Saipan told the Variety.

Flights to Tinian are not affected.

Naputi said he did not know the reason or reasons for the suspension, saying they only received the orders from the airline's main office in Guam.

"They (just) told us. We're not really sure why," Naputi said.

The airline's Saipan station manager, Dennis Cruz, was in Guam for the managers' regular monthly meeting, and Naputi said they should know the reason when he comes back. Cruz was scheduled to be back last night, Naputi said.

A source, however, said the aircraft used in the Saipan-Rota-Guam broke down.

Freedom Air, which stops over Rota on its way to Guam, ferries an average of 18 passengers daily on this route.

It has two flights from Monday to Friday; one flight on Saturday morning; and also one flight on Sunday afternoon.

Another commuter airline, Pacific Island Aviation, was reportedly heavily booked in its Rota and Guam routes.

PIA has five daily flights to Rota and Guam from Monday to Sunday.

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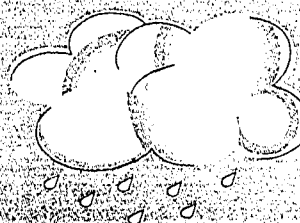
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WEATHER Outlook



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50 die in Russia plane crash

MOSCOW (AP) — A civilian airliner exploded into fiery pieces and crashed into a wooded area in southern Russia on Tuesday, killing all 50 people on board.

The Stavropol Airlines AN-24 crashed shortly after taking off from the southern city of Stavropol, said Viktor Belsova of the Emergency Situations Ministry. Officials said it

was too early to determine the cause. Plane fragments and human remains were scattered over a 4-mile-wide area at the crash site near Cherkessk, about 55 miles south of Stavropol, he said.

Witnesses heard a bang and then saw the plane's tail falling to the ground, Belsova said. Evening news programs broadcast footage of the

plane's tail poking out of a snow-covered field.

Rescue workers had identified at least 36 bodies as of late Tuesday, Mikhail Shiryayev, deputy prime minister of the Karachayev-Cherkessia region, told the Interfax news agency.

The plane was flying at 19,700 feet when it disappeared off radar

screens shortly after 10 a.m., officials said.

The 41 passengers and nine crew members were headed to the northern Turkish city of Trabzon, on the Black Sea coast, 250 miles south of Stavropol.

Trabzon is a popular destination among the estimated 1 million Russian "shuttle traders" who visit Turkey every year to buy inexpensive clothing and consumer goods they can sell at a profit back home.

A Turkish television station, quoting Stavropol Airlines officials, said no Turks were on the plane.

Russian news reports said the plane's flight data recorder had been recovered.

Stavropol Airlines is one of the many private airlines that have emerged since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. Many of the airlines have poor safety records and there have been numerous crashes in the former Soviet republics in recent years.

Zairian PM ousted

By BETH DUFF-BROWN

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — Zaire's prime minister, widely blamed for sweeping military losses to rebels in eastern Zaire, was ousted from power Tuesday by a nearly unanimous parliament vote.

The unpopular Leon Kengo wa Dondo was toppled only hours after he left for Nairobi, Kenya, for an international meeting on the insurgency in Zaire. Earlier today, rumors circulated that he would be prevented from leaving the country.

His dismissal came after his government's worst setback in the war, the loss of Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city, over the weekend.

Parliament spokesman Kinkela Vi K'ansy said 464 members of the 470-seat transitional parliament

took part in the vote tonight. Nine members voted against his removal and 10 abstained, he said.

No replacement was immediately named.

Kengo was elected prime minister by parliament in 1994, but only after President Mobutu Sese Seko made clear Kengo was his choice for the job. Mobutu had surgery for prostate cancer last August and was admitted to a hospital in Monaco on Friday.

There was no immediate reaction to Kengo's ouster in the capital, which has been gripped by fear of an impending military coup or the fall of the government.

Military leaders had been among Kengo's harshest critics, blaming him for setbacks in the war against rebels who have captured most of eastern Zaire in the last seven

months.

Kengo, whose mother was of Rwandan Tutsi descent, was accused of secretly backing the rebels, who are believed closely linked to the Tutsi-led government in neighboring Rwanda.

Earlier Tuesday, government soldiers looted the market in Mbuji-Mayi, the hub of Zaire's lucrative diamond industry, an official of the government-owned mining company said.

The report came after the rebels said they would move toward Eastern Kasai province, of which Mbuji-Mayi is the capital.

The rebel advance across eastern Zaire has been eased by the lack of discipline among Zaire's poorly paid soldiers, who have repeatedly looted cities and fled rather than fight.



Suffering a torn ligament in his right knee, President Clinton is carefully lowered into a wheelchair so he can be carried aboard Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Fla., Friday morning. The president's injury came during a visit to the home of golf pro Greg Norman in nearby Hobe Sound early Friday morning. AP Photo

Philippines to release statement on defector

TOKYO (AP) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon on Wednesday refused to say where a North Korean defector was staying in the Philippines before traveling to South Korea.

But he said the Philippine government will release a statement on Hwang Jang Yop, the 74-year old defector, later Wednesday in Manila. Siazon, in Tokyo to sign a new loan, expressed hopes that allowing Hwang to stop by in the Philippines will help bring about better relations with China.

China has avoided a direct snub of North Korea by having Hwang, the most senior North Korean official to seek asylum in rival South Korea, stop off in a third country first.

Hwang arrived Tuesday at the Clark Special Economic Zone, a former U.S. military air base north of Manila, on a chartered Air China plane, airport officials said.

Other officials said the helicopters went to Baguio, a mountain resort city in the northern Philip-

pines.

Hwang had been inside the heavily guarded South Korean consulate in Beijing for five weeks since seeking asylum.

So far, the Philippine government only confirmed that it had agreed to accept Hwang. On Tuesday, it clamped a tight news blackout over Hwang's arrival, refusing to say where or how long he is expected to stay. China and South Korea refused to give even the name of the country where Hwang went.

"As far as China-Philippine relations are concerned, I believe that our particular role in this incident would improve our relations not only with China but also with all countries involved," Siazon told reporters.

"We had hoped to provide mutually acceptable solution for all of them."

The Philippines also sees a chance to strengthen ties with South Korea, whose growing influx of investment and tourism is key for the economy, Siazon said.

Tenorio says he may sue

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio may sue Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson, the law firm representing Sekisui House, for allegedly making false claims and charges against him in connection with the loans he got from Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga.

"We're looking into that (the possible lawsuit)," he said yesterday in a media conference, but added that as governor he ex-

Governor raps Sekisui lawyers for 'smearing' his name

pected "something like this."

"(As they say), if I can't stand the heat, I should get out of the kitchen, right?"

Tenorio, in a press statement yesterday, described Hiraga as a "good man."

"I am proud to have him as my friend," he said, referring to the Japanese businessman who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery.

Tenorio said his loans from Hiraga, which amounts to some \$650,000, was made public to "embarrass" him "so that I could ask Chico...to drop his case (against Sekisui House)."

"Anyone who thinks that, doesn't know me very well," he added.

Tenorio said he doesn't condone any criminal activity, but "I also do not abandon my friends in time of need, especially given the facts in (Hiraga's) case."

It was the federal official who extorted a bribe from Hiraga's business associates, he said.

"Mr. Hiraga was drawn into a scheme not of his making. He cooperated fully with the investi-

gators and prosecutors. "As a man of honor, he pleaded guilty, saving the government the cost of a trial."

"Everybody else in the case, including the federal official who started it, went to jail. "Other than a small fine, Mr. Hiraga's entire sentence (of five years) was suspended. "At his sentencing, (the judge) said that Chico was more a victim than a wrongdoer."

Despite getting loans from Hiraga, however, Tenorio said the

top court officials stated, will enable the judiciary and the Law Revision Commission to successfully implement their constitutional and statutory duties of administering justice and delivering other related services for the people.

The two officials said the proposed reorganization is intended to assist the courts in establishing a unified court system for a more efficient administration of the Judicial Branch.

Court Director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero will be meeting with court personnel to explain the proposed reorganization and to start the process necessary to get the various proposals in motion.

"Deleon Guerrero will be soliciting additional input from the personnel through regular staff meetings and surveys to get more staff participation as we address new and existing demands on the courts and as we face new challenges ahead," said Taylor and Castro in the memorandum.

Further, the two court officials said, numerous proposals have been offered to develop regular programs and services which will promote and enhance staff development and employee morale.

Taylor and Castro urged court personnel to cooperate with Deleon Guerrero's attempts to implement the Commonwealth Judiciary Branch reorganization plan as outlined in the budget package and other staff development activities.

Taylor and Castro said the Judicial Branch FY 1998 annual appropriations request was recently submitted to Gov. Froilan Tenorio and the Legislature for their funding assistance and consideration.

The \$10.8 million budget, the two

Judicial branch seeks \$10.8M budget in '98



W. K. Taylor

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Judicial Branch has sought a \$10.8 million budget for its personnel and operations' annual funding for Fiscal Year 1998.

In a memorandum sent yesterday to court personnel, Supreme Court Chief Justice W. K. Taylor and Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro said the budget package included numerous proposals for the re-organization of the administrative services of the courts.

Castro and Taylor said the Judicial Branch FY 1998 annual appropriations request was recently submitted to Gov. Froilan Tenorio and the Legislature for their funding assistance and consideration.

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Gov't charges man with sexual abuse of a child

THE ATTORNEY General's Office filed charges yesterday against a man who allegedly sexually abused a six-year-old girl.

David Bamba was charged with sexual abuse of a child.

According to a complaint filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli, "beginning on or about Feb. 6, 1996 through March 1996, Bamba engaged in sexual contact with a minor under 16 years old."

Bamba was summoned to appear in the Superior Court on March 31. Meanwhile, combined elements of the Drug Enforcement Agency and Department of Public Safety arrested a man who allegedly yielded crystal methamphetamine during a raid at his house yesterday.

Joseph Celis Cabrera, 35, allegedly yielded four grams of "ice" when the raiding team executed a search warrant, police said.

In other police report, two women were arrested after the two engaged in a riot at a barracks in Gualo Rai Tuesday morning.

Arrested were Guang Mei He, 32, and Jhi Ying Lian, 39. The two had an argument before ending up with a fight.

At Managaha Island, a 31-year-old male tourist complained that his handbag containing camera was stolen when he went swimming Tuesday morning.

The tourist claimed he placed his bag on the beach side. In Chalan Kanoa, two persons were arrested for reckless driving and illegal possession of controlled substance before dawn yesterday.

James A. Remarii, 20, was arrested for reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Remarii's passenger, Mariano M. Satur, 21, was nabbed for illegal possession of marijuana.

Investigation showed that the police stopped Remarii who was spotted driving recklessly along Beach Road.

When the police searched Remarii's car, the officer found marijuana allegedly owned by Satur.

—Ferdie de la Torre

As an anti-snake measure:

DLNR plans to impound cargo containers at ports for a day

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

INCOMING cargo containers will be impounded for a day and checked for Brown Tree Snakes, according to a plan by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

"We want cargo containers, especially those from high-risk countries, to be impounded for 24 hours and see if it has snakes," said acting DLNR Secretary Eugene A. Santos.

High-risk countries include the Philippines, Guam, and Indonesia.

Santos said the "barrier" will be built with fences to make sure that snakes "alighting" from the contain-

ers do not find their way into Saipan's wilderness and reproduce.

Meanwhile, Santos said at least two canines will be purchased by DLNR by May as part of the government's efforts to eradicate the snake's population.

He said a specialist will be hired to ship and train the canines.

The specialist, he said, has been previously hired to train the two canines now assigned with the Finance Department's customs division.

The DLNR canines will be posted at the ports of entry.

The Brown Tree Snake is a native of Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Australia.

A report on the matter prepared by the Joint Federal-CNMI Environmental Working Group said that to date, the snake has been reported on 11 islands which include Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam and Cocos Island; Okinawa; Diego Garcia; Kwajalein; Oahu, Wake Island and Ponape.

The snake, according to the report, "has the potential to produce significant economic, environmental and social impacts."

It feeds on poultry thereby causing damages on the agriculture sector. It also causes numerous power outages thereby resulting of losses in production.

the printer cables. "And the curious thing about it is ("for some unexplained reason," according to Word), the rats had chosen to chew the computers in the offices of the vice president for administration; admissions and records; and financial aid. The lanes in these offices have become known as Rat Alleys, according to Word.

As of yesterday, however, Ray Mafnas, management information systems specialist (who holds office at the Office of the Administrative Vice President), swore to the Variety that "we have taken care of the rat problem" through the use of poison and mouse trap.

"The problem here," he said, "is

the rats are very smart. They don't eat the poison anymore because one rat tried it out, and then he informed all the other rats. So now the other rats won't touch the poison."

"But this morning, there was one confirmed kill," he added.

The dead rat, he said, had cut the cables four or five times.

Mafnas said they had four cables cut in the last two weeks.

"Last week it happened twice, this week it happened twice again," he said.

The Word said a new chemical was being tried "that will not only kill rats but also cause dehydration and eventual transformation into 'jerky,' therefore eliminating odor from dead rats."



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Na ancho fan'atanmo gi asuntong publiko

Ginen: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

GI todo konsiderasion lai osino areglamenton linahyan, obligao na u guaha kabales na hinisga gi todo atmos bandan asunto pot para u guaha establisao na kinemprende gi hafa mapropopone. Gi uttimo besis, debi ennao na priniponen lai u kubre mayotmente gi publiko hinerat.

Lao esta tatutuhon fuma' hayuta osino kustumbreta i gigon guaha umesalao pot chinatsaga, ensegidas man ensinahyao hit para ta kubre yan tana' mapao un' sentimento ni chat'asunto pot paire na attikulon politika . Sin inbatgo, ta dobla mañgas chininata ya ta apprueba gi hechuran lai ennao na inigoñg sin kabales hinisga hafa propio i asunto.

I plaset esta matulaika deste 1978 'nai humalom i nuebo na sisteman gobiernamento guine. Manaigue hit esta gi papa' Trust Territory 'nai un'tiempo libre mandiskrimina taotao hioyong katkuet sakudida. Maliño esta ennao na eksisio ya todo taotao ni gaiqe guine ligatmente, pareho gai proteksio gi papa' i lai taimano hit mismo nu i taotao tano'. Ti kombene na gigon guaha chinatsaga ensegidas tafa' fagas sekosta i taotao hioyong. Megai besis 'nai hita mismo umesaguen maisa hit.

Hita dumiroya ayo na lai i 49/51 pot sientio gi todo nuebo na bisnis ni humalom guine 'nai i taotao tano' dueño 51 pot sientio gi kompania. Lao achogha' este na areglamento, unos kuantos ha' mangai keble para u fañaonao gi maestablesen este siha na kompania. Lamayot patte mamoble ya ti siña mañaonao guine siha na adelanto.

Mababa dispues gi 1977 i sagua' bisnis guine 'nai esta ti presiso na u saonao i taotao tano' gi kompania. Milalag halom kometsianten mandañgkulo, mediano yan mandikiki' siha na bisnis. Mauleg kinalamtenña i mandikiki' siha na kometsiante ni gumuguo' lamayot patte gi komunidan bisnis. Ginen i kontribusion tax ni hana' hahalom gi kada sakan muna' ti presiso na umahatsa kontribusionta tax. Estague' na benefisio ta apprubecha esta pago na ora ginen este siha i mandikiki' na bisnis ginen hioyong.

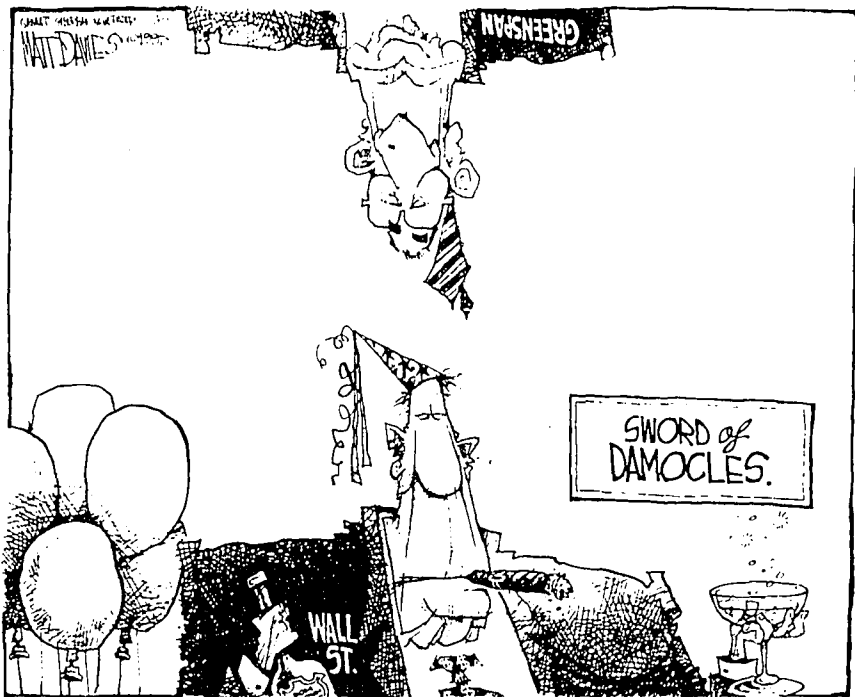
Pot bandan fangualuan, esta pago sige ha' talie' marepiten trenta años na problemen entalo lancheros siha guine. Pot ihemplo, komo tiempom pipino, tumates, fioles yan otro siha na gulusina, machuchuda' i metkao direchas kueddas. Megai lastima gi este siha na kinisechan gualo'. Gi mismo tiempo ni uno malago' umadmita na guaha tinilaika siha gi presente na metkao tat komo hotels, restaurant, yan otro siha na fina' sagan chumochó. La dañgkulo i metkao ya i kuestiona kao magahet na ta estudiaye hafa sesso nesesidat este siha na metkao pat sige hit ha' ni saulag fabulas de chispas?

Sahñge hafa guinaiyan paladatta yan este siha na taotague. Debi u guaha otganisasion deste bente años malofan hafa seso kanuun' gi entre turista yan lokue' i mangaige guine. Sin este na areglamento, sige hit ha' siempre ta tulos layag galaide' ta sin direksion. Ti siña na para ensegidas ginen hita mismo ni fumañaog chinatsagata para ta sogne i taotao hioyong na ginen siha na gumuaha chinatsaga gi halom lancheros. Ya mientras sige hit man'agastaye otguyo, sige ha' mas i taotao hioyong ha prekura muna' fino mas i pareho offisio pot para u gana i disision manehante gi 'nos kuantos siha na metkao guine.

Maseha guaha sentron fangualuan guine tat komo i Saipan Farmers Market, man esgin un' banda ha i lancheros ya siha mismo buniende produktion niha. I sesebla, ha yute' guato gi Saipan Farmers Market pot para umafahan fuetsao. Esta pago i Saipan Farmers Market kekeyao ginen mismo malabidan i membro siha. Lao falag guato gi Island Farmers Market sa' pareho produkto ha bebende. Hafa i difrensia? Manehante!

Ni kuantio na lai uma'apruueba gi hechuran proteksion taotao tano' 'nai hita mismo mampos manmuñero man-eyag kustumbren yan dicho eksisioin bisnis, tat sustansia i lai. Obligao na u guaha tinilaika gi manera 'nai ta maneneha gualota kontra nesesidat metkao, paladat i fumatotoigue ennao siha na restaurant kosake fitme infotmasionta hafa dipotsihe hademamanda i metkao. Lokue', debi u guaha mauleg na plano para ke siña ta kubre sin minagtos este siha na nesesidat. Ti siña na huñgan pago, agupa' ahe'.

I siña umaregla este siha na chinatsaga solu hita mismo nu i taotao tano'. Debi tanalala' tatte i mañge' na sensian kooperasion gi un' dinaña pot para ta sabta problemen todos ginen un na sentron yan otganisao na inetnon. Siña ta chogue ya guaha dañgkulo konfiansiagho na siña lokue' tana lagse kinalamtenña pot sabasionta. Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

The case of the fallacious felony charge

WASHINGTON—Lena Russell, a medical records clerk in Topeka, Kan., may be the only federal employee in history to be booked on felony charges for attending a convention.

The story of how this ebullient, 62-year-old woman ended up in prison blues is a telling example of what can happen when government bureaucrats overstep their bounds in enforcing the rules.

Russell's troubles began after she and two co-workers attended a 1994 convention in Puerto Rico of the Boston based National Association of Government Employees.

Russell is the president of a local union chapter in Topeka, representing the 800 workers who toil in the local Veterans Affairs hospital. Under the local's bylaws, the president and her top deputies are automatically permitted to use union funds to attend official functions.

But some union officials didn't like Russell. They didn't want her spending union dues to travel, even if it was an official function. So they filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor. Shortly thereafter, they resigned from the union.

For nearly two years, the complaint bounced around the Labor Department's Office of Labor Management Standards. Russell, who knew a complaint had been filed against her, thought the matter had been dropped. Then came the morning of Sept. 18, 1996.

Russell had been at work for a couple of hours when VA security guards showed up to tell her that she was being arrested. Sure enough, waiting at the front desk were two Topeka police officers and a federal marshal. They were holding a warrant for her arrest—on felony charges — for stealing \$1,093.85 of the union's money.

"As soon as they told me the amount, I knew it was for Puerto Rico," Russell told us.

The officers then handcuffed Russell ("behind my back") and drove her down to the station house for booking. There she followed the routine that thousands of hardened criminals go through every day: A "patdown," fingerprinting, a phone call, and the issuing of her prison blues. Finally they led her to a cell, after supplying her with two pillow cases, a towel and a washcloth.

How did this come to pass? In the state of Kansas, any "theft" over the amount of \$1,000 is treated as a felony. The Labor Department official who investigated the case (it was handed over to the local district attorney for prosecution) arrived at her fig-

ure by adding up the cost of the plane tickets for the three union officials who went to Puerto Rico.

Adding insult to injury Russell was also charged with two misdemeanors over hotel and transportation charges she billed to the union.

The whole thing could probably have been avoided officials note, had anyone bothered to interview Russell—or contacted union officials for an explanation. But instead, the wheels of justice ground on, until a court hearing last month. After a short hearing, the court dismissed all charges.

A Labor Department official we contacted now professes surprise that local officials went ahead with the prosecution. "In most cases like this, people are not arrested," the official told us. "We had nothing to do with the arrest. That's something that would be done by local authorities, and it's something that surprised me."

Union officials, however remain steamed about the incident. As NAGE president Ken Lyons told us: "The Labor Department has to understand that Gestapo tactics like these won't be tolerated."

UNDER THE DOME— The inexplicable release from custody of Dany Toussaint, a former top Haitian official who's suspected of participating in "extrajudicial killings," is attracting attention on Capitol Hill.

Last month, we reported that Toussaint was detained —and then released—by immigration officials when he arrived in Miami from Haiti. Immigration officials told us they detained Toussaint at the request of the State Department. But Toussaint was sprung, they say, after State Department officials failed to provide the necessary information to detain him.

Since our column first appeared, two House committee chairmen have written to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Attorney General Janet no to complain.

"We are ... writing you to express our deep concerns about the management of the Toussaint case," the letter reads, "and the possible manipulation of the lookout list in certain terrorism cases by, senior administration of officials."

It is signed by Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman, R-N.Y., chairman of the International Relations Committee, and Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of the Judiciary Committee's crime subcommittee.

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan has stated that the the heirship and paternity claims of Hillblom's two alleged children are invalid.

Lawyer Rodney J. Jacob, counsel forexecutor BOS, asked the Superior Court to dismiss the claims of David Moncrieff and Milagros Feliciano, guardians for Jellian Cuartero and Mercedita Feliciano respectively.

In the executor's motion, Jacob stated that the court lacks jurisdiction of the petitions of Moncrieff and Mrs. Feliciano because the claims were filed after the expiration of the 60-day time period mandated by the statute.

The late multimillionaire died in an airplane crash on May 21, 1995.

Jacob said BOS published a notice

of hearing on petition to admit will to probate and appointment of executor in the *Marianas Variety* on July 11, 1995.

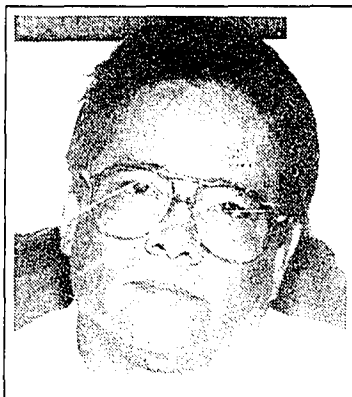
On May 4, 1995 or three weeks prior to Hillblom's death, the BOS counsel said, Julie Cuartero gave birth to Jellian Cuartero.

Although no petition for adjudication of paternity was filed during Hillblom's lifetime, Hillblom had no contact with Jellian and never married Julie.

Jacob said Moncrieff filed the petition in the Superior Court on Nov. 17, 1995 and amended the document on Dec. 19, 1995 to reveal the identity of the child, Jane Doe Hillblom.

Jacob said the document was filed 180 days after Hillblom's death and 129 days after BOS published the notice of hearing on petition to admit

Castro clears title of disputed land



Alexandro Castro

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro has cleared the title of a doctor's land which was subjected to fraud scheme to consummate a non-existent land lease agreement.

In his partial default judgment issued Tuesday, Castro ordered that

defendants Jesus Malusa, k.a. Venusto Mangarero and Tae Su Ung be permanently enjoined from asserting any claim or title adverse to Dr. Calistro C. Cabrera's real property.

"Malus and all other persons claiming under Cabrera have no estate, right, title, lien or interest in or to the premises or any part thereof," said the judge.

Castro ruled that Cabrera owns absolutely in fee simple and is entitled to peaceful possession of certain parcel of 2,975 sq. meters of land.

Cabrera filed last October a \$1 million suit against Mangarero, Ung, Notary Public Rufina C. Fritz, Ryoo Sang Ho, and John Does 1 to five, in connection with two fraud schemes perpetrated by Malus upon him.

First, Cabrera loaned more than \$20,000 to Malus who induced him to give money in order to engage in various activities needed to obtain payment of a rent in a land lease.

will to probate and appointment of executor.

On the other hand, Mrs. Feliciano first filed paternity and heirship claims on Dec. 16, 1996.

On Feb. 13, 1997, Jacob said Mrs. Feliciano attempted to refile the petition by attaching a summons to the document and depositing copies of it in the lower court service boxes of counsel for the executor.

Feliciano failed to serve the petition upon an officer, manager or employee of the executor, Jacob pointed out.

Mrs. Feliciano gave birth to Mercedita on Dec. 22, 1995.

Jacob said no claim for paternity or heirship was filed on Mercedita's behalf, however, until Dec. 16, 1996—a year and a half after Hillblom's death and a year after

Malus has not repaid the loan.

The second scheme involved Cabrera's real property in Susupe which Malus illegally recorded as Deed of Gift at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder.

The Deed of Gift purports to be a grant of Susupe lot from plaintiff to Malus.

Malus then executed a ground lease for the Susupe property for 55 years to defendant Ho. Under the lease, Malus represents himself as "lessor."

The lower court's clerk issued a default judgment against Malus and Ung for failing to answer the complaint within the required time.

Castro in his order asked the Recorder's Office to mark "void" the Deed of Gift documents allegedly executed between Malus and Cabrera and the Ground Lease papers between Ung and Malus.

Mercedita's birth.

The first petition filed by Feliciano was ineffective because no summons was attached to the document as required by Commonwealth Rules and Civil procedure, said the BOS counsel.

"Feliciano's attempt to refile the defective petition fails not only because it was not properly served upon the executor, but because it was filed after the close of the statutory time period and because it fails to state a

claim..." he said.

California Deputy Atty. Gen. Yeoryios C. Apallas moved to grant BOS' motion in order to protect the estate from any further loss occasioned by the late-filed claims.

By granting the motion, Apallas stated, the probate court will not only promote speedy and efficient estate administration but will fulfill its obligation to respect and carry out the wishes of the deceased.

Tenorio invites more investors

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio has asked the CNMI Economic Council to assist his government in inviting more Japanese investors to put up business in the Commonwealth.

"I would appreciate if you could contact, on a regular basis, your friends in the Japanese government ministries and agencies, as well as members and staff of the diet," Tenorio said, speaking at the second council conference in Tokyo, Japan, last March 14.

Tenorio urged the council to help him find potential investors for specific projects such as the proposed Silver Town.

The council, which is composed of Japan's corporate elite, was created in 1994. Its task is to give the governor advice which he could use in formulating economic policies and encouraging additional, investment.

"I see a council that is active throughout the year helping our economy," Tenorio said.

He said the council's support and advice "have been very helpful" as they have resulted in several local initiatives such as the Garapan Police Koban.

"With your help," Tenorio told the council members, "we have been able

to jump start our economy and bring it back to life once again."

The CNMI, he said, now has a healthy climate for investors.

Business is booming in the three Commonwealth islands, the governor said.

Infrastructures have improved, and crime is being addressed well, he said.

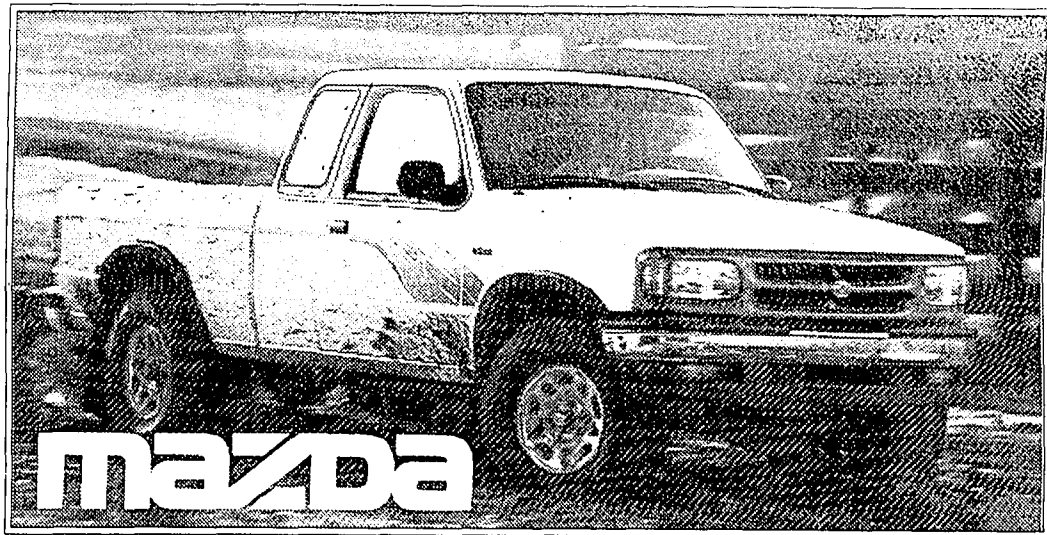
The safety of visitors and residents, Tenorio said, "is of prime importance to us."

At present, he said, the CNMI government is receiving assistance from the police department of Baltimore who will advise and train the local Department of Public Safety in modern policing strategies "that will help solve crimes and prevent criminal activity in the first place."

Tenorio said he also considers contracting an established investment advisor in Japanese to promote investments from Japan, like what the CNMI's arrangement with Taiwan. He disclosed plans to further improve Garapan, into a better place for tourist.

"This project will turn the main commercial street in the 'Ginza' into a pedestrian promenade where families and other visitors can walk day or night in safe atmosphere," he said.

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Masters in Education offered

NORTHERN Marianas College (NMC) and San Diego State University (SDSU) recently reached an agreement to develop and offer a Masters Degree (MA) in Educational Leadership. NMC announced yesterday.

The MA program, which was first discussed at NMC after visits to the campus by SDSU's Co-Director of the Rehabilitative Research Training Center for the Pacific (RRTCP), Dr. Ken Galea, became a reality when 26 students began meeting at the NMC campus last March 3 for the first class.

"We were discussing the RRTCP and capacity building in the CNMI when it became clear that there is a need among Education professionals here for an on-island MA program," stated Dr. Galea. "It so happened that SDSU had such a program, so we started working with President Agnes McPhetres and the NMC administration to see just how we could bring that program over here in the most convenient and cost-effective manner."

Courses in the program are designed in a modular format. Each

class meets three hours a day, Monday through Saturday for two weeks.

After a three-week break period, a new professor comes on island and another new class begins.

The entire program will be completed in a year and a half.

SDSU's Masters Program Coordinator Mark Fillebrown emphasized the uniqueness of the program: "It's a very special arrangement for a very special place. SDSU and NMC recognize the need for educators to continue their professional development, but at the same time we

realize that these same educators have ongoing responsibilities that can't be interrupted. We feel this program offers the CNMI and those educators the best of both worlds; they can continue being productive in their jobs while enhancing their professional abilities."

According to NMC, the Program currently has 26 participants. NMC faculty make up 50% of the total course enrollment of 26 students. The course is the first in the Educational Leadership MA program. The program will run through August, 1998.



Agnes McPhetres

Mobil donates to the Arts



Customer & Government Relations manager Cecil Bamba Terlaje (left) of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. presents a check donation of \$5,000.00 to Arts Council Executive Director Genevieve S. Cabrera and Festival Coordinator Cindy P. Macaranas (right) for the 16th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival scheduled on May 10-11, 1997.

UN ESCAP opens its services to FSM states

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Acting FSM President Jacob Nena in a March 6 letter announced the availability of advisory and expert services to the FSM through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

According to a news release, the fields of expertise offered are in Trade Policy, Negotiations and Promotion, Environmental Management, Trade Facilitation, Poverty Alleviation and Social Integration, Mineral Policy and Mineral Economics, Water Resources, Ports and Harbor Development, Development Economics and Strategic Planning, Social Development, Planning, and Civil Engineering and Structures.

Nena said government agencies may request advisory services, including short term advisors on specific fields from ESCAP through the Division of UN and Multilateral Affairs in the FSM Department of External Affairs.

In another matter, Acting President Jacob Nena in a March 6 letter informed Secretary of Education, Catalino Cantero, about the visit of a US program official to offer six full scholarships for 1997, two each for Pohnpei and Chuuk and one each for Kosrae and Yap.

These scholarships are from the Junior Statesmen Foundation which Karen Prosser is the National Summer Programs Director, the release said.

Nena asked Cantero was asked to coordinate Prosser's visit from April 6 to 11. Nena said he hopes the young citizens of FSM will benefit from the program.

According to Nena, Cantero to properly inform the States so they will be prepared to meet with Prosser and to begin selecting students who will represent the FSM.

Prosser will also visit the Republic of Palau to promote the Junior Statesmen Foundation's program.

Participants are outstanding high school students, boys and girls in grades 10 to 12.

This year's participants will be at Stanford, Princeton, Yale and Northwestern Universities from June 30 to July 25; July 6 to July 31 at the University of Texas, and July 13 to August 3 at the Georgetown University.

T.K. Cassidy to sign copies of her book

T.K. Cassidy will sign copies "The Stone Shaper's Daughter" her original legend, Saturday March 22, from 11:00 - 2:00 p.m., at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Cassidy won the 1995 Guam Governor's Awardee for Excellence in the Humanities.

Her original legends appear weekly in the T.V. Times.

She is the Children's Librarian for the Nieves Flores Public Library where she presents weekly storytelling hours.

Two years ago Cassidy conducted a night of story telling as part of the library's Anatomy of Horror, and offered a storytelling workshop for the community.

Court papers indicate:

Hiraga 'expected' favors

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SHIGENORI "Chico" Hiraga, a convicted bribe-giver, wanted to be reimbursed for the "loans" he allegedly gave to seven CNMI politicians in 1989, including then gubernatorial candidate Froilan C. Tenorio, court documents showed.

Hiraga, in a court deposition, said he also expected "favors" from Tenorio, if the latter becomes governor.

He said he asked a Mr. Tsumiyama of Nikko Kikaku Saipan Co., Ltd. to pay him half of the ¥124, 226, 330 he claimed to have "spent" in the 1989 elections.

"If, ah, Froilan want to rerun for election, we could have ah-good mood and 50 percent, we were trying to ask Mr. Tsumiyama," Hiraga told the court.

"You know, we - we were trying to collect 50 percent from Mr. Tsumiyama. However, he lost the case - I mean ah, ah, election. So we are [Unintelligible background noise] not to collect this 50 percent this time."

Tenorio lost the election to the Republican candidate Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero, who Hiraga said also received "loan money" from him.

Aside from Tenorio and Guerrero, the alleged recipients include then senators Juan N. Babauta and H.R. Guerrero, then Board of Education member Anicia Q. Tomokane, then MPLC executive director William Concepcion and former House speaker Ponciano Rasa.

The former governor, Tomokane, Concepcion and Guerrero all denied getting "loan money" from Hiraga.

Resident Rep. Babauta is in Washington D.C., while Rasa has yet to return the Variety's call.

Hiraga stated that after the election, his company, CDC, provided a house to Tenorio who was also hired as consultant with a monthly retainer's fee of some \$4,000.

Asked why CDC provided Tenorio with a house, Hiraga said, "Ah, we are very close friend with Mr. Tenorio long time. And ah, I wanted support Mr. Tenorio to get the next [Unintelligible] election because I trust him very much as a political leader over here."

He stated further that if Tenorio won the 1989 election, "we will be able to have more close negotiation."

Asked if he thought his friendship with Tenorio would help ex-

pedite the negotiations for the project CDC was involved in, Hiraga replied "I did believe so."

Tenorio, in an interview Monday, said his name is being "smeared" by Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson, the law firm representing Sekisui House, to pressure his friend Hiraga into dropping a lawsuit against the Japanese company.

He said he will pay back the loan, and added that he did not do anything "in return" for getting the loan, estimated to be around \$650,000.

Documents provided by Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson showed that Tenorio had asked the Japanese company to lend money to Hiraga's firm, CDC.

Prior to becoming governor, and around the time he was running for the office in 1989 and 1993, Tenorio already owed Hiraga a total of some \$650,000, the payment terms for which, Hiraga stated in a court deposition, were never discussed.

Hiraga added, however, that Tenorio had paid him \$25,000 aside from putting up a land property on Tinian as collateral.

In letters to Sekisui House, Ltd. dated July 14, 1994 and Aug. 17, 1994, Governor Tenorio stressed the "importance" of

CDC's request for "financial assistance," saying, at one point, that "If I hear nothing (within the next 30 days), I must, in the public interest pursue other avenues to seek resolution of this matter."

"Regrettably," he added, "this may impact on your future plans to develop the Saipan Resort Hotel...."

The governor's spokesperson said Sunday that it should be noted that copies of the letters were furnished to the U.S. Em-

bassy in Tokyo.

"If there's something improper going on, then why forward a copy to the US embassy?" Mark Broadhurst said.

CDC's project, he added, could have been "very important" for the CNMI.

"The governor is consistently pro-investments, and CDC's 5-star hotel with its convention facilities would have attracted more tourists to the CNMI," he said.

Storekeeper 'assaulted' by suspected shoplifter

A SUSPECTED shoplifter physically assaulted an employee of a store who tried to stop him from taking a pair of short pants in San Antonio Monday night.

Police said five men entered the Roshie's Store and took items without paying it.

A 19-year-old male employee of the store stopped them. One of the five men, however, assaulted the employee.

The five men ran away.

In other police reports, burglar's broke into a residence in Fina Sis Monday and stole two checks and jewelry belonging to a 28-year-old woman.

In Gualo Rai, an unidentified per-

son's burglarized an apartment and took jewelry, TV set, CD player, and stereo system owned by a 34-year-old woman Monday.

In Chalan Kanoa, burglar's stole money, gold necklace, and cassette player of a 52-year-old man the other night.

In As Lito, a 27-year-old man sought police's assistance after his passport, airline ticket, and other items were stolen from his vehicle Monday morning.

In Chalan Kanoa, an unidentified person/s entered the canteen at Mt. Carmel High School, broke a light and stole candies, softdrinks and other items Monday. (FDT)

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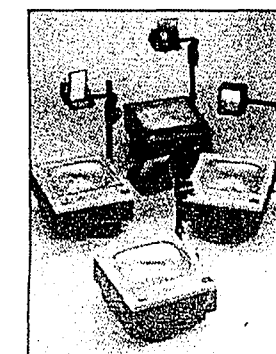
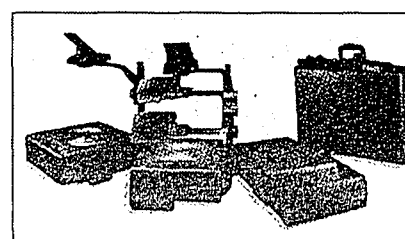
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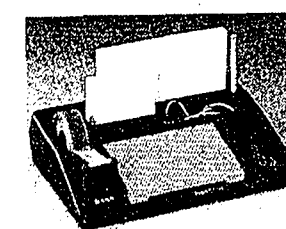
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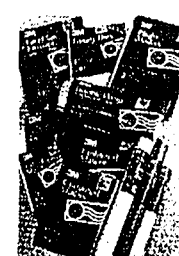
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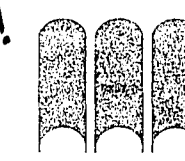
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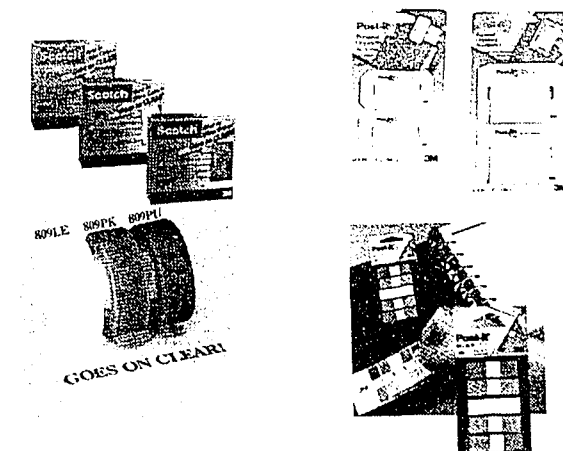
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Clinton writes SAES students

A GROUP of 16 sixth-graders from San Antonio School have received a letter from Pres. Bill Clinton thanking them for their help in decorating the Northern Marianas Christmas Tree in Washington last year.

"Thank you for your special efforts," wrote the President to the San Antonio students who made Christmas ornaments of shell and coral and pandanus for the Marianas tree.

The special letter was requested from the White House by the office of Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta



Bill Clinton

in recognition of the students. The Marianas tree is one of

55 small spruces that surround the imposing National Christmas Tree standing between the White House and the Washington Monument.

Students from all over America help to decorate the trees-one for each area of the US-as part of the nation's holiday celebrations.

The President's letter was one of two thank-you notes arranged for the students by Pete Torres, special assistant for educational programs in the CNMI Washington Office, who coordinated participation in the annual tree decorating. The students also received

certificates of appreciation for their work from Resident Representative Babauta.

"I hope these students are inspired by the recognition President Clinton has given them," says Babauta. "And I hope they take to heart the words of his letter."

In addition to his thanks, the President wrote, "Young people like you are the future of our country, and I encourage you to use your creative talents to help you prepare for the time when your generation leads our nation into the 21st century."

Students who participated

were Diane Abigania, Lester Abigania, Rising Aiken, Carmen Aldan, Lauronce Cambe, Abigail Diaz, Canice Diaz, Adrian Echon, Jacklyn Echon, Karen Echon, Mary Indalecio, Eddie Palacios, Phyllis Ann Palacios, Sang Yong Park, Gentry Williams, Deefrancellia Yanneris.

San Antonio Principal Doris Thompson, Teacher Manuel F. Borja, and artist Nita Dean helped the children.

Funding assistance came from the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Not all alien workers end up abused here, says Cing

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

LONNIE S. Toledo started working in the CNMI in 1991, the same year that U.S. Congressman George Miller, as chair of House Natural Resources Committee, began his "crusade" against the exploitation of workers in the Northern Marianas. Six years later, Miller (D-California), who no longer heads the committee, is still complaining of labor abuses in the CNMI.

Toledo, for his part, is all set to return to his native town of Santo Domingo in Nueva Ecija province, the Philippines, where he now has three house lots and a newly-built home.

While on Tinian where he worked as a mason, Toledo passed a Federal Communications Commission

(FCC) exam and now holds a certificate as a radio operator.

He has also managed to save enough money to start his own business in Santo Domingo, 80 miles north of Manila.

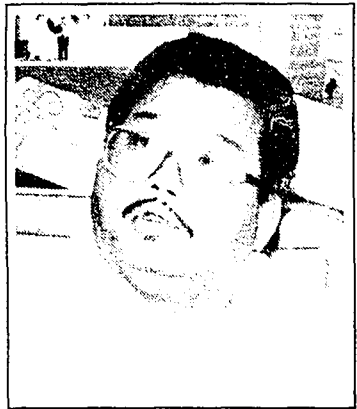
"I'm so grateful for the CNMI and my boss," he says in Filipino.

Asked about Miller, Toledo says, "Never heard of him."

Good news. In a letter Monday to Philippine Consul Julia C. Heidemann, Toledo's boss, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian), has nothing but praises for the 40-year-old mason.

"Mr. Toledo," he said, "is an outstanding individual (who has) accomplished his mission in the Northern Marianas."

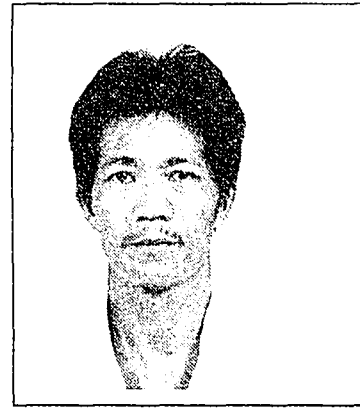
Cing said Toledo has told him of



David M. Cing

his intention to return to the Philippines at the end of his contract, and build his own business.

"I know he will succeed because during his six years on Tinian, he saved enough money to buy three



Lonnie S. Toledo

house lots and build a house."

Cing, in an interview yesterday, cited Toledo as one reason why "sweeping generalizations" made by CNMI-bashers should be "corrected."

He said CNMI employers, generally, have been fair to alien workers, and, together with the government, are "more than willing to solve labor problems."

If "CNMI-bashers" are really concerned about the plight of alien workers in the Commonwealth, Cing said, they should try to "check the real story" before making accusations that would, in the end, hurt the workers themselves.

Miller, in a March 10 letter to members of Congress, criticized CNMI's labor and immigration policies, and urged for a federal takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration, and the federalization of its minimum wage rate.

CNMI leaders have said that such policies would be disastrous to the local economy.

PUBLIC NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSED ADOPTION OF MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Department of Public Safety hereby gives notice to the public of its proposed adoption of motor carrier safety regulations which was authorized by the CNMI legislature and approved by the Governor in PL 10-11 and 1 CMC 2501 et seq. This notice is pursuant to the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

The purpose of these regulations is to adopt safety regulations for motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles which are consistent with current United States Motor Carrier Safety Regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The proposed motor carrier safety regulations are published in the Commonwealth Register. Copies of the Commonwealth Register may be obtained from the Office of the Attorney General. The public may submit written comments and recommendations regarding the proposed regulations during the thirty day period following the date of publication in the Commonwealth Register. Comments or recommendations should be sent to the Department of Public Safety at the following address:

Department of Public Safety
Call: Box 10007
Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

POMOL ADOPTION REEL ALLEGHUL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

Depatamentool Public Safety sangi milleel nge ekkke arongaar towap igha ekkke pomol bwe ebwele adaptaali Alleghul Motor Carrier Safety sangi bwangilr Sow-Alleghul CNMI (legislature) nge Gubenno e angunguwa melloil Alleghul Towap ye PL 10-11 me 1 CMC 2501 et seq. Arongorog yeel nge e attaweey lemelemil Administrative Procedures Act 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

Bwulul Alleghul kkaal nge ebwe ayoora me adaptaali Alleghul bwe essobw yoor filiwoos reel motor carriers me commercial carriers igha ebwe weeve fengal me Alleghul United States Motor Carrier Safety Regulation iye feruyear school U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pomol feerul Alleghul motor carrier safety kkaal nge e atotoowow melloil Commonwealth Register. Aramas ye e tipali nge emmwel schagh ebwelo bweibwogh kopiyaal Commonwealth Register sangi Bwululiyool Attorney General. Rekke tingor ngalir towap bwe rebwe ischitiw meeta mangemangilr me tipeer reel owtol allegh kkaal lloil eligh (30) ral sangi igha e toowow melloil Commonwealth Register. Mangemang me tip kkaal nge rebwe atanga ngali Dipatamentool Public Safety reel address ye fail.

Department of Public Safety
Call: Box 10007
Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

I MA PROPOPON! NA INADAPTAN REGULASION MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

I Dipatamenton Public Safety ginen este ha nana'i nutisia i publiko nu i prinoponini-na para u adapta i regulasion motor carrier safety siha ni ma aturisa nu i Lehislaturan CNMI yan ma aprueba nu i Gubneto ni Lai Publiku Numiru 10-11 yan i 1 cmc 2501 et seq. Este na nutisia umakonlotme yan i manggina-gagao siha na kondesion i Administrative Procedures Act yan i 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

I proposition este siha na regulasion ayu i para u ma adapta i regulasion inasigura para i motor carriers yan karetan kometsiante siha ni manakonlotme yan i presente na regulasion Estados Unidos put Motor Carrier Safety ni ma laknos nu i Dipatamenton Transpottasion Estados Unidos.

I manma propoponi siha na regulasion motor carrier safety manma pupblika gi halom i Rehistran Commonwealth. Kopia siha put i Rehistran Commonwealth siha manma chule' ginen i Ofisina i Attorney General. I publiku siha mana'halom tinige' siha na komento yan rekomendasion put i manmapropoponi siha na regulasion gi duranten trenta (30) dias na tetminu despues di i fechan publikasion gi halon i Rehistran Commonwealth. Todu komento osino' rekomendasion siha debi di u mana'fanhanao guato gi i Dipatamenton Public Safety gi i sigente na adres.

Department of Public Safety
Call: Box 10007, Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Nakamura lauds women conference

THE FOURTH Belau Women's Conference held this week at the Palau Community College ended yesterday even as Palau President Kuniwo Nakamura praised participants for helping promoted the island culture.

"It is conferences such as this that help Palau and its regional neighbors appreciate and preserve our unique cultural heritages," said Nakamura.

The president in a news release also said he looks forward to receiving the deliberations on specific topics focused on in the conference, such as substance abuse and the use of tobacco with betel-nuts.

He expressed confidence that participants have provided significant ideas and solutions to aid government and traditional leaders in confronting the problems presented by social ills such as addictive substances.

This year's conference theme is "Ulekerreuil ma Osisecheklel A Klechibelau" or The Endearment and Enlightenment of Being a Palauan.

Many of the conference participants come from the various high schools in Palau.

Tourism key for Marshalls

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Promotion of tourism in the Marshall Islands has become the top priority of the newly formed government led by President Imata Kabua.

The number of visitors coming to the Marshall Islands can more than double in the next two years with aggressive promotion and marketing, the president told the Nitijela (parliament) in a nationally broadcast speech.

"Although our tourism sector is relatively young, it has already demonstrated the capacity to generate as much as \$4 to \$6 million a year," he said on the closing day of the Nitijela this week.

"Estimates indicate that the number of visitors per year can increase from last year, 6,000 to 15,000 by the year 1999.

Tourism may play a very significant role in our general economic development."

Kabua highlighted the "superb

diving, sport fishing and war relics" as the leading attractions for visitors coming to the Marshalls.

To put some weight behind the president's message, the Nitijela on the same day as this speech approved legislation formally establishing a new Marshall Islands Visitors Authority with the mandate of promoting tourism for the country.

Government agencies and private sector businesses must give "serious attention" to developing the tourist industry, he said.

"The government is firm in its commitment towards securing the necessary investment for developing this industry and to creating the ideal environment and conditions for its growth," he said, adding that by 1999 tourism could be contributing as much as \$12 million to the national economy.

Kabua's speech coincided this week with the reopening of Bikini Atoll for its second season of scuba diving and the arrival of the first package tour group of American anglers, sports fishermen who hunt for big game fish such as marlin.

Marshalls Dive Adventures officials, who supervise the Bikini diving, said they expect triple the number of divers coming to this former nuclear test site to dive on World War II wrecks compared to last year.

Kabua said since he took office in January, the "centerpiece" of his administration has been economic development and public reforms, which have already resulted in the layoffs of more than 300 workers with another 500 to be terminated in the next year to cut government expenditures.

Tourism and government cut-

backs aside, Kabua said that health and education are the two other key priorities.

With the support of an Asian Development Bank-supported education revamp, the Marshalls will have its first national education curriculum later this year, Kabua said.

"The government," he said, "will spare no effort in ensuring that the young generations of this nation will receive the best (education) that the country can afford."

The Marshalls continues to face one of the world's highest population growth rates, overwhelming the best efforts of medical facilities in the two urban centers.

Still, the Marshalls has made remarkable improvements in its health care, he said. Infant mortality rate has dropped dramatically in 10 years, from over 60 per 1,000 births to just over 20, he said.

"During the past four years, there has been zero child mortality from childhood diseases such as polio, measles, tetanus," he said. "There has not been any outbreak of measles since 1988."

Immunization coverage rates for children under one year of age approaching 90 percent is one reason for this markedly improved health picture, he said.

But he challenged Marshall Islanders to do their part. "No matter how appropriate and efficient any public health program is, if we, the people, do not take advantage of these services in a responsible way, all will be wasted," he said.

Whether it is health, education, tourism or any other sector...national development is a joint enterprise. It is everyone's concern. If it is not yours and mine, whose is it? Kabua asked.

Army defies order to free mercenaries

By GEOFF SPENCER

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - The standoff between the government and the army deepened Wednesday as a senior officer defied the prime minister's order to free about 40 foreign mercenaries under detention.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 civilians rallied outside the army barracks to denounce the government's plan to pay the mercenaries millions of dollars to crush the Bougainville rebellion.

It was the first overt sign of major public support for the former commander of the Defense Force, Brig-Gen. Jerry Singirok, who on Monday led a military mutiny by refusing to work with the mercenaries.

Singirok was dismissed from his post by Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and the Cabinet, and stepped down Tuesday.

Throughout the political crisis, soldiers have remained in barracks and never moved to occupy government buildings or block off streets.

But demonstrators rallied Wednesday outside the Murray Barracks, the army's main headquarters in Port Moresby, to demand that Chan and his finance minister resign.

A spokesman for the "Melanesian Solidarity Group," Michael Tatkai, said: "If Chan doesn't resign, they must reinstate Singirok. That's the only fair thing to do. The ordinary people of Papua New Guinea are opposed to the government paying mercenaries to kill people on Bougainville."

He said the US \$27 million paid to the mercenaries should be spent on projects to help Papua New Guinea's many impoverished people.

The protest was noisy but peaceful, with a few police around to help redirect traffic. But police officials said they were calling in reinforcements in case the crowd got out of hand.

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Elsewhere in the Region

Fiji minister calls for squatter resettlement

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's Housing Minister, VILSONICAGIMAIVEI, has been ordered to immediately identify available state land to resettle squatters evicted from their settlement at Keci-Semani in Nabua.

The directive from, from Acting Prime Minister - MILITONI LEWENIQILA - states that Cagimaivei is to work with the lands minister, Ratu Timoci Vesikula, to urgently resolve the problem, Radio Fiji reported.

The squatters, living on land belonging to a businessman, were

evicted Monday.

And tension were high at the settlement where 20 families have been residing for some years when two men and a bailiff with a high court order dismantled a house.

Acting Prime Minister LEWENIQILA says the businessman acted within the law in issuing eviction notices, and that the law must be respected.

He says suitable state land must be identified and discussions held with the landowners for the families to move to their new locations.

Tribunal probes 'misconduct'

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea's Chief Justice has appointed a leadership tribunal to hear allegations of misconduct in office against the member for Kundiawa, Joseph Onguglo and the member for Finschagen, Yaip Avini, NBC reported.

The tribunal appointed to hear allegations against Onguglo will be chaired by Justice Maurice Sheehan and while Justice Warwick Andrew will lead the tribunal to hear charges against Avini. Dates for the hearing are yet to be finalised.

Crisis in PNG ends

By GEOFF SPENCER

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Papua New Guinea's prime minister threatened Tuesday to arrest the ousted defense chief who ordered soldiers to detain 40 or so South African and British mercenaries.

Confident that he has quashed a potential military revolt, Prime Minister Julius Chan also directed the army to free the mercenaries.

"The government is in absolute,

complete control of the situation. ... The institution of democracy is alive and well in Papua New Guinea," Chan told reporters, insisting that he had the support of the army and police.

The government fired Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok as Defense Force commander on Monday after he ordered soldiers to detain the foreign mercenaries and to stop cooperating with the government.

Chan said Singirok was "guilty of

gross insubordination bordering on treason" and could face arrest.

Singirok said he would leave the job without a fight. In his last official duty, he told a parade of 300 soldiers at Port Moresby's main army base to stay calm and obey the nation's constitution.

Port Moresby, the capital, appeared calm Tuesday afternoon. There were no troops visible in the streets, although earlier a small gathering of soldiers said they were willing to take up arms for the ousted chief.

Singirok, 40, had announced on local radio Monday that the army would not work with the mercenaries hired by the government to end a 9-year-old secessionist war on Bougainville, a copper-rich island about 800 miles northeast of Port Moresby.

He said he could not accept that the government had signed a \$27 million contract with Sandline when his soldiers went without food, pay and supplies.

Soldiers had held the mercenaries at a remote camp near the north coast town of Wewak, where they had been teaching Papua New Guinea troops anti-insurgency tactics.

The rebellion on Bougainville began in 1988 as an environmental protest over a copper mine, but escalated into a guerrilla war to secede from Papua New Guinea. More than 1,000 people have been killed.

6 missing as storm passes

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Six people including one infant are reported missing after leaving on a voyage from Wewak to Biem Island in East Sepik of Papua New Guinea on March 8.

Those reported missing include the headmaster of Biem Community School, his wife, another couple and their three-year old child, and the operator of the 19-foot outboard motor boat, the National reported.

They left Wewak on March 8, and were expected to arrive on the

island in the afternoon of the same day. However, they have not arrived.

Wewak District Administrator John Kigare says he has contacted National Disaster and Emergency Director-general Leith Anderson for urgent assistance in locating the missing people.

Meanwhile, the West Coast of East Sepik province has reported extensive damage to roads, food gardens and buildings as a result of high seas and strong winds recently.

Tonga assesses cyclone damage

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Tonga are assessing damage to crops in the aftermath of tropical cyclone Hina.

Director of Agriculture Haniteli Fa'anunu says reports from Eua says the cyclone caused extensive damage to fruit trees such as breadfruit and garden crops such as tapioca, Radio Tonga reported.

Fa'anunu estimates that root crops such as taro, sweet potato and yam throughout Tongatapu and Eua are not greatly affected.

He says the western district of Tongatapu escaped any serious damage to either crops or property.

Fa'anunu says crops in Vava'u and Ha'apai were also not affected.

Meanwhile, families whose houses and other property were affected are continuing their clean up. Viola hospital in Nuku'alofa reports some people were treated for cuts received during clean up work from broken glass and nails.

More active trade sought

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Fiji's foreign affairs minister, Filipe Bole says he would like to see more active trade arrangements developed among the Melanesian countries.

Bole said this in Honiara Monday where he has been meeting with Solomon Islands leaders on issues for discussion at the 11th Melanesian Spearhead Group summit which Fiji is hosting in early May.

He encourages the establishment of business councils in the Melanesian countries similar to what Fiji has, to promote and market trade items.



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MARCH 1972-97

US State defends Arafat

By BARRY SCHWEID
WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. State Department said Tuesday it had no evidence to support Israeli accusations that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gave the go-ahead for violent attacks to protest Israel's decision to build homes for Jews in disputed east Jerusalem.

The United States has assurances from Arafat that "he stands against violence," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. Asked about Israeli accusations that Arafat is linked to violent attacks, Burns said, "We don't believe it to be



Yasser Arafat

true."

In an interview broadcast around the world Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed in Jerusalem: "We have received very hard intelligence that the Palestinian Authority has prepared the ground for violence."

But Burns said he had not seen any evidence Arafat had given a green light to Palestinians to take violent action.

According to Netanyahu, "the Palestinian leadership has given the green light to the worst kind" of militant attacks, including bus bombings

like the four suicide attacks in February and March 1996 that killed 63 people and brought Israeli-Palestinian peace talks to a halt.

"I demand from them to reverse these decisions immediately. ... The Palestinian side must choose, do we want terror or do we want peace?" Netanyahu said.

Burns urged "extremists on both sides" to avoid violence and appealed to Israel and the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, to resume their talks. "We are in a very difficult period in the peace negotiations," he said.

At a White House news conference, meanwhile, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright criticized Israel's decision to go ahead with the Har Homa housing project. And, she said, "we are, obviously, concerned about the fact that violence is never an answer to the problems in the Middle East, and we would very

much want to see a return to the table." Progress in the Middle East has come about, Albright said, "only when the parties are actually talking to each other at the table. And that is the way we would like to see things proceed."

Natan Sharansky, the Israeli trade minister and former Soviet dissident, met with Vice President Al Gore to tell him that "to stop building will undermine all the public support this peace process has" among Jews.

"I explained that it's a necessary part of the peace process if you want the prime minister to continue with a consensus," Sharansky told reporters. "Without building it's almost impossible for Netanyahu to go ahead."

Gore, Sharansky said, "expressed his reservations" with that view and did not suggest what might be done other than halting the project.

Arabs hit start of Israeli plan

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Arab and Muslim leaders stepped up their criticism of Israel on Tuesday when the Jewish state began construction of a controversial new Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

The 53-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference accused Israel of attempting to "Judaize" Jerusalem and said it supported the Palestinians' claim to the city as the capital of a future state.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd termed the new settlement "a violation of peace agreements." Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Mouasher called on Israel to reverse its decision to "preserve the peace process."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Israel's launch of the project was "a measure of the destruction of the peace process which Israel alone will bear responsibility for."

Moussa told reporters that the decision by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to go ahead with the Jewish neighborhood was short-sighted and a setback to regional efforts toward peace.

"After the measures taken by Netanyahu, Israel will have no credibility at all in the peace process," Moussa said.

He said the leaders of Arab countries were in touch with each other to try to determine how to confront the Israeli action.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
STATE REHABILITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

In accordance to the "Open Government Act," this, hereby, serve as a notice to the public that the CNMI State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (SRAC) will hold its 2nd quarter general meeting on March 27, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Joeten/Kiyu Public Library. Meeting is open to the public.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda for General SRAC Meeting and Adoption of December 11, 1996 Minutes
- III. Old Business
 - a. Supported Employment Conference
 - b. Status of OVR Policies and Procedures Manual
 - c. OVR Staff Development Training
 - d. Review of Case Management Manual
 - e. Financial Status Report
 - f. Consumer Satisfaction Survey
- IV. New Business
 1. Meeting with Mr. Bill Schubauer
 2. Report on Monitoring Visit with Region IX
 3. Changes in OVR's Organization
 4. New members

Special Needs: SRAC and OVR are committed to making their activities as accessible as possible to persons with disabilities or special needs. If you need for these services, please notify us at 664-6537.

US urges NAFTA expansion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States will suffer a serious setback in global economic competition unless Congress soon gives President Clinton new trade negotiating authority, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said Tuesday.

Testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee, Barshefsky urged lawmakers not to allow concerns about Mexico's drug policies to derail a proposal to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA now covers the United States, Canada and Mexico; the administration wants to extend it to other

nations in Latin America.

"Our competitors would like nothing better than for us to sideline ourselves, debating NAFTA and our relationship with Mexico for several more years while they move ahead," Barshefsky said. "It would be a serious, self-inflicted wound."

Barshefsky noted that French President Jacques Chirac, on a trade mission to Latin America, said the region's "essential economic interests ... lie not with the United States but with Europe."

She said Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had also led a recent trade mission to the region and that



Charlene Barshefsky



Bill Clinton

China was targeting a number of Latin American countries as "strategic priorities."

"We must recognize the dangers of inaction," she said. "In every region of the world, but particularly in Asia and Latin America, the two fastest-growing regions of the world, our competitors are pursuing strategic trade policies, and in some cases, preferential trade arrangements that will open up markets for their exporters, their products, their workers, their farmers."

While the administration in 1994 set a goal of creating a hemisphere-wide free-trade zone

by 2005, it has been unable for the past two years to get new negotiating authority through Congress because of a dispute over whether new pacts should include protections for worker rights and environmental standards.

Clinton wants these issues covered in any new trade negotiating authority. Republicans are opposed, arguing that grants too much negotiating latitude to a president on a proposal that Congress cannot amend but can only approve or reject on an expedited "fast track" timetable.

Barshefsky said she had been consulting members of Congress,

Russia may fire generals

MOSCOW (AP) - Less than two weeks after Boris Yeltsin mandated urgent changes in the Russian army, his defense minister indicated Tuesday that the firings of several top commanders were imminent.

Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, who himself narrowly escaped Yeltsin's government house-cleaning this month, said the president already had approved the ousters, according to the Interfax news agency.

"This applies to several generals who are not on top of their duties or who ... are involved in activities incompatible with their duties," Rodionov was quoted as saying.

Only one of the targeted officials has been named publicly so far: Ground Forces Commander Gen. Vladimir Semyonov, who was suspended from his post in December.

Semyonov said this month he

had been asked to resign for building a second country home outside of Moscow, although he denied any improprieties.

When Yeltsin listed his government's failings in his March 8 state-of-the-nation address and ordered sweeping changes, he singled out the urgent need for long-stalled military reforms.

It wasn't clear whether the latest ousters are part of those reforms or were planned earlier.

Rodionov inherited a military plagued by poor morale, deteriorating equipment and severe funding cuts when he took over as defense minister last summer.

Yeltsin chastised him last month for "whining" too much about the state of the military and its funding. But he retained him despite the government shakeup that was made public Monday.



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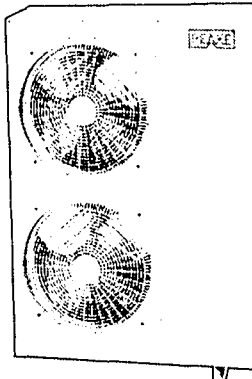
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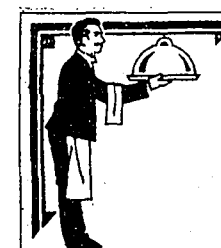


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Annan eyes UN budget cuts

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Under pressure to move quickly on reform, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Monday he would propose cutting the 1998-99 budget by more than \$100 million and eliminating 1,000 vacant positions.

Annan announced a 10-point plan for reform that included consolidat-

ing some U.N. departments, creating a code of conduct for U.N. employees and reducing administrative costs by 2001 from the current 38 percent of resources to 25 percent.

Annan said he hoped the initiatives would satisfy critics and still allow the organization to fulfill its mandates. Conservatives in Congress

have said they would not approve repayment of U.S. debts to the world body unless they were convinced the United Nations was serious about reform.

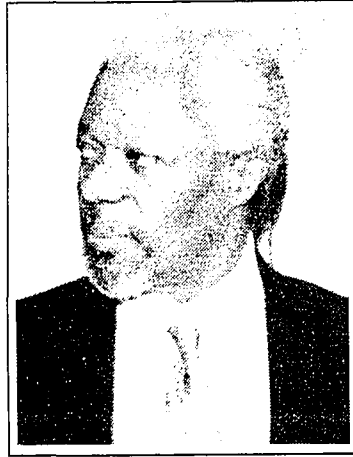
"This is a serious proposal. It's been analyzed, it's been discussed and we know that it will not gut the organization," Annan said Monday. "Any demand for deeper cuts I don't think would be wise" at this stage.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said he was encouraged by the plan, which requires approval by the 185-member General Assembly.

"It's a bold first step that should help us make our case in the Congress that the U.N. is reforming, therefore the United States must pay its arrears," he said. "It's a good opening bargaining chip for those of us pushing for reform, and the secretary-general deserves credit."

Annan said he would propose that the biennial budget be cut from about \$2.6 billion in 1996-97 to about \$2.5 billion in 1998-99. He also will advocate cutting 1,000 vacant jobs from the Secretariat staff. The Secretariat has about 10,000 positions, including those currently vacant.

Annan's predecessor, Boutros



Kofi Annan

Boutros-Ghali, asked the General Assembly to cut 1,000 positions last year, but it refused, mostly under pressure from developing countries who are served by many of the U.N. programs. Annan said that under his plan, a reduction in administrative costs would channel resources into economic and social programs for the developing world.

Richardson said that although Boutros-Ghali tried to institute some reforms, Annan has gone further by proposing, for example, a code of conduct for U.N. staff that

would require financial disclosure by senior officials.

"Annan is out front on reform while Boutros-Ghali seemed to resist it," he said.

Annan took office Jan. 1 after the United States vetoed a second term for Boutros-Ghali, whom it accused of lagged in streamlining the U.N. system. Annan has appointed Canadian businessman Maurice Strong to prepare a reform program by July for submission to the General Assembly in the fall. But some countries urged him to announce some reforms earlier — particularly ones concerning the consolidation of some U.N. agencies.

In June, the leaders of the world's seven major industrial powers — the United States, France, Britain, Canada, Italy, Japan and Germany — called for consolidating all U.N. development agencies. The plan announced Monday would merge economic and social divisions that are now spread among three departments.

Nordic countries have said they want to see greater combining of field operations — another of the initiatives announced Monday.

British opposition predicts tough election fight despite its poll lead

By EDITH M. LEDERER

LONDON (AP) — The campaign for Britain's national election May 1 will be a "hard, tight-fought race," opposition leader Tony Blair said Tuesday, avoiding any hint of complacency despite his Labor Party's huge lead in opinion polls.

Labor, consistently more than 20 poll points ahead of the governing Conservatives, is riding a wave of public disaffection with the long-serving Tories and a strong desire for change.

But Prime Minister John Major said Tuesday it was Tory policies that had improved Britain over the past 18 years so its people could afford the desire for a change.

Blair told GMTV he was "obviously pleased" that the Sun-a traditional Tory supporter and the country's largest-selling newspaper - decided to back Labor.

But "there is still a long way to go in the election," Blair said. "I think what is good is that people who have been Conservative before have come over to the Labor Party for the first time."

He also discounted his party's current massive opinion poll lead.

"I don't think anyone really believes the figures are as they are. It will be a hard, tight-fought race."

A new Gallup poll, published in Tuesday's Daily Telegraph, put Labor 28 points ahead of the Conservatives. Gallup polled 1,045 voters on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, completing the interviews only after the election date was announced Monday afternoon. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percent.

Blair, who has moved the party from the left to the center where it no longer frightens the middle class, has warned supporters not to take victory for granted.

In a BBC television interview on Monday, he indicated that he had not ruled out the possibility of continuing one of the hallmarks of past Conservative governments - selling off government enterprises to the private sector.

Major, speaking to the BBC on Tuesday, rounded on Blair, saying: "He's a chameleon, isn't he as far as politics is concerned?"

"It really depends which part of the country he is in and which day of the week he is in."

"The oratory that he uses is an oratory pitched to appeal to the instincts of Britain which is a conservative with a small 'c' country."

The details of Labor's policies were "superficially friendly to what has



John Major

been achieved," Major said, but the way Blair proposed to carry them forward couldn't be achieved "without making changes that would damage what has been done in the last 18 years."

"Britain is booming," Majorsaid. "We don't want Labor to throw it away."

In a campaign swing on Monday after he announced the date of elections, Major touted Britain's free-market economy as the best in Europe, stressed differences with Labor over crime, education and health care, and warned that Labor's socialist left-wing has not disappeared.

Boom gets Irish returning home

By CAROLYN THOMPSON

BOSTON (AP) — For 150 years, millions of Irish men and women crossed the Atlantic in search of what they couldn't find amidst the lush green prairies of their native country - jobs.

Now, thanks to Ireland's booming economy, more and more people are staying on the Emerald Isle or returning home after years in the United States.

"It's like Ireland has moved forward," said Lena Sheehan, who moved to the United States after college two years ago to pursue a media job. She returned for the first time over the Christmas holidays.

"Everybody I know (in Ireland) is buying a house," she said. "I go home and everyone's doing well."

Ms. Sheehan, like many of her friends, planned long in advance to leave after graduating from college,

convinced by history that job prospects would be better elsewhere. But many friends never left as planned, she said.

In 1990, 10,333 Irish left for the United States. In 1995, just 5,315 made the move.

For the 12-month period ending in April 1996, more people moved into Ireland than moved away. In four of the previous five years, the reverse was true.

GOP split on budget, taxes

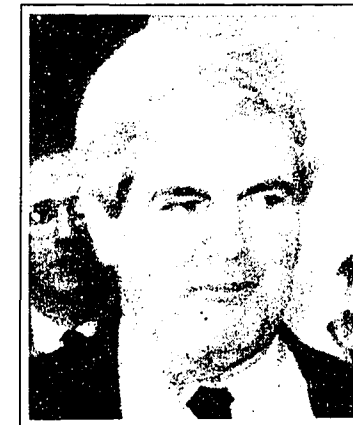
By ALAN FRAM

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly three months into the new Congress, Republicans are beset by internal divisions over the showpiece issues of budget and taxes, slowing work to a crawl and causing distress among growing numbers of the party's rank and file.

A day after House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., suggested delaying tax cuts until after Republicans seek a budget-balancing package with President Clinton, he and other GOP leaders met privately for an hour — and emerged undecided about what to do. It is now certain that as usual, Congress' April 15 deadline for completing a budget blueprint will come and go with little if any action.

"In the end, we're going to be saying the same thing," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., told reporters about GOP plans. "The process of how we're going to get there is something we're still working on."

Hoping to unclog the stalled process, Clinton summoned the House meeting, saying there were "new and hopeful signs" that Republicans were flexible enough to produce a deal. He also said his aides would try to make progress with congressional budget writers during the lawmakers' two-week Easter break, which begins this weekend.



Newt Gingrich

Clinton cited Republican remarks on tax cuts and a Lott comment Monday that the two sides should compromise over the economic projections that affect the size of deficit projections. But in yet another instance of GOP division, many Republicans want Congress to stick to its own economic estimates, which are more pessimistic than the White House's.

Lott, Gingrich and other GOP leaders insisted that Republicans still favor tax cuts and were merely mulling strategy against a president who they said is refusing to bargain seriously. Gingrich says postponing decisions on tax cuts until after Congress votes on spending cuts this year would disarm Democrats who argue that Republicans want to finance them by slicing Medicare and other programs.

Tenet eyed as Clinton's possible CIA nominee

By JOHN DIAMOND

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reeling from Anthony Lake's sudden withdrawal, the White House considered a quick move Tuesday to name acting CIA Director George Tenet as a substitute nominee to head the nation's spy agency.

Senior White House officials, Republican senators and even Lake himself advanced Tenet's name as a non-controversial way to bring a new chief to a CIA that has been without a confirmed leader since early December. Other names were on President Clinton's short list, but Tenet's came up repeatedly in conversations with officials at the White House and the Capitol.

"I have a lot of respect for him. We believe he's capable," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the man who orchestrated much of the criticism of Lake that led to his withdrawing his name Monday night. Shelby indicated the committee could move quickly on a Tenet nomination — in sharp contrast to the drawn-out consideration of Lake's nomination.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Clinton wanted to move quickly but was not ready Tuesday to fill the vacancy left by the departure in last year's post-election shuffle of John Deutch. Senior White House officials who spoke anonymously said Clinton's staff was pushing Tenet's candidacy in private meetings with the president.

Tenet, as acting director, "does a spectacular job and has a great repu-

tation inside the agency. I think he's very well liked on the Hill," McCurry said.

Other Republicans echoed Shelby's favorable comments toward Tenet. And after the ordeal experienced by Lake, White House officials were listening carefully.

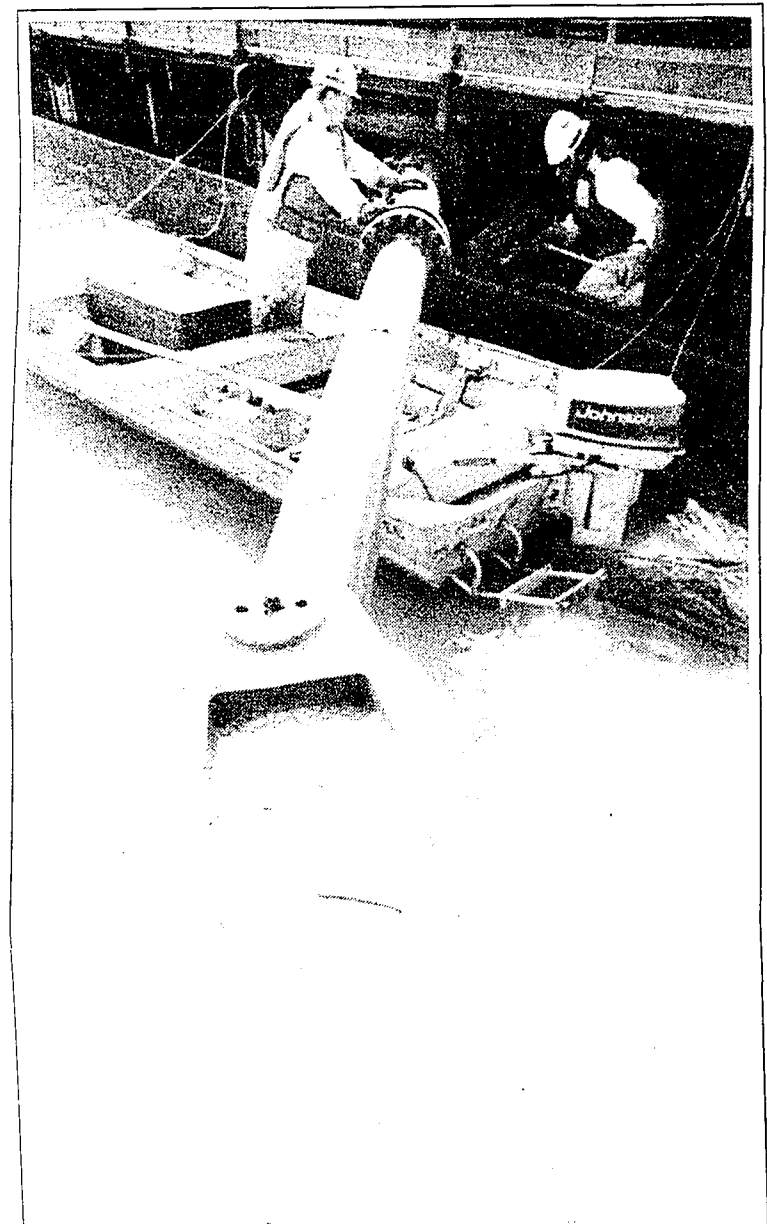
"Barring something I don't know about, he looks like he'd be a good choice," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Tenet, unlike Lake, has been previously confirmed by the Senate. In 1995 the Senate confirmed him as deputy CIA director, the agency's No. 2 post, after Tenet got a unanimous endorsement from the Intelligence Committee.

If Clinton chose Tenet, it would not be the first time he had selected a well-liked deputy after the failure of a controversial national security nomination. In 1994 after Adm. Bobby Inman dropped out of the running for defense secretary, Clinton chose Deputy Defense Secretary William Perry and the Senate quickly confirmed him.

Tenet started out in Washington on the staff of the late Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and moved from there to the staff of the Intelligence Committee where he served as staff director for four years. During Clinton's first term, Tenet served on Lake's National Security Council staff as principal intelligence adviser.

Lake, a close friend of Tenet, recommended him for the job in a Monday night conversation with Clinton, a senior official said.



Kenneth Lanham, left, and Dave Gelarden, right, work to clean debris from the doors of the Cannelton Locks in Cannelton, Ind. The locks along the Ohio River re-opened after being closed due to flooding.

AP Photo

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ROSA CASTRO BLAS

better known as "ROSAN MATIAS" of San Vicente was called to her eternal rest on Saturday, March 15, 1997 at the age of 52.

PREDECEASED BY HER:

Father: Matias Castro
Mother: Juana Lizama Castro
Father-in-law: Juan Santos Blas

SURVIVED BY HER:

Husband: Luis P. Blas
Children/Spouses/Grandchildren: Juan C. Blas, John Gilbert C. Blas, Basilio C. Blas & Paulynn Kapileo (Rosalynd/Leo), Raymond C. Blas & Guadalupe Dela Cruz (Stephanie/Renee), Harry S. & Ann Marie B. Moses (Ruby Jean/Johnny/Nadia), Luis C. Blas, Cristine C. Blas & Marvin Ada (Keolani), Vincent C. Blas

Mother-in-law: Ana P. Blas

Brothers/Sisters-in-law/Spouses: Isabel Rios, Maria B. & Joaquin R. Sablan, Manuel P. & Antonia B. Blas, Dolores B. & Manuel Babauta, Rosa B. & Leonardo V. Salaita, & Nicolas P. Blas

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel P. Blas (Captain Blas) in San Vicente. Last respect will be paid at said residence on Friday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m. to Saturday, March 22, 1997 at 2:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 3:00 p.m.

at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. Interment will immediately follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.



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

BRIGITTA W. NEKAIFES-KAPILEO, Plaintiff,
vs.
LUM KIT MING, and
YOUNG J. OH
Defendants
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-0075

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

From: The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

To: All the above-named Defendants.

You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty (20) days after final publication of this summons and completion of posting, and defend in the above-captioned action in the above-captioned Court, and answer the Complaint of Plaintiff, Brigitta W. Nekaifes-Kapileo, and serve a copy of your answer upon the Plaintiff's attorney, The Law Offices of Robert C. Naraja, P.C., P.O. Box 1960, Saipan, MP 96950. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you according to the reliefs demanded in the Complaint, non-payment of rentals in the Lease Agreement, of which you are privy to in your capacities as lessor and Assignee.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cynthia A. Metzler,
Acting Secretary of Labor,
United States Department of Labor,
Plaintiff,

v.
Eugene R. Zamora, Sr. and Francisco Matsunaga doing business as Zamat Enterprises (operating as Club Kalesa), a partnership, Kalesa Corporation, Ltd., Eugene R. Zamora, Sr., Marylou "Malou" Zamora, and The Estate of Francisco Matsunaga, Defendants.

To: Marylou "Malou" Zamora
Mailbox 236 Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
Summons in a Civil Action
Case Number: 97-0002

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court and serve upon

Plaintiff's Attorney
Steven R. DeSmith, ESQ.
Office of the Solicitor
71 Stevenson Street, Suite 1110
San Francisco, CA 94105

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Clerk: Galo L. Perez
Date: 2-4-97
/s/Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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Acting Secretary of Labor,
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/s/Deputy Clerk

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(Facing Transamerica Bldg.) Call: Tel. 234-2978 Fax: 234-1924

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Firm . . .

Continued from page 1

should have used equipment and methods to accommodate Sutton and Martinez.

"They did not need to provide Ms. Sutton braille exactly. They could have provided audio tapes or a reader for the written materials," he said.

Campbell, who was among the speakers at the workshop, said NMPASI is seriously considering filing a suit against the conference organizers on behalf of Sutton and Martinez.

"I have always respected the Carlsmith firm and I applaud their efforts for attempting to raise the awareness of the community as to the ADA obligations," Campbell said.

However, he said, "I found it ironic that Sutton and Martinez and others like them were discriminated against."

"Even if the registration forms had not specified that these persons had impairments, which they did, one would think that many persons with disabilities would come to a workshop on the laws that protect their rights," Campbell said.

Worse yet, he added, "Sutton and Martinez are members of NMPASI's Board of Directors."

The Variety had interviewed

Bill . . .

Continued from page 1

ous expenditures to improve the water distribution system had gone to waste.

The Legislature stressed that the water situation is not a natural disaster but a longstanding problem arising from an antiquated water distribution system installed by the Japanese administration.

"The clear intent of Article II, Section 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution is to grant the governor power to deal with the sudden onset of emergencies that threaten the health and welfare of the CNMI.

"The purpose of gubernatorial emergency powers is to allow prompt and efficient executive response under conditions that deny enough time to secure a legislative mandate.

"The power is intended to continue only until after there is sufficient opportunity for the Legislature to act," SB 10-62 maintained.

Besides, the Legislature said Tenorio has failed to present a financial plan regarding the matter.

"The Legislature finds that the governor intends to continue the state of

Atty. Marcia Schultz, one of the organizers, before learning about NMPASI's lawsuit plan.

Several phone calls to Schultz later were not returned.

The workshop entitled "The Americans with Disabilities Act: A New Way of Doing Business" was organized by the Carlsmith law firm in cooperation with the Hotel & Restaurant Association of the Northern Marianas islands, the Employers Council, and the Contractors' Association.

The workshop, Schultz said during the interview, was aimed at familiarizing business owners with ADA.

"This is a law that has had a lot of litigation in the United States, particularly, Hawaii and California. We also have ongoing litigation here on Saipan," Schultz said.

"We thought many employers here are not familiar with the law," she said.

"This is to help employers understand the law (and learn) what kind of changes they might need to do in the structures of their buildings... We have asked architects to talk (about ADA) from the architectural point of view."

The workshop, Schultz said, also hoped to introduce the employers "to the kind of accommodation they may have to make such as providing special equipment (for employees with disabilities)," she said.

emergency indefinitely to circumvent legislative process and Commonwealth law requirements," the lawmakers stressed.

Tenorio, in his reply, countered: "There is nothing to support the theory that I must share emergency power with the Legislature, or use it only as a band-aid solution while waiting for the Legislature to take action."

Waiting for the Legislature's approval to extend emergency declaration beyond 60-days, Tenorio said, is "unconstitutional."

"Effectively gives the Legislature a veto over my emergency power. But nothing in the Constitution makes any connection between emergencies and the Legislature.

"Article III is the executive article, and the powers listed there are purely executive powers," he stressed.

Tenorio said he will cooperate in any investigation that may be held by the Legislature on the water emergency project.

"I believe that it would be within the legitimate scope of your powers to hold an oversight investigation, and, if it shows cause, take action by passing a statute dealing with specific situation. I would give all reasonable cooperation to such," he said.

Governor . . .

Continued from page 1

by-night recruiters (a chance) to run away once they do something wrong," he said.

Recruiters would also be required to "make sure" if the companies wanting to hire alien workers do have job openings.

Meantime, Tenorio said the Department of Labor and Immigration has sent investigators to Bangladesh "to find out what happened over there."

He said he may also require that workers from Bangladesh, and other foreign countries except for the Philippines, go through U.S. embassies for their work permits.

Marianas Variety News

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06 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GENERAL OFFICE CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORPORATION Tel. 234-8379(3/27)Th228333

02 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO., INC. dba Saco Security Services/Saco Service Plus/Quality Builders Tel. 234-8379(3/27)Th228334

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,200.00-1,500.00 per month
Contact: PANTRAC TRADING CORP. dba Dunhill Store Tel. 234-0550(3/27)Th228370

01 PURCHASING CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per hour
Contact: BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
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Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412(3/27)Th64886

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Contact: F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour plus \$200.00 housing allowance
Contact: SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE, INC. Tel. 234-8230(3/27)Th64886

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$650.00 per month
Contact: COMET CORPORATION dba 99c Wholesale Store Tel. 235-4862(3/27)Th228361

02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: MASON-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: JAMES P. REYES, JR. dba Jim Boy Construction Tel. 235-7093(3/27)Th228360

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01 ELECTRICIAN (MAINTENANCE)-Salary: \$700.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: S.T.R. CO., LTD. Tel. 235-3935(3/27)Th228358

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01 RESERVATION CLERK-Salary: \$800.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: SUPERVISOR, TRAVEL AGENT-Salary: \$1,000.00-3,350.00 per month
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Contact: HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary: \$3.05-3.57 per hour
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Contact: MAINTENANCE PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.15-3.55 per hour
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Contact: WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311(4/3)Th64999

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
Contact: STEVEDORE 2-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: WINCH OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.15-3.35 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. (4/3)Th65002

01 SEAMSTRESS-Salary: \$3.50-5.50 per hour
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01 FOREMAN/MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05-6.00 per hour
Contact: FIESTA INCORPORATED (4/3)Th65017

01 DEL. RT. TRUCK DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC. Tel. 233-9298(4/3)Th6

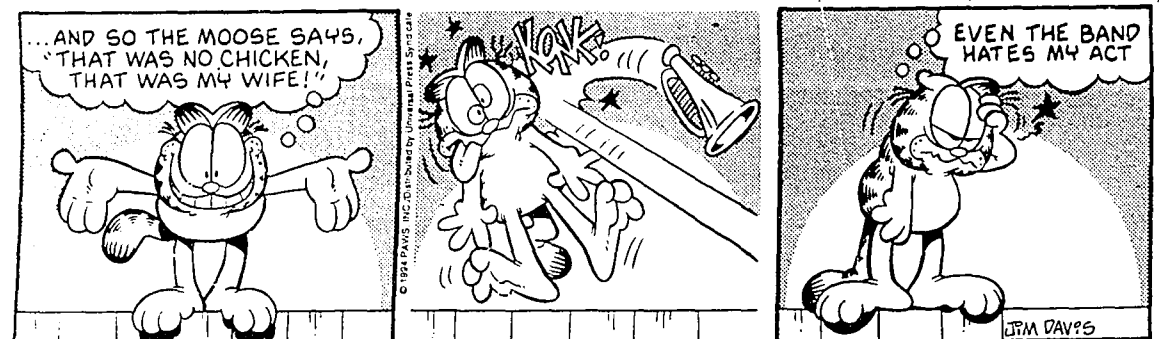
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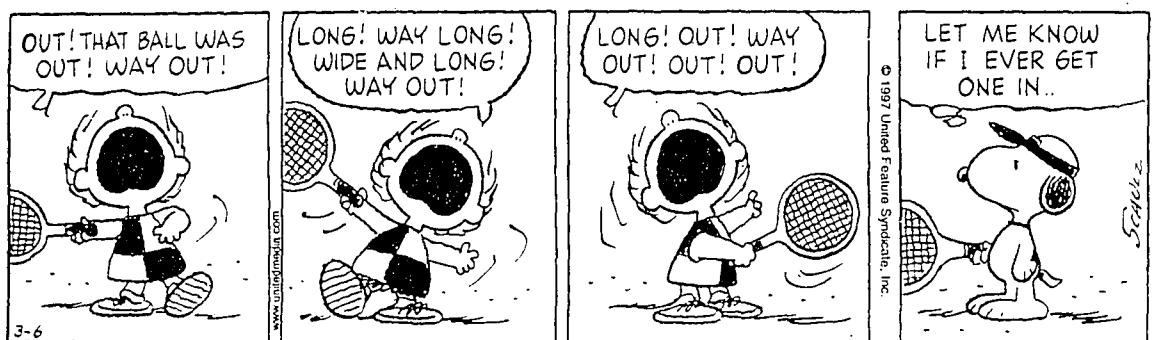
Garfield®

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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are never one to turn away from a crisis or challenge, as you feel that these are the avenues one must travel if one is to learn the really important lessons in life. To turn and run is a sign of cowardice, in your opinion, and you are not a coward! You are far more interested in being known as a human being first and foremost than in being categorized as one who sticks to a single area of endeavor; you prefer the freedom to explore your own life and the lives of others at will, and you don't like to be restricted by the rules others make on an arbitrary basis.

Just when others are likely to be used to what you have to offer, you are able to change your strategy and come up with something that takes even those who know you best completely by surprise. You enjoy such unpredictable behavior, and consider it a sign of growth and humanity.

Also born on this date are: Holly Hunter, actress; William Hurt, actor; Bobby Orr, hockey player; Carl Reiner, actor, writer, producer, director; Fred Rogers, TV personality known as "Mister Rogers".

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Others are likely to gravitate toward you all day long. Be sure you know how to channel such attention, or it may prove a burden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Routine affairs are not likely to remain routine for long. Be sure to enjoy the fact that there are no surprises before everything changes on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take care that you don't become suddenly and unfairly sensitive today and lash out at those who have just been playing your kind of game!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The anticipation is killing you today, but you must be willing to wait your turn before having a go at something that could offer dramatic rewards.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — This morning, you should be able to get well ahead of the game, but this doesn't mean you should slack off later in the day. Keep it up!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You can rise above all manner of circumstances today and prove

that you are one of those who can be falling behind today, the fact is that you should be able to make up for lost ground and surge ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Make your intentions clear today. Do not leave others in the dark, particularly those with whom you share your life on a daily basis.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A problem left to you by someone who has flown the coop may prove to be something of a headache all day long. You can conquer it, however!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Now is the time to stress those things that provide you with personal strength and enjoyment. Inner peace is certainly within reach.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can afford to become more knowledgeable about the things that do not directly affect you, but which surround you all day long.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 "—, humbug"
- 4 Speak
- 9 A Beatty
- 12 Mine find
- 13 Sajak's "Wheel of Fortune" partner
- 14 Unrefined metal
- 15 — state
- 17 Kidneys
- 19 Distance measure
- 20 Flower
- 21 Customer
- 23 Risque quality
- 27 Chemical measure
- 29 "— With the Wind"
- 30 Williams ID
- 31 Greek island
- 32 "Dallas" family
- 34 Cuckoo

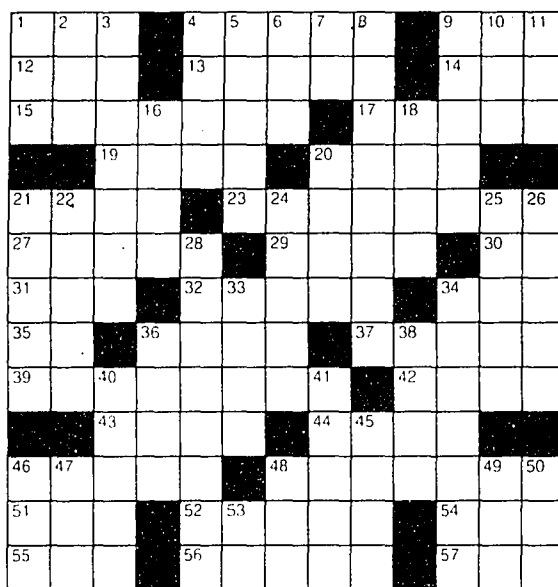
DOWN

- 1 Acknowledge applause
- 2 Metric measure
- 3 Military hats
- 4 — Office
- 5 More unusual
- 6 Sue —
- 7 Nugent ID
- 8 Pieces of jewelry
- 9 Din
- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 — Moines
- 16 Shooting-range word
- 18 German one
- 20 Doity
- 21 Useful
- 22 Sains Indian
- 24 Spry
- 25 Baseball's Koufax
- 26 — cheese
- 28 Rudolph, the red-nosed —
- 33 "Blossom" star
- 34 Med. school subject
- 36 Face covering
- 38 Actor
- 40 Artist Picasso
- 41 More certain
- 45 Words of denial
- 46 Headgear
- 47 Broadcast
- 48 School org.
- 49 Ms. Peeples
- 50 School of whales
- 53 Consequently

Answer to Previous Puzzle

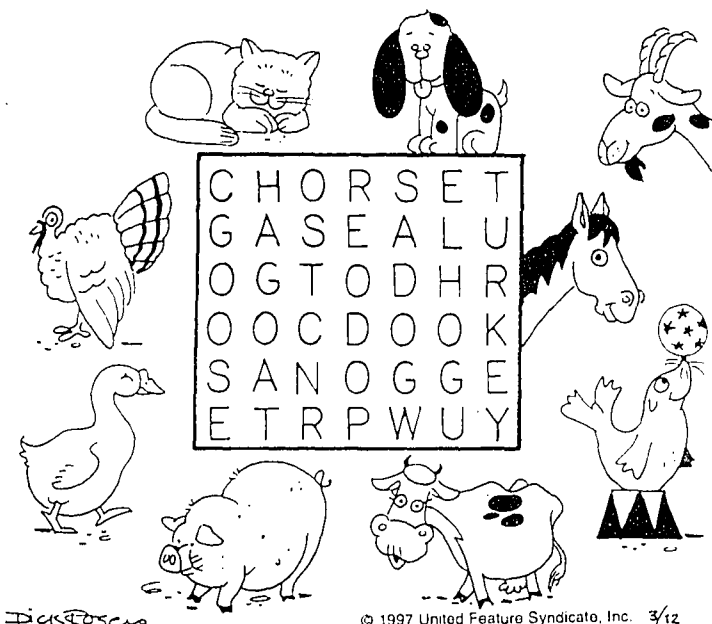
ESP POPS GAVE
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National Basketball Association

Bulls edge Sonics, 89-87

By RICK GANO

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan capped a 32-point, 18-rebound performance by hitting two free throws with three seconds left in overtime Tuesday night, giving the Chicago Bulls an 89-87 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Seattle's Gary Payton, who finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and 14 assists, hit a free throw with 16 seconds left to tie it 87-87 but missed a second shot from the line that would have given Seattle the lead.

The Bulls rebounded and Jordan, surrounded by Seattle defenders, put up a wild shot. But he was fouled by Payton and sank both free throws, his fifth and sixth of overtime.

Seattle's Hersey Hawkins, who earlier hit two 3-pointers in overtime to give the Sonics an 86-83 lead, missed a shot at the buzzer and the Bulls escaped with their 25th straight home victory in a playoff-like game between last year's NBA finalists.

The Sonics forced overtime when Payton hit three free throws after he was fouled on a jumper by Luc Longley with 20.8 seconds left in regulation. Early Tuesday morning, Payton was accused by a limousine driver of punching him in the face over a fare dispute.

Chicago's Scottie Pippen and Seattle's Shawn Kemp both missed overtime after fouling out in the closing seconds of regulation.

Hawkins had 23 points for the

Sonics, while Longley added 16 for the Bulls.

The Bulls, now 32-1 at home, didn't lead until Longley hit a bank shot with 2:28 to go to make it 74-73.

Jordan, whose 18 rebounds matched a career high, hit a jumper, Kemp missed two of four free throws and then Jordan hit two from the line as Kemp fouled out. That gave the Bulls a 78-75 lead.

Sam Perkins missed a 3-point attempt but Seattle scrambled for the offensive rebound and Payton was fouled by Longley beyond the 3-point line.

Jordan picked up two fouls in the opening minute of the game and missed 8 of 11 first-half shot attempts, scoring just seven points and committing four turnovers. He shot just 10-of-28 for the game, but was 12-of-13 from the line.

Raptors 117, 76ers 105

INTORONTO, Marcus Camby scored a career-high 36 points and Damon Stoudamire had 30 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, leading the Toronto Raptors over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Camby scored 16 points in the first quarter, making seven straight shots and missing his first two. He went on to top his previous high of

29, against the New York Knicks on Nov. 14.

Stoudamire got his third career triple-double. Doug Christie had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, including a key 3-pointer that put the Raptors up 103-90 with 4:36 left.

Allen Iverson led the 76ers with 26 points and 10 assists.

Derrick Coleman added 25 points and a season-high 16 rebounds as the 76ers lost for the seventh time in their last nine games.

Rockets 97, Nets 89

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, reserves Sedale Threatt and Eddie Johnson scored 11 points each in the fourth quarter as Houston halted New Jersey's two-game winning streak.

Threatt, who only signed with Houston on March 1 because of knee surgery, finished with 15 points and Johnson had 16 as the Rockets came from behind to win in the fourth quarter for the 17th time this season.

Clyde Drexler, playing only his second game since returning from a hamstring injury, led the Rockets with 23 points and 12 assists. Hakeem Olajuwon added 14 points and 15 rebounds.

NBA Standings
Eastern Conference
Atlantic Division

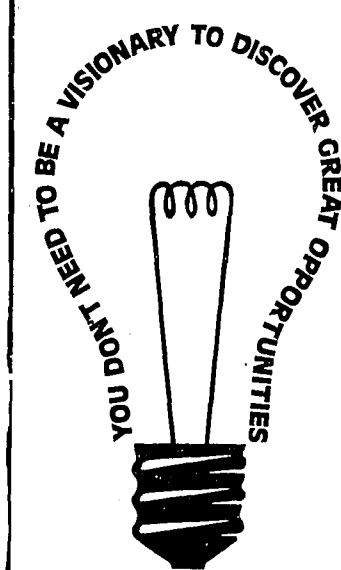
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	48	17	.738	
New York	48	18	.727	1-2
Orlando	36	29	.554	12
Washington	32	34	.485	16 1-2
New Jersey	20	45	.308	28
Philadelphia	17	48	.262	31
Boston	13	54	.194	36
Central Division				
Chicago	57	9	.864	
Detroit	47	18	.723	9 1-2
Atlanta	44	22	.667	13
Charlotte	42	24	.638	15
Cleveland	35	29	.547	21
Indiana	31	34	.477	25 1-2
Milwaukee	27	38	.415	29 1-2
Toronto	24	42	.364	33
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Utah	49	17	.742	
Houston	44	22	.667	5
Minnesota	32	33	.492	16 1-2
Dallas	22	43	.338	26 1-2
Denver	19	46	.292	29 1-2
San Antonio	16	49	.246	32 1-2
Vancouver	11	57	.162	39
Pacific Division				
Seattle	45	21	.682	
L.A. Lakers	44	21	.677	1
Portland	39	28	.582	7
L.A. Clippers	28	36	.438	16 1-2
Sacramento	28	38	.424	17 1-2
Phoenix	27	39	.409	18
Golden State	25	40	.385	20
Monday's Games				
Boston 126, Milwaukee 117				
Utah 114, Charlotte 93				
Atlanta 112, Orlando 107, OT				
Cleveland 85, Detroit 82				
Washington 109, San Antonio 85				

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TIME: 2:30 P.M.
GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0087
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE
OPENING DATE: MARCH 27, 1997
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

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211	Custom Screen Printing (2pp)	113	1997 Training Schedule - Saipan (1p)
221	Corporate Promo. Products (3pp)	114	1997 Training - Manila & Singapore (1p)
222	Recent Promotional Products (3pp)	115	Enrollment Form (1p)
223	Political Specialty Ad. Products (3pp)	121	Management Consulting (1p)
	MACHIII WORLDWIDE	131	Document Services (1p)
231	Web Page Development (7pp)		

BARBS

BARBS BY PHIL PASTORET

Fairy tales for grown-ups: Talk radio ads for oddball diets.

Ain't it the truth? If the shoe fits, they won't have your color.

We're not advocating swearing, of course, but "water over the dam" is just a little too prim

Hear about the crook who turned poet? He went from bad to verse.

Why is it we count our blessings in fractions and our troubles way left of the decimal point.

Great great grandma baked cakes. Great grandma thawed them. Grandma microwaves them, but smart grandmas go the bakery.

Of course cats can count. They know exactly how many times they can claw the couch before being swatted with the newspaper.

For the pessimist, opportunity always knocks.

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SPORTS



February Athletes of the Month

Halstead, Jordan cited

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Mariana Amateur Sports Association and the Northern Mariana Olympic Committee named Mark Halstead and Jessica Jordan as the island's February Male and Female Athletes of the Month.

The two sporting bodies also cited Freddie Pelisiman of Hopwood Junior High School as the Student Male Athlete of the Month.

Earlier, Jacoba Castro of Mt. Carmel School was awarded the Female Student plum.

Incoming NMSA president

Bill Sakovich said that Halstead earned the nod after an amazing streak in four different bowling tournaments at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The prolific bowler scored 704 pins during the Monday Night League then rolled a 684 pins for Team #5 in the Adam and Eve Mixed Tournament.

As it wasn't enough Halstead shot 719 while playing for the Jaridon Team in the Wednesday Pinbusters League and a 700 for L&W in the Friday Intercommercial League to complete a week of consistent bowling.

Jordan, on the other hand, was cited due to her impressive performance during the Guam Pentathlon Swim Meet held last February 22-23.

The Saipan Swim Club member won three of five events to win the overall title in Girl's Senior Division of the two day event.

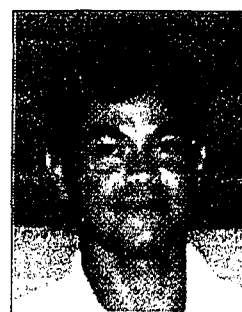
Aside from winning the overall crown, Jordan likewise broke the existing Guam records in the 100M freestyle, 100M backstroke and the 200M individual medley events.

Pelisiman was cited after leading the Hopwood Five to the title of the Public School System's Inter-

scholastic Junior High School Basketball Tournament.

Pelisiman was the tournament's leading scorer as Hopwood asserted its dominance in the cage loop that drew the participation of Rota High School, Tinian High School, Grace Christian Academy and Saipan Community School.

Castro was given the citation after leading the MCS Knights to a 14-0 sweep of the 1997 Youth



Mark Halstead



Jacoba Castro

Volleyball League.

The 10th grader was named as the tournament's Most Valuable Player as MCS won the title with an unblemished slate.

1997 Palau / Marpac Men's League's Batting Derby Peter keeps hot streak

Top 10 Batters as of Jan. 20-March 9, 1997:

Team	Name	AB	H	Ave.	Most Runs:	Triples:	Brady Ubedei-4	Greg Camacho-16
Spec	Winsor Peter	21	13	.619	Francis George-16	Anton Iriate-3	Scott Santos-3	Kaleb Dulei-15
Kabekel	Brooks	13	8	.615	Rasko Yamada-15	Jack Santos-2	Chris Nelson-3	Mel Sakisat-15
Senyavins	Anton Iriate	22	13	.590	Ben Mesa-15	Payton Sakuma-2	Ben Hocog-3	
Kabekel	Chris Nelson	19	11	.579	Jojo Attao-14	Sumang Riungel-2	Sylvan Pua-3	
Tres Rai	Joe Salas	18	10	.556	Mike Wilson-13	Ray Semen-2	Greg Camacho-3	
Servistar	Greg Camacho	20	11	.550		Steve Walsh-2		
Warriors	Brady Ubedei	11	6	.545		Joe Guerrero-2	Homerun:	Most Strikeouts:
Servistar	Paul Camacho	23	12	.521		Tony Cruz-2	Greg Camacho-9	Lucian George-6
Turtles	Joe Guerrero	23	12	.521	Doubles:	RBI:	Jojo Attao-9	
Servistar	Ben Mesa	25	13	.520	Winsor Peter-4	Jojo Attao-17	Nick Guerrero-6	

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

SIX GAMES into the 1997 season, Winsor Peter of Pepsi SPEC continues to be the hottest slugger in the Palau/Marpac Men's Slowpitch

League.

The SPEC power hitter converted 13 out of 21 appearances in the plate for a league's best .619 average.

Brooks of MGD Kabekel is next with a .615 after knocking eight hits in

13 attempts.

Senyavins' Anton Iriate is running third after compiling 13 hits in 22 attempts at bat for a .590 accuracy.

Chris Nelson of MGD Kabekel is fourth while Tres Rai's Joe Salas is fifth. Nelson connected 11 out of 19 tries for a .597 hitting percentage while Salas is hitting .556 after going for 10 of 18 attempts.

Greg Camacho, Brady Ubedei, Paul Camacho, Joe Guerrero and Ben Mesa round up the top 10 sluggers of the league.

In the other statistical categories, Francis George is leading the

Continued on page 19

CCA to hold chess tilts

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE CNMI Chess Association is set to hold a chess tournament for upcoming pawnpushers on March 30 at Pinoy Special Restaurant.

Billed as "Push Pawn, Not Drugs" Chess tournament, it will feature two divisions, the kiddie and the junior, and will be open to kids whose ages range from 8-12 and 13-18 years old.

CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura said that the blitz tournament aims to generate more interest about the game among the CNMI youth.

"We believe that chess can greatly benefit our youth. Playing the game will help them sharpen their analytical thinking, instill discipline and most

Continued on page 19

Dour Dououl ends season with a win

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

BILLOLATIMAN scored the much needed goal to lift Dour Dououl past Brotherhood in O-Kan to end its campaign on a high note in the 1997 World Organized Rocball Tournament at the Pugua Court of the Marianas High School.

With his team leading by a single point, 4-3, in the overtime, Olaitiman scored his endgame heroics as Dour Dououl handed Brotherhood its second loss in six outings.

Playing a lot better after struggling in the beginning of the tournament, Dour Dououl took the first three sets, 15-5; 15-11 and 13-0 but failed to juice the game after a big comeback by Brotherhood in the fourth set.

Brotherhood blanked Dour Dououl, 13-0, to send the game into extension. In overtime, either team can win the match if it can score eight points or a goal first.

Continued on page 19

Rocball 'friendly' match Dolphins beat Triangs

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

ONCE again the Marianas High School Dolphins reasserted their might in rocball by defeating the Miyazawa High School of Yokohama, Japan in an exhibition game held recently at the Pugua Court of the Marianas High School.

The friendly match was a part of MHS and Miyazawa HS' 11th Annual Cultural and Sports Exchange Program.

The Dolphins appeared to be on their way to an easy victory after taking the first three sets, 15-9, 16-6, and 15-1. The Miyazawa Triangs, however, came alive in the fourth set, 16-12, to prevent the Dolphins from scoring a juice win.

Due to rocball's unique rules, the Dolphins had to go through an O-Kan despite a 26 point advantage, 58-32.

To win a rocball game, a team has to win in all four sets and at least a three point advantage in the fourth set for a juice win.

In O-Kan, the Dolphins only need to win an eight point set or score a goal to win the match.

Continued on page 19



In huddle—Blue Team coach Sonny Lim (left) gives last minute instructions to Derylo Aldan before her match during the opening day of the NMI Wrestling Federation's 1st Annual Goodwill Dual Match held recently at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

(Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

Marianas Variety News & Views

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Tenorio goes to court

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

GOV. Froilan Tenorio wants a Japanese company to apologize to him and the people of the CNMI for allegedly fabricating a story that he requested financial assistance for his campaign election in 1993.

In a declaration submitted yesterday in the Superior Court, Tenorio denied he asked Sekisui

Slams Sekisui lawyers for 'fabricating' Hiraga story

House, Ltd. for funds in 1993 for his gubernatorial election.

"Sekisui House is not being truthful. It should publicly set the record straight and apologize to me and to the people of the Commonwealth," said the governor in his declaration attached to a motion for deposition filed by lawyer Richard W. Pierce.



Froilan C. Tenorio

The chief executive was reacting to a press release from

Sekisui's lawyers stating that "on June 1, 1993, Sekisui informed Tenorio that no funds would be provided to him."

Tenorio said he has reviewed his files and cannot find any reference to any communication from him to Sekisui or from the company to him on that day.

"I have no recollection whatsoever of directly or indirectly asking Sekisui for funds in 1993 or at any time for my 1993 election or for any other purpose," he said.

If Sekisui can produce evidence of such a communication, Tenorio said, he will consider it.

At this time, he stressed, Sekisui's statement in the release

is "completely false and highly irresponsible."

"Coupled with Sekisui's other statements and its court filing, it is apparent to me that Sekisui wants the people of the Commonwealth to believe that I unlawfully sought money from Sekisui," he said.

Pierce, counsel for plaintiffs C.D.C. Saipan, Ltd. and C.D.C. Japan, Ltd., sought the deposition of Isao Okui, president and representative director for Sekisui, in connection with the pending legal battle between C.D.C. and Sekisui.

"What should be a simple legal and factual argument over a deposition has become the news of the

Continued on page 42

Audit: Contractors failed to produce 'deliverables'



Leo LaMotte

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT had lost millions of dollars as a result of the failure of several contractors to deliver the services they had been paid for, according to the audit report released yesterday by Public Auditor Leo LaMotte.

The audit found that the government entered into pro-

fessional services contracts which contained terms and conditions that were "unclear and unfavorable to the CNMI."

LaMotte mentioned for example the nonspecification of scope of work, and the maximum contract amount was not set. This resulted in the lack of assurance of contract necessity or reasonableness of prices, LaMotte said.

The report said the government had executed a total of \$4.08 million for this type of contracts.

The audit covered the government transactions with several contracts between October 1991 and July 1995.

It was found that the Executive Branch executed a total of 253 professional services contracts totalling \$12.88 million during the period covered by audit.

Continued on page 42

Tenorio to House: Reject E.O. but bring power rates down

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio on Wednesday said he "won't mind" if the House of Representatives reject his executive order to reorganize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., as long as the legislators also find a way of reducing power rates.

The Senate rejected E.O. 97-1 last March 12, and Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) has said that he will lobby for a similar action by the House.

In an interview yesterday, Benavente said the House lead-



Diego T. Benavente

ership will decide what to do with the E.O. on Tuesday.

Tenorio said if the House votes against the E.O., he would submit a bill for a reduction of power rates.

He said his E.O., which proposes to split CUC into two new agencies, the Marianas Power Authority (NMPA) and the Northern Marianas Water Authority (NMWA), would lead to lower power rates.

"But if the Legislature could keep the CUC intact and, at the same time, reduce the power rates, it's okay with me," he said.

CUC's sewer and water division will decide what to do with the E.O. on Tuesday.

Continued on page 42



Gov. Froilan Tenorio and First Lady Grace hand plaque to Sis. Angela Perez, one of several women achievers honored during a recognition dinner for Women Volunteers Wednesday. Woman at right is unidentified.

Utilities disconnection prompts \$.4M lawsuit

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A BUSINESSMAN and a private company filed yesterday a \$.4-million counter-suit against an investment firm for allegedly cutting off the utilities of their establishment.

Baula International and Soon Hyung Lee, through counsel G. Anthony Long, demanded \$446,600 in damages from Pry America International Investment Co., Ltd. and its owner Yi Zhang.

Long in the counter-claim stated that on March 20, 1995, Pry America leased to Baula International the Korean Market in Garapan for a 12-year-term.

Pry America, through Yi, signed the lease with Lee on behalf of Baula International.

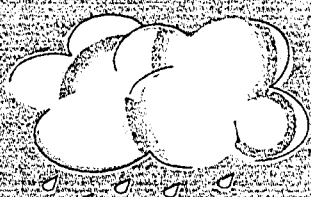
A security deposit totalling

\$23,300 was tendered to Yi pursuant to the lease agreement.

The security deposit was committed to the lease agreement.

Continued on page 42

WEATHER Outlook



Mostly cloudy with widely scattered showers

Netanyahu makes offer



Benjamin Netanyahu

By DAN PERRY
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proposed abandoning a gradual approach to Palestinian autonomy in favor of a six-month push for a permanent peace agreement, an Israeli official says.

At the same time, Netanyahu wants Israel to be freed of its obligation to hand over more West Bank land to Palestinian autonomy—one of the promises of the interim agreements already negotiated.

The official from the prime minister's office, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said the offer was passed to Yasser Arafat through Jordan's King Hussein, who visited Israel on Sunday.

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said his side had not officially received the offer, but he saw no need to link a speed-up in the final talks to canceling the parallel process of expanding Palestinian autonomy.

"There is no contradiction between going (ahead) with the permanent settlement negotiations and continuing with the implementation of the outstanding commitments of the interim agreement," Erekat told Israel's Army Radio.

Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abourdeh refused to comment, but Palestinian Cabinet minister Yasser

Abed Rabbo told Israel TV that he feared "this initiative will freeze everything now."

"I don't trust (Netanyahu)," Abed Rabbo said. "He is just playing games of public relations."

In recent weeks, the Palestinians have been outraged by Israel's decision to build in east Jerusalem — not forbidden under the interim accords — and its decision to pull troops out of only 9 percent of West Bank land in the first of three further redeployments already

promised.

Netanyahu appears to be selling his new proposal as a way to cut short a process that was intended to build confidence between the two sides but instead has eroded it.

Yet, from the Palestinian standpoint, the interim accords were designed to give them something tangible — control over more land in the West Bank. They could argue that eliminating the next two handovers is hardly in interests.

While Netanyahu has agreed to the principle of Palestinian autonomy — the goal of the interim accords — he strongly opposes the Palestinians' final goal of an independent state with its capital in east Jerusalem.

Israeli media said Netanyahu's proposal had the support of all the ministers in his Cabinet as well as some opposition figures including Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, the architect of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Gingrich to visit Taiwan, Asia

By LAURA MYERS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Beleaguered by conservatives on two fronts, House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Wednesday added a Taiwan stop to a trip he's leading to China and other Asian nations this month.

"Enough people had brought to his attention issues which they feel need to be addressed ... that he decided to add a stop in Taiwan on April second," Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin said in an interview.

Gingrich, R-Ga., also sought Wednesday to defuse a civil war within the Republican Party over his remarks Monday that tax cuts should be delayed until after Congress votes on spending cuts.

House conservatives accused him

of abandoning bedrock GOP tax-cutting principles. "You'll see members strike out on their own because they've lost confidence in what the leadership stands for," said Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind.

But Gingrich allies emerged Wednesday morning from a closed meeting of House Republicans to say that the speaker was talking strategy for winning tax cuts, not abandoning the idea.

"No one should be confused that somehow the party is walking away from the idea that we won't have lower tax cuts," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich. "We have been basically moving around here discussing procedure. Don't mistake procedure for what our policy objectives are."

However, Senate Majority Leader



Newt Gingrich

Trent Lott, R-Miss., rapped Gingrich. "It doesn't help when you have a mixed message," Lott told reporters. "We got to fulminating out loud a little too much."

Diocese to help Bangladeshis

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DIOCESE of Chalan Kanoa yesterday got a \$5,000 donation for its social services and is planning to have the displaced Bangladeshi community among its top priority of beneficiaries.

"We have the Bangladeshis as our priority. If the Board of Directors agrees, we will channel funds for them. What happened to them is terrible," said Bishop Thomas A. Camacho.

"I was surprised by the donation," said Camacho.



Bishop Thomas A. Camacho

More alleged illegal recruiters identified

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST two Bangladeshi-based recruiters have been identified to be among those who have illegally sent Bangladeshi workers to Saipan.

A local employer who claimed his firm had once fallen victim to the ploys of these recruiters, identified only as brothers Ahmed. He said the two promised the jobseekers they will be sent to USA through Saipan.

"In fact, I've already sent a letter to the Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs asking his office to look into the activities of these unscrupulous recruiters," said Willie Wagan, in an interview.

Wagan runs the Panther Security Agency and personally directs the hiring of his recruits in Bangladesh.

He came across the Ahmeds during the recruitment of 18 Bangladeshi workers last year.

"But out of 18 workers, only nine arrived, none of which turned out to be skilled for the job," Wagan said in his letter which was sent Sept. 2 last year.

He said another two Bangladeshi workers came. "But it was obvious the duo's pictures were glued on the processed papers to make it appear that it was them who actually were hired," said Wagan.

He said the Bangladesh government has not responded on

his letter.

About 10 Bangladeshis who landed a job as security guards for Wagan's firm have recently sought assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment regarding Wagan's refusal to pay them \$1,200 a month as was promised them by their recruiter.

"That's the problem. The recruiter promised them heaven on earth. I can't afford it. Now they're raising hell on me," lamented Wagan.

He said he is not sure if this new batch of workers were also recruited by the Ahmeds.

In a related development, at least 10 other Bangladeshis, who were part of the 191 illegally recruited by Segundino Ubongen, yesterday received about \$15,870 in insurance bonds ordered given them by the Department of Labor and Employment following a hearing of their case.

Doris Carillo, spokesperson for the Royal Crown insurance firm said one of the Bangladeshis was also given a plane ticket.

The remaining workers, it was gathered, have yet to receive their insurance bond from at least three more firms which has jurisdiction over them.

It will be recalled the lawyer Dan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General assigned to DOLI, has warned he might pushed for the revocation of these firms' licenses should they fail to release the money next week.

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

FREEDOM Air will resume its flights to Rota and Guam today, but will use a smaller seven-seater twin-engine plane, its general manager said yesterday.

Interviewed from the airline's head office in Guam, Joaquin Flores said the regular 30-seater twin-engine plane they use for the Saipan-Rota-Guam route was grounded Tuesday for "required maintenance."

The plane is being reconditioned in the airline's maintenance hangar in

Guam, he said.

He said it was not true that the plane broke down as a result of which flights were cancelled Wednesday.

Dennis Cruz, Freedom Air's Saipan station manager, said the flight to Rota and Guam would resume yesterday afternoon, but Flores told the Variety "it looks like we might cancel it."

Flores said the bigger plane would fly again any time next week. "We're not sure, maybe mid-week."

Flores pointed out that they

It was given by the Lufthansa Airlines through Reinhard Guth, the firm's Regional Manager.

Helmut Woelki, the airline's Corporate Executive Officer, Guth said, is "a strong Catholic," and thus, would want to contribute the fund for the Church's cause.

Camacho said the donation came at a time when the church's social service arm, the Karidat is doling-out food for more than 200 Bangladeshis who regularly drop by the office for support.

The Bangladeshis were among 191 sent to Saipan by Segundino Ubongen, a Filipino businessman who allegedly promised the foreign workers high-paying jobs on the island.

Lufthansa is currently renovating its Saipan "flight kitchen."

Guth said the kitchen will be operational by November this year.

He said the airline decided to upgrade the kitchen and expand it to meet the demands of the growing influx of tourists arriving on

Saipan.

The airline acquired the kitchen in 1989.

"The capacity is too small. We have a lot more flights and more people coming in. The kitchen has to be changed," explained Guth.

The Saipan "flight kitchen," Guth said, is part of some 176 ones spread around the world.

These employ a total of 40,000 workers and serve an estimated 1 million servings of food a day.



GRAFFITI PAINT PROJECTS. Volunteers will again gear up for the annual Spring Touch Up Graffiti Paint Project of the Governor's Office on Youth Affairs (GOYA). The project, involving 25 volunteer students from Marianas High School's JROTC program, aims to paint at least 15 out of the island's 60 bus shelters tomorrow as part of the GOYA's forthcoming Youth Against Graffiti Drive this coming July. (Photo courtesy of GOYA)

DPHS doubts it can ever train enough local nurses for CHC



Isamu J. Abraham

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI will never be able to train enough local people to fill the nursing needs of the Commonwealth Health Center with the present nursing program at the Northern Marianas College.

Department of Public Health Services Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham said the present salaries offered are likewise not sufficient to attract highly-trained nurses from the U.S.

Abraham in CHC's year 2000 report stated that for obvious reasons of "life and death" there are three areas at CHC for which nurses whose training and experience is "Western" and whose first language is English should be recruited.

He said the areas are operating rooms, intensive care units and the emergency department.

The possible solutions, the secretary said, include the expansion of the NMC's nursing program and improvement of the on the job training in the hospital.

Abraham underscored the need to increase the nursing salaries to encourage local people to view nursing as a viable career, and recruit more nurses from US.

In 10 years CHC has grown from one designed to provide pri-

mary health care to a local population of 35,000 to one which provides a vast range of health care services, he said.

Abraham pointed out that CHC provides health care services not only to the local population which has grown to 60,000 and to numerous tourists, but also to other Micronesians.

The off-island medical referral program now, the secretary said, provides access mainly to specialty services which it would not be sensible or cost effective to establish in the CNMI.

"The breadth and high quality of health care provided at CHC is a tribute to government funding, the administration's vision and support and to the careful staff recruiting of the last few years," he said.

However, Abraham added, there are several areas where improvement and expansion are still needed.

He stressed that planning for the future should begin now.

The areas, he said, are nursing recruitment and training, physician recruitment and retention, capital equipment replacement and expansion, and facility renovation and expansion.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby serve notice to eligible veterans of the Existing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Native American Direct Loan Program (NADLP).

The loan limit for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is \$120,000.00 with an interest rate of 7.75%, fixed for thirty (30) years. This program expires October 1997.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) at telephone numbers 234-7689/7970/6866/9447, or the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office at 233-3475 on Saipan. On Tinian and Rota, contact NMHC's Field Office at 433-9213 and 532-9410, respectively.

EASTER BUD HUNT
The 1st Annual Easter Bud Hunt
at
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Enjoy a delicious Easter Sunday Brunch from 10am to 2pm \$22.00 for adults
\$11.00 for children, 4 years olds and younger are free.

Get one complimentary Bud family per person.

There'll be an Easter Egg Hunt for children 11 and younger and Hershey's
Easter chocolates and grab bag goodies for all participants!

The real fun starts when the adults

HUNT FOR THE BUD FAMILY! from 1pm to 3pm
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** Participant's in Bud Hunt must be 21 yrs or older and MUST have eaten in Plumeria's Easter Brunch.

FORUM

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

EDITORIAL

Rekindling of a commitment

EXACTLY 25 years ago last Sunday, the Marianas Variety published its first issue, a crude 10x13 newsletter-type tabloid, stapled at the end then selling for 5 cents a copy.

The idea was simply to get the community informed about the latest news, events and goings-on in the islands, then governed by the Trust Territory Administration.

The road was bumpy and the challenge was daunting.

With meager capitalization and a staff of only three, the Variety's publishers, Abed and Paz Younis, ventured into uncharted waters and the rest is history.

Growing from a weekly and bi-weekly newspaper, the Variety metamorphosed into a daily newspaper that is truly island-grown, truly regional.

Many newspapers have come and gone since then, yet the Variety's mission statement remains the same—to inform and educate the people of the Northern Marianas, as well as to contribute to the learning process vital to the task of nation building.

It has grown to earn the distinction of being Micronesia's leading newspaper.

For the past 25 years, we at the Variety have strived to chronicle the events that shape Marianas history, at times taking on the role of vocal articulators for inarticulate, and harbingers of truth.

Though we have been chastised, slammed, bashed and maligned, we have remained undeterred in telling the story as it unfolds, fearlessly and as fairly as we can.

We acknowledge there may have been inadequacies on our part and that we're nowhere near perfect in our undertakings.

But we have never strayed in our sincere mission, which is to tell the story, the best and fairest way we can. Despite our shortcomings, we are steadfast in our commitment to the ideals of journalism and ever-serious in bringing the most comprehensive, fair and aggressive brand of reporting to our readers.

We take pride in our role as shaper of public opinion and intend to continue bringing the Marianas to the world and the world to the Marianas.

As the Commonwealth marches on to the new millennium, we hope to be there through all the tribulations and vicissitudes of the times, through all the ups and downs, the growing pains. The crises, the political upheavals, the trials and joys.

Looking back at the past 25 years, we reiterate our commitment to our readers and promise them the best we have.

We will not cease in our goal of seeing a prosperous and well-informed Commonwealth, at this most interesting of times.

We'll continue observing, communicating and informing through the printed word.

It has been a pleasure serving this community and we thank everyone for the support and constructive criticism we have been getting.

The Variety intends to stay as the local paper, for another quarter of a century. With your continued support and understanding, we'll grow even bigger and remain, modesty aside, Micronesia's leading newspaper.



Happy 25th Anniversary!!

By: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

It was 25 years ago this week that the Marianas Variety was conceived and born amidst a string of pristine pearls. The Variety was a star born in an era full of excitement of nation building among the constellation of islands spread out across the majestic and vast expanse of the Micronesia Region. It was born into a community that wasn't necessarily prepared to embrace and relish the formal production of a tabloid size newspaper. After all, it was never an integral part of the local culture or of this community.

Through the years, the Marianas Variety became the new conduit, the trusted messenger of factual information of local, regional and international events, documenting the trials, tribulations and triumphs of the people of these islands and of the Micronesia Region. Throughout its incipient years, I'd watch the ultimate master architect of the most widely read local newspaper work 18-hour days to produce what eventually became our newspaper, our weekly tabloid, and finally our daily newspaper. The Marianas Variety became a part of our culture, a learning tool and the means to be informed citizens.

The Marianas Variety is itself a book of epochal episodes about the history of these islands, covering prominent or major news events that shaped our lives, our changing lifestyles and our political destiny. In the process, it fueled and promoted healthy discussions among our people about the significance of these events through its regular news and editorial pages, including letters of differing from members of the Northern Marianas Community. We hold a special affinity or that special part in our hearts for this new star because it was born at a time in Marianas History right before we started deliberative discussions of the merits and demerits of every prominent event, especially the political destiny of these islands.

The breath and role of the Marianas Variety reminds this scribe of a saying about people and events in our daily lives: "Those who make things happen, those who watch what happens and, finally, those who didn't know what happened. It was this latter group that I was concerned about and I knew then as a cub reporter that something had to be done. Yes, I think I've learned the skills of my craft albeit rough terrains in the fact that English is my second language. Though this was quite a barrier then, the biggest drawback wasn't necessarily that English Language is my second language as much as the fact that in this culture societal norms simply expects and demands that you to keep your opinions to yourself.

Twenty-five years ago seems like it was only yesterday. Perhaps the flight of time never really mattered to us in the business because there was always something new to chase after at the crack of dawn. The window of opportunity to put these events into palatable news items came from a young couple—Abed and Paz Younis—who dreamed of making a difference, of guiding the development of these islands, trumpeting, through the pages of the newspaper they have established a quarter of a century ago, factual messages and views of the

Northern Marianas Community.

Yes, I remember days when Younis and Paz would stay up all night on Thursdays to ensure that the paper is printed in time for Friday. Those were days of pure manual cut and paste and hope that nothing falls off the raw page on its way to the dark room. It is an involved process and unless you have the persistence and the stamina to go through it day-in and day-out, you might as well hang up your gloves. I marvel at the persistence and determination of both Abed and Paz. If anything, they had the conviction and commitment to provide a service for the people of these islands however difficult it may be during its formative years.

I remember quite vividly my first test as a journalist, specifically, the use of the power of detachment. It had to be the lead story and it involved a next of kin who was accused of a certain felony. I wrote that story with conviction saying quietly to myself "society has the right to know who among its members are wanted by authorities for unlawful activities". It was hard watching that same person reading the story of about himself sitting next to me at a coffee shop. He kept saying "I am ignorant and I was held and charged for merely passing by the area in question". Months later he was acquitted and I made sure he was given the same spot in the newspaper. It's all about fairness in a profession and business that has yet to resolve, in full measure, the continuing debate about objectivity.

Indeed, I can say with some measure of authority that the Northern Marianas Community has grown together with the Marianas Variety. It played a key role in fostering political maturation. This newspaper was, is and will continue to be the public forum of discourse among the citizens of these islands. People from all walks of life ask not "where's the beef", but "where's the Variety". Yes, the Variety had a humble beginning. It was difficult then putting palatable news stories for public consumption basically because this is a closely knit community.

The Variety also started out as a pioneer in newspaper advertising. Yes, I appreciate the difficulty then of trying to persuade vendors to advertise. We've heard the same old chorus "Why should I advertise. If people can't find it in my store, they'll go to the other two stores". Indeed, those days are all history in that the people of islands have gradually become more service oriented. You have to provide your varied customers their right to choose by advertising. Now, as a vendor you either trumpet what you have or suffer the consequences of customers flocking elsewhere for the same products which you may be carrying at far cheaper rates.

Finally, we owe Abed and Paz Younis our most profound sense of gratitude for their persistence and commitment to make these islands a better place to live by establishing a reliable newspaper to keep its citizenry well informed of events that affect them on a long term basis. And for all that you are, the ultra-sense of dedication that you've put into a highly successful daily tabloid, you certainly deserve every iota of accolades not only from this scribe, but the entire Northern Marianas Community. Happy 25th Anniversary and God permitting, I certainly look forward to your Golden Anniversary. Congratulations!



Variations

Zaldy Dandan

Grinning Greens

IT DOESN'T matter what your political persuasion is—as long as you're for a politics of substance (i.e., ideals, convictions), you just got to take a look at Arcata, a city 300 miles north of San Francisco, California with a population of 15,378.

Last November, this fog-swept, wet and woolen city surrounded by coastal forests and farmland became the first place in the United States to be run by the Green Party. (See the Washington Post's March 14 issue).

Its five-man city council now has three Green members—the other two are liberal Democrats—Jennifer Hanan, 28; Jason Kirkpatrick, 29; and Bob Ornelas, 43.

Hanan manages a store that sells environmentally-benign paper products and clothes, and is a vegetarian like Kirkpatrick, who is a cashier at a food cooperative and a fulltime political activist.

Ornelas is part-owner of the Mad River microbrewery.

The three, says the Post, are already "learning that their transmutation into power brokers is going to test their idealism and their commitment to creating a sustainable community dedicated to environmental and social justice."

From "the fringes of agitation and advocacy," the Greens are now at city hall, and the expectations are, as a political science professor would put it, tremendous.

Says Ornelas, "It's put-up-or-shut-up time."

Like any other politics-not-as-usual group in power, the Arcata Greens are confronted with the classic dilemma of having to maintain their ideological purity in the face of the realities of power politics with its constant need for compromises and deals.

How they size up this challenge would be of immense interest for political activists elsewhere.

Ecologically-correct

Arcata is, perhaps, the most "ecologically-correct" city on this planet. Citizens here, reports the Post, walk with their own reusable cups, and nobody seems to throw anything away. Bicycles are everywhere, and so are Earth First! bumper stickers.

There is an ongoing petition calling for a moratorium on asphalt. Young people in dreadlocks tend to their compost piles, and students majoring in ecology "dress up like hobbits" in hemp clothing.

Arcata is the site of the first rural recycling center built 25 years ago. In 1987, the city converted its sewage treatment center into a series of filtering marshes that now attract birders from around the country.

The city, a "nuclear free zone," has the only non-toxic semi-proball field. The use of herbicides along its roads was banned 10 years ago by the city council which also adopted a resolution against Pepsi Co. Inc. for doing business in authoritarian Burma.

But now, the present Green-dominated city council is thinking about passing one of the most extreme anti-smoking ordinances in the nation—one that would ban smoking not only in the city's seven bars but also in public parks.

This is legislating personal choice, and how the city council could push through with it, if ever, should likewise merit our attention.

The Green councilors are also exploring a plan to provide free bikes, following the lead of Boulder, Colorado; Olympia, Washington; and Portland, Oregon.

They are proposing to close streets to cars, to build a homeless shelter, a skateboard park, and a lodge to serve ecologically-minded tourists at the city sewerage marshes.

Some Arcata citizens want to ban those annoying beepers of trucks backing up, and though the Greens agreed to review the noise pollution ordinances, they're worried about sending the wrong message to businesses.

And with good reason—Arcata has low wages and high unemployment. Where will the Greens get money for their pro-environment projects? Ornelas says, surprise, surprise; the Arcata Greens are actually "fiscally pretty conservative."

On their critics' allegation that they're like watermelons—green on the outside, red on the inside—Kirkpatrick says, "[We're] taking two steps back from any controversial issue and listening to the community.... We're growing on people."

National

The Arcata Greens are part of the nationwide The Greens/Green Party USA, which traces its roots all the way to Germany, where the first Green Party was born on Jan. 13, 1980.

With their pro-environment, pro-affirmative action, anti-capital punishment, pro-feminist, pro-Native American, pro-universal health care, pro-abortion, pro-gay rights, pro-small businesses and cooperatives, pro-election and finance reforms platform, the American Greens managed to win 38 elective positions in 20 states last November.

Twenty of these Green officials are in California, but only in Arcata—where the Green presidential bet Ralph Nader beat Dole—are they running the show.

CNMI Greens?

Can there be a Green Party in the CNMI?

The Commonwealth's two parties and even the Borja-Sablan independent ticket have pro-environment planks in their platforms, but at this stage

Continued on page 13



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Against 30% PSS guaranty

Dear Editor:

MY fellow constituents (CNMI Voters) please do not be influenced by the intellectual few, who are only looking for their own benefit in the long run, rather than for the students and schools in our islands.

Please challenge and question the so-called popular initiative for 30% PSS Guaranteed budget by Don Farrell. Why? Who will benefit the most, the students and schools or??

The present situation is check and balance sort of? PSS requests for its funding needs and the legislature will review and investigate prior to approval of such budget, but if we just sign the petition and approve it in a referendum this coming election time. We are binding our hands permanently.

The thirty (30%) percent budget initiative is a lot of guaranteed money, we are practically talking about one third (1/3) of the entire CNMI government fiscal budget, yearly.

What about the rest of the CNMI government fiscal budget for their operational needs? Shall we cut CHC and Referral, DPS and Fire to satisfy Don's 30% budget request?

Do not get me wrong. I am one hundred percent (100%) for our children's education. I am in support of new schools, additional classrooms, modern educational equipment, textbooks, school supplies and especially school office staffs, teachers and salary adjustment increases, so we can influ-

ence and retain these professionals in our PSS. They are the hard working ones, who are building the future foundation of our CNMI.

But I am in opposition to the following:

- 1) Tremendous salary increase for PSS Main (Central) office staffs, consultants, frequent trips of personnel group, more new luxury cars. You name it. They will get it. These we do not need. Let us take a scenario. Let us say the governor asks for a \$150,000,000 fiscal year budget and PSS is entitled to \$45,000,000.00 with the 30% guarantee. What will happen if PSS only uses \$35,000,000 during the year? Will the remaining \$10,000,000 revert back to the general fund? I don't think so, remember, the request for CNMI fiscal year budget gets higher and higher yearly to meet its need, wow for PSS 30% guaranteed budget.

- 2) Put a stop gap: No hiring of former PSS Board of Education members, retired central PSS Staff as consultants. Maybe this is why Don is trying to secure the 30% PSS guaranteed budget.

- 3) Reduce the central office staffs by half and put those intellectuals back as classroom teachers. That is where they are needed the most.

Retire those over 25 years of service and put in the new energetic, educated young blood as central staff.

PSS needs new ideas, knowledge

and resourceful staff. Savings will be tremendous from salary adjustments by retiring old, higher paid personnel against the new recruits, give the young generation their due.

Central office is where there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians, too many assistants to the assistants with high salaries.

- 4) Get rid of the PTA Council. Why do the children, parents and school administration have to subsidize this group of adults, for their coffee and cookies?

Isn't this is one of the reasons why we have an elected Board of Education to look at the need of the schools in our CNMI?

There is also the Commissioner of Education with his several assistants, who can be looked up, called and asked help for school needs.

The PTA Council is redundant the school PTA with no power or authority to work.

Ask why PSS discontinued subsidizing the PTA Council? Is it because it is a waste of money?

Lastly but not the least get PSS out of the office rentals (Nauru Building and elsewhere).

Office rental is the one that is eating up its budget.

Why not demolish the old central office and build a new two, three storey to accommodate its office needs?

PETE PANGELINAN

Crown not fit for queen

Dear Editor:

A recently held Ms. Gay Sweetheart 1997 pageant sponsored by the Visayas Mindanao Association brought not only frustrations among some of the participants, but to the audience or viewers as well. Judges were selected within the Association itself which really created conflict of interest to start with. I personally feel that the pageant was not organized nor managed well enough either.

The other Ms. Gay pageants that I have watched for the past two years were within the satisfactory level of the audience. But unlike this year's Ms. Gay Sweetheart, I was surprised.

The participants in this pageant really tried their best, not only to look pretty, walk nicely, even go out of their way to actually almost spend every penny they have just to get a crown. I guess that the judges don't see this quite clear, or maybe the President should learn now that it is not right to select judges for the pageant within the Association itself. In fact, the presi-

dent herself was one of the judges.

Isn't this something?, or maybe the candidates themselves should try to be more original in their selection of evening gowns, swimsuits, and talents, because I noticed some of them alternate their gowns, or swimsuits with other previous candidates, which makes it very unfair for one or two candidates who wore a new one each time, especially if it is original and reflects the theme of the pageant. I also noticed that the way they gave rewards for certain criteria to the candidates was not fair. They each gave either a bouquet of roses or envelope of money, trophy, and a sash. But only one candidate didn't get the sash, which makes you wonder why? By the way, this individual turned out to be the Queen. I heard that the Queen had to buy the charity trophy as well. Isn't this supposed to be awarded by the Association with all the money being collected, what happened to them?

You can really tell the pageant was not organized well, because even at the end after the Queen sat

on her chair for picture taking with the rest of the contestants, they covered her up and accidentally poked her eyes with the bouquet of roses. I mean, let's be realistic, there should be three chairs at least for the three top winners so that they won't have to crowd up the poor Queen and cover her from the media.

To top off the show, the crown, oh yes the Queen's crown... poor Queen. I saw the crown myself, some of the stones were either dirty or rusty, and guess what, there were three stones missing from the front. How could the Association do such an embarrassing act to the queen? And the first runner up even got the bigger and newer crown. Come on, open your eyes. These are your own people for God's sake! Where did all the money go?

A word of advice, please be more realistic next time, select your judges from the community and not within the Association itself. Be fair and just to your fellow man. Next pageant, let's cooperate and be FAIR....

MAGGIE S.

Clarification

JACK Angelo's five-year old son who underwent two cleft palate operations is making gains in his ability to communicate and express himself with the twice weekly speech therapy he is getting, according to Mary Asper, the boy's teacher at the Northern Marianas College Lab School.

Asper, in her March 3, 1997 open letter, suggested that the twice-a-week therapy received by

the boy be continued.

"He still has much farther to go before he can be understood easily by his classmates and teachers due to his physical speech problem," Asper said.

In the March 14 issue of the Variety, the story titled "Boy's Father Complains of PSS' Indifference," Angelo was quoted as saying "They said my son could just not say long sentences. But how could he say long sentences

when he could not pronounce a single word correctly."

Angelo clarified that his son could actually express himself although every second or third word in his sentence "is mispronounced."

This condition, Angelo said, inhibits his son from saying long sentences.

Angelo said the boy missed several scheduled therapy sessions last year.

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Tenorio wants Doromal back

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio said Wednesday that he will invite human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal to return to the CNMI.

"If she's concerned about human rights over here, she should come here," he said.

"I think I better send her a letter of invitation."

When told that the former Rota public school teacher wrote a letter to President Clinton, alleging that some of the "key players" and officials in the CNMI are unethical, criminals, abusers, corrupt and dangerous, Tenorio laughed and said, "I wish I could say that I'm not a crook, but somebody said that already," referring to former president Richard M. Nixon.

Nixon, disgraced by scandal, is the only U.S. president who resigned from office.

Now based in Florida, Doromal left the CNMI in 1995, claiming that she was being harassed for her "exposés" of alleged labor abuse incidents.

In a Feb. 16 letter to Clinton, Doromal urged for a federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration.

Calling the CNMI government "elitist" and with close ties with garments magnate Willie Tan, Doromal said the Commonwealth is economically prosperous "in the same way that the Confeder-



Froilan C. Tenorio



Wendy L. Doromal

ate States were one hundred years [sic] ago."

The so-called Confederate States of America (1860-1865) was made up of the 11 secessionist southern states whose agriculture-based economies were heavily dependent on human slaves.

Doromal said that the CNMI economic prosperity was at the "expense" of Chinese, Bangladeshi and Filipino contract workers usually subjected to labor abuses.

Guam and the CNMI, she said, need "all of the federal monitoring that can be allowed."

"The CNMI, while controlling its immigration, has allowed the exploitation of workers in building up an economy that benefits those in power and those with wealth."

She said that there might come a time when "frustrations and injustice lead to violent outbreaks...in the islands," and when nations of the world "denounce the United States for the human rights abuses that flourish in the (CNMI)."

Tenorio's spokesperson, Mark Broadhurst, has dismissed Doromal's allegations as "propaganda and myth pure and simple."

From Florida, Doromal is currently sending numerous "for your information" letters to

Clinton administration officials, U.S. senators, congressmen, Filipino-American and Chinese-American organizations, human rights advocates and Filipino government officials.

In one such letter to U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas), Doromal said that the CNMI government is "corrupt," and that news of the recent "junks" taken by U.S. congressmen and staffers to the Northern Marianas was "very disturbing."

Governor meets Japan speaker

A MEETING with U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich's counterpart in Japan was the first stop on a busy agenda for Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's just-concluded trip to Japan.

After the meeting, Soichiro Ito, the Speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives, said he hopes to visit the Commonwealth soon for the first time.

He assured Governor Tenorio that his office would extend whatever assistance is needed to attract investment to the CNMI.

Although he has never been to the CNMI, Speaker Ito said he is familiar with the Mariana Islands. Tenorio urged him to visit soon.

Tenorio also met with Takuhiko Tsuruta, President of Nikkei Shinbun, which is equivalent to the U.S. Wall Street Journal and with Katsuhiko

Goto, Vice President of Nikkei Research, Inc., comparable to the American firm of Dun & Bradstreet.

Tsuruta is an official CNMI "Goodwill Ambassador" and Goto is a member of the Governor's Japan Economic Council.

Tenorio also met with Liberal Democratic Party leader Masaki Nakayama, a former Minister of Postal Services in Japan, who expressed concern over the lack of Japanese doctors practicing on Saipan.

Tenorio told Nakayama that he has been seeking to solve the problem in the past and fully understands the need.

Tenorio and Nakayama also discussed the possibility of a "Silver Town" complex for Japanese senior citizens who want to retire and live in a planned retirement community on Saipan.

The two men also talked about a

change in the trading status between the CNMI and Japan along the lines of the U.S., "most favored nation" — with low or no tariffs for products imported to Japan from the Commonwealth.

The governor then discussed efforts to insure the safety of Japanese visitors to the Commonwealth with Takamichi Yamamoto, Director of the North America Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Tenorio described the "crime stopping" arrangement currently being worked out with the Baltimore Police Department, which will assist the CNMI Department of Public Safety in solving murders that have included one Japanese citizen.

The governor suggested similar arrangements could be worked out between Japanese municipal governments and the CNMI.

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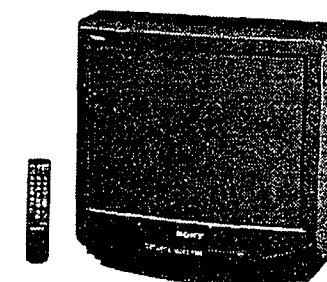
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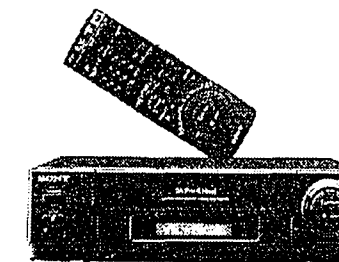
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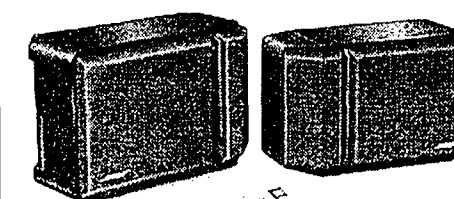
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US areas get Census attention

REVERSING an earlier decision, the US Bureau of the Census has announced it will conduct an economic census in the CNMI and other US insular areas in 1997.

The agency turnaround came after a joint appeal by CNMI Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta and insular area delegates Robert Underwood, Eni Faleomavaega, Victor Frazer, and Carlos Romero-Barcelo, a news release from Babauta's office said.

The Bureau had planned to forgo the economic census, conducted nationwide every five years, because of lack of funds. But Babauta and the other insular representatives protested in an October letter to Director Martha Farnsworth Riche that "it is unfair" to do so simply because the Bureau does not have adequate resources.

"Unless the data which would be collected... is somehow less valuable than the data from the 50 states, we do not understand the justification for

Bureau reverses decision to cut island surveys

singling out (the insular areas)," the insular representative said.

After consideration of the insular representatives' letter, Director Riche has now responded to Babauta that she has decided to go forward with the 1997 economic census after all.

"This decision and the economic census are important to the Northern Marianas," Babauta explains. "This earlier decision to drop the insular areas from the national economic census was completely unfair. The new decision reaffirms that we are part of the United States and that a federal agency cannot arbitrarily exclude us from an activity that is required by law.

But the importance of reversing the decision Babauta said, is the importance of the economic census itself.



Juan N. Babauta

"These data are critical tool for economic policy-makers in the CNMI to use in setting a course for our Commonwealth. The information in



Robert Underwood

the census is also important for students, the media, and the general public to provide an understanding of how our economy is performing," he

added.

The economic census surveys all business establishments which employ more than one person. The retail, wholesale, construction, and manufacturing sectors are covered, as well as some businesses in the service sector.

The Bureau has conducted the economic census in the CNMI every five years since 1982. Businesses will begin receiving surveys in the mail in late 1997 or early 1998.

Said Babauta, "The Bureau's response also underscores how effective the US insular areas can be when we work together to achieve goals that benefit all of us. I very much appreciate the efforts of the Congressman from Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico in this case to help make sure the Bureau did the right thing."

Garamendi under fire

By RICHARD COLE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A top Interior Department official was accused by environmentalists Wednesday of illegally allowing dam operators to flood an endangered bird's habitat to help some California farmers.

Deputy Interior Secretary John Garamendi's office denied the accusation, which involves the southwestern willow flycatcher on Lake Isabella outside Bakersfield.

"It's a publicity stunt. Anyone can file a complaint, even a groundless complaint such as this one," said Garamendi aide Jana Prewitt in Washington.

But U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service documents suggest Garamendi pressured biologists and the Army Corps of Engineers to ratify a decision to overfill the dam in 1996, even though

it threatened the birds.

The charge was included in a formal request for an investigation filed Wednesday with the Arizona U.S. attorney's office by the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, a Tucson, Ariz.-based environmental group.

"Garamendi basically said, 'I don't care about the science, I order you to keep the dam at that level,'" said center director Kieran Suckling.

The controversy began when nesting flycatchers died after the water level behind the dam was raised too high in the winter of 1994-95. Fish & Wildlife biologists warned the Army Corps of Engineers the action violated the Endangered Species Act.

Any further filling of the dam above its minimum limits was supposed to cease until Fish & Wildlife could study the effect and issue a "biological opinion."

But farmers in the old Tulare Lake Basin region, a section of the San Joaquin Valley, worried that keeping the dam level low would leave them with a shortage of irrigation water in the dry summer. They pressured the Interior Department to overfill the lake again in the winter of 1995-96.

Garamendi apparently complied, according to Fish & Wildlife records.

District supervisor Dale Hall, according to a Jan. 23, 1996 memo, said Garamendi had told him he planned to announce the dam would be filled, and demanded a Fish & Wildlife opinion to support it.

Fish & Wildlife refused to rush the opinion, but Garamendi went ahead anyway.

In a Jan. 26, 1996 memo from biologist Ina Pisani summarizing her discussions with Army Corps of Engineers officials, she warned that raising the water levels would "result in inundation of the habitat, loss of nesting attempts..." in apparent violation of the law.

But the corps said it was too late, Pisani wrote. "...According to the Corps, anything goes as far as water mgt. and lake levels (reinforced by Garamendi) and that officially, the consultation will look like there is a management plan and officially, it will look like a no-jeopardy with minimal take likely."

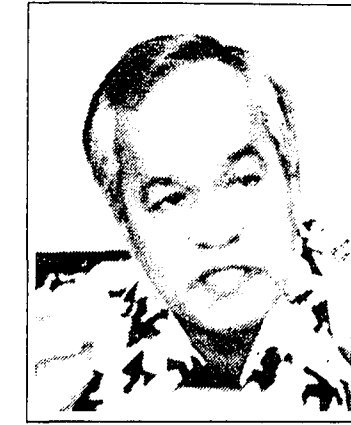
Four days later, Garamendi held a news conference with local U.S. Rep. Calvin Dooley, D-Calif., saying the dam would be filled, even though Fish & Wildlife had not yet issued its opinion.

According to Pisani, the higher dam level flooded about a third of the flycatcher's habitat. Observed nesting pairs dropped from 34 to 29, about a 15 percent decline.

The memos suggest a reason Garamendi was so eager to please California growers going into the 1996 election. Politicians around the country were getting involved — even Texas Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison sent a letter supporting the farmers.

When Pisani reminded him the flycatchers were endangered, Garamendi responded that the Endangered Species Act "was more an endanger."

On prediction he'll lose reelection Tenorio says Sen. Cing knows nothing



Froilan C. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing says his partmate, Froilan C. Tenorio, will finish last in the three-way gubernatorial election.

Tenorio, the incumbent governor, says the Tinian Democrat "doesn't know what he's talking about."

He added, however, that if the "expect from Tinian" is to be believed, all the more reason for him, Tenorio, to "concentrate" on his job, and not worry over the November elections.

Cing, in an interview with the Variety, predicted that the forthcoming gubernatorial election would be a "bitter one" in which Tenorio would place last.

Cing said that even if former governor Lorenzo L.D. Guerrero joins the race, Tenorio would still lose "for sure."

"(Former governor and Republican bet Pedro P. Tenorio) would win, (independent candidate and Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja) would place second and (Guerrero) would come in third," he said.

Cing said that in this year's election,

Hyatt's '97 Tropical Fun Fest slated

ON SATURDAY, April 12 1997 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm., Hyatt Regency Saipan will be hosting the "5th Annual Tropical Fun Fest at the American Memorial Park". This event brings companies from the island of Saipan together for one zany, fun filled day for a charitable organizations as well as competition for great prizes.

Each year the Hyatt donates all proceeds to a worthy charitable organization. This year we are channeling our efforts towards the youth of Saipan in which all proceeds from this years event will be donated to Camp Manhoben and the Flame Tree Foundation. Both these organizations are committed to helping local youths within the community.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Mr. Chris Nelson at Club Elan Fitness Centre. Mr. Nelson may be reached at 234-1234 ext. 27.

Please come, support and join the fun in this years Tropical Fun Fest 1997.

Guerrero vouches for Hiraga as 'credible'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A FORMER CNMI senator said Tuesday that Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga, whom he described as a "very credible businessman," is being "unfairly targeted."

Businessman Juan "Pan" Guerrero, a close associate of Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and the Democratic Party chair during the 1989 elections, said "a lot of respected" CNMI political leaders have dealt with Hiraga.

Hiraga, in 1988, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery charges. "There is nothing unusual from borrowing money," Guerrero said.

"It's not illegal and I don't know why they're insinuating it's a bribe when other politicians also borrow money for their campaigns.

"In (Tenorio's) case, there is no cover up, receipts were signed, so we can't point out that just because the guy has this background, it doesn't mean all he's doing is bad all the time."

Guerrero said he himself had business dealings with Hiraga.

"I done transactions with him, (in which) I negotiated the highest real estate price on Saipan, ranging from \$250 per square meter to \$1,200 per square meter.

"A lot of local people benefited from that transaction."

Guerrero said he knows Hiraga "only as a businessman who wanted to do a legitimate project that would have benefited the Commonwealth."

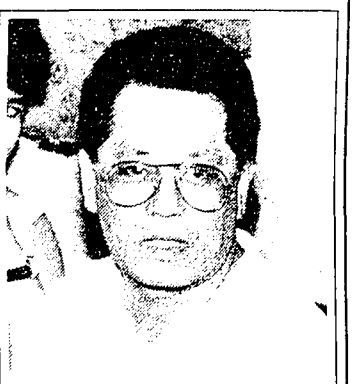
He said Hiraga deserves recognition from the local community for the leases and the projects he initiated.

Hiraga's company, CDC, is suing Sekisui House over a stalled hotel project.

CDC is claiming money from Sekisui which has refused to pay what their lawyers called a "preposterous" claim.

Documents provided to the court by the Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson law firm revealed that Tenorio borrowed some \$650,000 from Hiraga in 1989 and 1993 when he was running for governor.

As governor, Tenorio asked Sekisui to give "financial assistance" to Hiraga, whom he described as a friend.



Juan "Pan" Guerrero

In his court deposition, Hiraga stated that he and Tenorio did not discuss the payment terms for the loans, but added that Tenorio had paid him \$25,000 aside from putting up a land property on Tinian as collateral.

Tenorio said Wednesday that he will pay back the loan, and may consider suing Sekisui's lawyers for allegedly "smeared" his name.

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GED performance improves

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE number of students who passed the GED [General Educational Development] tests last year increased by 248 percent over the previous year, it has been reported.

The increase is one of the

highlights listed by the Adult Basic Education Program in the Northern Marianas College Annual Report Highlights for 1996.

The ABE Program, which is under the Adult, Continuing and Technical Education, is administered by Fe Y. Calixterio.

The increase apparently had to do with the increased number of GED exam takers who, according to the report, had been encouraged by "an intensive...media campaign."

Through reports in the newspapers and television, people were encouraged to "complete

their GED before the passing scores (were to go) up in 1997," the report explained.

Starting this year, a GED examinee has to get an average score of at least 45 for as long as he has no score lower than 40 in any of the five test areas. Previously an examinee passed the GED if he got an average score of 45 for as long as he had no score lower than 35 in any test area. An examinee also passed if he scored at least 40 in each of the five subjects.

Another highlight for 1996 was the formation of the Literacy Working Committee. The

committee was formed with the help of visiting Director Paul Heavenridge of the National Institute of Literacy.

The report said the committee helped the college start the Adult High School, which opened last Jan. 20.

Also last year, the ABE Program reported the reactivation of the Pacific Islands Council on Adult Education and Literacy, or PICAEL.

PICAEL would push more strongly for a regional adult education and literacy effort through the Internet, distance education, and better training, the report said.

2nd high school academic challenge set for tomorrow

TOMORROW, for the second time this year, teams of talented students from the Commonwealth's high schools will compete in a CNMI academic challenge tournament, the Public School System announced.

Teams from Marianas High School, Rota High, Tinian High, Marianas Baptist Academy, Grace Christian Academy, Northern Marianas Academy are expected to take part in the competition, which is set to start on the seventh floor of the Nauru Building at about 8 a.m. and be completed before 12 noon.

The competition is the third in a series of five such events organized by PSS, a news release said.

In the first event, a high school academic challenge held on Feb. 22, the MHS team took first place, edging strong teams from Marianas Baptist and Grace Christian.

Then, on March 1, in a junior high academic challenge,

a team from Marianas Baptist won, while Grace Christian finished second and Calvary Christian Academy came in third.

This Saturday's event is the third in the series, which will continue with a second junior high school challenge competition on April 5, then culminate with the CNMI national Academic Challenge Tournament on April 12.

That competition will determine which high school students will be eligible to represent the CNMI in the U.S. Academic Challenge Bowl.

Each academic challenge bowl competition features a fast-paced race against time to answer questions on a wide range of academic subjects, including math, science, language arts and social studies.

For more information, contact PSS Vocational Education and School-to-Work Program Specialist Patrick Tellei at 664-3726.

MATHCOUNTS competition

MANY of the top mathematical minds in the Northern Marianas will be putting their skills to the test this Saturday in the CNMI national MathCounts competition.

The event will begin at the Saipan Diamond Hotel's Hibiscus Room from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club. The preliminary rounds will be in the morning, while the final "countdown" round and the awards presentations will be in the evening.

Saturday's competition will determine who will be eligible to represent the Commonwealth in the U.S. national MathCounts competition.

Students from Marianas Baptist Academy dominated at the chapter-level competition, held at the Saipan Multi-Purpose Center on Feb. 15. In that contest, MBA won the team competition and swept the top four individual spots.

As in Feb 15 competition, the schools expected to be represented

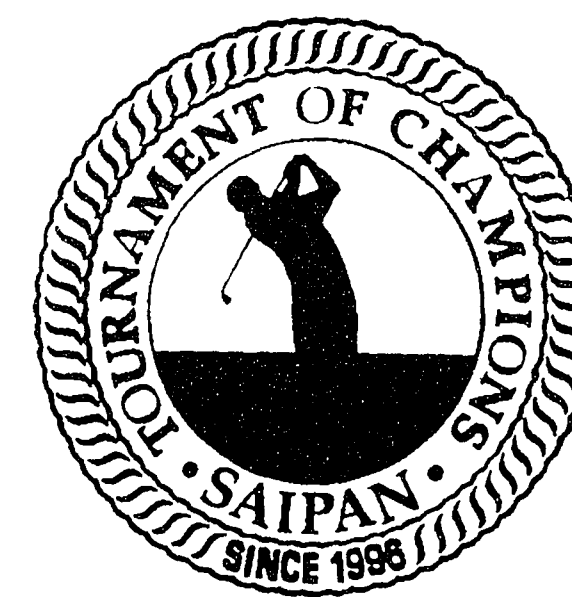
by teams at this Saturday's event are: Marianas Baptist (two teams), Grace Christian Academy, Hopwood Junior High, Mt Carmel School, Rota Junior High, Saipan Community School (two teams), and a team combining students from Saipan International School and Whispering Palms School.

The competition features both individual and team competitions, with participants engaging in four rounds of play — the "sprint round", the "team round" and the "countdown round". The "countdown round" is a fast-paced oral "sudden death" competition in which the top-scoring individuals compete.

The national MathCounts program is coordinated by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Efrain F. Camacho (EFC) Engineers and Architects employee Paul Baron is the CNMI MathCounts coordinator. He is assisted by PSS Math Program Specialist Nic Sablan.

For more information, contact Baron at 322-7814, or Sablan at 664-3723.

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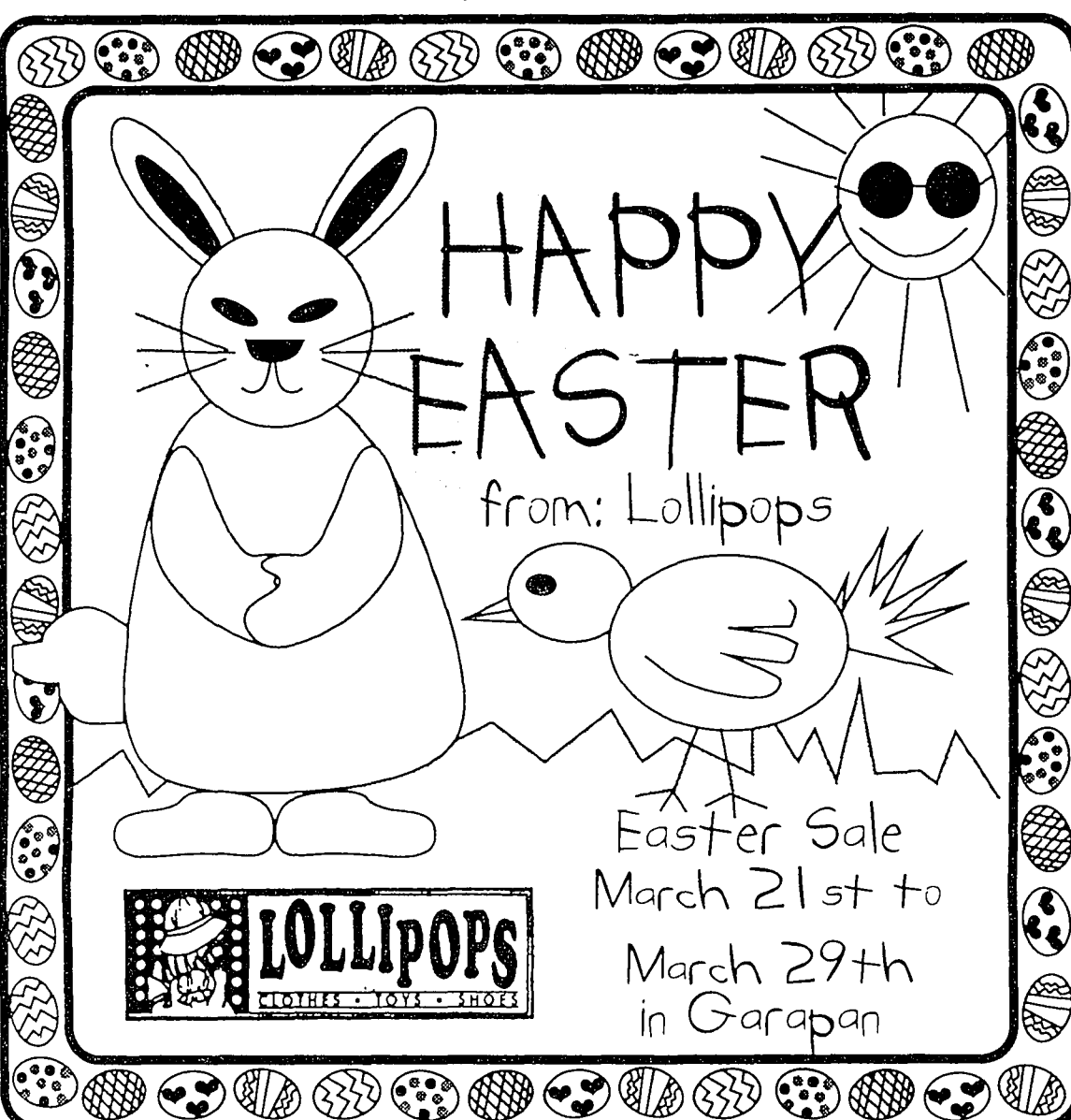
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Women volunteers honored

VOLUNTEERS provide the glue that hold our community together and as it happens, the large majority of volunteers are women. But they haven't always received much recognition for their efforts.

Now, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Mrs. Tenorio have moved to correct that state of affairs with the

recent CNMI Women Volunteers Award Ceremony, at which eleven community organizations were singled out for commendation.

The ceremony, which was part of this month's observance of the 9th International Women's Day, was put together by Special Assistant for Women's Affairs Remedio R. Sablan

and the Women's Affairs Office.

The following organizations recognized as follows:

• **Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers.** Hundreds of CNMI residents have served as members of this organization since 1986. Thousands of volunteers hours have been involved in raising funds for hospital

equipment such as a state-of-the-art mammogram machine, wheel chairs and other medical gear as well as the operation of the CHC Gift Shop. A particular focus has been on the children of patients, who now enjoy a play area and more comfortable waiting areas.

• **NMI Chapter, American Red Cross.** One of the most high profile volunteer groups around, particularly in time of disaster. The Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, such as single family fires, helps with emergency communications between military and their families and provides a variety of safety and educational services. The NMI Chapter is well known for its widely successful fundraising efforts.

• **Karidat Hotline.** Answers the desperate phone calls of those grappling with most of the toughest community problems, such as child abuse, family violence, rape and sexual assault. The 24-hour Hotline is available on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. This organization, totally free to the victim and staffed by volunteers, can help win restraining orders as well as provide food, shelter and counseling.

• **Immanuel United Methodist Women.** This organization provides services to women who give birth, but have no resources for the new-born child. "Layette" sets given to the women include a blanket, diapers, a sheet, mittens and other clothing as well as toys.

• **Breast Feeding Volunteer Assistance Group.** This group offers support, encouragement,

advice and information to women about all aspects of breast feeding their infants and children. The volunteers in this organization have all breast fed their children and so offer first hand knowledge of the subject.

• **Palauan Association**
• **St. Michael's Center.** Established by Bishop Tomas Camacho, the Center is staffed by Catholic lay volunteers dedicated to Catholic evangelization in the Pacific. The group supports the Bishop and clergy in carrying out "corporate and spiritual works of mercy."

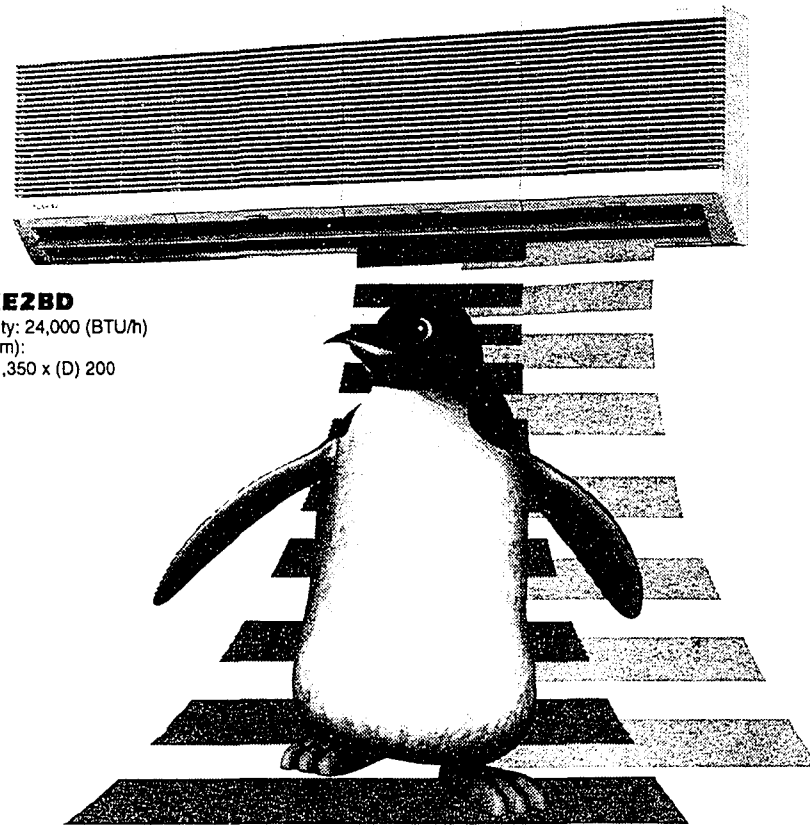
• **Chalan Kanoa Diocese.** In keeping with the tradition and culture of the Chamorro and Carolinian people, CCD encourages religious education to make religion more a part of every day life.

• **Women volunteers at the Division of Youth Services.** Volunteers are important "care-givers" for this government agency. Care-givers have help DYS coordinate and organize constructive activities for youths and their families.

• **Marianas Baha'i Community.** This organization was established to promote the rights, status and well-being of women throughout the Mariana Islands. Aspects of equality emphasized include the education of girls, the importance of elevating the status of women as mothers and promotion of women participating on all levels and in the search for world peace.

• **"Bira Hao" Volunteer Group.** This organization is concerned with drug and alcohol rehabilitation of prison inmates.

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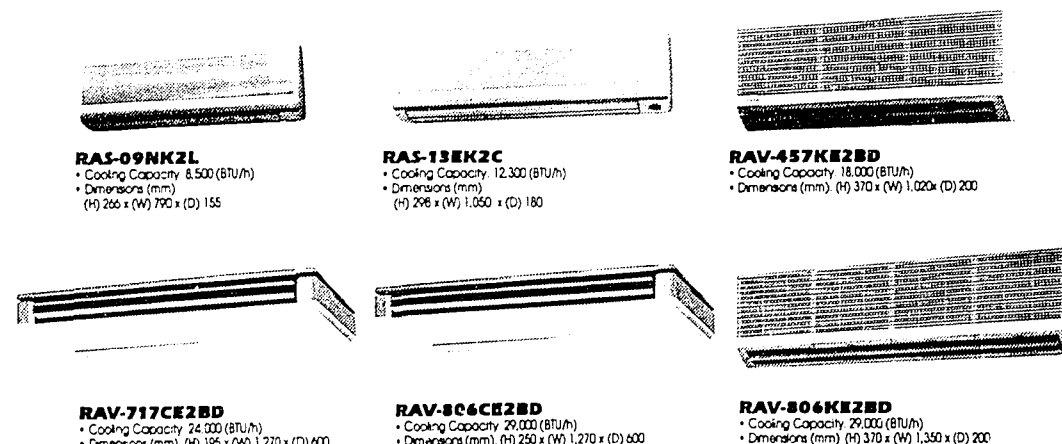


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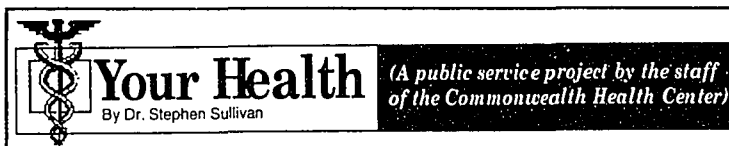
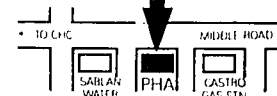
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When to see the doctor about a sore throat

A SORE throat is a very common problem for children. Most kids will have a couple each year. The commonest cause is the common cold, a viral infection of the nose, throat and wind pipe. A normal temperature or only a low fever, running or stuffy nose and a cough almost always mean that the sore throat is due to a cold. There is no reason to visit a doctor for most colds. You can treat yourself or your child with Tylenol, throat lozenges and a cough syrup or decongestant. Make sure that you read the directions on the label very carefully.

So when should you go yourself or take your child to the doctor for a sore throat? High fever, difficulty breathing or swallowing, swollen glands in the neck, a skin rash and very red, swollen tonsils with pus on them could mean a bacterial infection such as "strep throat". In teenagers the same symptoms can be caused by mononucleosis (mono).

If the doctor thinks that there is a big chance that the sore throat is due to the germ he will probably give an antibiotic. If he sure that it is a cold he will not. If he is uncertain he may do a throat culture. Antibiotics a small risk of causing time they are given.

Some of these reactions can be very serious. An even more serious problem is that bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics as they have been frequently given to a lot of people who didn't really need them. Antibiotics only help when sore throat is caused by bacteria. Sore throats due to viral are not helped by antibiotics and they should not be used. If your doctor does give you or your child an antibiotic don't stop it when the symptoms have gone. Make sure that the full course is taken to prevent the heart damage (rheumatic fever) which can follow some strep throat infections.

If you have questions or there are topics you would like covered in this column please write to: CHC Medical Staff, Commonwealth Health Center, PO Box 409CK, MP 96950.

Club owner pleads not guilty to extortion raps

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A WOMAN club owner who allegedly hired a man to kill two employees of a competing club pleaded not guilty yesterday to two counts of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by extortion.

Jin Feng Bai, also known as Bai Mona, was indicted a day before by a federal grand jury, but during yesterday's arraignment, Jin waived the reading of the indictment.

Theman whom Bai allegedly hired, Bo Du, also pleaded not guilty yesterday to a different charge, interference with commerce by extortion. Bo also waived the reading of his indictment.

Jin, according to the indictment, arranged with Bo sometime in October last year to kill Zhaojing Zhend and Lin Jie Zhang, both working as front door hostesses for Hollywood Night Spot, because they were "adversely affecting business of Big President Night Club," which was partly owned by Jin.

Hollywood was located in the same building as Big President, which was on the ground floor. Hollywood was on the upper floor.

Zhaojing told FBI Special Agent Richard G. Wallace that on Oct. 22 last year Jin confronted her and Lin regarding the competition for customers.

Jin allegedly told them during their arguments, "Do you want to die? Just wait."

On Nov. 12, also last year, Zhaojing said she was assaulted by Bo in her apartment in San Jose. She said she pleaded for her life and asked Bo why he was assaulting her. Bo accordingly replied that he had been hired by someone to kill her. Zhaojing said she offered either money or her body but that Bo stopped assaulting her when she finally offered to travel with him out of Saipan. Zhaojing said she knew Bo had wanted to get out of the island.

Bo later confessed that although Jin wanted Lin also killed, he could not kill her since "they know each

other fairly well."

Bo accordingly advised the two girls to hide for a few days to make it appear to Jin that he had done the mission assigned him.

Hollywood part owner Mr. Qing Shen Shi, for his part, told Wallace that since Zhaojing and Lin had been away from their work, his gross sales had gone down and that he noticed more customers going to Big President.

For the second count of conspiracy, the indictment said that Jin also conspired with Wong Chang Li and Bing Yao to "obtain property" of Zhaojing and Qing "by the wrongful use of force, violence and fear, said property being (a) the right of Zhaojing...to obtain a livelihood through work at the Hollywood Night Spot, and (b) the right of Qing...to conduct his business without unlawful interference..."

The indictment said Jin met with Wong in the presence of Bing, her business associate, and asked him to get a group which would beat up the two women.

Jin's trial is set for May 19, while that of Bo is set for May 27.

Youth drug summit

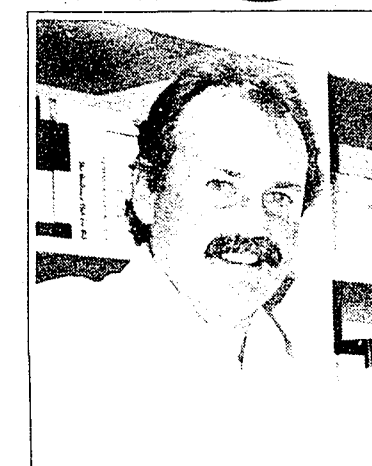
YOUTH leaders, student council leaders, drug club members, students from CNMI senior high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools, as well as school counselors and drug club organizers, will convene at the CNMI 1st Annual Youth Drug Summit next month.

Letters of invitation and request have been delivered to the various schools and student contingencies for the event scheduled for April 3, 1997, at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Convention Complex.

Hosting the event will be the Office of the Governor, through Governor Tenorio's Special Assistant for Drugs and Substance Abuse, Richard A. Pierce, and Joseph K. Villagomez, Director of the DPH's Division of Mental Health and Social Services.

On the agenda are exchanges between the student groups and the government leaders concerning the current campus scene and events centering around student drug use and violence. Plans call for both suggestions and criticism.

Topics will center around drug and alcohol use and abuse through campus interdiction, prevention and



Richard A. Pierce



Joseph K. Villagomez

education and services for the students using drugs and students with parents who abuse drugs and alcohol.

Priorities on Pierce's and Villagomez' list are Campus Crimestoppers, student support groups, "High velocity" drug rallies, the DARE and REAL Programs and prevention work.

The young person growing up in the Commonwealth today faces challenges we never dreamed of while we were in school, and we must learn them what it takes to help them meet

their challenges," said Villagomez. An unusual number is scheduled for the event, with the students sharing the production.

"This Youth Drug Summit is for them," said Pierce. "We want to keep older adult participation to a minimum, with the focus on their thoughts and ideas."

Students are urged to sign up now with the Office of the Governor's Special Assistant for Drugs and Substance Abuse at telephone 664-2235/6 or fax 664-2298.



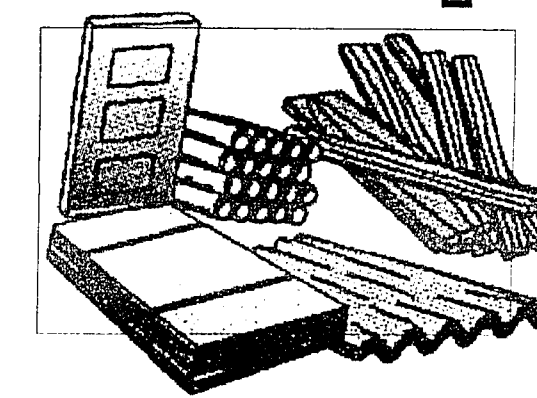
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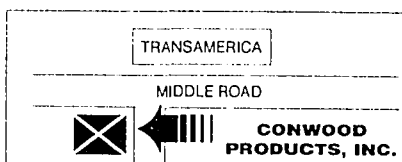


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DLNR mulls goat dole-outs

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources is set to meet with Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogunoro to discuss the possibility of giving away an estimated 800 wild goats to be captured in Sariguan Island to poultry-raisers on Saipan.

Eugene A. Santos, acting DLNR Secretary, in an interview, said a team of government personnel arrived yesterday from the island. They were sent there to identify areas where perimeter fences can be set up to haul in the feral animals and pinpoint places which could be used as supply points.

"As much as possible, we don't want to shoot the animals...it could be risky. Besides, we want those goats alive so that we can distribute them here.

"But I need to coordinate with the Mayor on this. We want to sit down with the Mayor and see what we can do," said Santos.

The goats, though wild, may still be domesticated, he explained.

The original plan was to haul both pigs and goats.

"But we're taking the goats first because they make the most destruction," said Santos.

The plan to "cleanse" Sariguan of these feral animals was hatched last

year after it was established that they have been causing a rapid erosion of the island's top soil, destroying vegetation and the place's ecological system in the process.

DLNR will erect fences where the goats can be herded in before they can be shipped out.

The operation was snagged by the Challenger's transfer to the supervision of the Emergency Management Office shortly after a sea tragedy involving four persons last January.

The Challenger was among six vessels used in the nine-day search and rescue operation launched to recover the sea farers which left Saipan for Tinian. The four included Tinian Mayor Herman Manglona's 22-year old son Clifford. The foursome did not make it to Tinian.

Santos said the DLNR has signed an memorandum of understanding with the EM of the use of the Challenger for the operation which is expected to kick off this May.

The Challenger is to be used in bringing-in supplies.

NMC moves its plant lab To Kagman

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

PLANT pathologists doing their work in what used to be a cramped laboratory at the Northern Marianas College campus in As Terlaje have now more elbow room at the new facility in Kagman.

The laboratory is used to examine samples of diseased plants to determine if the disease is a plant disease or caused by insect pest.

Jack Tenorio, associate director for research at NMC's Agriculture and Life Sciences, said the old agriculture lab was small, providing space for entomologists, pathologists, and system scientists alike.

"It's one building, and they have the various equipment that are specific for plant pathology for analysis of plant diseases. It can be used also by entomologists, if necessary; if they need to conduct experiments down there, they can use the lab," Tenorio said.

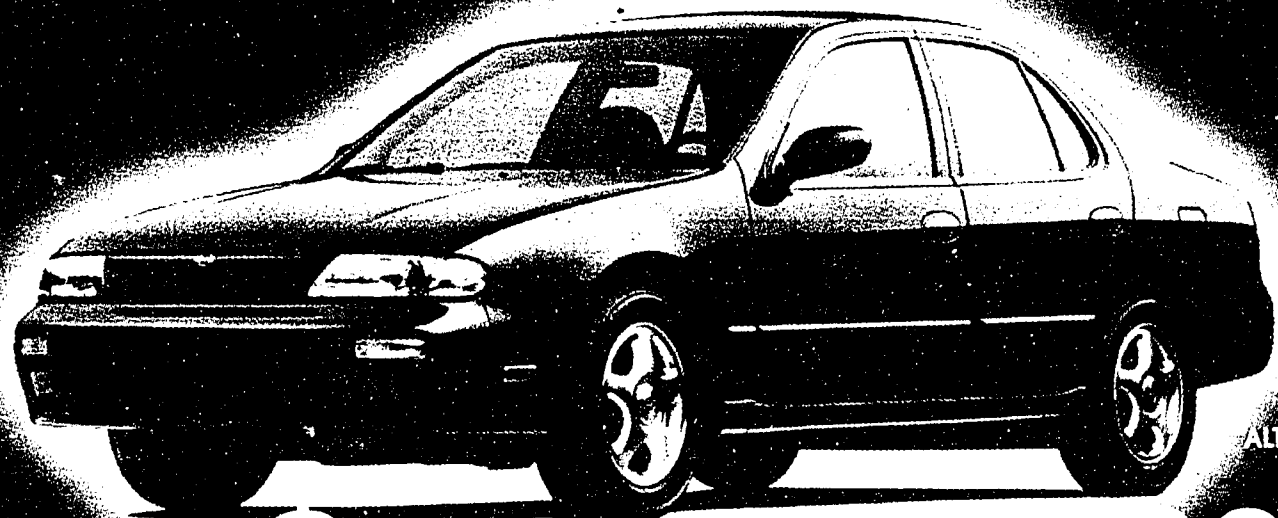
Tenorio, who was staff entomologist for the CNMI in 1979-82, said that with the bigger laboratory "it would be more convenient for the plant pathologists to do their work."

Tenorio said the building had been existing for a long time, serving as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' entomology building, and was just renovated.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the NMC Land Grant to use the building for the college's plant pathology lab.

Tenorio also said the college is trying to acquire more equipment for the lab.

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US OKs \$12M Marshalls loan

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO-A \$12.5 million loan

from the United States government that will finance a new power plant for the Marshall Islands capital of

Majuro has been approved and only formalities remain before funds can be released to start the project, said the

Marshalls Energy Company's general manager.

One of two boards within the U.S. Federal Financing Bank has given its okay to the loan and the approval of a second board is expected to follow within days, MEC's general manager Bill Roberts said this week.

The electric company this week announced that the Cabinet has approved a rate hike for electricity consumers in Majuro that will take effect on May 1.

The rate increase, the first in three and a half years, is called for, in part, because of the expense of building the new power plant, Roberts said.

The new rates for consumers will rise one cent in every category: residential will go up from 11 to 12 cents per kilowatt hour and commercial from 15 to 16 cents.

There is no change in the government rate, which will remain the same at 13 cents per kilowatt hour.

The Federal Financing Bank is providing the loan through the U.S. Rural Utilities Service.

The \$12.5 million to MEC will pay for a new 12 megawatt power plant and provide funds for a major electrical upgrade for Majuro, including the installation of underground power lines to parts of the capital.

The new plant will replace the existing 12 megawatt plant that is now 15 years old. Roberts said that once the new plant is in op-

eration by early 1998, the current plant will be shut down for major overhauls and maintenance.

It will then be operated for backup electrical generation to keep pace with Majuro's growth, he said.

The addition of a 150-room government financed hotel, managed by Outrigger Hotels, the opening of a new brewery, the new capital building and general expansion of restaurants and retail companies has pushed the current power plant close to its maximum capacity.

Majuro's peak usage is well over 10 megawatts and Roberts said that if a fault occurs during peak hours, the plant has all five engines operating and does not have any standby capacity.

"We will be forced to turn off parts of the island, or have a brownout," he said.

Because this situation is unacceptable for business development in Majuro, MEC sought approval for the new power plant, he said.

The Nitijela (parliament) approved a loan guarantee so that in the event of a default by MEC, the government will make the debt payments until MEC is able to. Roberts said that he was delighted that the loan approval process in the U.S. government has moved so quickly.

He predicts that the new plant will be in operation in less than one year from the start of construction.

Air Marshalls angered over continuing SAAB problems

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Air Marshall Islands general manager Randy Hanna is furious because the airline's Saab 2000 continues to be plagued by problems that have stranded dozens of passengers in Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, and cost AMI tens of thousands of dollars in lost air time.

"Disgraceful" is the term Hanna used to describe the performance of the company that manufactures the propellers used by the Saab.

Two more new propellers, bringing the total number of props that have failed to work properly in the last two months to five, are the current cause of the Saab being in Air Pacific's Nadi hangar this week instead of flying its normal Majuro to Nadi route.

AMI officials are increasingly dissatisfied with the performance of the \$16 million Saab, a plane that was number 17 off the assembly line at the Saab factory in Sweden two years ago, and will review the status of the plane at a board of directors meeting next Monday in

Majuro, according to government officials.

One government official described the Saab as a "headache" that was expected to get better with recent improved maintenance through Air Pacific in Nadi, a prediction that has turned out to be "a mirage."

There have been quite an amazing number of breakdowns in the last year," the official said.

AMI general manager Hanna said that it is "beyond belief" that five propellers from the company have turned out to be no good in such a short span of time.

The Saab came out of its "c-check" two weeks ago and almost immediately, pilots noticed a vibration from the propellers that they were not happy with.

On a flight to Majuro it worsened, so "in the interests of safety, we pulled the plane off-line and sent it back to Fiji to test the blades," Hanna said. "Our mechanics found that the blades were unbalanceable."

When AMI contacted the manufacturer about the problem, it responded with "tough," said Hanna.

"Dowty propellers (the manufacturer) has been disgraceful in servicing what they build," Hanna said. "We will be taking further action with the Federal Aviation Administration and elsewhere."

The cost of the propellers is in the range of \$400,000.

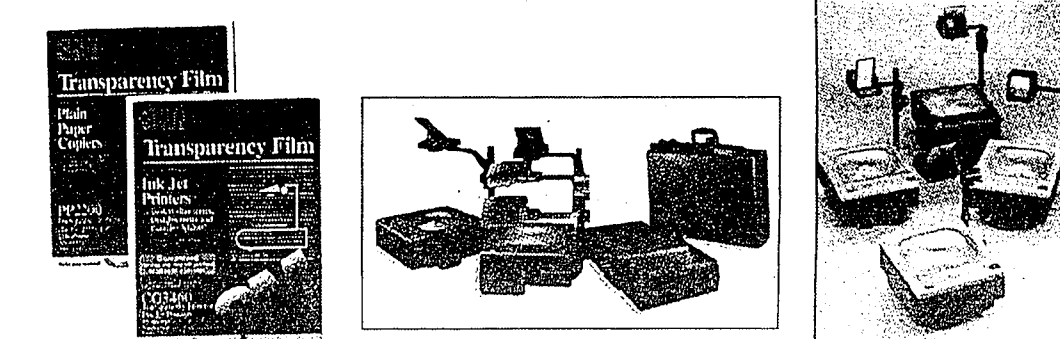
Both may need to be replaced, he said. AMI had hoped to have the plane up and flying Wednesday (March 19).

But even though mechanics worked all night Tuesday on the blades, the propellers were not functioning satisfactorily Wednesday and it could be another couple of days before the new propellers arrive and can be installed, Hanna said.

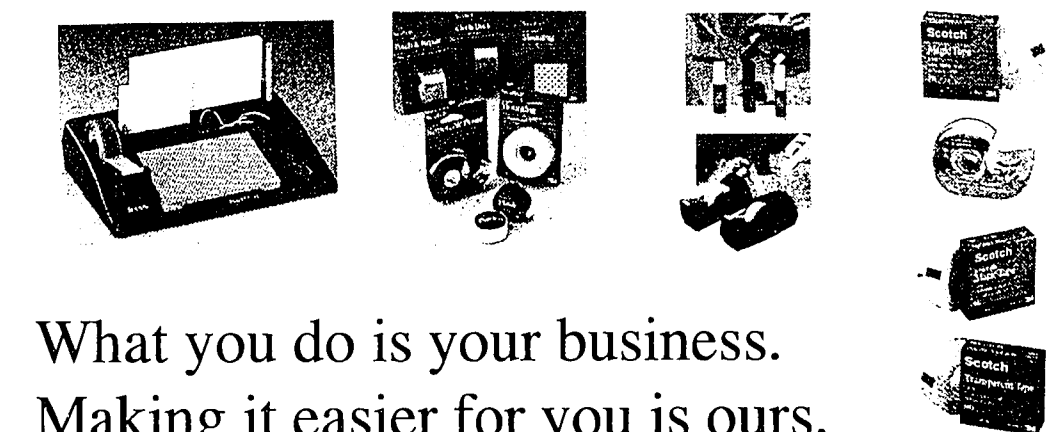
After completing the intensive "c-check", the maintenance overhaul that is conducted after every 3,000 hours of flying time, AMI was expecting an improved performance from the beleaguered plane that has suffered repeated breakdowns since it came into service in June 1995.

Aside from the continuing problems with the propellers, the Saab checks out well and looks ready to get back into service, he said.

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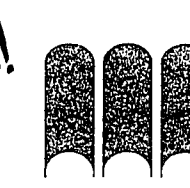
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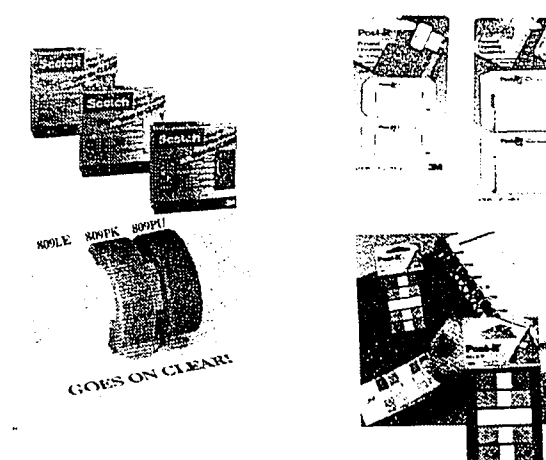


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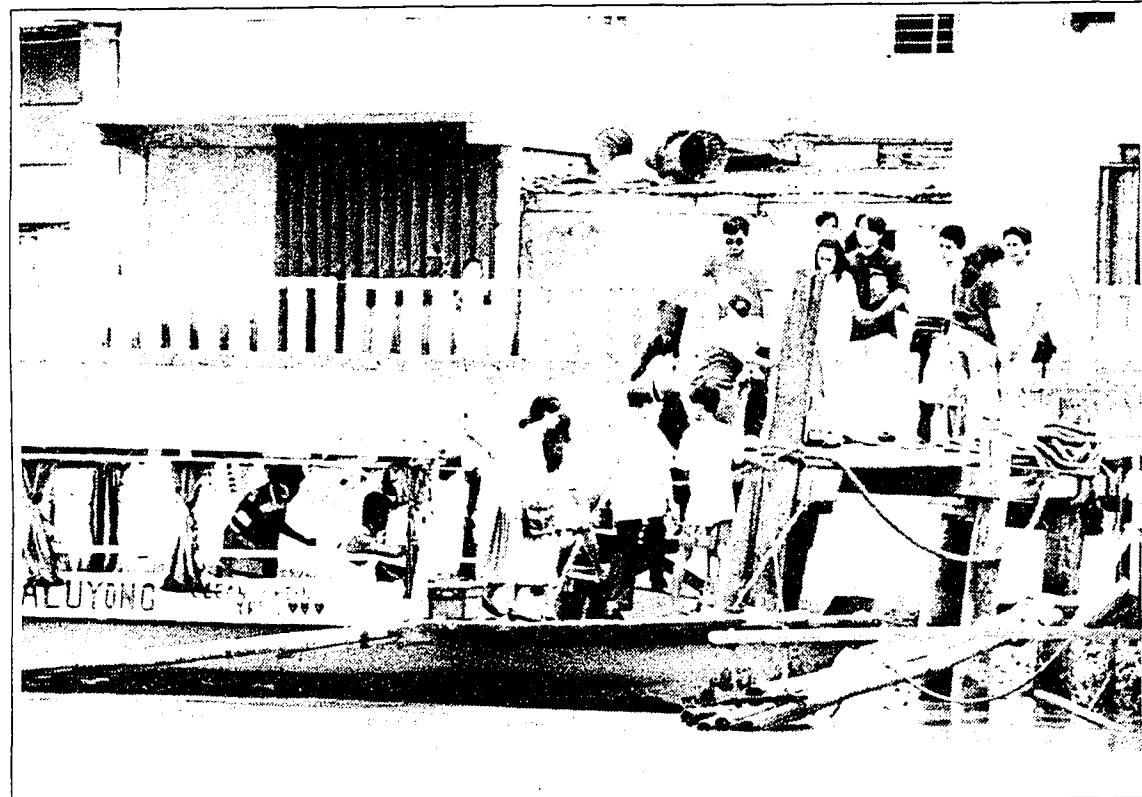
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RP: Defector leaving soon



A group of people disembark from a motorized outrigger as others wait for their turn to cross the river in a residential area along Pasig river in Manila. People choose to cross the river by boat just to avoid the normal traffic jam. AP Photo

By CLARO CORTES
MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The most senior North Korean official to seek asylum in South Korea will leave the Philippines as quickly as possible, President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday — without specifying when that might be. Ramos also refused to say where the defector, Hwang Jang Yop, is staying during his stopover en route to South Korea.

"I cannot give you any more (information) because the safety of our visitor is of paramount importance," the president told reporters.

Hwang's Feb. 12 defection to South Korea's consulate in Beijing created a diplomatic dilemma for the Chinese government, which wanted to avoid offending either the North or the South. The delicate solution included requiring Hwang to fly to the Philippines to avoid a direct trip

from Beijing to Seoul, which would be taken by the North as a snub.

None of the countries involved have said how long the stopover will last.

"After consultations with concerned countries, the Philippines decided to allow the temporary stay of Mr. Hwang only for as long as necessary and as short as possible," Ramos said.

He said the decision was based on the Philippines' desire to help its neighbors and ease tension on the divided Korean peninsula.

Hwang, 74, was a member of North Korea's highest decision-making body, the Central Committee, and an architect of the communist state's guiding ideology of *juche*, or "self-reliance." He and an aide defecting with him arrived Tuesday at the Clark Special Economic Zone, a former U.S. military air base north of Manila, on a chartered Air China plane.

Although the government has refused to disclose their location, airport officials said they were taken by helicopter to Baguio, a mountain resort city in the northern Philippines.

Ramos B-day wish: To live until next birthday

CAMP CAPINPIN, Tanay, (PNA)— President Ramos' birthday wish on his 69th natal day is "live up to celebrate his next birthday" and many more birthdays.

He said this is the wish of every senior citizen like himself and "that's my birthday wish and that goes on and on, you know until the year 3000."

The President was in a happy mood when people from all walks of life, including tribesmen, flocked to this sprawling army camp named after Gen. Capinpin, hero of the Second World War.

It was in Capinpin that the President who was then a young captain was assigned to hunt for Huk in the mid 1950s.

The President recalled the fond memories when he was assigned in Rizal province as a budding army officer.

Asked during a press conference here what gift he expects from the First Lady Amelita M. Ramos on his birthday, the President said smiling: "I will make a statement tomorrow."

The President also took time to congratulate newshen Juliet L. Javellano of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, who gave birth to a baby boy today.

"Please do not name him FVR because there are so many who carry that initials," he jokingly said. DCT/RBC

Riots, looting erupt in PNG

By GEOFF SPENCER

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Protests against the use of mercenaries to crush the Bougainville rebellion, riots and looting erupted again Thursday, renewing pressure on the government to eject the military trainers.

Police were on the streets across the capital as civil unrest continued in the wake of an army revolt against Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan's government, which began Monday.

Police used tear gas and dogs to disperse a crowd at a downtown shopping center, where mobs attempted to loot a general store, and local radio reported rioting at another suburban shopping center.

Major roads were closed and truckloads of police armed with automatic rifles and tear-gas launchers, with sirens wailing, shuttled across town to try to quell rioting.

No injuries were reported, but police were fighting running battles with looters and rioters across the town, so casualties were inevitable.

The public ignored Chan's appeal Wednesday night for calm. His government blamed the violence on criminals taking advantage of the political chaos and the preoccupation of the police with demonstrations.

The looting and riots are an offshoot of Wednesday's peaceful protest by over 2,000 civilians against the US \$ 27 million con-

tract with the British mercenary firm Sandline International at a time when many Papua New Guineans are poor and the country has few funds.

Continued unrest will ratchet up pressure on Chan to send the mercenaries home, an option he had steadfastly refused for weeks but began considering as an option after Wednesday's riots and looting.

Protesters gathered again Thursday outside Murray Barracks, the main army camp in the capital, which was the focus of Wednesday's demonstration, and at other neighborhoods in the capital.

The first mercenaries to leave Papua New Guinea say their mission has already been canceled, Australian radio reported Thursday.

Six mercenaries left Wednesday on a flight to Singapore, where Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio interviewed them.

One man, who refused to give his name, said the turmoil in Papua New Guinea was out of control and the mercenaries could not work in those conditions.

He said their contract had been canceled with the mutual consent of the Papua New Guinea government and the mercenary firm, and the rest of his colleagues would leave the country soon.

Despite orders from Chan to let them go, Papua New Guinean soldiers are still confining about 35 foreign mercenaries to barracks where they had been training local troops in counterinsurgency techniques.

Among those detained is Sandline International chief ex-

ecutive Tim Spicer, ABC radio said. The soldiers will try to deliver Spicer to the British High Commission on Thursday for deportation, ABC said.

Chan said publicity surrounding the mercenaries may have compromised plans for what was supposed to be a surprise assault on the Bougainville secessionists.

He also admitted that the Sandline contract may have been a "mistake" because he did not take into account the opposition from Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Britain.

"The timing of making that decision without taking into consideration the onslaught from our neighbors, that was inappropriate," he said.

He rejected demands that he resign and said he will meet a delegation from Australia, Papua New Guinea's former colonial

ruler, on Thursday to discuss the crisis.

Australia, along with the United States, Britain and New Zealand, has condemned the use of mercenaries here.

The crisis flared Monday when Chan fired Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok after the army commander denounced the multimillion-dollar contract with the British-based company Sandline International, saying his own troops were underpaid and ill-equipped.

Chan accused Singirok, a close friend, of attempting a coup and said the former army boss faces possible treason charges.

Secessionist rebels on Bougainville, 800 miles (1,300 km) northeast of the capital, Port Moresby, have been fighting the government for nine years in a conflict that has left more than 1,000 people dead, many of them army troops.

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

FSM newspaper may close

MELBOURNE (Pacnews)—The editor of the only newspaper in the Federated States of Micronesia says members of the Micronesian Congress are trying to close her paper and have her deported.

Sherry O'Sullivan says she's re-

ceived a copy of a resolution introduced into Congress which says her paper's reporting is careless, malicious, false and not in the country's best interests, Radio Australia reported.

O'Sullivan, who's a Canadian citizen, has rejected the allegations and

accused members of the Congress of trying to engineer the death of media freedom in the country.

She says her reporting of controversial issues, particularly tax evasion has upset powerful people who may fear exposure.

6 Fiji men rescued

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Six Papua New Guineans have been flown to Port Moresby from Guam where they were taken by a Japanese vessel which picked them up at sea last week.

Their vessel MV Pera capsized at the southern tip of New Ireland province in strong winds and rough seas on its way to Lihir, NBC reported.

The six men could not speak about their ordeal on their arrival at Jacksons Airport Wednesday and were whisked away in a waiting van belonging to Christian Brothers.

The other two crew men are still missing at sea.

Vanuatu Chambers urge: 'Ax political secretaries'

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—The Vanuatu Chambers of Commerce has called on the government to abolish the positions of political secretaries and replace them with permanent secretaries.

The president of the Chamber, Joseph Jacobi, made the call this week at the official opening of the start of the work of the Comprehensive Reform Programme announced last month by Prime Minister Rialuth Serge Vohor, the Trading Post

reported. The ceremony was attended by Vohor his deputy, Donald Kalpokas, other government ministers and senior government officials. Jacobi said the government must change the political system which is too expensive and remove all the political secretaries and replace them with permanent secretaries who have a greater knowledge of running ministries and can advise ministers more effectively.

Move to dissolve PNG parliament

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The Papua New Guinea opposition and the People's National Congress are planning to move a motion in next week's parliament sitting for the dissolution of the house.

The motion would also call for the establishment of a care-taker government until general elections in June, NBC reported.

Party leaders in the opposition and the Congress are in contact with each other and are seeking support from other members of parliament to push the motion through.

NBC reports the move is in line with

the call for the resignation of the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, and his cabinet following the sacking of Defence Chief Brigadier General Jerry Singirok over his revolt against the use of mercenaries in the Bougainville crisis.

Meanwhile, some soldiers, non-governmental organisations and university students have called for the resignation of the Prime Minister, his deputy, Chris Haiveta, and defence minister, Mathias Ijape.

They have given the government until today to respond to their petition. They have also called for the reinstatement of Singirok.

Fiji minister in PNG

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Fiji's minister of foreign affairs, Filipe Bole arrived in Papua New Guinea Wednesday on a three-day goodwill visit.

The visit will enable Bole to discuss various issues concerning the relations between PNG and Fiji, as well as regional and international issues of common concern to the

two countries.

PNG's minister for foreign affairs and trade, Kilroy Genia says in a statement their discussions will also focus on ways and arrangements the two countries can reinforce their current relationship. Genia says the issues concerning cooperation between the Melanesian countries in preparation for the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Summit which Fiji will host in May and issues of concern to the South Pacific Forum will also feature in their talks.

Air Pacific defends staff deployment

SUVA (Pacnews)—Air Pacific has defended its decision to deploy staff to service routes under dispute saying they were all highly qualified.

The airline's acting chief executive, Ramendra Narayan, says all employees rostered to operate the company's services were all "highly trained, skilled and experienced flight attendants, the Fiji Times reported.

His comments follow complaints from the Fiji Aviation Workers Association that the company was employing temporary staff to service long-haul flights, including those to Osaka and Los Angeles. Narayan said staff deployed to service these flights were "former flight attendants from within the company. He said those assisting in servicing international flights were from departments like Quality Management Control, who were directly involved and familiar with the work of flight attendants.

Meanwhile, the Fiji Aviation Workers' Association (FAWA) claims more than 220 flight attendants are still members of FAWA. But FAWA leader, Attar Singh, has disputed Air Pacific's claims that only 179 flight attendants remain within the union.

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Britain begins countdown to turnover:

100 more days in Hong Kong

By MARCUS ELIASON

HONG KONG (AP)—Asheturned off the lights, locked his apartment and headed off to board a ship to England with his family, there was much to remind Royston Griffee that Britain's last 100 days in Hong Kong were at hand.

The coins in his pocket no longer bore the queen's profile. At bus stops, placards warned British nationals that their residency privileges would soon be curtailed. In some villages near the Chinese border, the five-starred Communist flag was already flying.

The Jockey Club, the weather center, even the SPCA have all shed the word "royal" from their names in the quickening rush to close this last great chapter in British colonial history.

After the clock strikes midnight on June 30, Hong Kong returns to China.

The last 100 days begin March 23.

The worst forecasts of 15 years ago — mass emigration, stock market crashes, runs on banks — haven't come true. The economy looks set to comfortably straddle the change of sovereignty, with projected growth of 5.5 percent and a nest egg of \$63.8 billion in foreign reserves.

Hong Kong's triumph was stunningly evident from the window of Griffee's office in the Legal Department: the world's busiest container port, phalanxes of glittering skyscrapers and a paved-over landfill that had once been the Royal Navy's anchorage.

"Economically it's fantastic, no doubt about that," he remarked, his Bristol accent undiluted by 18 years in Hong Kong.

But this civil servant was also

seeing his last three years of work unraveling, since the election laws he had drafted will soon be annulled.

A Chinese-organized provisional legislature will replace a democratically elected one and serve until new elections are held, probably in mid-1998. Controls on rights to demonstrate and have political links with foreign bodies, loosened in recent years, will be tightened again.

The Democrats, Hong Kong's largest party, see these as signs that China is already imposing its authoritarian ways. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's last British governor, has protested, as have U.S. officials.

But China feels it has already been generous enough in allowing Hong Kong to remain capitalist, highly autonomous and much freer than any of its other provinces.

Therefore, China's friends argue, Hong Kong should temper its free-wheeling instincts, keep the virus of democracy from spreading into the other provinces, and get on with what it does best: making money and fueling China's own capitalist revolution.

Hong Kong has become "too politicized," says Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's next leader. It needs, he says, to strike a balance between individual rights and collective duties.

Some say Tung's Hong Kong will be like disciplinarian



Tung Chee-hwa

Singapore, or a throwback to the pre-Patten days, when big business called the shots and the election system was geared to keep Democrats and other social crusaders at bay.

China won't necessarily have to intervene directly. The business world seems to know what's expected of it.

Take the successful Next Media publishing group. It says it can't get a single brokerage firm to underwrite its stock market flotation. Is the reason the virulent China-bashing views of its owner, Jimmy Lai? No one will say.

Speech looks likely to remain free — up to a point. Tung has indicated he will discourage at-

Malaysian Cabinet accepts Singapore leader's apology

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Ending a spiraling diplomatic row, Malaysia on Wednesday accepted an apology by Singapore's political patriarch for describing a Malaysian state as crime-ridden, a semi-official news agency reported.

The national news agency, Bernama, quoted an unidentified government source as saying that Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's Cabinet accepted the apology and a retraction by Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

A formal announcement is expected to be made later Wednesday, Bernama said.

Malaysian leaders were outraged when Lee described the state of Johore as "notorious for shootings, muggings and carjackings."

Lee's statement was made in a Jan. 27 court document filed in court in his defamation lawsuit against Singapore opposition leader Tang Liang Hong, who fled to Johore.

Lee issued an unreserved apology last week. When the Malaysians said that was insufficient, Lee said he will get the offending remarks struck off from the court document.

Lee was prime minister from 1959 to 1990, when he stepped down and assumed an advisory position in the Cabinet, wielding considerable influence over the

tacks on Chinese leaders and expressions of support for the causes China abhors, like freedom for dissidents or independence for Taiwan and Tibet.

"Hong Kong must not become 'a base to destabilize China,' he says.

Where Hong Kong's interests collide with China's, open defiance would probably push China into a corner and gain very little. So Tung says he will opt for "quiet consultation."

"Achieving our aims need not go through open confrontation or street demonstrations," he says.

One encouraging sign for Hong Kong is China's stress on continuity. Far from putting Communist cadres in the cockpit, it has turned to people like shipping tycoon Tung and the Hong Kong Chinese who head the civil service, trusting them to run the place like a profitable corporation.

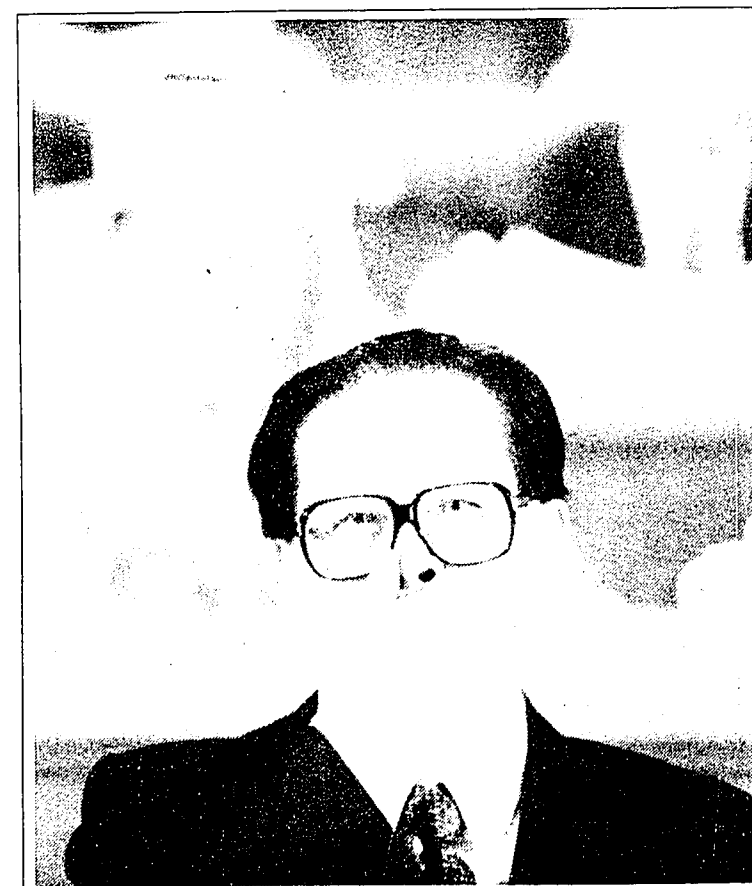
Tung is well-liked for his gruff, straightforward manner. He gives no-holds-barred news conferences, and talks regularly to the Democrats, even though China detests them.

He knows the power bases not only in Beijing but in Washington, having lived in America for 10 years. U.S. officials hold him in high regard — "certainly a person we can work with," says U.S. Consul Richard Boucher.

The departing civil servants don't amount to a mass exodus. Hundreds of others are staying on. An opinion poll by the respected Hong Kong Transition Project found 73 percent approval for the outgoing government.

"As sunsets go, it's a pretty golden one," Patten said.

For Tung Chee-hwa — and China — it will be a hard act to follow.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, put his hand over his mouth as he listens to speeches during the closing session of the National People's Congress in Beijing Friday. Legislators approved China's first defense law, amendments to criminal law and a decision making the southwestern industrial city of Chongqing, the former World War II capital of China, a municipality directly under central government control. AP Photo

Food shortage hits N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il warned party officials during a recent secret meeting that worsening food shortages could set off rioting in the tightly controlled country, a South Korean newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Chosun Ilbo, a major national daily published in Seoul, said it had obtained a full text of the speech delivered by the North Korean leader in Pyongyang on Dec. 7.

The paper did not explain how it got the speech, and the authenticity of the newspaper's report could not be independently verified.

The speech, as reported by the newspaper, focused on the communist country's near-famine conditions. Kim was quoted as saying that even the North's military, the fulcrum of the country's political and social stability, is not getting enough food.

"I don't know what our party workers are doing when an anachronistic situation is being created because of food problems," Kim said in the speech. "If the U.S. imperialists knew

that our military doesn't have food, they would launch an invasion."

Kim warned that if the food shortage is not alleviated, North Koreans may rise up against their leadership as they did in 1945.

After Korea was liberated from Japan on Aug. 15, 1945, a Soviet-backed communist government was installed in the northern part of the peninsula and a U.S.-backed capitalist government in the southern half.

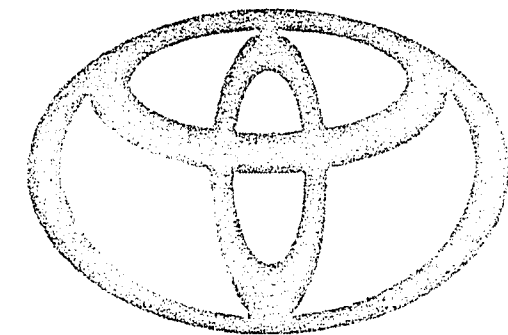
Three months later, thousands of North Korean students and citizens in the northern city of Shinuiju rebelled against their leadership. Hundreds of students were killed in armed clashes with troops.

Devastating floods over the past two years have aggravated North Korea's problems, forcing it to appeal for outside food aid for the first time.

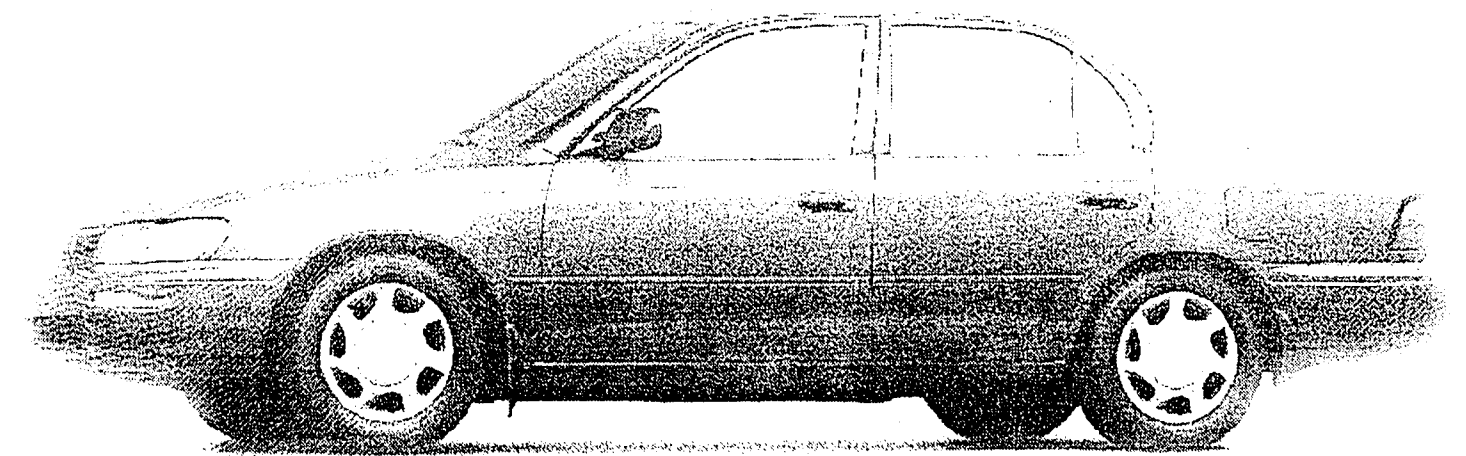


More than 200 South Korean Buddhist monks holding wooden bowls march down a main Seoul street seeking cash donations to provide aid to North Koreans and ethnic Koreans in China. AP Photo

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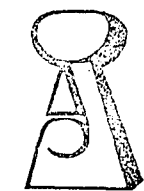
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Mother Teresa goes unaided

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — For the first time in months, Mother Teresa stepped out unaided to visit a charity home in the city, her doctor said today.

The 86-year-old nun, who has been hospitalized repeatedly and confined mostly to a bed or wheelchair, climbed down a flight of stairs from her quarters without help Tuesday and was driven to a religious ceremony a couple miles away, said Dr. Ashish Kumar, her personal physician.

She was accompanied by Sister Nirmala, the new head of Missionaries of Charity, the order founded and, until last week, led by Mother Teresa.

"I am very happy to be able to go out on my own. I want to be active again as I still have lots of work to do," Dr. Kumar quoted Mother Teresa as saying.

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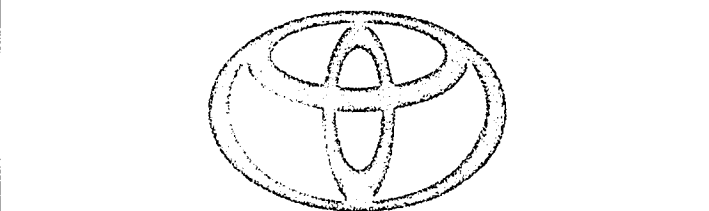
Mother Teresa had said she no longer wanted to lead the order because she was too ill. She has been in an out of hospitals since April 1996. First it was a broken collar bone, then in July, she became ill with malaria and a chest infection. A month later, she was back in the hospital after a fall.

In November, Mother Teresa was readmitted with heart problems. She underwent an angioplasty to remove blockages from arteries after a mild heart attack, then fought a lung infection and kidney problems.

Since her release in December, she mostly has been confined to bed or a wheelchair, rarely even seen on the balcony of her home.



Mother Teresa comments on her successor Sister Nirmala, left, at a news conference in Calcutta, India, on Friday. Sister Nirmala was selected Thursday to lead the Missionaries of Charity by a conclave of 120 Roman Catholic nuns who deliberated since January to reach a consensus on replacing the 86-year-old Nobel laureate. AP Photo



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Specifications and Bid Forms for the above may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., to 4:30 p.m.) before bid closing date and time. The items may also be inspected during normal working hours at the new CUC Warehouse Building in front of the Power Generation Building at Lower Base.

All inquiries may be directed to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Manager for Materials Management Division at phone number 322-4033 extension 16 or fax numbers 322-6582

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked CUC-ITB 97-0017 and submitted to the Special Advisor for Procurement & Supply at CUC in Lower Base, Saipan, before 3:00 p.m., local time, on April 7, 1997. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately after closing in the CUC conference room.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defect 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

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Annan off to African tour

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will focus on peace and human rights in his

first tour of Africa since taking office, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Annan is to arrive Wednesday in Cape Town, the first

stop of a visit that also will take him to Namibia and Angola.

"I think the timing is significant," said U.N. spokes-

man Yobert Shamapane. "That he is making this trip within three months of his appointment as secretary-general shows the importance he attaches to increasing his understanding of the facts on the ground in Africa."

Annan, who comes from Ghana, is the first U.N. secretary-general from sub-Saharan Africa.

His three-day visit to Cape Town and Johannesburg will include meetings with senior officials, including President Nelson Mandela and Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Desmond Tutu.

Shamapane said Annan's discussions with Mandela would focus on South African peace efforts in Zaire, where rebels took up arms after the government tried to expel ethnic Tutsis from eastern parts of the country.

Annan and Mandela also are likely to discuss the establishment of a power-sharing government in Angola between the government and UNITA rebels, Shamapane said. Annan is scheduled to attend the inauguration of Angola's

new government on March 24.

After two decades of civil war, the two sides in Angola signed a peace treaty in 1994. The installation of a unity government, the final stage in the U.N.-sponsored peace process, has been postponed three times.

Shamapane said Annan's meeting with Tutu, whose commission is investigating political crimes committed on all sides under apartheid, would reinforce the United Nations' support of reconciliation in South Africa after decades of racial conflict.

Hillary Clinton offers South Africans crime-fighting ideas



Hillary Rodham Clinton

By TOM COHEN
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — When it comes to talking crime, South Africans know their stuff. So it would take a pretty confident person to offer suggestions to South African experts on how to combat one of the country's major problems.

On Tuesday, that person was Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Winding up her first day in South Africa as part of a two-week African tour, the U.S. First Lady headed a round-table discussion on chronic domestic violence, rape and child abuse in the post-apartheid era.

She heard a litany of complaints from security and health officials, social workers and police — too little money, too few services, an unresponsive public.

Then Mrs. Clinton spoke, clearly and to the point, on what had worked in some U.S. cities to bring down high crime rates.

She called for improving cooperation between police and the community, and adopting tougher policing attitudes against all crime, whether serious or petty.

"We have now discovered that by going after the more minor crimes, you send a signal to the community that certain behavior will not be tolerated," Mrs. Clinton said as heads nodded in agreement around the table.

Her example was particularly salient in South Africa, where decades of anti-government protests and policies have honed a culture of crime.

Nelson Mandela's government has advocated the very steps cited by Mrs. Clinton, but so far found little success.

Jessie Duarte, the provincial minister of safety and security in the Johannesburg area, said South Africa had the right policies but needed a long time to undue the damage of the past.

"We believe that our strategy

may take a long time to see very significant results," she said, but added they would bring real solutions instead of "quick-fix" approaches.

Some complaints expressed to Mrs. Clinton showed the hopelessness people feel.

Patience Pashe, head of a group called Women for Peace in the Alexandra black township, told how crime syndicates lured young men into wrongdoing.

"What is sickening for us as mothers is that the guys who are using our children normally sit in the front pew at church," Ms. Pashe said.

Mrs. Clinton noted that the same thing occurs in the United States, where crime syndicate bosses use young men as underlings to do the dirty work.

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Coup jitters linger in Zaire

By BETH DUFF-BROWN
KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — When residents contemplate life after President Mobutu Sese Seko, they see nightmare visions of a military coup, or riots to celebrate the end of his dictatorship.

"We Zairians having a saying: 'If you kill a snake, you're still afraid of it,'" said Cleophas Kamitatu, an opposition politician once tortured by Mobutu's men.

Paranoia is sweeping through the capital, fueled by Mobutu being in the hospital in Monaco and the fall of Kisangani, the country's third-largest city, to anti-government rebels who now control much of eastern Zaire.

Topping times off, there are no clear rules on who would take over after Mobutu, who is ailing with prostate cancer.

Tuesday's ouster of Prime Minister Leon Kengo wa Dondo — Mobutu's hand-picked man — was seen as the opening of a power struggle.

"I can't say that it is the end of the Mobutu regime, but it is threatened," said Bemba Saolona, a Mobutu ally and member of the transitional parliament.

Mobutu, 66, has never named a successor, like so many other African despots who believe their rule is eternal. Nor has Parliament done anything to prepare for the void that Mobutu would leave should he die.

"I've been fighting for two years to get a constitutional successor, but there is nobody," Kamitatu said. Lawmakers "are too consumed by their own selfish interests."

Parliament's 470 members

adopted a transitional constitution in 1994 that was to pave the way for elections already postponed since 1991. That constitution allows for parliament to temporarily replace Mobutu with the president of the parliament if they deem him incapacitated — and if three independent doctors certify he is not lucid enough to rule.

But there is no president of the parliament to sit in for Mobutu.

A Catholic archbishop, Monsignor Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, was thrown out as parliament president in 1995 when he was no longer deemed neutral. Today, there are two vice presidents — one representing the opposition and the other representing Mobutu's camp.

The government has done little to calm residents' fears, except to say Mobutu is in stable condition at a hospital in Monaco and will re-

turn home later this week. It also said military leaders were plotting their next offensive against rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Many people in the capital, however, believe the military is more occupied with a plot to take over the government. Western diplomats and a source close to the presidency say there is a dangerous division among top generals between

those loyal to Mobutu and those who would like to seize control in his absence.

Kamitatu said only two things could now save Zaire: a cease-fire with the rebels and a transition to democracy through multiparty elections.

"If we accomplish this, I will be victorious," he said. "If not, I will die a very sad man."

Gunmen kill 5 policemen, three civilians in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Gunmen opened fire Tuesday on a police van in a southern province in Pakistan, killing five policemen and three civilians.

The police officers were being transported to the courthouse in

Larkana, 300 kilometers (180 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Karachi, when the shooting took place.

The gunmen intercepted the van as it passed through an intersection near the court, said Gada Hussein, a police spokesman in Larkana.

One of the victims, Akbar Khoso, a senior police officer from a nearby village, was en route to deliver testimony at the court. Details on the nature of the case or Khoso's testimony were unavailable.

The other policemen in the van were guarding Khoso. Two civilian victims riding in the van were his relatives, Hussein said.

A civilian passerby was killed in the cross fire, he said.

Larkana is the hometown of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's family.

Militant Shiite activist shot in Punjab

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A leading activist with a militant Shiite Muslim group was shot and critically wounded in strife-ridden Punjab province, Pakistani newspapers reported Tuesday.

Two gunmen shot Mir Zaheerul Hassan Tirmizi, an activist for the Shiite Movement of Pakistan, Monday as he left his home in the town of Khanewal, 420 kilometers (250 miles) southeast of Islamabad, the reports said.

Police in the southern Punjab town have reportedly set up road blocks but no arrests have been made in the shooting.

Recent clashes between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in Punjab have left more than 40 dead.

Last month's bombing outside a courthouse in the provincial capital of Lahore killed 25 people, including a militant Sunni leader, and sparked the wave of sectarian violence.

Most of Pakistan's 140 million people are Sunni Muslims, while roughly 20 percent are Shiite Muslims.

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Clinton taps Tenet for CIA job

By RON FOURNIER
WASHINGTON (AP) — Moving quickly to replace shelved nominee Tony Lake, President Clinton has chosen acting CIA Director George Tenet to head the nation's spy agency.

"He offered George Tenet the job. George Tenet has accepted," press secretary Mike McCurry said.

With Clinton determined to find a new nominee quickly, Tenet's name surfaced both on Capitol Hill and at the White House as a way to avoid a bruising confirmation fight like the one that ended in Lake's withdrawal.

Earlier in a guarded room on the fourth floor of the Capitol, Tenet met privately with members of the Senate Intelligence and Senate Appropriations Committees to discuss CIA budget matters and other intelligence issues.

White House lawyers also conducted an extensive review of Tenet's record for potential snags. One senior aide said Clinton wanted a nominee "pure as the driven snow."

Before the departure of CIA Director John Deutch in the post-election cabinet shuffle, Tenet was the CIA's No. 2 official. Since then he has continued to perform

the deputy's duties and served as acting director. In 1995 the Senate easily confirmed Tenet to the deputy's position following a 17-0 endorsement by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

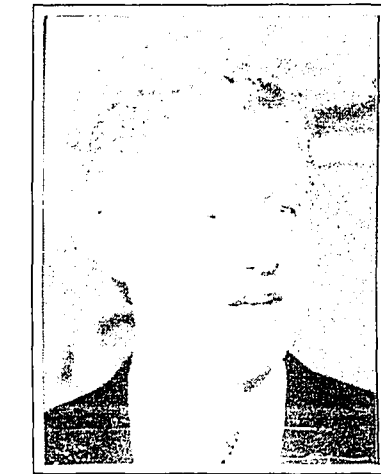
Tenet's career start as a staffer for the late Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and then his work for the Intelligence Committee, including four years as staff director from 1988 to 1993, would be major assets during confirmation.

"Barring something I don't know about, he looks like he'd be a good choice," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said of Tenet.

"I'd say he's the leading candidate," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

And Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the Intelligence Committee chairman, said he believed the Senate could move quickly if Tenet were chosen.

But Tenet's service on the National Security Council staff in Clinton's first term under Lake, who was national security adviser, could become an issue. Many of the same questions surrounding Lake's nomination about the involvement of the NSC in political activities might also



Bill Clinton

be raised against Tenet.

Documents submitted by Lake to the committee indicated that his aides worked strenuously to keep politics out of NSC business. But the committee was not fully satisfied with those answers and was on the verge of issuing subpoenas to NSC staffers when Lake withdrew his name late Monday.

For the past four months, as the Lake confirmation battle unfolded, Tenet quietly went about running the nation's \$30 billion intelligence apparatus — sending Clinton his secret

daily brief, updating House and Senate Intelligence Committee members on worldwide threats, and coordinating the various intelligence-gathering departments.

All this work helped Tenet build up a small but bipartisan base of support on Capitol Hill that White House officials said was a key ingredient in his emergence as the front-runner for the director's post.

During his confirmation hearing in 1995, Tenet argued for a spy system that did more than sort facts collected in foreign lands.

"Accurate, timely intelligence protects the lives of the men and women in our armed forces. It disrupts the transfer of dangerous weapons. It prevents terrorist atrocities. It blocks illicit narcotics trade. It stops illegal commercial practices," Tenet said. "This is the type of intelligence that I believe the American people are willing to pay for and that policy makers need."

He also said: "There is no room for either politics or partisanship in the way the intelligence community performs its duties."

Colombian rebels kidnap American

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Rebels kidnapped an American geologist earlier this month near a gold mine in southern Colombia where he was working, police said Tuesday.

Frank Skee and a Colombian colleague, Hermes Torres, were abducted March 7 by rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The group, Colombia's oldest leftist insurgency, makes millions of dollars a year in ransoms.

Skee and Torres were kidnapped in Payan, 315 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota. The town is in a jungle region near the border with Ecuador.

Skee's hometown was not immediately known. He was working

for a local company, Lencol.

Foreigners are popular targets for rebel kidnappers because they often fetch high ransoms — at least 45 foreigners were abducted last year.

On March 4, an Austrian and a German being held by rebels in northwest Colombia were killed when soldiers clashed with their captors.

On Feb. 25, an American geologist was found shot dead in a guerrilla stronghold in northern Colombia, 11 weeks after he was abducted, Frank Pescatore Jr. was working at a coal mine.

In June, rebels freed an American missionary more than two years after he was kidnapped. Three other American missionaries were abducted in 1993 and remain missing.

US-Burma team conducts opium yield joint survey

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — U.S. and Burmese experts have concluded a joint field survey to gain a better idea of the size of the opium crop in Burma, believed to be the world's biggest source of the illicit drug.

The survey was carried out March 9-13 in Shan state in northern and northeastern Burma, reports in the country's state-owned press said Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department says such surveys give both governments a more accurate understanding of the scope and magnitude of the crop.

It was not known when the results would be made public, but the team explained its mission Monday to a high-ranking member of the country's junta, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, the reports said.

It was the third such survey carried out by the two countries, whose relations are strained because of Washington's disapproval of Burma's repressive military government.

The junta, which seized power in 1988, allows almost no political dissent and refuses to turn over power to a democratically elected government.

Direct U.S. anti-drug aid to

Burma has been suspended since the military seized power in 1988. This has halted aerial spraying to eradicate opium poppies, a program the State Department described as effective in containing the expansion of Burmese opium cultivation.

U.S. government assistance to Burma now is limited to humanitarian and minor counter-narcotics aid, and funds for the promotion of human rights and democratic values.

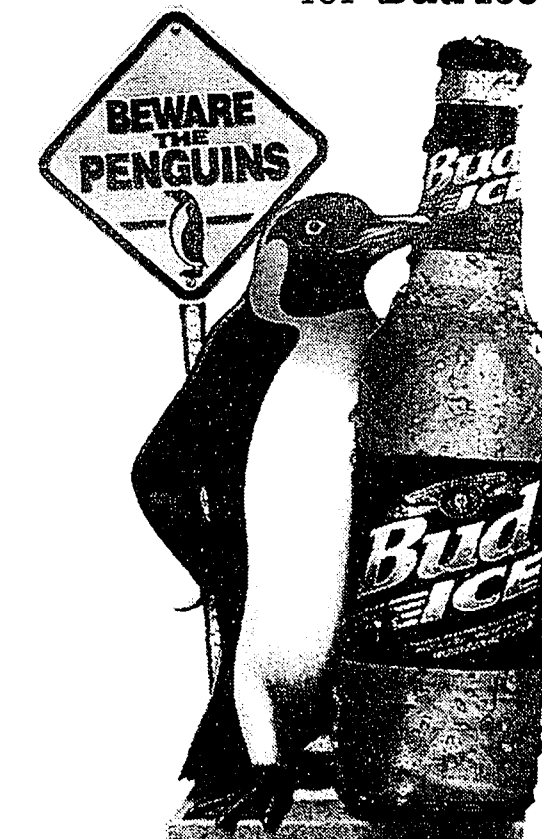
The State Department's annual report on narcotics, issued last month, said Burma provides the bulk of the world's opium supply, producing about 84 percent of the opium cultivated in Southeast Asia.

It said last year's crop could yield up to 2,560 metric tons of opium gum, "enough to produce 250 metric tons of heroin and to satisfy the U.S. heroin market many times over."

The two previous joint surveys were conducted in 1993 and 1995. The State Department report said the Burmese government canceled a planned survey in 1996 at the last minute, shortly after the surrender of drug warlord Khun Sa.

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Assets		Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 44,009	Deposits	
Interest-bearing deposits in other banks	9,202	Non-interest bearing	\$ 164,766
		Interest bearing	439,413
		Total Deposits	604,179
Federal funds sold, net	5,400	Accrued interest payable	2,393
Investment securities	186,775	Other liabilities	795
Loans	401,764	Long term debt	10,000
Less: allowance for loan losses	7,691	Total liabilities	617,367
Net loans	394,073	Shareholders' Equity	
Accrued interest receivable	4,391	Capital Stock	2,050
Premises and equipment	32,527	Paid-in surplus	13,302
Other assets	16,254	Unrealized market valuation on available-for-sale securities	(17)
		Retained earnings	59,929
		Total shareholders' equity	75,264
Total Assets	\$ 692,631	Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 692,631

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BRANCHES STATEMENT OF CONDITION (at the close of business December 31, 1996)

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 4,870,332	Deposits	
Loans	72,517,674	Non-interest bearing	\$ 29,238,941
Less: Allowance for loan losses	1,448,343	Interest bearing	92,021,575
Net loans	71,069,331	Total deposits	121,260,516
Accrued interest receivable	709,788	Accrued interest payable	578,500
Premises and equipment	3,869,378	Other liabilities	431,687
Other assets	1,337,946	Commitments and contingencies	
Due from Headquarters	40,413,928	Total Liabilities	\$122,270,703
Total Assets	\$122,270,703		

The audited reports of Bank of Guam - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Branches are available for public review at the office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce and Labor, Capitol Hill, Saipan.



An official dons protective gear before venturing into a nuclear waste bituminization facility of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, just hours after an explosion caused heavy damage to the building in the village of Tokai, about 115 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Tokyo. No one was injured in the nuclear accident, the worst in the nation's history. Officials said they planned to seal off the damaged building, but admitted that a small amount of radiation was thought to still be leaking from it. AP Photo

At Helsinki summit Now it's Yeltsin who is healthy

By MAURA REYNOLDS
MOSCOW (AP)—The last time Boris met Bill, the Russian president was overweight, his breathing labored, and his heart straining.

This week, as the American president relies on wheelchairs and crutches after a fall, Boris Yeltsin is relishing the reversal of fortune.

"They were talking about the ill Yeltsin and the healthy Clinton at the summit," Yeltsin said this week. "But it turned out the other way round. The healthy Yeltsin and the ill Clinton are coming."

Until recently, Yeltsin's health was precarious. In fact, the summit was originally planned for Washington, but was moved to Helsinki to pose less of a strain on the 66-year-old Russian leader.

In recent TV appearances, Yeltsin has looked vigorous —

no longer gaunt and also not puffy, as he was before his heart surgery last year.

He speaks with ease, without the slow pace and deep growl caused last year by his laboring lungs.

The transformation was a slow one.

After suffering a heart attack in June at the end of the presidential campaign, Yeltsin all but retreated from public view. He made a quick and tightly scripted appearance to take the oath of office, but didn't even try to deliver an inauguration address.

In November, he underwent quintuple bypass surgery, and spent the next few weeks recuperating in a health resort and his country residence.

He returned to work in the Kremlin briefly around New Year's, only to be felled again by a serious case of pneumonia, during which he lost a noticeable amount of weight.

Late in January, Yeltsin began making short trips to the Kremlin, gradually increasing the frequency and duration of his working days. For the last few weeks, he has apparently been working full-time.

His TV appearances have grown more frequent as his health has strengthened. He now moves with ease.

Speaking to Russian and American journalists this week, Yeltsin was philosophical about his own recovery and the 50-year-old Clinton's misfortune. Clinton had surgery to repair a torn tendon.

"No one," he said, "is immune from illness."

Microsoft, China sign software deal

BEIJING (AP) — Microsoft Corp. and Legend Group, China's leading computer manufacturer, signed a software licensing agreement today to have Legend install Windows 95 in Chinese in its computers. The move is designed to improve protection against copyright pirates.

Neither company revealed the value of the contract.

Li Qin, Legend's general vice president, said that offering computers with Windows 95 already installed will ensure "not only ensure the true and genuine application of legitimate software, but also reduce the consumer's initial investment and protect its subsequent value."

Charles Stevens, a Microsoft vice president, described the deal as the most significant software agreement in China for the Microsoft, based in Redmond, Wash.

Piracy of computer software, audio and video cassettes and other intellectual property long has been a source of friction between Beijing and Washington.

Lobbyist accuses Burton

By EUN-KYUNG KIM
WASHINGTON (AP)—A former lobbyist for the Pakistani government says the Republican chairman of the House committee investigating Democratic fund raising solicited him for a \$5,000 campaign donation and threatened to cut off access to GOP "friends or colleagues" when he didn't contribute.

Mark Siegel, a lobbyist for the government of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said he was first approached by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indiana, in November 1995. Burton solicited the donation for his re-election campaign.

"He said if I couldn't contribute the money, he expected me to raise the

money (because) he had done a lot for Pakistan, that he's been there for Pakistan," Siegel said Tuesday.

Burton, the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, was the head of the Pakistani caucus at the time.

As an active Democrat, Siegel said he did not contribute to Republican campaigns as a rule, but would try to find GOP Pakistani Americans who would.

When several efforts failed, Siegel said, Burton became outraged and began threatening him over the phone.

"He said if I knew what was good for me, I'd get him the money," Siegel said. "If I couldn't, he would contact the government of Pakistan and let them know that their lobbyist was not

being helpful to him."

Dave Bossie, an aide to Burton, refused to comment on the matter when reached late Tuesday.

Siegel said Burton eventually contacted the Pakistani government in mid-1996. He said he was told at least twice by the Pakistan's ambassador

that Burton had called to complain about his inability to raise donations for his campaign.

Burton also informed the Pakistani government that Siegel was officially "persona non grata" — not welcome — in his office. He also made it clear that the lobbyist would no longer be

welcome by any of Burton's GOP

"friends or colleagues," Siegel said. Kevin Binger, another aide to Burton, told The Washington Post that Burton had talked to Siegel about campaign funds and had also mentioned the matter to Pakistan's ambassador.

Study out on smoke, babies

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Newborns whose mothers smoke during pregnancy have the same nicotine level as grown-up smokers and almost certainly spend their first days of life going through withdrawal, a new study finds.

"The baby of a smoking mother should be considered to be an ex-smoker," said Dr. Claude Hanet of St. Luc University Hospital in Brussels.

The study, conducted principally by Dr. Laurence M. Galanti of Mont-Godinne University Hospital in Namur, Belgium, was presented Wednesday at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology.

In the United States, smoking during pregnancy is on the decline. But the latest data show that 15 percent of women still use cigarettes while pregnant.

Exposure to tobacco in the womb stunts fetal growth so babies are born small. After birth, these babies are more likely to suffer sudden infant death or have lung trouble, among other health problems.

Robert Merritt, a behavioral scientist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said the latest data "support what we have been saying all along: Smoking is not good for you, period."

The study was conducted on 273 children, including 139 babies just one to three days after birth. The researchers checked their urine for cotinine, the substance that remains when nicotine breaks down in the body. It lingers for several days after exposure to nicotine.

Cotinine levels in the newborns of smoking mothers were about 550 nanograms per milligram of urine, virtually the same as the

level found in the smoking women.

Amounts in toddlers with smoking mothers were much lower — about 200 nanograms — but still considerably higher than in adult nonsmokers exposed to smoke at home.

"These data underline the importance of prevention programs intended to reduce exposure of children to tobacco smoke," Galanti said.

Virtually everything in the mother's bloodstream is passed to her fetus during development in the womb, including all the chemicals in tobacco smoke. Another study, released last April at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Washington, found that even nonsmoking women who inhale other people's cigarette smoke can pass cancer-causing chemicals to their fetuses.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS Office of the Secretary of Public Works INVITATION TO BID DPW97-ITB-008

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Department of Public Works and in conjunction with the Public School System, are soliciting sealed bids for the construction of the Kobierle Elementary School Outdoor Stage, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bids in duplicate will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m. local time, May 2, 1997 at which time and place the bids will publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bid Bond or other form acceptable to the Government made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466."

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his business permits in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Specifications and plans of the project are available on or after April 11, 1997 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set; payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer.

Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time, April 18, 1997 at the DPW Technical Services Division Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan.

Attention is called to the Wage Rate Determination of the Labor Standards Provisions of the specifications and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bid bonds, certified checks, or cashier's checks which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications section, Instructions to Bidders, section 5 "Bid Guarantee."

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Procurement & Supply

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Request for Proposals CONSULTING ARCHEOLOGIST

The Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, requires the services of a consulting archeologist to oversee its ongoing programs of survey and inventory and review and compliance. The Consulting Archeologist will be responsible for the following tasks:

MAJOR TASKS:

- 1) Prepares scopes of work for archeological survey, testing and mitigation projects.
- 2) Reviews and comments upon research designs and upon preliminary and draft final archeological reports submitted by contractors.
- 3) Reviews and comments upon site forms and in-house survey documentation to ensure compliance with pertinent Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
- 4) Establishes archeological survey priorities.
- 5) Supervises in-house survey activities.
- 6) Provides training to staff of the Division of Historic Preservation in field and laboratory methodologies.
- 7) Edits professional archeological reports preparatory to publication in the Division's Micronesian Archeological Survey Report series.
- 8) Prepares written procedures, guidelines and standards addressing various aspects of archeological research.
- 9) Updates the Division's Site Data Base.
- 10) Assists with the preparation of the End-of-Year Report submitted to the National Park Service.
- 11) Since federal funds are involved, comply with all applicable federal and CNMI laws and regulations.
- 12) All work must be completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Survey and Identification.

QUALIFICATIONS

The consulting archeologist must meet the qualifications for archeologist as outlined in 36 CFR Part 61. These qualifications include a Masters degree in archeology or anthropology, at least one year of full-time professional experience, at least one year of supervised field and analytic experience in Pacific archeology, a demonstrated ability to carry research to completion and at least one year of full-time experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period.

PROPOSALS SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Detailed statement of approach
- 2) Minimum annual salary required
- 3) Vita of submitter
- 4) Availability dates

PROJECT COMPLETION SCHEDULE

The consulting archeologist will provide the services outlined above for the period of one year. Work will be performed at the Division of Historic Preservation's office at As Lito, Saipan.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1) Qualifications of the submitter
- 2) Quality and appropriateness of the statement of approach
- 3) Cost of work

Additionally, all project budgets will be evaluated to ensure that cost and activities are eligible for Historic Preservation Fund assistance. The proposals shall be evaluated by staff of the Division of Historic Preservation and a final selection made by the Historic Preservation Officer.

Proposals shall be submitted in duplicate in a sealed envelope and marked RFP97-0075 and submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, no later than 2:30 p.m., 28 March 1997. In accordance with Part 2 of Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, no individual shall be discriminated against in the award of this contract on account of race, sex, age, color, handicap, religious creed, national origin or political beliefs.

/s/ Director, Procurement and Supply

Former DNC chair denies asking CIA to vouch for donor

By JAMES ROWLEY
WASHINGTON (AP) - The former chairman of the Democratic National Committee denied Tuesday that he or party aides asked the CIA to vouch for a donor who was seeking meetings with White House officials.

Don Fowler also disputed reports that he pressured a National Security Council aide to persuade her not to oppose future White House meetings with oil financier Roger Tamraz.

The CIA said Monday its inspector general was investigating "extremely serious" reports that a DNC official asked the intelligence agency to provide information about Tamraz to the NSC.

The NSC aide, Sheila Heslin, is reported to have told colleagues that Fowler said the CIA would provide information about Tamraz's value to the intelligence agency.

But Fowler said in a statement that he did not "call or contact the CIA or ask them to supply information" to the NSC "nor did I direct anyone else to do so."

Tamraz, a New York businessman wanted on decade-old embezzlement charges in Lebanon, attended six White House social events in the last two years and met briefly with Heslin.

Tamraz, whose company gave \$72,000 to the DNC, met with Heslin to discuss his plans to put together financing to build an oil pipeline in the Caspian Sea region of the former Soviet Union.

Heslin recommended against Tamraz meeting with other NSC

aides, officials say, and sought information about his background from the CIA.

Fowler acknowledged that he telephoned Heslin because "I understood that there was some issue about his attending" a social event at the White House.

But Fowler denied that he ever pressured Heslin to change her recommendation.

"In no sense of the word was it my intention to put pressure on anyone to do anything, much less anything that was improper," Fowler said.

Fowler also took issue with White House statements that No. 3 NSC official Nancy Soderberg rebuked him for trying to contact Heslin about Tamraz.

"My recollection is that Dr. Soderberg did not object to his attending a group social meeting in the White House, which he subsequently did," said Fowler, who now operates a communications business in South Carolina.

Meanwhile, the state Democratic Party organization in Virginia said it will return a \$100,000 contribution that Tamraz made to it in 1995.

Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr. said the party had accepted the money in good faith as being from "an American citizen and a successful businessman who had no known clouds above his head."

"But with new information only a day old, we must avoid fueling public cynicism over campaign giving," Beyer said. "Returning the money promptly at the first sign of any cloud keeps faith with Virginia public confidence."

Russia decries German move to grant asylum

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia on Tuesday denounced Germany's decision to grant asylum to members of the Soviet army who had deserted their bases in the former East Germany.

In comments to the ITAR-Tass news agency, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Andreyev blamed the German government for policies he said encourage the deserters to remain in Germany.

Some 340,000 Red Army soldiers were stationed in former East Germany during the Cold War. The last of them went home in August 1994, but in the four years before the bases closed as many as 600 soldiers deserted.

Under strong public pressure, Germany decided last month to grant them asylum.

Many of the deserters said they gave information about Russian military strength to Western intelligence agencies, and some said intelligence officers promised them asylum if they cooperated.

The maximum prison sentence in Russia for desertion is seven years.

Congress works on tax plans

By ROB WELLS
WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Newt Gingrich may have put tax cutting behind budget balancing, but you wouldn't know it

by watching Congress at work Wednesday.

In both the Senate and House, members scrambled to stake out positions on high-profile tax is-

sues, making clear that tax relief will remain prominent throughout the session.

"Everyone wants to put their marker down," said J.D. Foster, executive director of the nonpartisan Tax Foundation.

Joined by four colleagues, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., endorsed a new bill to cut estate taxes, calling it a "monster that must be exterminated."

Over in the House, a persistent champion of tax cuts, House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, convened an elaborate hearing featuring 27 witnesses and a sheaf of testimony that weighed 2 lbs. 7 oz.

A coalition of House Democrats proposed to expand retirement savings by altering the tax code, as a group of Senate Democrats attacked a GOP tax reduction bill with a new report accusing the majority of soaking the middle class.

On Monday, Gingrich, R-Ga., said balancing the budget should take priority over tax cuts but it might be possible to pursue tax reduction after the budget is balanced. Gingrich drew criticism from conservatives, who regard tax cuts as a major legislative priority.

As a matter of routine, commit-



Newt Gingrich

tees in Congress pursue and pass legislation despite mixed signals from leadership. But the congressional leadership decides if a bill ever gets to the floor for final consideration. Therein lies their power.

So it was significant that Lott attended a news conference for a bill promoting middle class and small business relief from the estate tax. The bill enjoys diverse support, with co-sponsors including assistant majority leader, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and two Democrats, Sens. John Breaux of Louisiana and Max Baucus of Montana.

The bill would shield the first \$1 million from taxes and allow more

farmers and small business owners to pass on their businesses to their children. It also would exempt from the tax the first \$1.5 million of family-owned business assets.

Estate taxes, which can reach as high as 55 percent on estates greater than \$600,000, is levied when property is transferred after death. "Estate taxes frequently force families to sell the family business to pay the tax on the deceased family member's estate," Nickles said.

The estate and capital gains taxes came under attack at a Ways and Means hearing on the Clinton administration's savings and investment budget proposals. A leading corporate economist, David Wyss of DRI-McGraw-Hill, spoke favorably about a moderate capital gains tax cut proposed by Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., which would let individuals deduct 50 percent of capital gains from their gross income.

Wyss said such a moderate cut wouldn't increase the budget deficit, since any revenue losses would be offset by increased stock prices and other assets, as well as stronger economic growth over the next decade. "In essence, the bill does nobody harm and does a capital owner some good," Wyss said.

Parents swamp US Senate with calls

By PHILIP BRASHER
WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats seeking ammunition for their \$5 billion plan to help rebuild the nation's schools have fielded hundreds of complaints from parents worried about dilapidated buildings.

The "boiler is about ready to blow, they're in inadequate rooms and their ceilings are falling down. It's really a disaster," said an anonymous caller from Redfield, S.D.

"We feel like bad parents," Amy Turner of Montgomery, Ala., said in an e-mail message to Congress.

From Edgewood, Wash., Casey Halverson wrote that school walls cracked and crumbled after an earthquake. "I don't even want to imagine the possible fatalities in the building."

The Senate Democratic Policy Committee has fielded 412 phone calls and 330 electronic messages in the past week to a special toll-free telephone number and Internet address set up to receive complaints about school buildings.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., plans to use the anecdotes to push legislation that would provide \$5 billion in interest subsidies for school repairs.

"It's a very real problem," Daschle said Wednesday. "There has to be a federal, state, and local

partnership on infrastructure development that we just haven't been able to address so far."

A third of all schools nationwide need extensive repairs or replacement, according to the General Accounting Office.

Democrats aren't tracking the number of calls and messages opposed to the legislation, said Daschle spokesman Bob Martin.

Critics think repairing schools is a state and local responsibility, not the federal government's.

"What they're essentially going to do is to take tax dollars out of the local community, filter it through a federal bureaucracy and give it back to the local communities," said Pete Sepp, a spokesman for the National Taxpayers Union.

In Redfield, population 2,800, the school board is expected to call a bond referendum this spring to build a new \$8 million school, but the town's large elderly population may balk at paying higher taxes, said school superintendent Bob Graham.

The bonds would push taxes up on the average home in Redfield by \$240 a year.

Parts of the existing school date back to 1908, and the newest portion is more than 20 years old. At some point, "the fire marshal is going to walk in and say enough is enough," Graham said.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from licensed vendors for the procurement of new (1997) vehicles with the following specifications:

Specifications	Number Needed
Class "A"	1 to 2
Class "B"	1 to 2
Class "C"	1 to 2
Class "I"	1

The Class Specifications are consistent with the Division of Procurement & Supply's Vehicular Specifications and related descriptions. Vehicles must be CIF Saipan and must have manufacturers' extended warranty agreements for parts and labor for not less than two (2) years. A comparable replacement or courtesy vehicle must be provided while any of the vehicle is under repairs or service during the warranty period. The vehicles must have rust protection and undercoating and must meet local and federal safety requirements. The vehicles must be inspected and registered naming the Commonwealth Judiciary as the owner prior to delivery of the vehicles to the courts.

All proposals must be submitted in duplicate and sealed in an envelope marked "RFP-VEHICLES" to the Honorable Marty W.K. Taylor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with attention to the Director of Courts. Sealed proposals must be submitted to the Supreme Court Office at the second floor of the Nauru Building, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28, 1997. Any proposal received late will not be accepted. In addition, the Commonwealth Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all proposals in the best interest of the Judicial Branch. For more information, please contact the Supreme Court by telephone at 234-5175/76/77 or by fax at 234-5183.

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FAA: Jets flew too close

NEW YORK (AP)—An air traffic controller allowed two airliners to fly too close to each other as one took off from La Guardia Airport and the other arrived, the Federal Aviation Administration said today.

"There was an operational error," said Arlene Salac, an FAA spokeswoman.

The planes, from U.S. Airways and Delta, had a horizontal separation of 1 1/2 miles during the March 6 incident but their vertical separation was just 500 feet, the FAA found. The agency requires 1,000 feet vertically and 3 miles horizontally.

The FAA today also cleared the

flight crews and controller involved in an earlier incident at La Guardia in which the pilots of two jets aborted their landings.

Salac discounted earlier accounts that those jets, from United Airlines and American Airlines, came within 50 feet of each other, saying an investigation showed that did not happen.

The FAA found that the United pilot aborted his landing because the American pilot momentarily failed to communicate with air traffic control, leaving him unsure of the other plane's intended course. Controllers also told the American pilot to abort his landing.

In the March 6 incident, the U.S. Airways flight, a Boeing 737, which was heading to West Palm Beach, Fla., was about 4 miles from the airport and climbing to 5,000 feet when its automated collision avoidance alarm

sounded. The Delta plane, a Boeing 757, was arriving from Cincinnati.

The U.S. Airways pilot changed course slightly and continued on his way.

The FAA found that the air traf-

fic controller incorrectly assumed that the U.S. Airways flight would pass behind the arriving Delta.

The controller was given refresher training and was recertified before going back to his duties, the FAA said.

DEA agents in Mexico idle

By CAROLYN SKORNECK
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Drug Enforcement Administration agents now stationed in Mexico aren't doing much drug fighting these days, spending their time instead trying to figure out who can be trusted, the DEA chief said Wednesday.

It's been that way since Feb. 18, when Army Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo was arrested just 10 weeks after becoming Mexico's top anti-drug official. He is accused of having ties to a drug kingpin.

"Ever since the Gutierrez case, we're really almost in a stand-down situation because we're trying to find out the level of damage, how far and how deep," DEA Administrator Thomas Constantine said during a break in a hearing before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

In addition to Gutierrez, 41 agents at the National Institute to Combat Drugs, which he headed, "were apparently fired, and we don't know why, who did they work with, what cases did they work on."

His comments came as Mexican officials indicated their government may kick out the DEA officers stationed there if the United States declares that Mexico has not been fully cooperative in the fight against drugs.

President Clinton certified Mexico as a drug-fighting ally last month, but Congress has balked at the decision largely because of the Gutierrez arrest and the fact that most drugs imported into the United States come through Mexico.

The House voted last week to overturn the certification if Mexico's anti-drug efforts don't improve in 90 days. Senate action is pending. Decertification could harm Mexico economically.

An unidentified high-level Mexican government official was quoted in The Dallas Morning News as saying he told "the Americans" that if Mexico were decertified, "we would have to tell DEA agents to pack up their things and return to their country."

However, a Mexican Embassy official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that ousting the agents was just "one of many options being considered."

Mexican officials say they want to work with U.S. officials while guarding against U.S. meddling in internal Mexican matters.

A knowledgeable Mexican official in Mexico City said the government's formal position is to wait to see what Congress does. "As things stand now, we cer-

tainly aim for greater cooperation and less friction with the U.S. on drugs, as long as sovereignty is respected," the official said.

Constantine said the threat probably stems from his recent comment to Congress that "there is not one single law enforcement institution in Mexico with whom DEA has an entirely trusting relationship."

That comment "was not received well" in Mexico, the embassy official confirmed.

But Constantine defended it as "a statement of fact," noting that the Mexican government itself assigned the military to run its drug fight after it lost confidence in its own law enforcement agencies.

And now the military has been compromised. A second top military man, Brig. Gen. Alfredo Navarro Lara, has been arrested, accused of offering \$1 million a month to a top federal agent to protect a notorious Tijuana-based drug-smuggling family.

Nevertheless, Constantine told the House panel the DEA should continue trying to develop contacts with reliable Mexican officials, saying,

"To disengage ... would eliminate any communications, and I think that would not be to the benefit of the United States."



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US condemns Serbia gov't

By LAURA MYERS
WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Wednesday condemned Serbia's fresh crackdown on independent news media, calling it a politically motivated attempt by President Slobodan Milosevic to influence upcoming elections.

"In the area of media freedoms ... the Serbian government has taken a series of steps in precisely the wrong direction," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters at a briefing.

The Serb government has closed some private radio stations, including Boom 93 in Pozarevac, and this week limited the broadcasting range of private BK Television to northern Serbia only, including the capital Belgrade.

Serbian authorities, who control transmitters and frequencies, also are considering a law that would prohibit private radio and television stations from reaching more than a quarter of Yugoslavia's 10 million people.

"Both actions appear to be politically motivated efforts to restrict in-

dependent news sources," Burns said. "The proposed media law also appears to be aimed at restricting rather than expanding the free flow of information."

General elections are scheduled later this year. The ability of Milosevic to control the media, most of which is state-run, could affect the outcome because opposition voices could be stifled or ignored.

Burns said the United States welcomed the Serb government's reinstatement of the results of Nov. 17

municipal elections. Milosevic on Feb. 15 conceded opposition victories in local elections in 14 Serbian cities after three months of street protests, which cost him popularity.

Since then, Burns said, Milosevic has not made other reforms recommended by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who first reported the opposition election victories last year after a fact-finding mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The U.S. government urged

Milosevic to allow a free and independent press and to start talking with opposition leaders in pursuit of electoral reforms that would ensure democratic elections.

"The willingness of the Serbian government to address genuinely these concerns and to lay the basis for free and fair elections later this year will determine the reaction and policy of the United States and other members of the international community concerning the Serb government," Burns said.

Widow of the late Israeli PM Rabin writes memoirs

By LAURA MYERS
WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a year after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, his widow wonders in a new book whether he died in vain, his legacy of peace left to those unable to finish the job.

"Where, oh where, are there others like that man?" Leah Rabin asks.

"The murderer did an enormous thing. He brought you down, even in the afterlife, and now he's laughing," Mrs. Rabin writes in a June 5, 1996, journal entry addressed to "My Yitzhak, beloved and so far away."

The personal otherworldly correspondence, written a couple of weeks after Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister, comes in the last chapter of "Leah Rabin: Our Life, His Legacy," published by G.P. Putnam's Sons and due out April 1.

A relatively slim 320 pages of journal entries, private letters and narrative, the memoir fairly weeps at times with a widow's shearbreak even as it competently tells the story of the large historic role Rabin played — as fighter and peacemaker — in the Middle East.

"Yitzhak, my dearest," she begins. "It is raining today, and the rain is pelting Mount Herzl and the flowers that cover your grave, dousing the candles that surround it. And we are here at home — without you. Alone,

alone, alone. You are no more. They took you from me, from us."

And he left others to lead the Jewish people toward the elusive goal of peace with Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Netanyahu rates bitter mention in Mrs. Rabin's book three times — once on his election and twice for leading anti-Rabin protests in the weeks before the Nov. 4, 1995, assassination. She has long blamed the climate for Rabin's murder by a nationalist Jew, angered by "land for peace" deals.

"During the rally," she writes of an October 1995 right-wing protest, "demonstrators burned posters of Yitzhak in an SS uniform or a kaffiyeh, as Benjamin Netanyahu stood on a balcony overlooking the crowd."

Watching the protests at home on television, Mrs. Rabin said she was disturbed by the Nazi caricatures and the mock kaffiyehs, like the Arab headscarf worn by PLO leader Yasser Arafat. But her husband was unmoved, saying, "What's to be done? We are living in a democracy."

In a forceful afterword, Mrs. Rabin laments her husband's untimely death at age 73 and the void it has left for her family and Israel.

"History graced him with the chance to usher his country into a time of peace. To prove himself a

warrior for peace and not just a warrior. Alas, it was not enough," she writes. "The business left unfinished by his death cries out for his wisdom and perspective ... his clear head, his firm hand, and his pure heart."

Today, as fragile peace hangs in the balance, shaken by fresh troubles between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem, Mrs. Rabin writes that her agenda is simple: "I am here to remind you of him."

"He has become a myth," writes Mrs. Rabin, who has traveled the world to dedicate roads, medical centers and schools named in her husband's honor. "But what is a myth

if not a legend for the generations ahead?"

The Rabins met in 1943 when he was a member of the Palmach underground army in British-ruled Palestine, a group she joined in 1945. They wed in 1948, the year Israel became an independent state, and had two children.

In his 27-year military career, Rabin commanded troops in the 1948 Independence War, led the Israeli Defense Forces in the 1967 Six-Day War in which Israel captured lands now being returned and, as defense minister, urged his forces to put down the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising.

As diplomat and national leader, Rabin served as ambassador to the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was appointed prime minister in 1974, but resigned three years later under political and personal attack, including over illegal U.S. bank accounts held by Mrs. Rabin.

Rabin was a political backbencher at the time of the 1979 signing of the Camp David peace accords, the historic turning of the tide of hatred.

In 1992, elected prime minister as the Labor Party candidate, Rabin set himself and his nation a new agenda: to make lasting peace with the Arabs.

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Application may be picked up at the Saipan Service Center located in Chalan Laulau (white, two-story building North of McDonald's Restaurant)

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: CLERK III, TINIAN BRANCH

NATURE OF WORK: This position is located in the NMI Retirement Fund branch office of Tinian. The incumbent shall assist the Chief in carrying out and enforcing the laws of the Retirement Fund, including the Member Home Loan Program, Group Health and Life Insurance program, and the Workers' Compensation Commission. The position is funded through the Workers' Compensation appropriations.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Incumbent performs filing, typing, answering phones, picking up pouch mail and other office work; assists in accepting and completing applications for retirement, member home loan, and health and life insurance to ensure that all forms are in order before sending them to the Saipan office; assists in distributing pension checks, notices and other information to members of the Fund and/or workers' compensation claimants; assists in making certain that employers are complying with workers' compensation requirements, such as the filing of certificate of compliance, notice of injury, and so forth; and performs other related duties as assigned by the Chief, Tinian Branch, NMIRF.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school (or GED certificate), plus at least three years experience as a clerk. A copy of the diploma or certificate and police clearance must be attached to the application. The ability to communicate well is preferred.

Interested persons may visit the NMI Retirement Fund office on Tinian for applications and details of the position. Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, March 31, 1997, to Mr. Edward H. Manglora, Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund, 1st Floor, Nauru Building, P.O. Box 1247, Saipan, MP 96950.

THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Japan asks whaling ban lifted



Animal rights activists from the organization In Defense of Animals, distribute information flyers to pedestrians in front of the offices of the Japanese Consul General on Park Avenue in New York, to protest Japan's capture of five Orca (killer whales) last month off the coast of Taiji, Japan. AP Photo

TOKYO (AP) - Japan called on an International Whaling Commission workshop Wednesday to end a ban on the coastal hunting of minke whales.

About 60 officials and scholars from 19 commission-member nations, and some 20 anti-whaling activists as observers, took part in the three-day workshop in Sendai, 302 kilometers (189 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

The officials plan to draw up a proposal on coastal whaling to be submitted to an IWC meeting, set for October in Monaco, said Sakanori Ohashi of Japan's Fisheries Agency.

Masahiro Ishikawa, the agency's deputy director-general, told the workshop that Japan hopes to win support from coastal areas on lifting the ban.

Ishikawa told the workshop that the number of nations supporting the ban make up less than 20, mostly industrialized nations with plenty of food.

"I don't think that such an opinion will have universality," he said.

Fishermen from four Japanese towns - Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wada and Taiji - are allowed to catch a combined total of 54 Baird's beaked whales and 100 false killer whales a year in Japan's coastal areas, Ohashi said.

But the commercial hunting of minke whales was banned near Japan in 1988 because of declining resources.

The International Whaling Commission has repeatedly rejected Japan's calls for allowing the four towns to catch 50 minke whales a year.

Minkes are the smallest of the baleen whales, reaching about 9 meters (30 feet) in length.

In addition to coastal catches, Japan has annually hunted whales for research purposes in a government program that began in 1987, a year after the commission voted to ban commercial whaling.

The kills, though widely criticized, are considered legal because the ban left each country with the option of conducting research whaling.

Japan will catch 440 minke whales in the Antarctic by next month. Last summer, the Japanese caught 77 minke whales in the northwestern Pacific.

After scientific data on the whales are compiled, their meat is distributed to restaurants throughout Japan and also to towns whose livelihood once depended on whale-hunting.

Norway, which also belongs to the IWC, is the only nation in the world conducting commercial whaling.

US court rules on Endangered Species Act

By RICHARD CARELLI
WASHINGTON (AP) - The Endangered Species Act is a double-edged sword that can be used to fight for less, not just more federal protection of animals and plants, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The unanimous decision in a case from Oregon said people who contend they have suffered economic harm from the act's enforcement may invoke the same law in accusing the federal government of doing too much to protect some species.

The Clinton administration had sought a "one-way" interpretation of the law.

"We're elated," said Henson Moore, president of the American Forest and Paper Association. "This had been a tremendous sticking point in dealing with people who have resources on their land."

Nancy Marzulla of the Defenders of Property Rights also celebrated the ruling. "We believe the Endangered Species Act must also protect the rights of property owners and commercial interests. It can't be viewed as a one-way street," she said.

Reaction by environmental groups was mixed.

"It's not to our liking," said the Sierra Club's Melinda Pierce.

But John Kostyack of the National Wildlife Federation said his organization welcomed the ruling's expansion of court access.

3 Chicago cops indicted

CHICAGO (AP) — Three police officers were indicted on charges of plotting to rob undercover agents posing as drug dealers in a second narcotics sting aimed at Chicago's 13,000-member force.

"If there still are police officers out there who think they can rob drug dealers with impunity they are sadly mistaken," police Supt. Matt Rodriguez said Tuesday.

The indictments bring to 10 the

number of officers charged since the department began an investigation to ferret out corruption in its ranks.

Gerald Meachum, 34, Tyrone Francis, 38, and Baxter Streets, 40 — all officers from the South Side's Gresham district — were charged in the indictment unsealed Tuesday. Also charged was Robert Meeks, 28, a civilian.

All are accused of holding up undercover agents in November and

December, netting \$23,000 and splitting the proceeds with an FBI informant, the indictment alleged.

The charges include conspiracy to commit robbery, two counts of armed robbery, two counts of illegal use of a firearm, and conspiracy to deprive individuals of their civil rights.

In December, a federal grand jury indicted seven officers from the West Side's Austin district and a civilian on similar charges.

Heart treatment may not help

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Aggressively treating mild heart attacks with angioplasty and bypass surgery, as is now common, may do more harm than good.

A major new study found the death rate is actually higher when patients with these less severe heart attacks are routinely examined with tubes pushed into their hearts — an exceedingly common technique that is standard practice at many hospitals.

The results challenge the widely held belief among cardiologists that fast, all-out treatment is best for all victims of heart attacks — even those who have relatively mild ones.

The findings surprised even the researchers who conducted the study. They are so at odds with accepted practice that they said many doctors are likely to be skeptical.

When the study began, the researchers speculated that a conservative approach would turn out to be as good as more high-tech treatments for these patients. But they didn't expect it to be decidedly better.

"We were just astonished" to find that people who got the more aggressive therapy had a significantly higher death rate," said William E. Boden, who directed the study at the Veterans Affairs Upstate Health Care System in Syracuse, N.Y.

Boden presented the results Tuesday at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology.

The study was conducted on 920 patients, mostly men, who had suffered what doctors refer to as non-Q-wave infarctions.

These are relatively mild heart attacks, so called because of the way they look on electrocardiograms. They make up half of the 1.5 million heart attacks suffered in the United States annually.

In the aggressive approach tested in this study, doctors routinely send all of these heart attack patients to have catheterizations. This is a test in which a tube releases dye into the heart arteries so X-ray movies can check the blood flow.

When significant narrowing is seen, the patients are given balloon angioplasty or bypass surgery to clear the blockages.

This aggressive strategy became routine in 1987 after the American Heart Association and the college of cardiology issued guidelines recommending it for non-Q-wave heart attacks.

However, the Veterans Administration study is the first large attempt to see if this kind of care really makes sense for mild heart attacks.

In the conservative approach, patients are monitored closely with

so-called non-invasive tests, such as treadmill stress tests. They get angioplasty or surgery only if symptoms or tests suggest they are necessary.

After 2 1/2 years of follow up, there were 34 percent more deaths and heart attacks in the aggressively treated group than among those getting conservative care.

The difference was apparent almost immediately. When discharged from the hospital an average of nine days after their heart attacks, 21 of the patients in the aggressive group were already dead, compared with six of those treated conservatively.

"I hope physicians will rethink their management approach to patients like this," said Boden.

Dr. Robert J. Cody of Ohio State University said doctors have felt compelled by the consensus of opinion that they should treat aggressively. "This shows that in non-Q-wave infarctions, they don't have to be compelled," he said. "They can use their clinical judgment."

Some believe quickly pushing tubes into the heart after a heart attack may be dangerous because the injured arteries are vulnerable to further damage from the intrusion.

"Perhaps by delaying the intervention, we will have a better outcome," said Dr. Thomas Ryan of Boston University.

Authorities said the internal investigation began after complaints from neighborhood residents.

The FBI and Chicago police set up

a phony gang of drug dealers, and the target cops shook them down for protection money and sometimes robbed them, authorities said.

Glaucoma gene said to have been found

By RON HARRIS
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Medical researchers on Wednesday said they have identified the major gene responsible for primary congenital glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in infants.

Dr. Mansoor Sarfarazi, of the University of Connecticut Health Center and the study's principal investigator, says CYP1B1 is the key gene responsible for up to 85 percent of the cases.

Ophthalmologists are enthusiastic that the gene's discovery could prevent vision loss through early diagnosis.

Dr. Richard Lewis, a clinical professor of ophthalmology with the University of California-Davis, said that even though babies are examined right after birth, "the detection of glaucoma is very subtle."

Lewis said many pediatric ophthalmologists only see patients after vision loss has occurred, and the genetic approach has the potential to avoid such problems through early detection.

"These patients often come in with pronounced diseases ... the structure of the eye is severely damaged," said Dr. Maurice Luntz of the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.

Sarfarazi anticipates putting the defective gene in laboratory mice at the embryonic stage, then using the mice as models for future studies.

InSite Vision, an ophthalmic pharmaceutical company in Alameda, Calif., is developing a diagnostic kit which would incorporate the results of Dr. Sarfarazi's findings, aiding early detection.

"It's a very exciting development," he said. The search to identify the gene began in 1990, and initially included 11 families with children as a model for Sarfarazi's study, which appears

in the April issue of Human Molecular Genetics.

After an original random scan of all genes narrowed the search, Sarfarazi finally located the gene on the short arm of chromosome 2 in April of 1995 and then identified mutations of the gene in families with the condition.

Glaucoma is an abnormal condition of elevated pressure within the eye because of obstructed flow of aqueous humor, the fluid inside the eyeball. The disease can cause the eye to become scarred and deformed.

Primary congenital glaucoma occurs in an estimated one of every 10,000 births, according to a 1972 study published in the journal Ophthalmology.

The relationship between the CYP1B1 gene and the gene responsible for adult glaucoma has yet to be determined, although Sarfarazi said that gene may be "within the same biochemical pathway."

Dr. Sarfarazi said more studies are needed to see how the mutated gene works. "Then we could develop an antibody which could detect most of the mutations simultaneously," he said.

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THE MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL CLOSE-UP CLUB Raffle Drawing Result

March 08, 1997

Prize #		Name/Phone #	Ticket No.
Grant	\$1000	Eleno Robles	14635
Baby	\$500	No Name	05157
1st	\$300	Edward	28156
2nd	\$250	No Name	13857
3rd	\$250	Oscar Perez	18932
4th	\$100	Marian Sablan	02671
5th	\$100	David Castro	05977
6th	\$100	Alana Camacho	08973
7th	\$100	United Int'l Corp.	27195
8th	\$100	Carmela Sablan	25881
9th	\$100	Hideko Takano	09569
10th	\$100	Beth	27977
11th	\$100	Nat'l Office Supply	10799
12th	\$100	Perry Borja	10997
13th	\$100	Del	28065
14th	PIC Brunch for 4	Rosa Moteisou	25340
15th	PIC Brunch for 4	Solid Builders	26018
16th	Hafa Adai Brunch for 2	Ramon Manangpa	00066
17th	Diamond Hotel for 2	Velma Castro	12494
18th	Men's Watch	Donovan Flores	23538
19th	Men's Watch	Jordan Bocago	34519
20th	Pacific Gardenia Dinner for 2	Eugene Espiritu	33915
21st	\$50 Gift Cert.	DJ Cepeda	20533
22nd	\$50 Gift Cert.	Emy Sablan	25865
23rd	\$Cash	No Name	23640
24th	\$50 Gift Cert.	EUROTEX	24825
25th	\$50	Marcelina Edwards	34184
26th	\$50	Mark C. Villagomez	13739
27th	\$25	No Name	03962
28th	\$25	Daisy Ann Lizama	19923
29th	\$25	Vic. C. Ragasa	33921
30th	\$15 Gift Cert.	Deloitte & Touche	27006

The Close Up club would like to thank the following people and companies for their generous contributions with the raffle and other fundraisers the club has held.

Lt. Governor Jesus Borja
Ms. Darlene Cabrera
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Judge Edward Manibusan
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Mr. and Mrs. Felix Sasamoto
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Saipan Diamond Hotel
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Shirley's Cafe
Tanapag Auto Repair
Treasure Chest

Wide Technical Services
Marianas Visitor's Bureau
Duty Free Shoppers
Town House
Mt. Carmel PTA
Marianas Variety
and most importantly, parents, relatives and teachers of the Close Up Club and all others who supported the club in its endeavors. Si Yu'us Maase!



Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., third from left, leads a caucus news conference on Capitol Hill to discuss charges of sexual harassment at the Army's Aberdeen, Md., Proving Ground. From left are Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., Rep. Del. Donna Green, D-V.I., Waters, Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Fla., Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC., Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, and Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif.

AP Photo

First Death Anniversary

We the family of the late



PERLA G. O'CONNOR

May 30, 1970 - March 21, 1996

would like to invite our friends and family to join us in prayer to commemorate her first death anniversary on Sunday, March 23rd from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Jeff O'Connor's residence in San Vicente. For directions, please call 483-5333.

Please join us in prayer.

Thank you.
From Jeff, Jessica & Jonny

Court ventures into Cyberspace

By LAURIE ASSEO
WASHINGTON (AP) — Debating the future of the Internet, several Supreme Court justices questioned Wednesday whether the government can restrict online access to sexually explicit material to keep it from children.

The Clinton administration mounted a spirited defense of the

1996 Communications Decency Act, which makes it a crime to put indecent words or pictures online where children can find them.

"The Internet threatens to give every child a free pass into the equivalent of every adult bookstore and every adult video store in the country," Justice Department lawyer Seth P. Waxman told the

court.

But the attorney for those who challenged the law said it also would keep indecent material away from adults who have a right to see it.

"The government cannot reduce the adult population to reading or viewing only what is appropriate for children," said law-

yer Bruce J. Ennis, representing groups including the American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

A three-judge federal court in Philadelphia blocked the law from taking effect last year, saying it would unlawfully chill adults' free-speech rights.

Sexually oriented material is protected by the Constitution's First Amendment if it is deemed indecent but not obscene.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule by July in its first case involving the global computer network — a place where Ennis said "average citizens can speak to the world for free."

Several justices tried to decide what kind of communication to compare to the rapidly expanding Internet, which is thought to connect as many as 40 million people using more than 9.4 million computers worldwide.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor suggested the Internet could be viewed as a public place, "much like a street corner or a park."

"The Internet is rather like the telephone," said Justice Stephen G. Breyer. The Internet law could "make large numbers of high school students across the country guilty of federal crimes" for having online conversations about their sexual experiences, he said.

Justice David H. Souter said the law could allow a parent to be sent to prison for allowing his or her child to use a computer to view sexually explicit material.

And Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said that under Waxman's analysis, the government could prohibit some conversations in public places.

But Justice Antonin Scalia said that in any context it is lawful for government to require that por-

nographic material be kept away from children.

"We say 'tough luck, you have to sell it in stores' rather than on the street, Scalia said.

The law makes it a crime to make indecent or "patently offensive" words or pictures available online where they can be found by children. Violators could get up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Waxman said any child who knows how to "click a mouse" can go online and find sexually explicit material like that found in Hustler and Penthouse magazines.

"There's nothing in this act that gets in the way of adult-to-adult communication," Waxman said. Those who want to provide sexually oriented material can limit access to people using a credit card or adult-access code, he said.

Ennis said that would be prohibitively expensive for noncommercial groups and would not work at all for news groups and "chat rooms." Ennis said the law would not be effective because a large amount of indecent online material comes from other countries.

However, he said parents can use computer blocking devices to keep adult-oriented material away from their children and leave adults free to view it, he said.

Those who challenged the law argue it would restrict access not only to indecent material, but to discussion of issues including safe sex or AIDS.

Donna Rice Hughes of the anti-pornography group Enough is Enough disputed that argument. "Children deserve a protected space of innocence," added Hughes, whose group filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the law.

Immigrants demonstrate

By DOUG WILLIS
SACRAMENTO (AP) — More than 1,000 legal immigrants, most of them senior citizens, demonstrated at the state Capitol asking California to make up for welfare cuts scheduled in July.

Carrying signs that read, "Stop Immigrant Bashing," "We are a Nation of Immigrants" and "Show That California Cares for all its People," the crowd swarmed through Capitol corridors Tuesday up to a line of California Highway Patrol officers outside the governor's office.

"We're here peacefully. We're here respectfully," said Renee Saucedo of the Northern California Coalition of Immigrant Rights in San Francisco.

Ten leaders of the demonstration were granted a meeting with Wilson aides to discuss how the cuts—brought about through the federal welfare reform law—would affect them. Wilson did not attend the meeting; he was speaking at a business luncheon three blocks away.

Wilson spokesman Sean Walsh said the Republican governor sympathized with the demonstrators, and said Wilson has tried to persuade Congress to restore benefits at least to the recipients who are the most elderly and infirm.

But, Walsh said, "It's an enormous cost, and the state is not in a position to backfill for 50,000 to 100,000" legal California immi-

grants who are scheduled to lose federal aid.

"We have empathy for the people who came here today. These people came to the country the right way," Walsh said. "It's not the fault of these people. It's not the fault of the state. It's the fault of the federal government that did not enforce its own laws" and allowed them to remain without becoming citizens.

"We feel like immigrants are treated the same way the communists treated them in China," 80-year-old George Lau, president of the Chinatown Community Tenants Association of San Francisco, said through an interpreter. "Many will be left homeless."



Former Gov. Mike Lowry, third right, sits with Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders gathered in the Capitol Rotunda in Olympia, Wash. last month. The group, estimated at 2,000, is fighting for continued food stamps and supplemental security income benefits for legal immigrants that were eliminated by Congress. AP Photo

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is looking for applications for the following positions at the Saipan International Airport:

TWO ACCOUNTS CLERK I

The employee in this class is responsible for performing specific accounting procedures and tasks on a daily basis related to regular airport transactions and activities. This class is entry level and responsible for developing skills in preparation for more difficult assignment.

The minimum qualifications for the job is any combination equivalent to graduation from high school or GED with no less than one year of responsible work experience in professional bookkeeping level or account work. The salary ranges from \$478.14 bi-weekly to \$702.02 bi-weekly.

Application forms are available at the Airports Police Office, First Floor of the Arrival Building or at the Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by a current court clearance. The deadline is no later than March 21, 1997 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the CPA Accounting Office at 664-3528/29/30.

CARLOS S. SHODA
Executive Director



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Individuals must have some computer skills, good phone ethics, excellent customer service skills, and an out-going personality.

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- Experience/Education in a College Preparatory High School Environment

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR this position involves teaching up to three courses per semester in addition to assisting the Director in the daily operation of the school, preferred eligibility requirements are:

- B.S./B.A. in Education (Secondary)
- Minimum 2 years teaching experience

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience

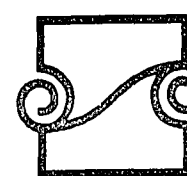
Note: Effective hiring date will be August 1, 1997

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Please direct inquiries ASAP to: (deadline Friday, April 18)

Personnel Committee
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Academy
Caller Box 10006-834
Saipan, MP 969590
Tel./Fax: 235-5597

You can also personally deliver your curriculum vitae to NMA at Room 12, Bldg. A, Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje.



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1994 Isuzu Rodeo 4x2 \$15,995

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1992 Toyota 4-Runner V6 4x4 \$15,495

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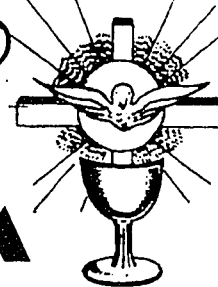
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France has nuke contingency

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

**RONALD
SALAS
DEBRUM**



would like to invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved one.

Rosary will be said nightly at 7:00 PM from March 16 (Sunday) thru March 23 (Sunday) at the residence of Ms. Ida S. DeBrum in Chalan Kanoa, behind the Meitetsu Shopping Center. On the final day, March 24 (Monday), rosary will be said at 12:00 noon.

Masses will be offered daily at 6:00 AM from March 16 (Sunday) thru March 23 (Sunday) at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. On the final day, March 24 (Monday), Mass will be offered at 5:00 P.M. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

By FLORENCE SEBAOUN

PARIS (AP) — The French

government will hand out iodine pills next month to about 600,000 people living near nuclear power plants, to be taken in case of a Chernobyl-like accident.

Health Minister Hervé Gaymard spoke of the move Tuesday, along with a variety of other health policies, at a routine news conference.

France launched a similar pill-dispensing operation in April 1996, 10 years to the day after the Chernobyl accident spewed a deadly cloud of radiation across the Soviet Union and much of Europe.

Iodine is the only substance known to shield the body at least partially against cancer-causing radiation poisoning.

The pills are designed to be taken orally within an hour of a nuclear accident to saturate the thyroid gland, which is especially vulnerable to cancer after exposure to radiation.

The French government has been widely ridiculed for insisting that the radiation unleashed at Chernobyl didn't reach France, though neighboring countries all said it passed through their skies.

France's 25 nuclear power plants are generally considered safe and, according to

the French power company EDF, provide 77 percent of France's electricity.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Florence Lepany-Duval, asked why the government decided to hand out the pills last year and now, said Gaymard chose the Chernobyl anniversary to enact recommendations that scientists made when he took office in October 1995.

She said French nuclear reactors posed no new threat.

The country has never suffered a life-threatening nuclear accident, but its nuclear plants have not been accident-free.

One in Grenoble, which is the world's largest fast-breeder reactor, was shut down for two months in 1995 after a leak developed in a steam generator.

And there have been recent reports that people living near France's nuclear waste treatment facility at La Hague, in Normandy, were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation.

Last week, a research group said people walking on a beach near the plant were exposed to radioactivity up to 3,000 times higher than usual because a waste-filled pipe had been uncovered by low tides.

Medicare tangles with HMOs

By LAURA MECKLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — For

more than a year, Medicare has promised a better appeals system for elderly patients denied care by their HMOs. Now a federal judge is trying to take the problem out of the government's hands.

In a recent ruling, a federal district judge required Medicare to speed its appeals process when services are "urgently needed." And he ordered, down to the last detail, how Medicare should tell patients why health care services are being denied.

Denial notices shall be in writing, issued within five days and "on a clear, readable form ... in at least 12 point type," U.S. District Judge Alfredo C. Marquez ordered in a nationwide class-action suit filed in Tucson, Ariz.

But the government says it is about to release its own regulations to clarify patient rights — leaving confusion over which rules, the

judge's or the government's, managed care must follow.

"It's very messy right now," said Mary Ellen Bliss, who tracks the issue for the American Association of Retired Persons.

About 13 percent of Medicare beneficiaries now choose health maintenance organizations, or HMOs, which usually offer extra benefits but exercise greater control over health services. Auditors say that number is growing, and most plans to save money from Medicare involve moving more people into managed care.

But when those patients are denied care, it often takes months for their complaints to make their way through several levels of appeal — even if the care is needed immediately.

In addition, the denial notices are often incomprehensible.

"I've heard of denials taking the form of: 'Procedure 70471 is not covered.' How do you know why

the procedure was denied?" she said.

In urgent cases, the court requires an expedited review process so patients do not have to wait: HMOs must rule on appeals within 13 days, and if the care is still denied, a second, federal review panel has 10 days to make a decision.

In a typical case, a patient might need rehabilitation therapy after a stroke, said attorney Sally Hart Wilson of Tucson, who represented plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit.

"If they have to wait six months or a year, it's a catch-22 because it's too late to do any good," she said.

The government has not decided yet whether to appeal the Arizona decision, which affects all Medicare patients, although it recognizes there is a problem with the appeals process. The administration promised action in response to a critical internal

report in December.

"We agree with the conclusion of your report that improvements are needed and are working to implement a number of your recommendations," said Bruce Vladeck, administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, which runs Medicare.

For instance, the report by the Health and Human Services inspector general found that 34 of 41 beneficiaries surveyed said they were never told why a referral to a specialist was denied.

The court ruling aside, Medicare patients in HMOs already have significantly greater appeal rights than other managed care patients, who usually are stuck with HMO decisions. Medicare patients have two levels of appeal outside the HMO, by a medical-expert panel and by an administrative law judge. Medicare beneficiaries also can

leave HMOs for the traditional fee-for-service plan, where the government pays their health care bills one at a time and imposes fewer restrictions.

But that won't help patients like one woman who was put on a ventilator to breathe and was headed to a nursing home, Bliss said. She wanted to go to a special program that would wear her off the ventilator but the HMO refused to pay the extra cost. Ultimately, the family got a court order forcing the payment, and the patient eventually breathed on her own again.

Stories like that make it difficult to persuade more senior citizens to choose managed care, Bliss said.

"This kind of thing does frighten people when they hear it, and I think some should be legitimately frightened," she said. "There is potential for enormous benefit but there have to be safeguards."

Report: Comatose victim dies

ROCHESTER, New York (AP) —

A comatose woman who was raped and gave birth to a child while in a vegetative state has died, according to a newspaper report.

The 30-year-old woman, known only as Kathy, died within the past few days at an undisclosed health care facility, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported Tuesday. She had been in a coma since December 1985.

The cause of death was not disclosed. The family apparently withheld news of her death in order to have a private funeral,

the newspaper said.

The child she gave birth to, referred to in court as "Baby Doe", turns 1 on Tuesday. He was born with a congenital heart defect and underwent his second surgery on Feb. 27, the same day a state Supreme Court jury convicted John Horace of raping and sexually abusing Kathy.

The incident took place at a nursing home in August 1995 where Horace worked as a certified nursing assistant. He faces a maximum of 25 years in prison at his March 27 sentencing.

Kathy's case made medical his-

tory. Never before had a woman in a comatose condition become pregnant and given birth, physicians said.

An attorney for the woman's family, John Parinello, told The Associated Press late Monday that the family asked him not to confirm her death, or any information about her. Kathy's son now lives with his maternal grandmother.

Kathy was a 19-year-old student at Cornell University when she suffered a severe brain injury in an auto accident in 1985. The injury left her comatose.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

from the family of the late

FREDERICA VILLAGOMEZ DIAZ

Ika



Although God has called our beloved Frederica to His Eternal Kingdom, she will forever live in our hearts, and those she touched, for indeed she was truly a special person.

The untimely death of our beloved Frederica has been very difficult for us. To all our families, relatives and friends who shared our sorrow and grief in our most darkest days, we humbly and profoundly extend our sincere appreciation and heartfelt si Yu'us Ma'ase to you all. We are deeply touched and forever grateful for your kind and boundless generosity and caring that has given us strength to move on. We shall assure you of our continued prayers.

We also extend our appreciation to His Excellency Tomas Camacho, Father Isaac Ayuyu and Father Joe David of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Our Techa Mrs. Marian (Dema) Sablan, CHC Hemo Dialysis and Referral Staff, Hawaii Marianas Liason Staff, Straub Hospital and the Renal Treatment Center in Honolulu, and finally to all those who contributed one way or another.

Thank You So Much!

Un dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

GLENN DALEY BUTTERIS

Born: July 9, 1929

formerly of Dodgeville, Wisconsin; was called to his eternal rest on Sunday, March 16, 1997, at Garapan, Saipan, at the age of 67.

He is predeceased by his:

Parents : Milton Charles and Esther Hannah Butteris of Dodgeville, Wisconsin
Brother-in-law : Clifford King (Dodgeville, Wisconsin)
Parents-in-law : Leonardo Camacho and Ignacia Celis Cabrera (Saipan)

He is survived by his Wife : Victorina (Vicky) Cabrera Butteris.

Children & Spouses & Grandchildren:

Susan Kay B. & Mark McCoy (Redwood City, CA); John Edward & Kim Butteris: Paul, Drew & Esai Daley (Apache OK); Jerry Lee & Julie Butteris: Kelli & Andy (San Diego, CA); Jean Butteris (Kailua Kona, HI); Darrin Joplin Cabrera Butteris: Devon Jordan Guerrero (Garapan, Saipan)

Brothers, Sisters, In-laws & Spouses:

Gary & Karen Butteris (Dodgeville, WI); William & Lorrie Butteris (Colorado Springs); Donald & Pat Buckingham (Dodgeville, WI); Maynard & Judy Shephard (Platteville, WI); Mary Butteris King (Dodgeville, WI); Calistro S. & Eugenia C. Cepeda (Saipan); Pedro W. & Margarita C. Torres (Saipan); Vicente P. & Remedios C. Diaz (Guam); Francisco W. & Diana C. Torres (Saipan); Juan C. Cabrera (Saipan); Juan S. & Dolores C. Camacho (Saipan); Mark I. & Bernadita C. Palacios (Saipan); Pedro C. Cabrera (Saipan)

Reared Brother-in-law: Jesus T. Teregeyo (Namba)

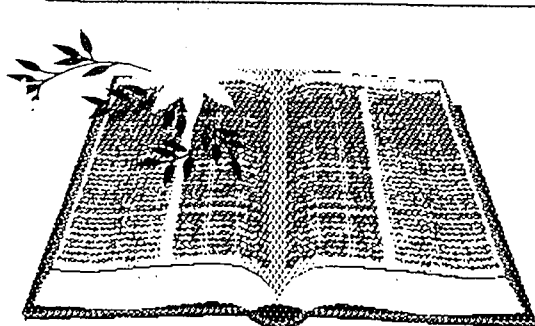
He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Holy rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 pm at the family residence in Garapan, Saipan (behind Downtown Duty Free Shoppers).

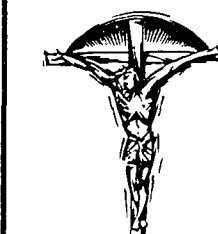
Last respects may be paid on Monday, March 24, 1997, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the family residence. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan at 4:00 p.m. Interment services will follow immediately after mass at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

From the Family



DEATH ANNIVERSARY ROSARY



We, the Husband and Children of the Late

**ANA BOKI
BABAUTA**

wish to extend our profound invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us in the nightly rosary commemorating her FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY at 8:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at the family residence in San Roque.

On the final day, Wednesday, March 26, 1997, the rosary will be said at 4:00 p.m. at the family residence followed by the mass of intention at 5:00 p.m. at the San Roque Church.

Appreciation dinner will be served after the mass at the family residence.

Please join us in prayers

THANK YOU/SI YU'US MA'ASE
MANUEL M. BABAUTA & CHILDREN

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ROSA CASTRO BLAS

better known as "ROSAN MATIAS" of San Vicente was called to her eternal rest on Saturday, March 15, 1997 at the age of 52.

PREDECEASED BY HER:

Father: Matias Castro
Mother: Juana Lizama Castro
Father-in-law: Juan Santos Blas

SURVIVED BY HER:

Husband: Luis P. Blas
Children/Spouses/Grandchildren: Juan C. Blas, John Gilbert C. Blas, Basilio C. Blas & Paulyn Kapileo (Rosallyn/Leo), Raymond C. Blas & Guadalupe Dela Cruz (Stephanie/Renee), Harry S. & Ann Marie B. Moses (Ruby Jean/Johnny/Nadia), Luis C. Blas, Christine C. Blas & Marvin Ada (Keolani), Vincent C. Blas

Mother-in-law: Ana P. Blas

Brothers/Sisters-in-law/Spouses: Isabel Rios, Maria B. & Joaquin R. Sablan, Manuel P. & Antonia B. Blas, Dolores B. & Manuel Babauta, Rosa B. & Leonardo V. Salalia, & Nicolas P. Blas

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel P. Blas (Captain Blas) in San Vicente. Last respect will be paid at said residence on Friday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m. to Saturday, March 22, 1997 at 2:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 3:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. Interment will immediately follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0094
FOR: LEASE OF A VEHICLE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.)

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0096
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.)

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ITB No.: RFP97-0095
FOR: CLEANING SERVICES
OPENING DATE: April 04, 1997
TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR CLEANING SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Division of Procurement and Supply



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If you don't have access to a FAX machine. Call 234-9797/6341/7578 and a representative will help you place your ad over the phone.

Marianas Variety News & Views

FAX your ad to 234-9271

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It can also help you reduce your weight.

And since a 12-year study shows that being 40% or more overweight puts you at high risk, it makes sense to follow these guidelines for healthy living! Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins A and C—orange, cantaloupe, strawberries, peaches, apricots, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, cabbage. Eat a high-fiber, low-fat diet that includes whole-grain breads and cereals such as oatmeal, bran and wheat. Eat lean meats, fish, skinned poultry and low-fat dairy products. Drink alcoholic beverages only in moderation.

For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Created by Lois Pitts Gershon Pon GKG

Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1

day, complete with a Sekisui press release that contains a material misleading statement," Pierce said.

In the release, Sekisui was said to have informed Tenorio that no funds would be provided to him.

Citing Tenorio's case, Pierce said Sekisui's mistatement coupled with its obvious intent to injure Tenorio raises legitimate questions as to whether Sekisui supports another candidate or simply aims to discredit the governor.

To house . . .

Continued from page 1

sion is currently losing money, Tenorio added, and has to be subsidized by the power division, which is making money.

Tenorio said separating the divisions into agencies on their own would lead to reduced power rates. "It's common sense."

He said his E.O. is "in the spirit" of the Interior Department-CUC partnership agreement, and would lead to an eventual privatization of the utility company.

There is nothing unusual with his E.O., he said, citing the example of Guam, which has separate power and water agencies.

With the CUC's present set-up, power consumers are subsidizing water and sewer operations.

"That's not fair," Tenorio said.

Audit . . .

Continued from page 1

The contracts were made for consultation, legal services, formulation of policies and procedures, staff development, diagnostic services, and manpower services.

OPA found that the government made full substantial payments totalling \$253,000 to several contractors despite their failure to complete the scope of work and to submit contract deliverables required under professional services contracts.

The contractors concerned are Gregorio C. Sablan, which had two contracts for the preparation of health insurance program; B&M Consulting Services; DC Consulting; JR & Associates; and the International Management, Ltd.

Investigations were prompted by requests made by House

Utility . . .

Continued from page 1

mingled with the funds of Yi or Pry.

Long stated that the lease does not provide for forfeiture of the security deposits upon eviction or earlier termination of the lease.

Lee and Baula Int'l. operated a business in the premises leased from Yi.

Long said on Jan. 1, 1995, Yi or Pry America or both, cut off the utilities to the premises leased by Lee.

The cutting off of the utilities, Long said, disrupted Lee's busi-

ness and prevented them from operating their establishment. The cutting off of utilities, Long added, constitutes a wrongful eviction of Lee from the premises.

The lawyer said the lease for the premises did not authorize the lessor to commingle the security deposits. The conversion of deposits was intentional and malicious entitling Lee to punitive damages, the lawyer said.

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Presbyterians ban gay ordinations

By DAVID BRIGGS

IN a major setback to Christian gay-rights activists, a ban on the ordination of homosexuals will become church law in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The ban got the majority it needed Tuesday with approvals from regional bodies in Miami and Charlotte, N.C. The Book of Order — the church's constitution — will be changed to require chastity of single ministers.

"It says to the country that Presbyterians are committed to reaffirming their biblical center for faith and practice," said the Rev. Jack Haberer, moderator of The Presbyterian Coalition, a group favoring the amendment.

However, Scott Anderson, co-moderator of Presbyterians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, said the change will force more gay and lesbian Presbyterians out of the 2.7 million-member church.

"It's one more club that has been used to beat up gay and lesbian people in the Presbyterian church," he said.

An announcement of the vote is not expected for another week or two as votes are sent to church headquarters in Louisville. But advocacy groups said the 172 districts so far have voted 88 in favor and 60 against.

The United Church of Christ is the only major Protestant denomination to permit the ordination of homosexuals. Opinion polls show a majority of people in the pews oppose having gay and lesbian ministers.

But the issue continues to convulse mainline Protestantism.

In a decision last May that averted the first here-say trial of an Episcopal bishop since the 1920s, a church court ruled that Episcopal doctrine does not explicitly bar the ordination of practicing gays. It also declared a 1979 resolution against the ordination of non-clerical gays is nonbinding.

The Presbyterian General Assembly, the church's chief legislative body, in 1993 affirmed past church policies forbidding the ordination of non-clerical homosexuals. The church's Book of Order, however, has not specifically addressed the issue of gay ordinations.

Last year, after a three-year churchwide study of sexuality, the General Assembly sent out a proposed constitutional amendment forbidding the ordination of individuals who fail to live "either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness."

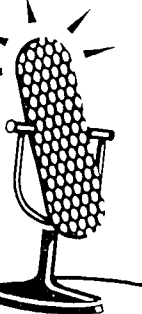
In practice, what the amendment does is give church policy banning gay ordinations the "status of church law," said spokesman Jerry Van Marter.

"I feel grateful that we are here because there's been a lot of struggle for a lot of years for a lot of years," said Haberer, of Clear Lake Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Haberer predicts "a couple of years worth of skirmishes" to test the strength of the amendment, but said its passage should settle the issue.

But Anderson said activists have no plans to give up. In addition to the 60 votes against the amendment, he said there was significant opposition in many church bodies that voted for it.

"The Presbyterian church is a house divided, a church divided, right now," he said.



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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0095
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE LEASE OF VEHICLES.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.)

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP97-0078
FOR: NETWORK INSTALLATIONS-ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
OPENING DATE: MARCH 28, 1997
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR NETWORK INSTALLATIONS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY



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Power 99 is looking for a few good people.

Are you motivated? Do you like to meet new people? Are you experienced in sales? Do you like to have fun while you're working?

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Stop what you're doing and drop your resume off at Power 99 now!

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LOCAL HIRE ONLY

- high school graduate
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Dan Dan (Across Ben-Ki Store)
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Needed for diversified Retail/Wholesale Company. Qualified candidate will have a strong financial background and 5 years experience. Strong budgeting, financial, and supervisory skills needed. Prior retail experience a plus. CPA and/or MBA preferred.

Fax resume and salary requirements to:
Chief Financial Officer
Joeten Enterprises, Inc.
01

Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: CAMACHO INVESTMENT CORPORATION dba Summer Holiday Hotel Tel. 234-3182(3/14)F228158

01 SUPERVISOR, FRONT DESK-Salary: \$3.05-8.37 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hafadai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495(3/21)F64737

01 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN CO. LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234(3/21)F64738

03 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: LANDSCAPERS MICRONESIA CORP. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228380

05 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$800.00 per month
02 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 AUTO DENTER/REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 CABLE SPLICER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$700.00 per month
01 MANAGER (COMMUNICATION)-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month
04 CABLE SPLICER HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ORIENTAL ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Marianas Communication Services Tel. 234-7878(3/21)F64743

01 ACCOUNTANT, SYSTEMS-Salary: \$5.20 per hour
Contact: IT&E Overseas, Inc. No phone calls please, applicant must apply in person(3/21)F64752

01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN DOLPHIN CORPORATION dba Dolphin Wholesale Tel. 234-6067(3/21)F228236

01 CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.10 per hour
01 H.E. OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CORP. Tel. 235-5086(3/21)F228238

01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: MASCO CORP. Tel. 235-2998(3/21)F228239

02 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARGARITA R. TENORIO dba Saipan Office Supply Tel. 234-3021(3/21)F228240

02 TOUR MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: WOO YOUNG (SAIPAN) LTD. dba Doremi Gift Shop Tel. 235-4625(3/21)F228241

02 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: 1,000.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC SUN ENTERPRISES Tel. 235-4625(3/21)F228242

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$1,100.00-1,900.00 per month
Contact: SHIMIZU CORPORATION Tel. 234-5438(3/21)F228243

02 STORE ROOM MANAGER-Salary: \$7.00-10.00 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC ISLAND AVIATION, INC. Tel. 234-3600(3/21)F64755

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HOON CORPORATION dba Lion Tour Tel. 288-8866(3/28)F228398

02 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
02 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: HOON CORPORATION dba Lion Tours Tel. 288-8844(3/28)F228376

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.00-3.50 per hour
01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
06 MUSICIAN-Salary: \$800.00-900.00 per month
03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: K.S.L. CORPORATION dba Royal Taga Beach Rest. Tel. 234-5704(3/28)F228377

05 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
05 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: IHA PAINTS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228379

01 PAINT MIXER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: IHA PAINTS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228379

06 LANDSCAPE GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: LANDSCAPERS MICRONESIA CORP. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228380

02 DIVING INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$600.00 per month
Contact: BLUE HORIZON ENT., INC. dba MSE Diving Tel. 234-7871(3/28)F228383

10 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PALACE CORPORATION Tel. 234-2677(3/28)F228384

02 MASSEUR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIRAGE CORPORATION Tel. 233-4137(3/28)F228385

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: EQUITABLE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. Tel. 235-5452(3/28)F228386

30 SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TAGA INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT & MANPOWER TEL. 233-8242(3/28)F228387

01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN ALUMINUM & GLASS COMPANY Tel. 233-2410(3/28)F228388

04 AUTO BODY BUILDER(REPAIR)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN SAI-YUE IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION LTD. Tel. 288-8686(3/28)F228390

01 PROPERTY MANAGER-Salary: \$1,500.00-1,800.00 per month
Contact: MAC HOMES (SAIPAN) CO., LTD. Tel. 234-9100(3/28)F228391

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.75 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 233-7814(3/28)F228393

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 233-7814(3/28)F228394

01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION dba Choi's Tour Tel. 235-0405(3/28)F228395

04 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SE JIN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/28)F228396

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS SANSHO CORP. dba Cocunut-Tel Rest. Tel. 664-2265(4/4)F228523

01 HOUSEWORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 STOCK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HAN NAM CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228244

02 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE EAGLE CORPORATION dba Philippine Eagle Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-0928(3/21)F228245

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$9.80 per hour
Contact: HANA SAIPAN, INC. dba Hana Restaurant Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228246

01 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: SE JIN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228247

01 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 WAITRESS(NC)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ACTIVE CORPORATION dba Blue Lagoon Nightclub Tel. 234-0405(3/21)F228248

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$800.00-1,500.00 per month
01 ASSISTANT CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$800.00-1,500.00 per month
Contact: STRINGSTONE ENTERPRISES INC. dba Bistro Tel. 233-0640(3/21)F228251

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: JESSIE A. & MARIA C. ARIZALA dba Systems Services Co. Tel. 234-6334(3/21)F228253

04 DIVE MASTER (RECREATIONAL)-Salary: \$1,250.00 per month
Contact: ALL AMERICAN DIVERS, INC. Tel. 233-7056(3/21)F228252

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
02 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba LaoLao Bay Golf Resort Tel. 256-8888(3/28)F64898

01 AUDIT MANAGER-Salary: \$28.85 per hour
Contact: DELOITTE & TOUCHE Tel. 322-7337(3/28)F64907

01 SWIMMING POOL SERVICER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311 Ext. 2020(3/28)F64910

02 LABORER, CEMENT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
01 LABORER, CEMENT-Salary: \$4.25 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA CEMENT CO., INC. Tel. 322-3333(3/28)F64912

01 SALES PERSON-Salary: \$3.05-6.00 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601Ext112(3/28)F64920

01 RETAIL STORE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: INTER GLOBAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-4213(3/28)F64924

01 HEAVY EQUIP OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: IGNACIO P. AGBANLOG dba Agbanlog Ent. Inc. Tel. 235-5737(3/28)F228373

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: STERLING DEV. CO., INC. dba Help Supply Services Tel. 235-5737(3/28)F228374

02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROSVIECAR CORPORATION dba Rose Beauty and Barbershop Tel. 234-7858(3/28)F228375

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.

WANTED

ALL AMERICAN DIVERS
Needs a SALES PERSON
who dives; would like to dive, or just
earn money. Japanese Speaking
Tel. 233-7056 10:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
LOCAL HIRE ONLY

WANTED

HOUSEWORKER

with experience. Please call tel.
233-2350 after 4:00 p.m.

UPGRADE NOW!!

8 MB RAM-\$99
16 MB RAM - \$199
(72 pin EDO Simms)
Call: 433-0674 after 6 pm

CAR FOR SALE

1984 Mercedes Benz, 190E-2.3
Excellent condition, brand new
Mercedes Benz engine installed
December 1996, New CD player,
and much more...
Please call 233-2662 after
6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of
ESTEBAN I. PANGELINAN,
Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1133

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Asuncion P. Pangelinan, administratrix of the Estate of Esteban I. Pangelinan, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against decedent, that within sixty days after the first publication of this notice, creditors of the decedent file their claims with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands located in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

Dated this 6th day of March, 1997

/s/ ASUNCION P. PANGELINAN
Administratrix

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Studio Type \$300.00 a month
Unfurnished, Free Power, Free Water
(24 hrs), with aircon, Free Cable.
Tanapag Area
Call Ron Mandel: 234-6401 to 06 (day);
322-2348 (evening)

CAR FOR SALE

1991 MAZDA 626, SILVER COLOR, 4 DOOR,
AUTOMATIC WINDOWS AND DOOR LOCKS, AUTO
TRANSMISSION, AC, GOOD CONDITION ASKING
\$4,500.00
PLEASE CONTACT: DENICE AT 288-3442
(BETWEEN 8:00-5:00) OR AFTER 6:00 PM AT 256-1222

OFFICE SPACE

FOR RENT

1200 Sq. Ft. located at the
Flame Tree
Terrace Office Bldg., First Floor
Lower Capitol Hill
For more information,
call tel. #322-3366/5558
Fax 322-3886

Wanted: Apartments/Houses to Rent

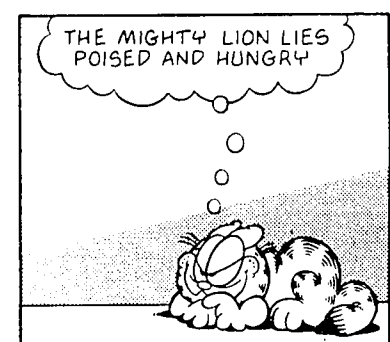
A government agency is looking for two houses or
two 2-bedroom apartments to rent, preferably
furnished and available by May 1, 1997.

Interested parties may call any of the following
phone nos. 234-6481 or 234-8662.

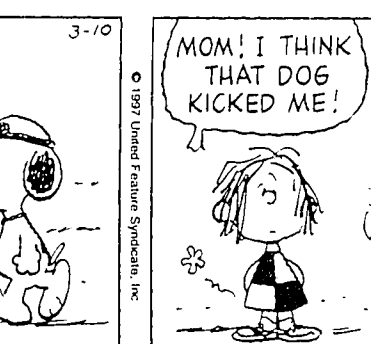
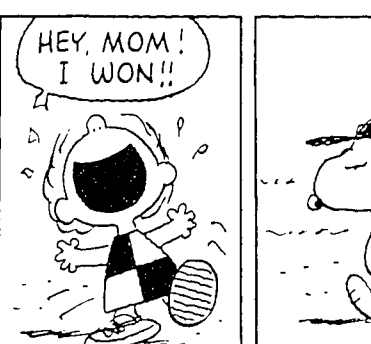
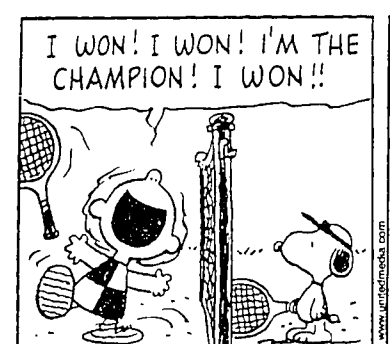
EEK & MEEK®



Garfield®



PEANUTS®



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you can be quite difficult to figure out, and indeed, your many moods may well be too numerous to count! You seem to be one thing one day and another thing the next — even within a single day you may be so changeable as to be virtually unpredictable. Further, you have something of a chameleon quality which enables you to change your manner, and even sometimes your appearance at the drop of a hat, seeming at once to be both yourself and someone else depending upon whom you may be talking to at the time. Some may actually think there is something mysterious and magical about you — indeed there may be!

Others are going to have to put up with your needs and desires — and the way you express them each and every day, as you're not likely to hide them from anyone at any time. You make things abundantly clear to anyone who will listen, yet you also have a great deal of personal style and charm.

Also born on this date are: Matthew Broderick, Timothy Dalton, actors; Peter Brook, director; Cesar Chavez, labor leader.

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 22
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — No one is likely to read you like a book today. You are going to want to remain rather aloof, thinking yourself safer that way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone may think you come on too strong today, but the majority of those with whom you come in contact will respond most favorably to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Yes, you're going to be able to continue your remarkable record of success for at least one more day. Do not be disappointed if your energy wanes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be quite restless and prone to brooding and depression today. That person you count on to cheer you up may not be able to do so.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your idealism is likely to rise to the surface today, and you may be rather disoriented temporarily as a result.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You will likely be subjected to all manner of influences today, from the interpersonal to the environ-

by Howie Schneider



by Jim Davis

by Charles M. Schulz

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 No man — island
- 5 Filmdom spy
- 9 Sports org
- 12 Clinton's Election Day opponent
- 13 Ox of Celebes
- 14 Globe
- 15 Sends forth
- 17 Holiday
- 19 Allowance for waste
- 21 — Patrick's Day
- 22 Abased
- 26 Spielberg ID
- 27 Regions
- 28 M-Q linkup
- 30 Torrid
- 33 Yes (Sp.)
- 34 Recipient of a bequest
- 37 Riller ID
- 38 That woman
- 40 Johnson of

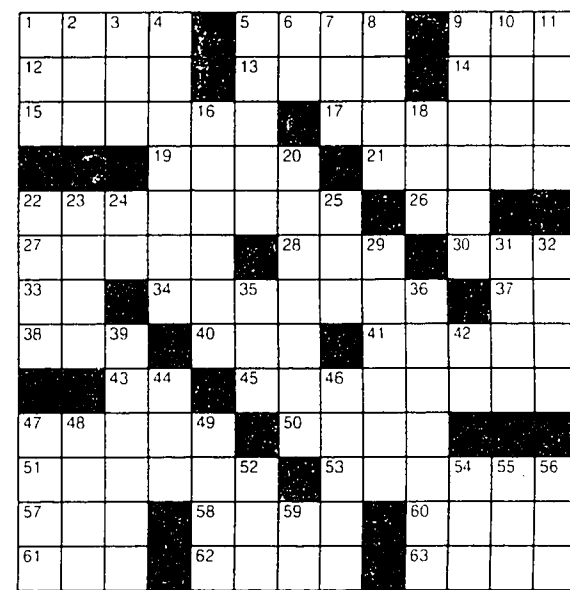
DOWN

- 1 — Amin
- 2 Distress signal
- 3 Pacino, et al
- 4 Neither side
- 5 Founded
- 6 Running
- 7 — Hill (San Francisco)
- 8 Platform
- 9 Word with shoe or nail building
- 10 Facial expression
- 11 Place — (gamble)
- 16 Wiped out
- 18 — Vegas
- 20 Occupation of building
- 23 — Canal
- 24 Earth goddess
- 25 Period
- 29 Wig
- 31 Or hearing organs
- 32 Helen of —
- 35 Tibetan gazelle
- 36 Range of hearing
- 39 — skates
- 42 Prosecutor (abbr.)
- 44 — a la mode
- 46 Actor Nicolas and family
- 47 Motion picture
- 48 Arrow, poison
- 49 On one's toes
- 52 Opp. of NNW
- 54 Body of water
- 55 A rose —
- 56 Trcheon
- 59 TV's Blonic Woman (units)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

BAH ORATE NED
ORE VANNALORE
WELFARE REINS
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LU VIAL SENDS
EXPENSES MAYIS
AIDS UNIT
CABLE PROLONG
AIL ESTEE MIA
PRO ROARS YAM

3-21 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

TOP TO BOTTOM

TOP

STARTING WITH THE TOP LETTER ADD ANOTHER LETTER TO MAKE A WORD. KEEP ADDING A LETTER UNTIL YOU END UP WITH THE WORD HEART.

BOTTOM

IN THE BOTTOM HALF, DROP ONE LETTER AT A TIME UNTIL YOU END UP WITH THE LETTER AT THE BOTTOM.

HEART

HERE'S ONE SOLUTION: TOP: HE, HER, HEAR, BOT-

"SENSATIONAL! A THRILLING PLOT!"

SCREEN

THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED NEW THRILLER FROM WES CRAVEN

THE MOVIE HOUSE

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Thursday 7:00
Friday 7:00 9:30
Saturday 3:00 7:00 9:30

Mariners pin hopes on new pitchers

By JIM COUR
PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) - Looking around their new locker room, Jeff Fassero and Scott Sanders say they're going to be happy in Seattle.

"A majority of the time, they're going to be scoring six, seven, eight runs a game," Fassero said. "So it'll be nice."

Fassero, the Mariners' main offseason acquisition, will be their first-game starter on April 1 because Randy Johnson, the 1995 AL Cy Young Award winner, is coming off back surgery.

"He (Fassero) was probably the best left-hander in the National League, and I said that before I came over here," said Sanders, another new addition to Seattle's rotation.

"Everybody says Seattle's pitching was weak last year, but now they've added myself and Scott and they've also got Dennis Martinez here," Fassero said.

With Johnson limited to only eight starts last season, the Mariners' record-shattering hitters couldn't overcome their starting pitching.

Manager Lou Piniella appeared to age daily throughout the summer as he tried to fill the void created by the loss of Johnson. When it was over, the Mariners had failed to defend their AL West championship.

This spring, Johnson is being brought along slowly by Piniella, who knows he must have a healthy Johnson if his club is going to have any chance of getting to the World Series. Unlike last season, Piniella has experienced starters.

In '96, the Mariners used 15 starters, and their staff had a 5.70 ERA.

So, in addition to trading for Fassero and Sanders, the Mariners re-signed Jamie Moyer, a left-hander who was 13-3 with Boston and Seattle last season.

They added Martinez, who has 240 career victories, as a free agent this spring.

At 41, Martinez is trying to become the Mariners' No. 5 starter after missing most of the second half of last season in Cleveland because of an ailing right elbow. On Tuesday, he gave up five runs on eight hits in four innings in a 10-6 exhibition victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Fassero, 34, who signed a three-year contract for \$13.5 million, hopes Martinez has enough left to join him in Seattle's starting rotation along with Sanders.

"If all three of us can pitch the way we've pitched in the past and Randy comes back and Jamie does what he did last year, I can't see us losing a whole lot of games," Fassero said.

Ken Griffey Jr., Jay Buhner, Alex Rodriguez and Dan Wil-

and Jay Moreshta knocked in 12, 11 and 10 points as the Sunrises leaned on a balanced scoring for the rousing win.

Lizama pumped in a game high 34 points while Gary Lashley added 26 but their efforts went to naught as the Islanders couldn't avoid absorbing their second consecutive loss in the semis.

It was a sorry night for Lizama

as his two teams were eliminated on the same night. Lizama is the coach of the Rising Stars aside from playing with the Islanders team.

In tonight's featured games, defending champions and pennant winners UMDA Aces will face Lite O' Aces in the first game at 7 while the Toyota Wheels take on the MGD Brothers in the nightcap.

If 19...QR-B1. White has 20. Q-N4 P-KN3 21. N-N5+ K-K1 22. RxR+ QxR 23. QxQ#

20. Q-N4 P-KN3 21. N-N5+ K-K1 22. RxN+ K-B1
If 22...QxR 23. RxR+ wins at once. If 22...KxR White wins by 23. R-K1+ K-Q3 (23...K-Q1 24. N-K6+ K-K2 25. N-B5+) 24. Q-N4+ K-B2 25. N-K6+ K-N1 26. Q-B4+ R-B2 27. NxR.

As it is, White is threatened with mate and all four of his pieces are en prise.

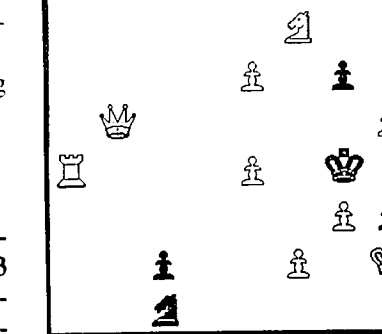
23. R-B7+ K-N1 24. R-N7+ K-R1 25. RxP+ (1-0)

After 25...K-N1, there is remarkably brilliant mate in 10, or a win of Black's queen, as demonstrated by Steinitz at that time: 26. R-N7+ K-R1 27. Q-R4+ KxR 28. Q-R7+ K-B1 29. Q-R8+ K-K2 30. Q-N7+ K-K1 31. Q-N8+ K-K2 32. Q-B7+ K-Q1 33. Q-B8+ Q-K1 34. N-B7+ K-Q2 35. Q-K6#

Puzzler. We're still getting solutions to last week's puzzle, so why not run it once again:

White to play and mate in two. Answers should be sent to "64" c/o The Marianas Variety, P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed through 234-9271.

You can also send your solution via e-mail; our address is <younis@ntccnmi.com>



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You can also send your solution via e-mail; our address is <younis@ntccnmi.com>

19th... Continued from page 48

tants in the 50 and above age range. Entries in the Masters events will swim a distance of 1.3 kilometers while the Seniors will cover a distance of 2.6 kilometers.

In the Open division, it will be battle of stamina and endurance as entries will have to go through a four to five kilometer-course.

Except in the Masters and Open 4-5 KM, each age group race will

Unbeaten... Continued from page 48

Kagman Lions will try to notch their second win in three games by going up against winless Garapan Pirates.

The Lions are coming off to a heartbreaking 9-10 loss in the previous week and a win will definitely keep the team within the leaders.

The Pirates, the 1996 season runners-up, hope to end a two game losing skid as they take on the Lions at 11 a.m.

The St. Jude Hustlers aim to put up back to back wins by squaring with the Kautz Glass Tigers at 1 p.m.

Against the Tigers, the Hustlers are slightly favored due to their even 1-1 slate. The Kautz Glass team, on the other hand, is still winless in two games.

In the American Division, only two teams will end the week with an unbeaten slate as defending champions, the San Roque D-9ers face un-

Stevedores... Continued from page 48

double digit spread.

With 4:59 left in the ballgame, Ed Diaz connected on a three-point attempt to give Saipan Stevedore a 99-82 lead and seal the victory for his team.

In the return play, Cosino was fouled on his way to a three-point shot. The ball went in giving Cosino the chance to complete a rare four point play but the FT/SNE slotman missed his bonus shot.

It proved to FT/SNE's last stand as Saipan Stevedore simply ran the clock for the 105-96 win.

Playing Tony Sablan attributed the victory to his players and at the same time gave credit to their opponents. "We are really proud of the win. The boys played team basketball not only during the championship series but for the whole season. We were able to stick with our game plan: that is to be patient on defense and go for the open man for offense. I also would like to give recognition to the way FT/SNE played. They are really a good team and a worthy opponent," Sablan said.

ICBL president Abner Venus said that overall, the tournament was a big success for the fledgling basketball league. "Despite our on and off problems with officials, I think the league went just fine," Venus said. "We are looking forward to ICBL's second tournament," Venus added.

sportsbits

Club 10's March Ace Tournament

The Club 10 will hold its March Ace Tournament this tomorrow, March 22 at the Marianas Country Club.

Tee off time will be at 6:30 a.m. All participants are requested to be at the greens at 5:50 a.m.

For more information, please contact: Annie Pickelsimer (664-2286); Rudy Sablan (234-6495); Perry Tenorio (664-3226); and Jack Tenorio (234-9023).

ICBL's 2nd Tournament

Immediately after the 1997 Budweiser Cup title series, the ICBL will hold its second tournament of the year at the CMS Basketball Court.

All interested teams are advised to submit their lineups to ICBL president Abner Venus or to Archie del Rosario of CMS. Entry fee is pegged at \$900 per team.

For more information, please contact Venus at 234-5911 or del Rosario at 234-6136. (EAC)

be held separately. Entries in the Masters events will start at the same time.

The Ocen Swim will have the Open Race as its opening event.

Medals will be given to the first six finishers in each age group in an awards presentation to be held in the evening of the same day. Teams and individuals are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact SSC president and coach Bill Sakovich at 234-1001 or 234-1002.

beaten Tanapag Falcons in the first game while pacesetter San Antonio Cardinals tangle with Dandan Jets in the second game.

The D-9ers, 2-0, are expected to encounter a rough sailing against the Falcons, 2-0, who are expected to start pitcher Maynard San Nicolas.

Equally anticipated will be the matchup between the Cardinals and the Jets.

The Cardinals stormed to their third straight win after blasting to smithereens the YCO/BK Youth Servistar, 22-1. The Jets, however, are no pushover, as the Dandan team is coming off to a rousing 11-1 victory over the Braves for an impressive 2-0 start.

In the week's final game, the Youth Servistar and the CK/Moylan's Little Padres seek their first win of the season by taking on each other at 1 p.m.

Both teams sport identical 0-2 slates to share the cellar in the American Division.

For guiding his team to a 12-0 sweep, including the regular and playoffs, Sablan was the unanimous choice for the tournament's Best Coach Award.

Ed Diaz was named as the championship series' Most Valuable Player.

The Stevedore forward credited his extra efforts in polishing his game as the main reason for winning the coveted plum. "I believe that if you work to improve your skills, you will definitely get the most of it. It takes a lot of practice but I guess, it paid off," the soft spoken forward said.

Bubos topscored for the Stevedores with 30 points while Tony Diaz added 27. Ed Diaz chipped in 15 with Chesley and Vistal contributing 12 markers apiece.

Ed Cosino led FT/SNE's losing cause with 30 with Lloyd Hartman and Ric Alegre adding 16 and 15 respectively.

ICBL president Abner Venus said that overall, the tournament was a big success for the fledgling basketball league. "Despite our on and off problems with officials, I think the league went just fine," Venus said.

"We are looking forward to ICBL's second tournament," Venus added.

National Basketball Association

Clippers subdue Kings, 108-98

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Los Angeles Clippers may appear to be in good position for the playoffs. They are seventh in the Western Conference, holding a two-game lead over Sacramento and 2½ over Phoenix.

But the final two weeks of their regular-season schedule loom ahead like the final five minutes of an Alfred Hitchcock movie. Ten of the Clippers' last 14 games are on the road, including a seven-game Eastern swing. And they finish with Houston, the Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle.

"When the final game is played, then we're in. But we're not locked into anything," Malik Sealy said Wednesday night after his 27 points led the Clippers to a 108-98 victory over Sacramento. "One thing I've learned is that nothing is sure except death and taxes. And none of those apply to us making the playoffs right now."

The Clippers' 29th victory matched last season's total and gave them consecutive wins for the first time since a four-game streak at the end of February. It also gave them a little momentum going into Saturday's game at Utah, where they have lost 15 in a

row dating back to a 95-92 victory on April 18, 1989.

"I just tell them to forget the schedule," coach Bill Fitch said. "That's how important every game is. If you find somebody who says, 'We should beat these guys,' or 'We should beat those guys,' he probably drank too much coffee. I mean, it's human nature, but we don't dwell on it."

"Now we've got to play everybody who's going to be in the playoffs, and that'll decide whether we make the playoffs or not. Being on the road is going to be tough this time of the year, but we're a young team. And the more tough things we go through, the tougher we're going to be down the road."

Right after the All-Star break, Fitch handed his players the remaining schedules of all the playoff contenders in the conference and told them to look them over. That way, they would realize how arduous the road to their first playoff berth in four years was going to be.

"You don't have to be a genius to understand that we got dealt from a different deck when it comes to the schedule after the All-Star break," Fitch said. "We happen to be in a

season where they didn't know whether we were going to play here or Anaheim, and I think an awful lot of it is due to that. We got caught up in a competitive mess that way."

The entire season has been a challenge for the Clippers, who lost overweight centers Stanley Roberts and Kevin Duckworth with long-term injuries and had to force-feed No. 1 draft Lorenzen Wright in the pivot. But almost every night, Fitch has fielded a competitive team - despite having no more than a collection of hard-working role players and no marquee names.

"We're one of those teams where the parts alone don't give you an idea of what the total is going to bring," Fitch said. "Somewhere along the line, I think each

guy has picked it up. From the standpoint of work and guys doing their jobs, it's been kind of fun."

This time it was Sealy's turn. He scored 16 of his 27 points in the final 7:41 to help hold off the Kings, who never led in the second half despite getting as close as a point early in the fourth quarter.

Mitch Richmond, who led Sacramento with 29 points despite missing his first seven shots of the second half, tried to rally the Kings with a layup and 3-pointer that narrowed the gap to seven points with five minutes left.

But Sealy, who came within a point of his season high after playing nine scoreless minutes in the first half, responded with four free throws and a 3-pointer in a 36-second span, giving Los Angeles

a 105-93 lead with 1:57 left.

The Kings' seven-game losing skid is their longest since an 11-game slide in February of last season. They recovered in time from that one to earn their first playoff berth since 1986. But they are 0-9 on the road against Pacific Division opponents and still have to play the SuperSonics, Lakers and Golden State away from Arco Arena.

"I don't feel the same way I felt after those first five losses," said coach Garry St. Jean said. "I don't have a lot of problems with (Tuesday night's loss to Phoenix or the loss to the Clippers). I thought the guys played hard and we had chances to win both games. But you've got to make plays in the fourth quarter to win games, and our inability to do that hurt us."

GCS... Continued from page 48

In the second game, Jess Stole and Oscar Masga pumped in 22 points apiece while three more Sunrises turned in double-digit performances as the Solid Builders overhauled another big game from Ray Lizama.

Poland Yamada, Jerome Iakopo

64... Continued from page 48

Mark will soon head to Europe for a two-month chess campaign.

K-K in France? Chess Planet, FIDE's website, reported last week that PCA champ Gary Kasparov and FIDE champ Anatoly Karpov will play a match in Paris come October.

The match for the world title will be organized by the Municipality of Compiègne and local sponsors.

Napoleon Bonaparte used to live in Compiègne, and it is in his palace where the match will take place.

Prize fund is some \$3 million for the scheduled 18-game match.

FIDE officers said the world federation will recognize any match organized under its auspices.

China beats England. Recently, the Chinese team of GMs Wang Zili, Ye Jiangchuan and Peng Xiaomin took on English GMs Chris Ward (the current British champ), Neil McDonald and Keith Arkell in six matches held at the London School of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

China and England won three matches each, but China's 3-0 win in the first round enabled them to come on top with a total of 10 points vs. England's 8.

Considering the Chinese team's strength—since 1987, they have consistently landed on the top 5 or 10 in the Olympiad—it's surprising that they have yet to produce a player of world championship caliber.

However, they have more than 1 billion people, and it is not difficult to imagine a future Chinese



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SPORTS



1997 Budweiser Cup

Stevedores bag ICBL crown

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Stevedore-Budweiser launched a crippling 23-2 blast in the first six minutes of the final half to beat FT/SNE-Bud Ice, 105-96 last night for a 3-0 sweep of the Best of Five Championship Series and win the Inter Commercial Basketball League's 1997 Budweiser Cup at the CMS Bas-

ketball Court.

From a close 56-53 ballgame, Edwin Bubos scored on strong move towards the basket to trigger the decisive run as FT/SNE fell into a maze of turnovers and poor field goal shooting.

Their opponents failing to convert on their ball possessions, Saipan Stevedore, with Tony Diaz, Dado Vistal, David Chesley,

Noel Remolano and Bubos, went to its dreaded fluid motion offense to cushion a late surge by the Bud Ice team.

With the Stevedores scoring the game's last 18 points, Ed Cosino canned a perimeter jumper to end FT/SNE's long silence for a 21-point Stevedore lead with 13:40 left in the ballgame.

FT/SNE tried to comeback with

Cosino asserting his might underneath the boards but Diaz, with his gung-ho incursions, kept Bud-Ice at bay.

Diaz presided a 7-0 blitz as the Stevedores moved to a 23 point spread, 84-61 with 11:12 remaining and FT/SNE in penalty situation.

After Chesley converted two free throws, Peter Camacho

sparked a 9-2 FT/SNE counter offensive by nailing a short jumper. Then it was the Stevedores' turn to commit several turnovers and poor shot selection to allow their opponents to come within 17, 88-71, 7:10 remaining.

The Stevedores, however, took advantage of the FT/SNE's early foul troubles to maintain their

Continued on page 46



Goin' for the pin—Herman Guerrero (in red uniform) prepares to take down Jon Sana during a Group III match in the opening day of the NMIWF's Goodwill Dual Meet. The Wrestling Meet resumes tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

1997 Little League

Unbeaten teams in early showdown

TEAM STANDINGS					
American Division			National Division		
	W	L		W	L
SA Cardinals	3	0	San Vicente A's	2	0
San Roque D-9ers	2	0	MVR Ol' Aces	2	0
Dandan Jets	2	0	Kagman Lions	1	1
Tanapag Falcons	2	0	SJ Hustlers	1	1
CK Little Padres	0	3	Garapan Pirates	0	2
Kagman Braves	0	3	KG Tigers	0	2
YCO/BK YSS	0	3			

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE SAN VICENTE A's and MVR Ol' Aces part ways tomorrow as four other teams stake their undefeated slates as the 1997 Little League season enters its fourth week at the San Vicente Elementary School Ball Park.

The Athletics will face the Ol' Aces in the opener of an-

other triple header at 9 a.m. The A's will lean on ace pitcher Ray Dela Cruz as the San Vicente team guns for their third straight win.

The Ol' Aces, on the other hand, will parade Nelson Simon as they try to maintain their own unbeaten streak.

In the second game, the

Continued on page 46

Zaldy Dandan

Active chess on Sunday

THE CNMI Chess Association will resume its highly-popular weekly active chess tournaments Sunday, March 23rd, at the home of CNMI chess, Pinoy Special (formerly Rambi's Restaurant) along Beach road.

Play starts at 10 in the morning, and registration fee is \$6.

CNMI Chess Association (CCA) president Ely G. Buenaventura Jr. said time control will be set at 15 minutes per player per game. The number of rounds will depend on the number of participating players.

The Swiss system is the tournament format.

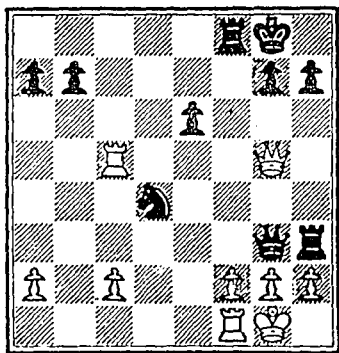
For more information, call Ely at 234-6070 or CCA officer Vic Braña at 234-6010.

Re our planned tournament for kids and teenagers, Ely said the opening date has been moved from March 30th to April 6th.

New RP open champ. GM Joey Antonio won this year's Far East Bank-Philippine Open tourney, besting GMs Eugenio Torre (the defending champ), Rosendo Balinas and visiting GMs Alexander Wojtkiewicz and S. Djuric.

Unheralded local players actually made their mark on the recently-concluded chess event—Arlan Cabe got his NM title while 13 year old prodigy Mark Paragua proved that his reputation as the country's brightest chess hope is well-earned.

Continued on page 46



Rising Stars, Islanders get the axe

GCS, Sunrisers advance

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

GET COVERED Surf and the Solid Builders Sunrisers beat separate rivals last Wednesday night to keep their championships bids alive in the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' 1997 Islandwide Men's Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Get Covered Surf rode on Edsel Mendoza's 24 points in shooting down the Rising Stars, 79-70 in the opener while the Sunrisers sent the Islanders packing, 92-83, in the other knockout affair.

Held to eight points in the opening half, Mendoza exploded for 16 in the final period as GCS sent the CNMI Youth Team to an early exit in the double round semifinals.

George Masga, Robert Quitugua and June Aaron provided solid support for GCS by canning 15, 14 and 10 markers respectively. The rest of the GCS' five scored at least four points or more.

Joey Dela Cruz topscored for the Rising Stars with 23 points while Wayne Pua and Ponce Rasa chipped in 11 and 10 apiece.

Continued on page 46

Saipan Swim Club

19th Ocean Swim kicks off tomorrow

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

AT LEAST a hundred entries are expected to see action as the Saipan Swim Club's 19th Saipan Ocean Swim Meet kicks off tomorrow, March 22, in a special race course set at the lagoon off the Saipan Diamond Hotel Beach.

SSC president and coach Bill Sakovich said that the annual event is expected to draw at least 20-25 entries from Guam, in-

cluding swimmers from Japan.

"At least 14-15 Central Sports Club members have confirmed their participation. They will use the Ocean Swim as part of their preparations for a forthcoming Japan national swim championships in April," Sakovich added.

The Ocean Swim Meet will feature action in the Junior, Masters and Open Categories.

For the Juniors, competitions will be open for eight years and

under, 10 and under and 12 and under age brackets. Entries in the eight years and under bracket will race each other in a 600 meter course.

A distance of 2.6 kilometers is set for the 14 and under participants.

The Masters events are divided into the 20-29 years old bracket, 30-39 and 40-49 age groups while the Seniors event is open to con-

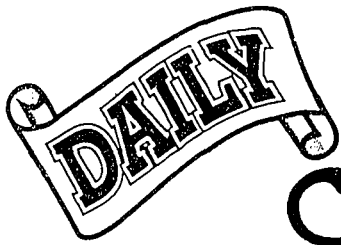
Continued on page 46

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Tenorio 'dares' Miller

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio said Wednesday that if U.S. Rep. George Miller wants to "destroy" the CNMI, the California Democrat should "go ahead" with his proposal to impose federal control over the Commonwealth's immigration and labor policies.

Tenorio was reacting to Miller's recent "Dear Colleague" letter urging members of Congress to co-sponsor a bill that would prohibit products from the Northern

'Go ahead, destroy us,' says governor on takeover threat

Marianas to use "Made in USA" labels.

Miller's bill would also "phase in" the federal minimum wage in the CNMI, and federalize the CNMI's "scandalous immigration program without jeopardizing the Immigration and Naturalization Service's activities elsewhere."

Tenorio, in earlier interviews, said he will invite Miller to visit the CNMI to

"know the real story."

Miller's March 10 letter was being circulated shortly after Tenorio visited Washington, D.C. where he met with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and House Republican leaders, including Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia).

Tenorio's spokesperson, Mark Broadhurst, has said that despite Miller's letter, the CNMI is on "extremely solid ground and we

have received support from (U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich) and with (House Resources Committee Chair) Don Young.

"The (U.S.) Republicans control the House and we have deep support there."

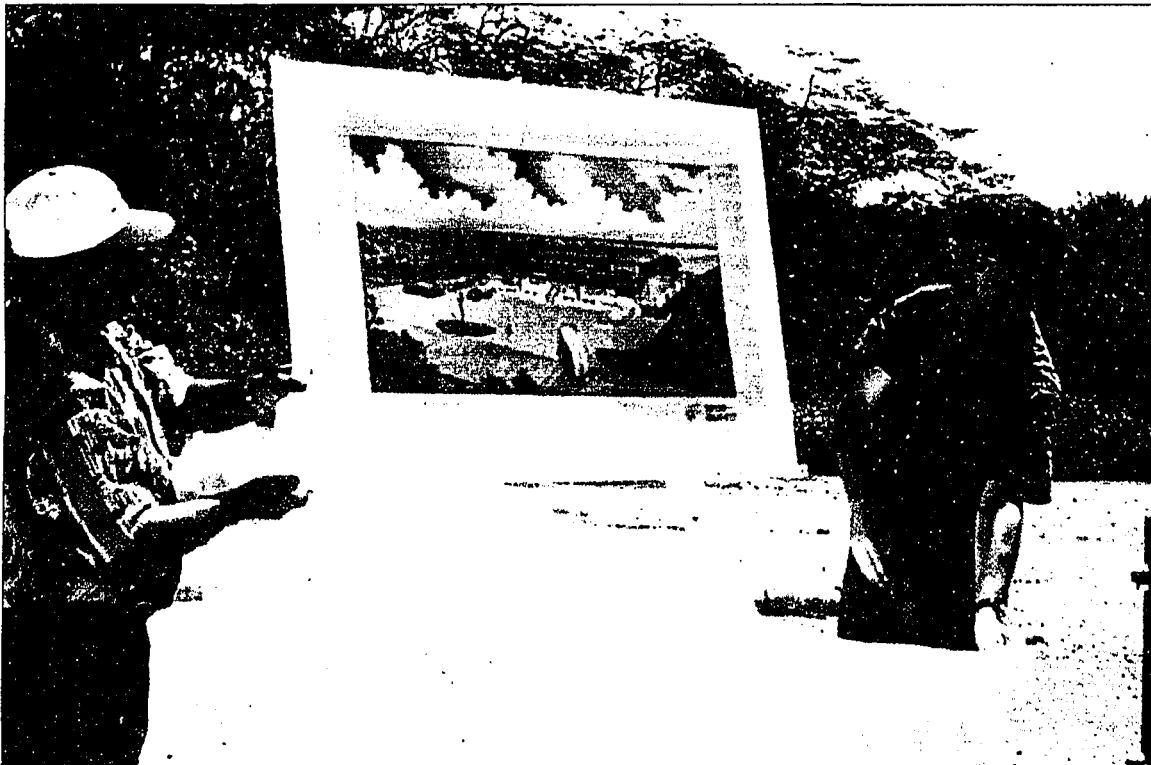


George Miller

The senior Democrat on the House Resources Committee, which he chaired from 1991 to 1995, the 51-year old Miller is the CNMI's most vocal critic in Congress, and has repeatedly urged for the federalization of the Commonwealth's minimum wage rate and immigration.



Froilan C. Tenorio



Commonwealth Ports Authority chairman Victor Hocog (left) and Walter B. Dias, Continental Airlines Staff Vice President for Sales and promotions, unveil an image of the proposed \$1 million state-of-the-art storage facility. The structure, which can accommodate 12,500 sq. feet of cargo space, broke ground Friday. Photo by Jojo Dass

Hangars seen as a 'plus' for Guam

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Micronesia's \$3.5 million lease of a former US military hangar in Guam for its narrow-body repair center is an "advantage" in the territory's bid to have the airline build its

wide-body maintenance hub there, a ranking Continental official admitted.

"One of the appealing plus-factors of Saipan is the flexibility of its labor force. It has the ability to supply the skilled manpower needs that the hub will require," said Walter B. Dias, Continental Staff Vice President for Sales and Promotions.

"Guam is a little restrictive insofar as being able to provide that requirement. However, it has an advantage because we already have a narrow-body hangar there," he added.

Another Guam "advantage," according to Continental President James B. Ream, in a recent interview, is that it has the bulk of the airline's wide-body flights on the Pacific.

Ream, in that interview following his speech before members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last March 12, said the airline "merely took advantage of an as-

set that was there" when it leased the hangars.

The airline, according to Jay Sprague, Executive Director of the Guam International Airport Authority, did not make an initial payment for the 10-year lease of

Continued on page 20

Sekisui: It was Hiraga who 'dragged' Tenorio into case

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

SEKISUI House is pointing its fingers at Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga, saying he, not the company is the one who owes Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio an apology.

The Japanese firm was responding to Tenorio's demand for apology which was contained in a declaration filed in Superior Court.

Tenorio demanded that Sekisui House apologize to him and the people of the CNMI for "fabricating" a story that he requested financial assistance for his gubernatorial campaign in 1989 and 1993.

In a reply memorandum submitted to the court last Friday, Sekisui said it "deeply regrets that the governor of the CNMI has become embroiled in a controversy regarding Mr. Hiraga."

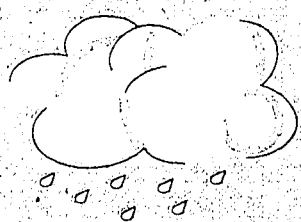
Sekisui said it was Hiraga who "injected the governor into this case."

Hiraga is president of CDC Japan Ltd., from whom Tenorio reportedly received a \$650,000 loan for his gubernatorial campaign. It was also Hiraga who sent letters stating that he loaned hundreds and thousands of dollars to several individuals in the CNMI including Tenorio.

Hiraga was convicted of bribery by a federal court in 1988.

Continued on page 20

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Castro junks Villanueva bail bid

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro refused to release a former prosecutor who was accused of killing a woman and injuring her three children in Koblerville last January.

During Friday's hearing, Castro turned down the motion of defendant Antonio P. Villanueva to be freed on a \$300,000 property bond and to a third party custodian.

In a motion for bail, Antonio Atalig, counsel for Villanueva,

assured the court that the defendant will appear in all hearings.

Atalig said the defendant stayed all his life on Saipan where he has family and has ties to the community.

Moreover, Atalig said his client has no prior criminal record of conviction and had been a district prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office for seven years.

The defense lawyer pointed out that Villanueva has knowl-

Continued on page 20



Alexandro Castro

S. Korea probe deepens

By JU-YEON KIM
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Investigators questioned a former friend of President Kim Young-sam's son on Saturday, and searched his office looking for evidence that the younger

Kim received kickbacks. Prosecutors say the president's son, Kim Hyun-chul, is suspected of pocketing \$240 million in kickbacks from a German firm that sold facilities for producing hot-coil steel plates to the

bankrupt Hanbo Steel Industry Co. Hanbo collapsed in January under \$6 billion in government loans, for which it had put up only \$105 million in collateral.

Opposition lawmakers have accused President Kim's son of using his influence to help Hanbo acquire the loans and have called him to testify before a legislative committee investigating the bankruptcy.

He has denied involvement, and prosecutors had earlier cleared him of any wrongdoing.

However, an investigation into the younger Kim was reopened this week after a videotape belonging to the friend, Park Kyong-shik, showed Kim discussing plans to replace the presi-

dent of a government-funded cable news company.

Prosecutors said Park is believed to have more videotapes that document Kim Hyun-chul's alleged wrongdoing. Investigators also searched Park's home Saturday.

Also Saturday, Hanbo Construction, a sister company to Hanbo Steel, filed for court receivership after going bankrupt earlier this week.

If court receivership is accepted, the company's assets and liabilities are frozen until it recovers under outside management or the firm is bought.

Expanding the bribery investigation, prosecutors also questioned two officials from a banking watchdog

agency Saturday. They said bank officials will be called in for questioning next week.

Ten people, including four close confidants of President Kim, are on trial on charges of giving and receiving bribes from Hanbo, the key company in South Korea's 14th largest conglomerate, Hanbo Group.

Although no charges have been brought against Hyun-chul Kim, President Kim has apologized to the nation and promised to banish his son from politics.

The suspicions center around Hanbo's purchasing hot-coil facilities from Germany's Schloemann Siemag in 1994 at a price 50 percent higher than its actual cost.

Japan cult eyed US gas attacks

TOKYO (AP) - Targets in the United States were once considered for poison gas attacks by a Japanese doomsday cult, according to court testimony published Saturday.

Former cult official Ikuo Hayashi testified that in June 1994 - about 10 months before the cult carried out a sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway, killing 12 and injuring thousands - he was told by another cult member that leader Shoko Asahara desired the U.S. attacks.

Japanese newspapers on Saturday reported the testimony, which came Friday during the trial of another cult member.

"The guru is telling us to spread sarin in various places in the United States," Hayashi said he was told by Yoshihiro Inoue, another ranking official in the cult, the Asahi newspaper reported.

Hayashi also said Inoue told him to arrange to ship sarin gas to the United States to be unloaded at a U.S. port, the Asahi reported.

Hayashi said Inoue later told him, however, that the plan had been canceled. It wasn't clear from the testimony what sites had been considered or why the United States had been targeted at all.

Hayashi, a 50-year-old former heart surgeon, has already pleaded guilty to

murder in connection with the March 1995 Tokyo subway gas-sing.

Asahara, the cult leader, faces 17 charges, including murder charges in the subway attack.

His disciples have been also charged with the murder of an anti-cult lawyer and his family, the June 1994 gassing in the central Japan city of Matsumoto, the manufacture of illegal drugs and other crimes.

The attack on the subway was a devastating blow to Japan's national psyche. The country had long prided itself on its safe streets and orderly society.

Congressmen Miller, Gallegly and the Washington Rep. want the INS in charge on Saipan—Thanks, but not thanks!

I GUESS we can thank the current issue of Newsweek for presenting us with the latest in a long list of reasons for not federalizing our Commonwealth "immigration." Should Congress make that decision, the work would be carried out by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service. Let us consider so-called "rogue" INS agent Jerry Stuchiner.

Before Mr. Stuchiner wound up in a Hong Kong jail, this "senior" INS official went on quite a spree, according to Newsweek, which apparently included selling blank U.S. "green cards" and even, if you're ready for this, some blank CNMI entry permits. According to Newsweek, only a few weeks later, several illegal Chinese aliens tried to enter Saipan using the very same permits, but our DOLI personnel, who have had their share of put-downs from federal



FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK
I MANEJANTE PARA HAMYO/LEADERSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE
March 24, 1997

officials, did their job and arrested them.

It's pretty ironic that Congressman Elton Gallegly wants to stick us with the INS, since he is probably the most vocal critic of the agency, which I am sure he largely holds responsible for a couple of million illegal aliens estimated to be in his home state of California. Some INS officials in Miami recently lost their jobs and otherwise got in trouble with Cong. Gallegly for trying to cover up overcrowding of aliens in a jail there. When Gallegly got wind of this, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner had to squirm through an apology to Congress and come down hard on her erring troops.

How do you describe

Congressman Gallegly? I guess he's sort of like our own former Congressman and my friend, Herman Palacios, in that they both like to be where the action is. In Simi Valley, Gallegly likes to put on a jump suit and join the Border Patrol in rousting illegal aliens. During his short stay at Labor and Immigration, Herman liked to do the same thing, even though it may have been a little outside his job description. In both cases, the TV cameras eat up the action.

So if Congressman Gallegly wants to impose the INS on us, I don't think a fair person would say that he's doing it because either 1) he thinks the INS is a terrific

agency or 2) he thinks it will be helpful to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I'm not exactly sure why Congressman George Miller wants the INS here, since I am sure he has no illusions about it being very effective and of course, it would require a lot of federal money to operate. The Congressman is certainly aware that as an agency, the INS has testified to Congress that it doesn't want to come here and doesn't have the money or budget to do so anyhow. It seems that a previous administration offended Mr. Miller and he holds long grudges. He doesn't want any new information, he doesn't want to come out and visit and apparently doesn't plan to change his mind about the position he took in 1992. You don't want to offend guys like this.

As for our Washington Representative, I don't know what his motivation is. His recent statements about voting rights for alien workers have left me a little baffled as to what he has

in mind these days.

Controlling entry to countries anywhere is not exactly a piece of cake. If you think Japan has everything figured out, you should know that the Yakuza is landing hundreds of Chinese and other illegal immigrants on secluded beaches every night, creating terrific headaches for police and immigration officials there. And lots of other illegals get through Narita Airport with forged documents.

Under these tough circumstances worldwide, I think our local Department of Labor and Immigration has done a pretty good job so far and I promise, they'll do better.

I guess that if our local criminals start imitating the Yakuza by smuggling illegal aliens onto our beaches, we'll have no choice. We'll have to put Elton Gallegly and Jerry Stuchiner out in one of Herman's fishing boats to keep our islands safe.

Si Yuus Maase

Variety marks 25th year

NOT a day goes by without the Variety starting my day," says the government's official spokesman Mark Broadhurst.

It probably holds true for many other members of the CNMI community. Must be the reason why the Marianas

Variety News & Views continues to exist since it was established a quarter of a century ago.

Well-wishers including incumbent and former government officials joined the Younis Art Studio's management and staff in celebrating the Variety's 25th anniversary Saturday.

From a meager staffed community newspaper that used an IBM typewriter and a primitive press, the Variety has grown to become Micronesia's leading paper.

Abed Younis, YAS president and Variety publisher, said the staff and management share its success with the community.

"Marianas Variety is not only for Younis Art Studio, but for the Commonwealth," Younis said, as he recalled during his speech the struggles experienced by the paper throughout the years.

The first edition of the Variety came out on March 16, 1972 after YAS took over the facilities of the old Micronesia Star, then the only Micronesian newspaper run by Peace Corps volunteers.

An exhibit of the Variety's editions from 1972 to present was mounted on the second floor of YAS building. Also on exhibit are YAS' printing products including posters and cards.

The exhibit shows how the Variety has taken off from a primitive looking stapled, manually typewritten newspaper. It has recorded the Northern Marianas' historical events from the pre-Trust Territory era to the time a Commonwealth was born.

"The Commonwealth and the Variety have grown and matured together hand in hand. It is a unique relationship where one could not make it without the other.

"A community and its vanguard,

prospering together from the people's will to make something of themselves and something of their home," said Broadhurst who represented Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and relayed the governor's congratulatory message.

"I admit there are many days that I wait for the Variety with much trepidation. No need for a cup of coffee in the morning to wake up the nerves from not knowing what is on the front page, is certainly enough of a jolt to get me going," Broadhurst said.

Among friends who joined the solemn anniversary celebration were former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, former Speaker Jose Liofofoi, former House member Gregorio Sablan, Rep. Stanley Torres, union leader Elwood Mott, economist William Stewart and wife Anne, NMPA lawyer Bill Campbell, and government lawyers Steve Woodruff and Douglas Muir. (MCM)



Suaad Younis cuts the cake as her dad, Variety publisher Abed Younis, looks on during the newspaper's 25th year anniversary Saturday.



Former Gov. Pete P. Tenorio, Bishop Tomas Camacho, former Rep. Gregorio Sablan and JC Tenorio Enterprises President Clarence Tenorio were among the guests.



Younis and Elwood Mott (right) are smiles during the reception. Behind them at center is Variety's labor reporter Jojo Dass.



Variety co-publisher Paz Younis welcomes Rep. Stanley Torres and Variety columnist John DelRosario.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio was represented by his PIO, Mark Broadhurst (right) shown here in serious conversation with former Gov. Pete P. Tenorio.



Doug Muir (left), legal counsel to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, huddles with Variety news staffers, Marvic Munar (center) and Zaldy Dandan.

A letter from a distant cousin

By: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

OCCASIONALLY, I would hear from a distant cousin who's made it big in some oil rich country as a comptroller. He's kept apace with all the events out here in paradise and would drop a note expressing his views in straight fashion. A believer in our inalienable rights to self-government, he's never short of words when discussing this aspect of our political development. Recently, he wrote about US Congressman George Miller's juvenile views of the CNMI.

"Dear Cousin John:

To us in the Asia-Pacific region, US Congressman George Miller personifies a lethal paternal bully or a pathological hypocrite. I think that for us, Miller is all of the above. I strongly recommend that Congressman Miller cleans his own backyard and ensure that it is immaculately spotless before he attempts to clean the NMI. For instance:

- Don't tell the NMI to cap immigration when you and your liberal colleagues do just the opposite.
- Don't tell the NMI to limit foreign investment when you trade greed card for foreign investment money.
- Don't lecture the NMI about crime when your own city of Los Angeles is considered the ROBBERY capital of the US and Washington, D.C., the MURDER capital of the world.
- Don't lecture the NMI about prostitution when your own backyard is littered with prostitutes and call girls, many of whom are runaway minors.
- Don't lecture the NMI about human rights when your own USA continues to maintain apartheid — one nation: separate but unequal; two societies, one white and one black.
- Don't lecture the NMI about labor abuse when Eveleth mines garment workers in prison-like workplace in New York and California, involuntary servitude of farm workers in Florida, North and South Carolina continue to exist and proliferate despite 60 years of Fair Labor Standards Act and hundreds of thousands of labor enforcement officers, agents and inspectors.
- Don't lecture the NMI about USA label unless you want to label US farm products "Made in Mexico" by illegal and legal hardworking Mexican adults and children.

Congressman Miller's draconian views of the people on this side of the globe, was, perhaps, one of the reasons why the book entitled "The Voice of Asia" was written. I believe the people of the NMI are tired of your criticisms and threats. I suggest that you spend your energies finding constructive ways to help the NMI fix her problems. After all, we are a permanent part of the American political family.

Sincerely,

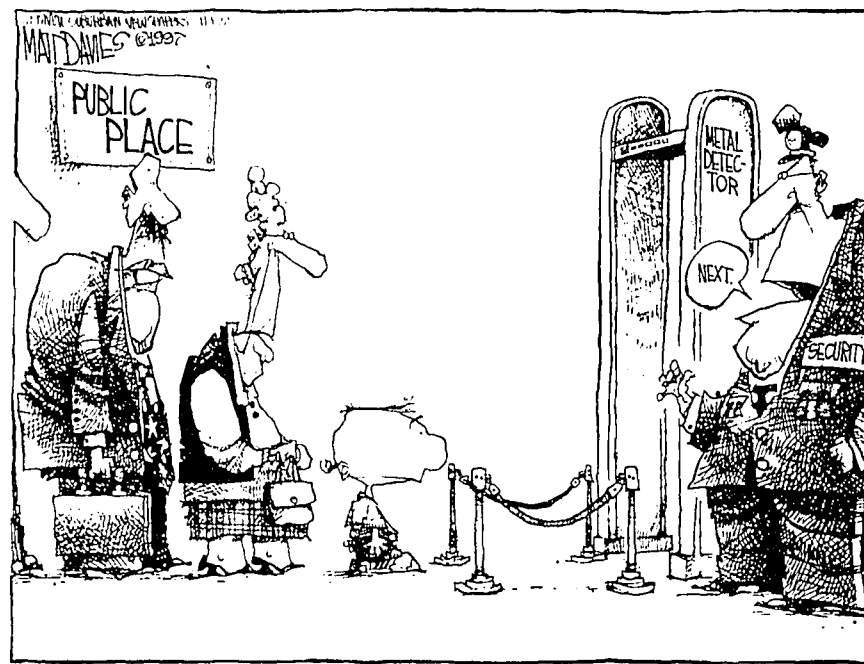
Enrique Sablan Gumataotao

P.S. (Porgot Something): Is Congressman Miller the mustachioed, white haired, be-spectacled liberal democrat from northern California? Perhaps the islanders from that side of the state should stage a rally in the next election to tell other Americans of his asinine agenda to destroy the Marianas. By the way, send me a shirt without the "Made in the USA" label. It's perfectly fine for me. Tell Miller to take stick the USA label in his ears!

I dropped a short note to cousin Enrique that the other side of the problem is the inability of a majority of our so-called "local leadership" who don't have the wherewithal to articulate the rights of the NMI to self-government under the Covenant Agreement. About the only elected official who had the courage to speak out on our behalf in an effort to protect the integrity of the Covenant and the dignity of our people is Governor Froilan C. Tenorio.

Others have kept to that scholarly look as though they know what's the motive behind the words of our detractors. When threatened by mediocre bureaucrats from Washington, they respond with ready positions to wholesale the Covenant Agreement groping for words because they just don't know what is being assaulted—integrity of the agreement. This is the kind of policymakers we have who are usually lost when challenged against matters of state.

The irony of this deficiency is in the apparent thirst for more power or political limelight of higher posts when they can't even handle simpler tasks. It is a dangerous situation in that some are real coconuts—brown outside, white inside—who are well groomed federalists fully prepared to wholesale the future of these islands to dependency on federal largesse at the expense of future generations of Chamorros and Carolinians. I think my cousin Enrique understands my explanation.



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Nay vote puts Torricelli on the hot seat

WASHINGTON—A half hour after the suspense had finally ended, things were pretty quiet in Sen. Robert Torricelli's office—except the phones.

They were ringing off the hook. Two harried receptionists were fielding calls, most of them from irate citizens who couldn't believe Torricelli would dare flip-flop on his promise to support the balanced budget amendment. When Torricelli announced that he would vote against the amendment, it effectively killed any chance for passage in this Congress.

On and on it went, the abuse. Some callers wanted to know how they could get Torricelli recalled. Others simply wanted to voice their venom. At one point, a clearly frazzled staffer walked by the reception area and suggested, only half-jokingly, that the staff needed "a group therapy session for abuse. I feel like I'm about to cry."

Once in a while, the tension would be broken by a call from someone who appreciated the decision. "Your call just made up for so many of the people who've yelled at me today," went the grateful reply.

Torricelli, D-N.J., didn't mean for things to turn out on the hot seat like this. Courage is something all politicians talk about. Rarely do they have to actually show it, like Torricelli did last Wednesday. The rambunctious freshman looked decidedly uncomfortable as he tried to explain his reasons for backtracking on earlier promises to support the amendment, which has been the cornerstone of the conservative agenda for a decade.

For a man always in search of the spotlight, this wasn't how the seven-term House veteran had envisioned the start of his Senate tenure. Near the end of his press conference, Torricelli said his ordeal had involved some "lessons learned." In reality, he became merely the latest actor in an old political play—set up by his elders to make the unpopular, but principled vote where others would not. He was hung out to dry.

stolen.

Near the end of his press conference, Torricelli denied that he was, in fact, the deciding vote for the measure. "I believe that there are more votes to defeat the balanced budget amendment than will be there (on March 4, when the vote is scheduled)," he said, alluding perhaps to his cowardly colleagues, Sens. Joe Biden of Delaware and Tom Harkin of Iowa, who voted against the amendment their whole careers until it was time to run for re-election in 1996.

Though 66 senators are now pledged to vote for the amendment, many will do so only because it is the politically safe course. "There are a lot of people (voting yes) who just know that this is bad public policy," one Democratic source said. "(Senate Minority Leader Tom) Daschle wasn't going to lose this vote."

One source close to the Senate leadership speculated that the Democratic brass had asked for Torricelli's vote against the amendment in exchange for his being named to a leadership post. Though only a freshman Torricelli was recently named vice chairman of the Democrats' Senate fundraising arm, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, making him the only freshman in either party who's part of the leadership.

In the days leading up to the vote, Torricelli leaned heavily on two of the Senate's wise men for advice. The day before the vote, he spent the afternoon speaking about his choice with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., who warned him of the danger that a recession could turn into a depression if the federal government isn't allowed to run a deficit in trying times.

He also heard from Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., perhaps the Senate's most eloquent constitutional scholar and by far its fiercest opponent of the balanced budget amendment. Once Byrd knew the amendment's fate was sealed for another year he congratulated Torricelli on the Senate floor by comparing the young firebrand to Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.

Every year, it seems, the Republicans get close. And each time they fail. Two years ago it was Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., the astute old chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, who said he could not in good conscience support using the Constitution to accomplish what lawmakers should do on their own.

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Micronesia, over the weekend and began the construction of a \$1 million storage facility which includes state-of-the-art refrigeration to accommodate tuna exporters and some 12,500 sq. feet of cargo space.

The facility, according to Duane Siguenza, has been in the works since 1988. It is expected to be operational beginning this October. Siguenza said Continental pursued

the project because "we are short on space, we have to store cargo outside most of the time."

"And this imposes a security and customer service problem for us especially during bad weather conditions."

"We will have a cooler facility in the event that we may need to assist customers in their fish storage needs," Siguenza added.

"We want to make sure that we address the needs of our clients... we appreciate all of the business that

CHC seeks \$2.1M for equipment purchases



Isamu J. Abraham

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Health Center has sought assistance from the Legislature in securing over \$2 million to purchase equipment for the hospital.

The Variety gathered that Department of Public Health Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham met with House Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao on Thursday where they discussed CHC's need for \$2,158,180 funding.

CHC's purchase needs have been divided into three stages.

"The first two stages are absolutely necessary for us to procure. The funds that you have made avail-

able to us will be used to accommodate these two stages," Abraham told Attao in a letter.

The secretary said the Legislature's most assistance is needed to accommodate stage three—to buy equipment worth \$1,616,580.

Among the tools sought are monitoring system, anesthesia machines and monitors, infant transport system, tele-radiology, orthopedic instruments, portable x-ray unit, and incubator.

Included under stage one purchases are \$293,000 worth of C-arm fluoroscopy unit, color doppler ultrasound, and radiology injection system.

Stage 2 purchases are arthroscopic and laparoscopic equipment, pediatric ventilators, transport monitor, flow hood for pharmacy, and autoclave steam sterilizer all worth \$248,600.

"We wish to purchase the equipment using any funds available during the current fiscal year. If this major purchase is made this year, we will not do this during the next five years," Abraham said.

Abraham added this is the first time in CHC's history that "a major purchase of this magnitude has been made."

have been provided to us.

"We think it's time to return some of that money to our customers in the form of first class facilities for their business."

The facility will employ a maximum of 30 workers.

For his part, Walter B. Dias, Continental Staff Vice President for Sales

and Promotions, assured the decision to construct a storage facility will have no bearing on the airline's decision on where to put up its wide-body maintenance hub.

The construction of the storage plant came at a time when CNMI officials are drafting a comprehensive marine conservation plan meant

to get the local tuna industry off its feet.

the masterplan is a result of recent amendment of a federal law granting the CNMI powers to enter into formal agreements with international fishing firms and try violators of the Commonwealth's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone.



BREAKING GROUND. CNMI and Continental Micronesia officials shovel up dirt in groundbreaking rites signalling the construction of the airline's \$1 million storage facility at the Saipan International Airport. CNMI officials were led by House Speaker Diego Benavente (third from right) and Victor Hocog, Commonwealth Ports Authority chief (second from right). Photo by Jojo Dass



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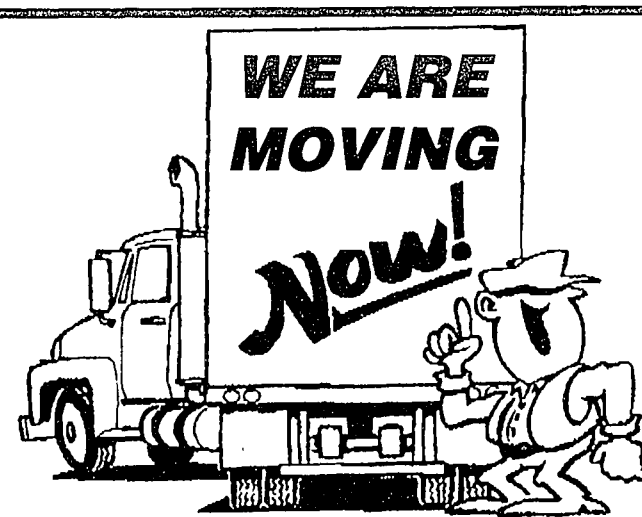
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CPA chairman assures:

Snake plan won't snag cargo

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority Chairman Victor Hocog assured the business community that the planned day-long impounding of incoming cargoes to check on Brown Tree Snakes will not cause adverse effect on the flow of supplies to the island.

"It's just a day...there'll still be a continuous flow of the cargoes," said Hocog.

A number of businessmen have reportedly raised concerns on the delay such measures may cause on their cargoes.

CPA and the Department of



Victor B. Hocog

Lands and Natural Resources have recently agreed to construct a "barrier" where cargo containers will be impounded

for a day to see if these have taken along Brown Tree Snakes from Guam.

The move was made after it was established that the bulk of the 40 snake sightings on Saipan since 1986 was concentrated on areas in the immediate vicinity of the airport, seaport and a small village located two miles from the latter.

"These snakes were most likely brought to the island on individual cargo containers that were delivered through the port; the snakes escaped after the containers were opened," said a report recently prepared by the Joint Federal

CNMI Environmental Working Group.

DLNR has also forged an agreement with a canine specialist for the purchase and training of two Terriers that will be stationed at the ports of entry. Terriers are small, active dogs originally bred for hunting animals that live in the burrows.

This will also be part of the government's efforts to stop the entry of the snake species.

There are no immediately available estimates on the number of Brown Tree Snakes now on the island.

But DLNR has warned it may just take a matter of few

more years before Saipan begins to feel the economic impact of the snake's infestation.

The snake species has been on the island for about 10 years.

The impact of its infestation on Guam, according to the joint body report, "has been conspicuous since 1978," or when the snake was first introduced on that island.

Snakes are said to have often caused power outages on Guam when they trip on powerlines.

The outages have been costing Guam millions of dollars a year.

Tanapag 6th graders complete study on coral reefs

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

IT was a fitting culmination to nine weeks of studying marine life and coral reefs, their own way of marking the International Year of the Coral Reef.

On Thursday night the two sixth grade classes in Tanapag Elementary School under Ron Snyder and Steve Austin had a barbecue party, a short program, and an exhibition of their handiworks of three-dimensional marine creatures as part of what they called a "celebration of learning."

Apart from their individual projects, the 51 students (26

from Snyder's class and 25 from Austin's) during the last quarter also engaged in group projects, including the creation of a web page on the Internet.

On exhibit were their own individual creations of different fishes, crabs, sea urchins using newspaper. They also exhibited different seaweeds that they dried and mounted on paper.

"Next quarter we'll go back to our separate classrooms," Austin told the Variety.

During the last quarter, Austin and Snyder merged their classes for a "Coral Reef Project." In such subjects as



PROUD OF STUDENTS' HANDIWORKS. Tanapag teachers Ron Snyder (right) and Steve Austin show off a papier mache turtle Thursday fashioned by a sixth grader. In background are other student creations on exhibit at the end of the sixth-graders' eight-week coral reef project.

math, social studies, science, and physical education, students' learning centered on coral reefs and other related subject. For example, in the science subject, they learned to get the temperature of the sea water and found out which things float and sink in sea

water and tap water.

In math, they measured animals like sea urchin and snail in millimeters, centimeters, and inches. Problems to be solved were also related to marine and island situations and objects.

Snyder and Austin developed a textbook specially for the project. Snyder wrote the lessons and exercises for math and social studies, while Austin did science and most of the language arts.

The textbook was used as a guide for student debates and experiments. Under the project, the students also did several beach walks, the school being near the seashore.

"This (coral reef theme) was way more integrated than anything we've done," said Austin about the coral reef

project.

"I don't think it's been done on the island, where we actually put two classes together and team-taught a group this large," he added.

Austin said "some kids really blossomed in this kind of environment."

It was these same classes which attended the signing by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio of the proclamation declaring 1997 as Year of the Coral Reef on Dec. 17 last year.

Both Snyder and Austin said they felt proud about the achievements of their students.

"I think some kids that might not excel academically really found something that they could really succeed in. And I think that's really important in developing a kid's self-esteem," Austin said.

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL!

NMC now has better toilets

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

WHAT do the Northern Marianas College, Hyatt Regency, Hotel Nikko and Aqua Resort Club have in common?

They have the same liquid soap dispensers and paper towel holders in their toilets.

NMC students, officials and employees one day recently were delighted to find their toilets gone first class.

The facilities are a far cry from the rusted toilet paper holders, which could hardly carry the rolled paper towel, and the soap dispensers.

The NMC population has thanked Dee Sablan, operations manager of the plant and facilities department for this new physical look.

The college actually did not buy the dispensers. They were given free as a business package when the school bought from the local firm, Ginen Saipan, the paper towels and liquid soaps.

Greg Boyer, of Ginen Saipan, said that over 100 soap and paper towel dispensers had been installed in the different buildings of the NMC.

His company, Boyer added, also installed the same dispensers in such first-class hotels as Hotel Nikko, Hyatt and Aqua Resort.

Aside from the free dispensers, the NMC is also getting discounts in its purchase of the paper products and liquid soaps from Ginen, according to the college's weekly publication.

"We are saving between 19 and 30 dollars per case of toilet paper now. The jumbo rolls that go in the new dispensers last much longer and cost less than the regular toilet paper rolls," Sablan was quoted as saying.

Bob Scruggs, director of administrative services, said Sablan should be thanked for her efforts in "providing excellent services and finding ways to stretch limited resources."

Although Ginen Saipan will replace damaged dispensers at no cost to the college, Scruggs encouraged users to "respect our facilities and take care of them."

As the college's newsletter puts it, "Little things do count."

CNMI to take part in Pacific judicial summit

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI will participate in the South Pacific Judicial Conference to be held in Sydney, Australia next month.

Justices, judges, other legal practitioners and law professors from at least 25 countries will gather for the annual legal educational forum which is scheduled for April 13th to 18th, according to Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty Taylor.

Taylor, along with Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro, will represent the Commonwealth.

"This is a purely educational conference. We will not come up with any resolution. We don't have any-

thing to decide upon," Taylor said.

Participants from South Pacific states and islands, Taylor said, will exchange views on different legal systems in their respective jurisdictions.

"They hope to learn something from decisions made in various countries, in the hope of making their own decision making a little easier and with better understanding of what takes place in the region," Taylor said.

Issues to be discussed, according to Taylor, are customary laws, judicial ethics, and land ownership among others.

A similar conference, sponsored by the Pacific Judicial Council, was held on Saipan last December.

Two men charged for 'beating' Bangladeshis

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has filed criminal charges against two men who allegedly beat two Bangladeshi nationals.

Mario Casimiro Torres was charged with two counts of assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and criminal mischief before the Superior Court.

The second defendant, Jesus Mariano Uy Jr., was charged with assault.

According to the complaint filed Friday by Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli, last March 17 Torres assaulted Mohammed Noman and Harun Rashid.

Forelli said Torres "attempted to cause bodily injury to Rashid with a

knife."

Torres also damaged a door of the residence rented by Noman on the same day, the complaint said.

On the other hand, Uy was accused of beating Noman during the incident.

The reason behind the attack was not indicated.

The two defendants were summoned to appear in court on April 14 to answer the charges.

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly shoplifting a polo shirt at the La Fiesta Mall's Esprit last week.

Jian Fang Lu was about to leave without paying the shirt, but the store's alarm sounded, police said. (FDT)

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Dear MANANG MINDA:

I am amazed by your herbal medicine and your soothing massage. It is really one of those believe it or not story that I used to read or see on T.V. To tell you the truth I was one of those people who would have to see and feel in order to believe.

When I had an accident on the job site, I had to be rushed up to the hospital, because I couldn't move by myself. I was given X-ray and some pain killer. The pain killer did help for a short time. When I was released from the hospital, I was still in the same condition. That is when my mother took me to your clinic.

I am writing you this special note to thank you from the bottom of my heart and also let people know that I am a believer.

Thanks once again, I am now as good as new.

May our Lord be with you always.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Felix V. Taitano

Dear Dr. MINDA,

A few months before I hurt my back from lifting some heavy load in my job. This plus the many times perspiration would dry off my back have given me troubling backaches. I have tried to relieve myself of the pains through medication and exercise but to no avail.

Luckily a friend told me about your clinic and it is only through your herbal steam baths and reflex massage treatment that my back pains left me. I feel so relieved and healthy now.

For this I thank you very much and wish that you could help many others with your simple but effective therapies.

Sincerely,

/s/ TONY VILLANUEVA

Maintenance Department

Saipan Diamond Hotel

Dear MINDA,

My visit to your clinic in February 1995, was indeed a remarkable experience. Your method of healing is one that should be shared throughout the world. If only all those in suffering could experience your therapy.

I came to you with a history of five year suffering of symptoms of Primary Lateral Sclerosis, a dislocated disc and with minimal control and constant pain in my left leg. After five sessions of what I consider to be miraculous therapy, I am now able to perform many of my daily tasks without pain or delay once again. Briefly, I am now able to climb my flight of stairs without difficulty.... something I haven't been able to perform in years.

You have indeed helped me like no other Reflexologist, Herbalist, Doctor, Neurologist and many more who have tried to help me. I appreciate your efforts and will be returning to your clinic again during the 1995 year for further sessions just as soon as it is possible. Soon, with your help, I hope to be playing ball with my grandchildren... once again!

God Bless You!

Graciously,
/s/ ROBERT S. DUENAS

Dear Ms. MINDA,

Thank you very much for helping me last week with the bad flu that I have been going through. My back and chest were really painful due to my cough and colds. What was worse was that I was experiencing chills even while you were giving me the steam bath and physical therapy. I was about to give up but after the treatment I felt so warm inside that I began to sweat profusely!

Then before I left your clinic my blood pressure was back to normal. Your treatment is really marvelous and I would always recommend it whenever I can to my friends. Meanwhile more power to you and your growing clinic.

Sincerely yours,
CHITO SANTOS
Maintenance Department
Saipan Diamond Hotel

Dear Dr. MINDA,

It is with deepest and sincerest appreciation for the valuable services you have extended in the treatment of my right side hip bone which I have been suffering for the past two (2) years.

Through your reflexology combination massage and 7-7 herbal steam bath therapy, I was able to relieve from the pain I have been experiencing but now I am well-cured and can perform my routine work as expected.

Furthermore, I feel proud and recommending everyone to come and visit the clinic and see for yourself how effective and curable the natural remedies it can give to every client. More power to you and rest assure that my continuous support and patronage will go on a long way. Health is wealth as the saying goes....

/s/ DOLORES CAMACHO S.N.

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TARO SUE

Tenorio signs 4, vetoes 5

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio "cleared" his desk Thursday, signing into law four bills while vetoing five. Tenorio left Thursday for Hawaii on a personal trip, his spokesperson Mark Broadhurst said. He was scheduled to arrive yesterday.

New laws
The bills signed into law are:
• House Bill 10-374, now Public Law 10-49, which will expand the low income financing provisions of P.L. 10-29 to "further assist persons in need of low interest financing" for housing loans.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (Ind.-Saipan) is the bill's main sponsor.
• House Bill 10-12, now Public Law 10-50, which will require the Attorney General's Office to review and approve all rules and regulations promulgated by any department, agency or instrumentality of the CNMI government.

Tenorio, in his letter to Senate President Jesus R. Sablan (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), said he hopes that the Legislature will take the AGO's new and additional duty into consideration when providing funding for AGO.

House Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) authored the bill.
• House Bill 10-23, now Public Law 10-51, which will "clarify" that the Bar Tax applies only to alcoholic beverages and not to soft drinks or coffee.

Tenorio said he is pleased to remove the unnecessary tax on non-alcoholic beverages, but noted that the law lead to reduced revenues for the CNMI.

"However, we are not talking about a great deal of money here, and our government finances are healthy enough to support this small tax decrease."

Senate President Sablan is the bill's main sponsor.
• House Bill 10-191, now Public Law 10-52, which will "limit liabilities for civil damages resulting from a person or professional's acts or omission when (performing) emergency care in good faith."

Tenorio said he is pleased that the CNMI is joining other U.S. jurisdictions that have a similar "Good Samaritan" law.

The bill's main sponsor is Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan).

Vetoes
The following bills were vetoed:
• Senate Bill 10-72, "The Rota Agricultural Homestead Act," offered by Senate Minority Leader Eusebio A. Hocog (D-Rota).

Tenorio said he agrees with the bill's provision that would allow those attending schools off-island to apply for homesteads.
"This is...much needed...., and if you pass it separately, I will sign it. However, the bill's section 3 specifies areas for homesteads, which is not a legislative function, Tenorio said.

• Senate Bill 10-66, which would prohibit the commingling of expired merchandise with fresh merchandise, and would require displaying notice that the merchandise has expired.

The bill, authored by Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) and Hocog, would also require that expired merchandise could only be sold at half its original retail price.

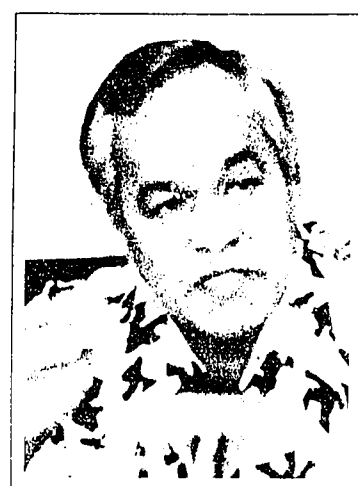
Tenorio said he "sympathizes" with the bill's intent, but it would only place an additional burden on CNMI retailers.

"This would result in an immediate, gigantic, Commonwealth-wide half-price sale for many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of perfectly good retail merchandise."

"I understand that many consumers would like this, but it would be a serious blow to our private sector."

Tenorio said he would sign a modified version of the bill.
• Senate Bill 10-29, which would establish an Office of Victims' Rights, and require informing crime victims of their rights.

Tenorio said he vetoed the bill, which is sponsored by Senate Vice President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Rota),



Froilan C. Tenorio

"reluctantly."

Tenorio, who vetoed an earlier version of the bill in 1995, said S.B. 10-29 fixed many problems of the earlier version, but it also "introduced many problems and complications."

He recommended a consultation with the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, the Department of Public Safety, and the Attorney General's Office to remedy the bill.

• Senate Bill 10-62, which would require the Legislature's approval of any extension of a state of emergency declaration beyond 60 days.

Tenorio said the bill authored by Sablan is "unconstitutional."

He said the Legislature does not have any veto power on the governor's emergency power.

"By way of comparison, imagine a statue saying that the Legislature needed my permission to stay in session beyond a certain period of time...."

"This bill is that bad. It grossly violates the separation of powers."

He added, however, that he "understands" the concern on the duration of the water emergency, but "it would be within the legitimate scope of (the Legislature's) powers to hold an oversight investigation...."

Tenorio said he would "give all reasonable cooperation to such an investigation."

• House Bill 10-325, which would establish an autonomous Board of Public Lands.

Tenorio said he had vetoed a similar bill in June last year.

"(This new bill)," he said, "even has the same grammatical and typographical errors."

"I do not understand why you are sending me this bill again."

"It still has the same serious flaws that caused me to veto it last year."

Giving autonomy to the board is "the single biggest problem with that system."

The bill was authored by Rep. Vicente M. Atalig (R-Rota).

Board appointments would be made for political reasons, not based on expertise, experience or integrity, he said.

"Once in office board members were not subject to any meaningful control. The executive director was even less accountable."

Tenorio, shortly after becoming governor in 1994, signed an executive order that abolished the autonomous Marianas Public Lands Corp., transferring its functions to a Division of Public Lands which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Jones calls for a 'fairer' CIP funds distribution



Dino M. Jones

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Minority Leader Dino M. Jones has prefilled a bill that would provide for an equal and fair distribution of funds for capital improvement projects among Saipan's four precincts.

Jones (D-Saipan) said that his bill applies to all CIP appropriations, including those funded locally.

Under his proposed law, 60 percent of the CIP funds will be distributed among the four precincts according to population, while 40 percent will be distributed equally among the precincts.

Jones said Friday that, at present, precincts with more representatives tend to get more CIP funds.

For the entire CNMI, CIP money is divided among Saipan, Rota and Tinian in the ratio 6:1:1 with Rota and Tinian each taking 1/8.

Jones said there has never been a particular distribution among the precincts of Saipan.

He said his still-unnumbered bill would allow for a fixed distribution of all CIP funds on Saipan.

The bill would cover all future CIP appropriation bills for federal funds, or the matching funds starting fiscal year 1998.

A key provision of Jones's bill is Section 4, which states that any Saipan taxpayer could ask the court to enforce the "equitable distribution," if the Legislature fails to do so.

Saipan's Precinct I—which covers San Vicente, Dandan, San Antonio, Koblerville and Kagman—and Precinct III—Garapan, Puerto Rico, Navy Hill, Oleai, San Jose, Chalan Kiya—have six representatives each to the Legislature's lower house.

Precinct II and IV have two each. Jones is from Precinct IV.

According to Census data, there has been a shift of population concentration between 1980 and 1990 on Saipan.

In 1980, Garapan had over 27 percent of Saipan's population, while Chalan Kanoa (which is in Precinct II) has 18 percent.

By 1990, Garapan's population had grown to over 31 percent, while Chalan Kanoa dropped to 9 percent.

San Antonio-Koblerville area's population had increased to almost 20 percent, and San Vicente's to 17 percent.

Nikko donates to GTC School

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE varsity players from the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School hope to get the championship in the next interschool basketball tournament.

They should, its principal Paz C. Younis said emphatically after receiving \$2,000 worth of basketball and other sports equipment from Hotel Nikko Saipan General Manager Yuzo Takano and Human Resources Manager Ann Benavente Friday morning.

It will be the first time the school has gotten a basketball sports equipment. Younis said she hopes the children's parents will fund the building of a basketball court in the school playground.

Hotel Nikko has been giving to GTC has enhanced the hotel's public relations with the students.

Takano also said the contributions are part of the hotel's social responsibility to the community of which it is a part.

Expressing gratitude for the donation, Younis said, "It's just (now) that we finally have our basketball. Last month we participated in a basketball tournament, and we didn't even have a basketball for the students to practice."

"But now I think we're gonna be the champion in the next basketball tournament," she added.

According to Benavente, the equipment were worth a total of \$2,178.

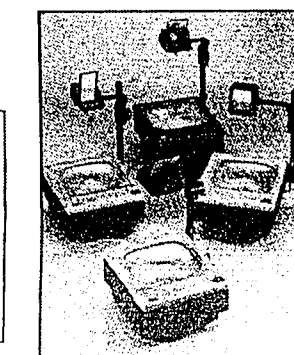
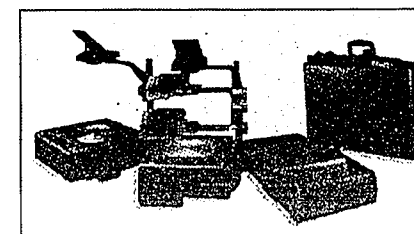
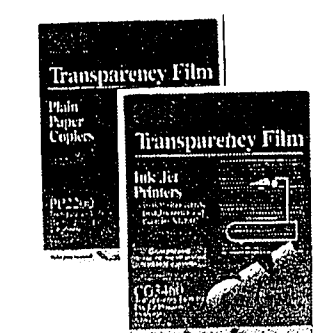
In the previous years the hotel, situated in San Roque, where the school is, donated air-conditioning units and cash.

Benavente said the donations

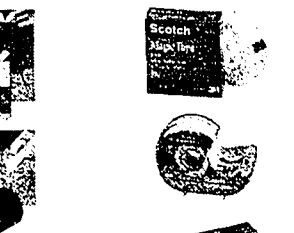
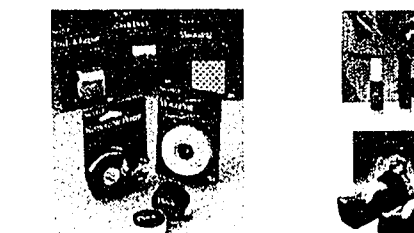
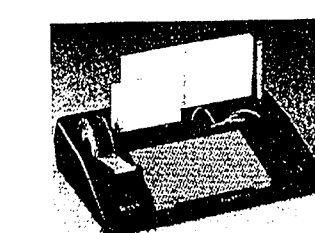


GOING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP. Students of the GTC Elementary School with Principal Paz Younis (middle with mwaw mwaw) pose with Hotel Nikko officials Yuzo Takano and Ann Benavente (left, behind basketball ringboard) after turnover of sports equipment Friday.

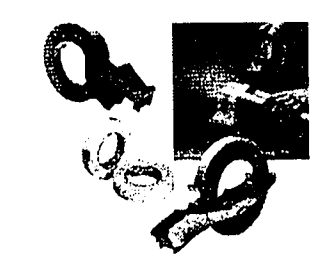
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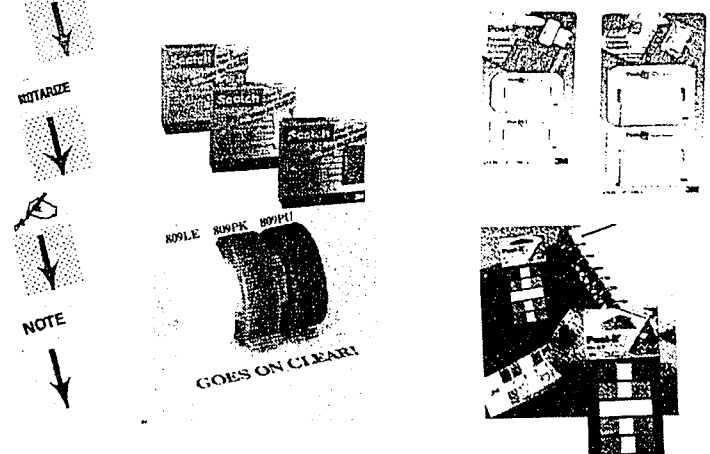


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Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Julius Chan, makes a point during a press conference at Parliament House in Port Moresby, Tuesday. Chan successfully put down a revolt by his army commander, Brigadier General Jerry Singirok. The threat of a revolt by army and police was over the hiring of mercenaries, Singirok was fired by the PNG Cabinet late Monday and on Tuesday Chan ordered the release of about 40 South African and British mercenaries detained by the army. AP Photo

PNG police question chief of mercenaries

By GEOFF SPENCER

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Released after days of military detention and police questioning, the leader of a controversial mercenary force was staying at an inquiry into the hiring of the mercenaries provided by his London-based military consulting company, Sandline International.

Tim Spicer, charged with possessing an unlicensed pistol and ammunition, is the last of the 60-odd mercenaries remaining in Papua New Guinea.

Although the charges carry only a small fine, prosecutors might force Spicer to remain in Papua New Guinea long enough to testify at an inquiry into the hiring of the mercenaries provided by his London-based military consulting company, Sandline International.

The military deported the rest of his command on Friday, ignoring orders from Prime Minister Julius Chan, who had hired the mercenaries to end a rebellion on Bougainville, an island 800 miles northeast of the capital.

Chan's government had signed a \$36 million contract with Sandline to train the army in counterinsurgency warfare and to take part in a major

attack.

But the army, which is badly funded and ill-equipped, claimed the deal was illegal and unconstitutional.

Last week, army leader Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok ordered his forces not to cooperate with the mercenaries. Chan retaliated by firing Singirok and accusing him of treason.

The dismissal ignited two days of rioting in Port Moresby, 500 miles north of Cairns, Australia.

Singirok, however, remains at his

official residence at Murray Barracks, where he enjoys overwhelming support from the 4,700 rank-and-file soldiers in the army.

Soldiers have refused to take orders from a replacement commander, Col. Alfred Aikung, who was appointed by Chan.

The rebellion on Bougainville began in 1988 as an environmental protest but escalated into a guerrilla war to secede from Papua New Guinea.

Customs scam sparks uproar, probe in Fiji

SUVA (Pacnews) - The Fiji Public Service Association, Thursday, urged prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka to order an independent inquiry into allegations of corruption in the Customs and Excise department.

Association general secretary Mahendra Chaudhry also condemned the finance ministry and Public Service

Commission for allowing customs activities to deteriorate into a scandal, the Fiji Times reports.

Chaudhry says the PSC and the finance ministry could not be relied upon to do anything.

He says the prime minister should also consider whether people holding high public offices who fail to act on serious issues referred to them should continue to hold offices.

Acting minister of finance David Pickering refused to talk about the allegations but agreed to an interview later today.

Solomons all praises for Forum chief

HONIARA (Pacnews) - Solomon Islands has paid tribute to the services and dedication of Jeremia Tabai, as Secretary General of the South Pacific Forum.

Foreign Affairs Minister Francis Saemala says Solomon Islands and its people salute and honour the contributions Tabai has made to the affairs of the region, SIBC reports.

The Forum Secretary General replied that he has regarded Solomon Islands as his greatest supporter during his two terms in the Suva based Secretariat.

Tabai, who will be completing his second term at the end of this year says he will return to his home country, Kiribati and live a private life.

Tabai and Saemala were speaking at a function hosted in honour of Tabai's current and final visit to Solomon Islands as Secretary General of the South Pacific Forum.

Fiji hopes PNG can resolve current crisis

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - The Fiji government says it is confident that Papua New Guinea can resolve the current situation facing the country to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Fiji's position was made by the country's foreign minister, Filipe Bole, during talks in Port Moresby with his PNG counterpart, Kilroy Genia Thursday.

Genia said in a statement following the talks that Senator Bole had reiterated that the Bougainville issue and events of the last few days were an internal matter for Papua New Guinea and that the Fiji government fully understood and appreciated the government's handling of the situation.

Group fights child prostitution

By OLIVER TEVES

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Not long ago, an anti-prostitution group says, it was harassed by the government for publicizing the plight of children in the Philippines.

Now, Dolores Alforte, head of the Filipino branch of End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, is on a child protection committee formed last year by President Fidel Ramos. Ramos called the country's reputation as a center for child prostitution "a cause for national shame."

Back when her group formed, "the government didn't want to admit that the problem exists," Ms. Alforte says.

There are about 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines, her group estimates, but the actual number may be higher.

End Child Prostitution started in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1991, and has grown to 20 branches worldwide. The private group

does not run homes or medical clinics for children, but refers victims to such care.

The Philippines branch won its first legal victory against a child sex offender last year. The group provided legal assistance for two brothers, ages 4 and 8, who testified against a Briton sentenced to 17 years in prison for abusing the boys.

The Philippines government recently began to emphasize education and greater public awareness of child sexual abuse through radio and television announcements.

While most customers for child prostitution are local people, for-

eign "sex tourists" from wealthy nations have gotten much attention in recent years.

The London-based Coalition on Child Prostitution and Tourism says a dozen countries now have laws aimed at keeping their citizens from traveling to other nations to seek sex with children.

Australia's 1994 sex tourism law, one of the first to be adopted, carries a penalty of up to 17 years in prison. The federal attorney general's department describes it as an effective deterrent, even though only a handful of men have been prosecuted, and only two have been imprisoned so far.



Fidel Ramos.

But critics in Australia say child sex tours, particularly to neighboring Southeast Asia, continue to be conducted by secret and highly organized pedophile rings.

Roman Von Arx, a Swiss who heads the group Sun for All Children, said Philippine laws are adequate, but authorities or parents of victims often receive bribes from suspects to drop their cases. In others, prosecutors allow bail and the offenders escape, or there is insufficient physical evidence for a conviction.

"I ask myself what I am doing here sometimes. I'm frustrated most of the time," said Arx, who works in Manila.

Public vomit gets banned in Manila suburb

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - First they banned public drinking. Now they've outlawed public vomiting.

The local council in the Manila suburb of Marikina City approved the proposal two weeks ago as a way to further discourage drunkenness. If Mayor Bayani Fernando approves it, it will be implemented immediately.

The resolution allows police and local village guards to temporarily detain people who throw up in public. Offenders are asked to clean up their mess and to pay a fine.

People who vomit due to sickness or for eating rotten food are exempt.

Solomons gov't monitors PNG developments

MELBOURNE (Pacnews) - The Solomon Islands government says it is watching with interest the standoff between the Papua New Guinea government and members of the defence force.

However, the prime minister's office says the PNG government should be able to solve the problem, Radio Australia reports.

The Solomon Islands government says it condemns in the strongest terms PNG government's engagement of the mercenaries to wipe out Bougainville secessionist fighters. Meanwhile, the head of the Solomon Islands Reconnaissance and National Security, Mike Wheatley, says the border between his country and Bougainville remains relatively quiet.

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Annan raps Angola rebels

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan says former rebels bear most of the blame for the latest delay in setting up a power-sharing government in Angola.

The formation of a new government has already been postponed three times and the installation ceremony scheduled for Monday is expected to be postponed as well.

In a report to the Security Council, Annan said the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA, has failed to send all of its representatives to Luanda, the capital, to take part in the new government and National Assembly. The government can't be sworn in until all deputies and ministers are present.

"It is a matter of very serious concern that (the government's) formation has again been postponed, owing primarily to the failure of UNITA to send all its officials to Luanda, as previously agreed," Annan said in the report, dated Wednesday and released Thursday.

Annan, who is traveling in Africa, plans to visit Angola from Saturday to Tuesday to push for the start of the new government.

The Angola government and UNITA signed a peace treaty in 1994, ending a two-decade civil war.

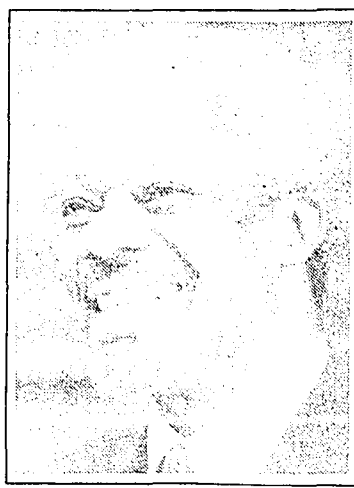
The treaty called for a joint army and a unity government headed by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Soldiers have been demobilized

and most steps in the peace plan have been carried out, but still at issue is the future role of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

UNITA had said it would send all of its representatives to Luanda by last Monday. But as of Wednesday, only 43 of the 70 UNITA deputies had arrived only seven of the 11 ministers, Annan said.

UNITA's failure to send all of its officials to Luanda "is seriously undermining the credibility of the peace process and should not be allowed to continue," he said.



Kofi Annan



Bird lover Pron Srisompot, 50, lies on his back amongst hundreds of pigeons in protest of their relocation in front of the Grand palace in Bangkok. City officials are relocating the birds to a forest in Chiang Mai, about 430 miles (700 kms) north of Bangkok, in an attempt to keep the area clean from droppings and because they believe that the pigeons pose a health threat to city residents. AP Photo

Cambodia gov't to answer MPs' inquiries on slay suspect's arrest

PHNOMPENH, Cambodia (AP) - The Interior Ministry is to answer queries of Parliament members suspicious about the arrest of a key suspect in the murder of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen's brother-in-law, a ministry spokesman said Sunday.

Forty-seven members of the 110-seat Parliament, including First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh, demanded Friday that the ministry answer questions about the arrest of Srun Vong Vannak, security chief of the opposition Khmer Nation Party.

Srun Vong Vannak is said to have confessed to his role in the slaying of Kov Samuth, who was gunned down in a daylight attack Nov. 19 in the center of Phnom Penh. His confession also allegedly linked prominent dissident leader Sam Rainsy to the killing.

Some political observers believe the implication of Sam Rainsy is part of a move by Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party to crush the opposition.

OIC meet tackles Islam bias

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - Islamic leaders arriving in the Pakistani capital Saturday for an Or-

ganization of Islamic Conference meeting will tackle problems facing the Muslim world, including its

poor image in the Western media. "Islam is getting a bad name in the international media," said Inam-

ul Haq, a spokesman for the one-day summit being held to mark the 50th anniversary of Pakistan's creation as a homeland for Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

The declaration to be adopted at the end of the one-day summit Sunday will address ways to correct the "misrepresentation we are a victim of, particularly in the Western press," he said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday he would ask the conference to discuss Washington's veto Friday of a U.N. Security Council resolution criticizing the construction of a Jewish neighborhood in Arab east Jerusalem, the official Oman News Agency reported.

"I was shocked, together with all Arabs and Muslims, with the U.S. veto," Arafat said during a stop-over in the Omani capital, Muscat. Israeli-Palestinian relations are

at a low point after Israel's decision on the housing project apparently prompted an Islamic militant suicide attack Friday in Tel Aviv. On Saturday, Palestinians rioted in Hebron.

Haq also said Pakistan refused to accede to a demand Saturday by Afghanistan's Taliban government for membership in the 54-nation conference.

Representatives of the Taliban, which has imposed its strict version of Islam throughout the two-thirds of Afghanistan it controls, have been invited to attend the summit, but only as observers.

Haq said Pakistan would follow a decision made last year by the conference's foreign ministers to keep the Afghan seat vacant until the bitter civil war that has ravaged that country comes to an end.

Bomb kills militiaman as he walks out his home

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) - Guerrillas killed an Israeli-allied militiaman Saturday by detonating a bomb when he walked out of his home in southern Lebanon, security officials said.

The guerrillas slipped into Aishiyeh, a Lebanese mountain town under Israeli control, and planted the bomb Friday night outside the home of Camille Nimr, the officials said.

The guerrillas waited until Nimr opened his door Saturday before detonating the bomb by remote control, said the Lebanese officials, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

Nimr was head of security in Aishiyeh, which is near Jezzine, the main town in the strip Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. Jezzine is about 8 miles north of Marjayoun.

The security officials blamed Hezbollah, or Party of God. But the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the main guerrilla group fighting to expel Israeli forces and their allied militiamen from the strip, denied any involvement in the attack.

"We have nothing to do with the killing of Israeli agent Camille Nimr though we applaud it," said the statement, issued in Sidon, south Lebanon's provincial capital.

Israel has controlled the enclave since 1985 to protect its northern border from attacks.

2nd Saudi bomb suspect falls

TORONTO (AP) - Canadian officials have arrested a second suspect in connection with a bombing last year in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 servicemen at a U.S. base.

Hani Abdel Rahim Al-Sayegh, a Saudi, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of engaging in terrorism and being a threat to Canadian security, the Toronto Sun said Saturday, quoting government officials.

Details of the case against Sayegh will be kept confidential until a Federal Court judge has heard his case, a spokesman for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said.

The FBI said Saturday it wanted to question Al-Sayegh, 28.

In a statement out of Washington, the FBI praised the Saudi government for its help in identifying the suspect.

"The assistance of Saudi Arabia represents another positive step forward in our mutual efforts to solve this tragic act of terrorism," the statement said.

U.S. Justice Department officials have been openly critical of Saudi Arabia for shutting FBI agents out of active participation in the investigation.

Sayegh is the second Saudi arrested in Canada for alleged links to the blast.

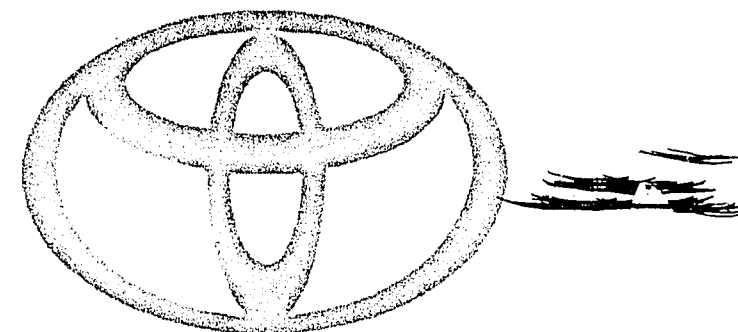
On Dec. 6, Fahad Shehri, 21, was

arrested in Ottawa after allegedly telling authorities he belonged to a group connected to the bombing.

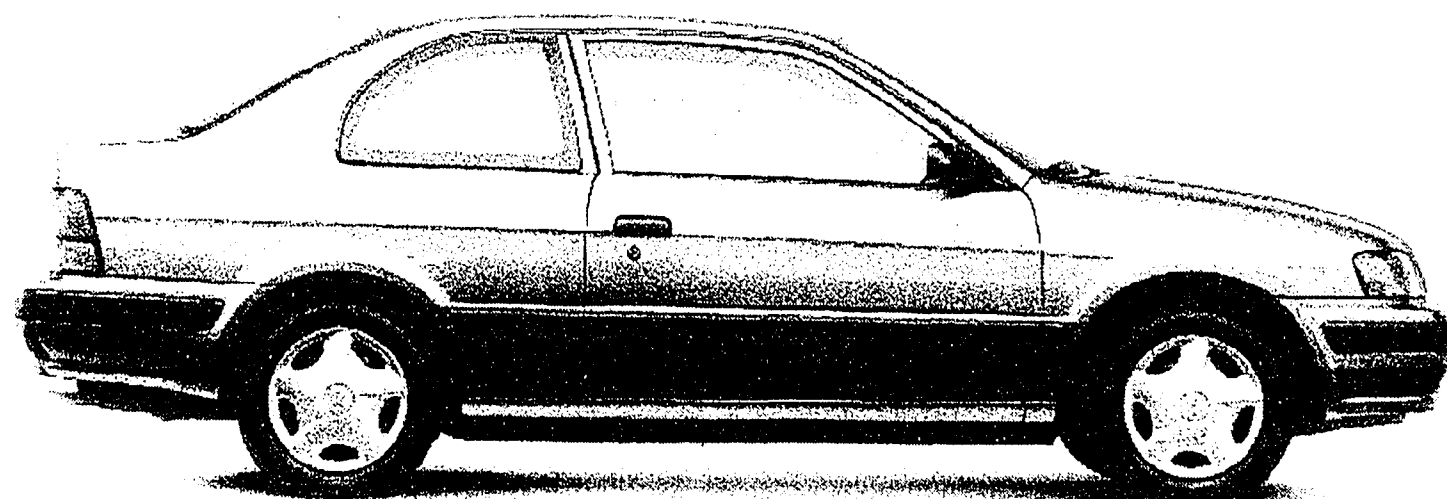
A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday to determine whether Shehri should be denied entry to Canada. He has asked for refuge in Canada, saying he fears for his life if he is sent back.

The June bombing, at a military complex in eastern Saudi Arabia near Dhahran, injured more than 500 Americans and Saudis. It came less than a month after Saudi Arabia beheaded four anti-U.S. Muslim militants who had been convicted of bombing a U.S. compound in Riyadh in November 1995.

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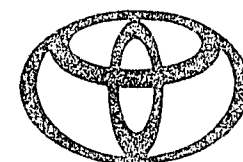
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West Bank violence erupts

Riots, shootings follow Tel Aviv bomb blast

By NASSER SHIOUKHY
HEBRON, West Bank (AP) - A day after an Islamic militant killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe, Israeli troops on Saturday used live ammunition and tear gas to quell riots by hundreds of Palestinians in the worst clash in this West Bank city in months.

Over 100 Palestinians were injured - 27 from live bullets and others from rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades - in clashes reminiscent of the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza. "We don't want peace, we want Hamas," shouted Palestinians, referring to the Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for Friday's Tel Aviv blast.

Palestinians pelted soldiers and military vehicles with stones, and some of whom threw firebombs at the soldiers. Israel Radio said firebombs were hurled towards the homes of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in the city among 130,000 Arabs.

Seven Israeli soldiers and several Palestinian police were also injured in the clashes, which took place along the border between the part of Hebron that is Palestinian-controlled and the Israeli-controlled downtown. One Palestinian policeman was spotted by his superiors joining stonethrowers and was ordered to leave.

Israel imposed a curfew on the downtown area, and Israeli and Palestinian commanders met to coordinate the efforts. The clashes quieted at nightfall.

Dr. Yousef Sharawi, the director of Hebron's Alya hospital, said three of the wounded were in critical condition.

The clashes broke out one day after Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, a Hamas member from a village near Hebron, set off an explosion at a Tel Aviv cafe which killed himself and three Israeli women.

In reaction, Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza, barring thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel. The army also placed a curfew on the bomber's home village of Zurif. The village streets were deserted and windows closed with iron shutters as Israeli jeeps patrolled the potholed lanes.

Israeli troops had blocked reporters from reaching his home, but friends and neighbors said the bomber was a father of four who came from a deeply religious home.

The army later sealed his house, army radio said, and witnesses said soldiers were preparing to blow it up. The Israeli army arrested 13 villagers, including some of Ghneimat's family.

Radio reports said the assailant Ghneimat, 28, had a work permit for Israel, and in recent months was employed at a restaurant in central Israel. He was arrested repeatedly by Israel in the past on suspicion of Hamas membership, they said.

Israeli police overnight arrested the owner of the restaurant where the bomber was once employed and were questioning him. Three other restaurant owners in the Tel Aviv area were also arrested for employing Palestinians without Israeli work permits, police said.

Israel was also on high alert for Sunday, and media reports said police were planning to set up checkpoints outside Tel Aviv and tighten security for events marking the Purim holiday.

Friday's blast at the Apropro Cafe in downtown Tel Aviv came after several days of warnings by Israeli intelligence officials that Islamic militants were plotting attacks in Israel.

Palestinians have been furious with Israel for breaking ground earlier this week for a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, the sector the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Arafat denounced the bomb-

ing, which also wounded more than 40 people, but his aides were quick to point a finger at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his hardline policies had prepared the ground for violence.

Netanyahu however blamed Arafat and accused him of giving militants the "green light," to attack Israel. Netanyahu cited as an example the release earlier this month of Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leader of the Hamas military wing, from a Palestinian jail.

Maqadmeh was rearrested late Friday by Palestinian police at his home in the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Maqadmeh, a 47-year-old dentist, was detained several hours after he told thousands of Hamas followers at a rally that suicide bombs, not negotiations, would stop Israeli settlement building in Jerusalem.

Hamas sources said five other members of the group were also

arrested overnight, but Palestinian police officials would not immediately confirm the report Saturday. Israeli and Palestinian security officials met repeatedly after Friday's bombing to coordinate the crackdown.

Israeli soldiers shoot two Palestinians at check point

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli soldiers opened fire on a car and wounded two Palestinians at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank early Sunday.

Neither Palestinian appeared to have suffered life-threatening wounds, Israeli police said. One was taken to a Jerusalem hospital, the other to a hospital in Bethlehem.

The incident began when a Palestinian man approached the checkpoint on the West Bank city of Bethlehem, police spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby said.

Asked to show identification, the man first presented an Israeli

identity card, which would have enabled him to enter Israel. But guards searched the young man and found a second Palestinian identity card, police said.

The man ran to a waiting car and the guards opened fire, injuring two Palestinians inside the vehicle. Another man who was in the car fled toward Bethlehem.

Israel has been on high alert and imposed a total closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a suicide bomber from the West Bank set off a blast in a Tel Aviv cafe Friday, killing himself and three Israeli women.

His announcement appeared to be in response to Cipriani's Friday criticism.

The archbishop warned that mediators were reaching the limit of their effectiveness to resolve the crisis, which began Dec. 17 when Tupac Amaru rebels stormed a cocktail party at the Japanese ambassador's residence. They have held onto 72 hostages and called on the government to free hundreds of their jailed supporters, a demand Fujimori rejects.

According to Peruvian news reports, though, Tupac Amaru rebel leader Nestor Cerpa appears to have softened his demands, and would now accept the release of as few as 50 inmates.

The New York Times also reported Saturday that the me-

Peru hostage talks to go on

By LYNN F. MONAHAN
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Peru's government, apparently smarting under criticism from mediators, announced Saturday that direct talks with leftist rebels holding 72 hostages would resume "at any moment."

In an unusual display of public criticism, a mediator warned Friday that both sides had to stop threatening each other if Peru's three-month-old hostage crisis was to be resolved.

Talks between the government and the rebels have been at a stalemate since March 12, when Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, one of the independent mediators, announced his group was breaking for a "period of reflection."

After meeting with President Alberto Fujimori, government negotiator Domingo Palermo announced Saturday that "direct talks will resume at any moment."

His announcement appeared to be in response to Cipriani's Friday criticism.

The archbishop warned that mediators were reaching the limit of their effectiveness to resolve the crisis, which began Dec. 17 when Tupac Amaru rebels stormed a cocktail party at the Japanese ambassador's residence. They have held onto 72 hostages and called on the government to free hundreds of their jailed supporters, a demand Fujimori rejects.

According to Peruvian news reports, though, Tupac Amaru rebel leader Nestor Cerpa appears to have softened his demands, and would now accept the release of as few as 50 inmates.

The New York Times also reported Saturday that the me-

diators had outlined a possible agreement under which the rebels would release their captives and leave Peru. In exchange, some of their jailed comrades would have a chance at early parole.

A U.S. diplomat told The Associated Press on Saturday that the possibility of parole for jailed Tupac Amaru rebels is expected to be part of an eventual resolution.

According to the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Peru could include the names of Tupac Amaru rebels among cases being reviewed by a special commission recommending pardons to Fujimori. Some rebel prisoners could eventually be released that way, the diplomat said.

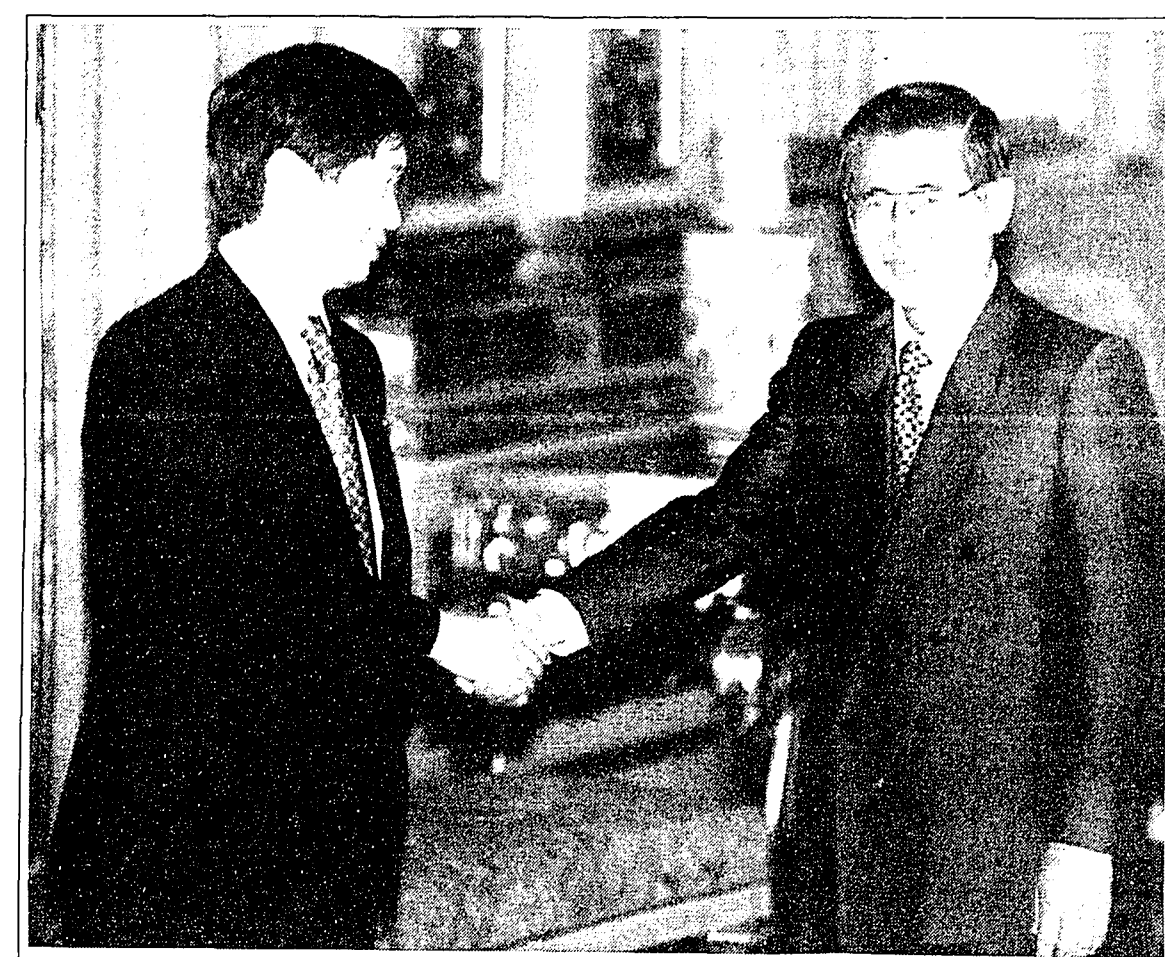
Peru, meanwhile, appears to be taking small steps to resolve the standoff by easing up on conditions for jailed leftist rebels.

The government this week made two small but significant moves, apparently trying to appease Cerpa: mediators began inspecting jail conditions and family members were allowed to visit some imprisoned rebels.

Visits by family members and the Red Cross to inmates from Peru's two rebel groups, the Tupac Amaru and the Maoist Shining Path, were suspended after the hostage crisis began.

Fujimori said Saturday that the prison inspections were conducted to let the rebel captors know their jailed comrades were all right.

"It is to guarantee and transmit to them...that the situation of the MRTA prisoners continues to be what any sentenced inmate deserves," he said, using the Spanish acronym for the Tupac Amaru rebels.



Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, right, shake hands with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura during a meeting at the presidential palace in Lima, Tuesday. Komura is visiting Peru en route to Japan to seek a solution for the three-month-old hostage crisis.

AP Photo



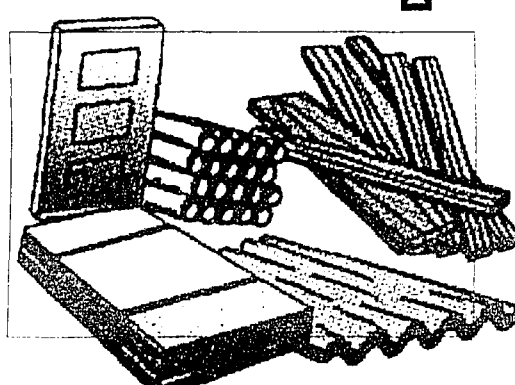
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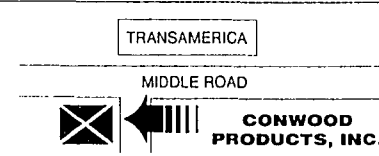
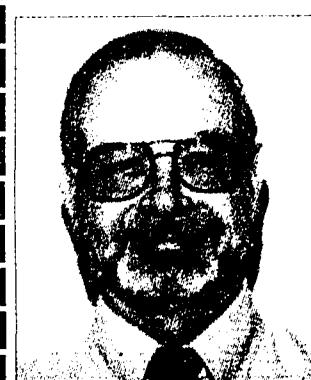
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OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Tuesday, April 1, 1997. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission's Office, Capitol Hills, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission's Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. New Business
 1. Consideration of Motion to Dismiss Employee Appeal
- IV. Old Business
- V. Adjournment

/s/ EUGENE A. SANTOS
Chairman
Civil Service Commission

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Albania may delay elections

By JUDITH INGRAM
TIRANA, Albania (AP) - Albania's prime minister said Saturday that he may not be able to deliver on a key promise - elections by June - because of continuing anarchy across the country.

Prime Minister Bashkim Fino said the elections would not be considered democratic or fair if they were held while fighting raged.

Albania has been gripped by chaos since early March, following the collapse of high-risk investment schemes since the beginning of the year. Nearly every Albanian

family lost money.

Gunmen now rule much of the country. Rebel leaders in the south are demanding the resignation of President Sali Berisha before the elections.

The fighting has touched off an exodus to Italy. Some 11,000 Albanians have sailed across the Adriatic Sea in the last 10 days to seek refuge.

On Saturday, the Italian government returned 100 more Albanians whose presence it considers a danger to state security.

On Saturday afternoon, a motor-

boat carrying 38 people, nearly half of them children, docked in the Italian port city of Brindisi.

Berisha has refused but agreed this month to hold new parliamentary elections by June. He set up a new government to lay the groundwork and put Fino, a member of the opposition, in charge.

In an interview Saturday, Fino said it was not realistic to hold the vote under current conditions.

"I hope maybe we could re-establish order, get humanitarian aid, and improve economic standards, but there will be problems in the collection of weapons," he said. Civilians raided weapons depots when they rose up against Berisha.

Fino also expressed the need to get food and medicine to parts of the country cut off from aid since the fighting erupted. The European Union has said it is willing to help

with aid but only if security improves.

The prime minister met in Tirana Saturday with representatives of the southern port city of Vlora, the epicenter of Albania's unrest. The main topic was reopening the port to allow in foreign aid shipments, Vlora Mayor Gezim Zilja said.

Fino said he was willing to meet with individual local committees, but not with organizations claiming to represent broad regions. On Friday, Interior Minister Belul Celu had said the government would not recognize the 12 rebel-held regions of the south.

"I cannot have meetings with certain groupings — for all the south or for all the north — because then what's the point of having a government for national reconciliation?"

The rebel-held regions want Fino

to appoint a special multiparty committee to replace Berisha before the elections. But a shady group calling itself the Committee for National Salvation has threatened to mobilize thousands of supporters to fight those who insist on the president's removal.

The group is thought to be controlled by militants who back Berisha, who is from the north.

Fino said the government's greatest disagreements centered on how to handle the secret police and the state media. According to the Albanian constitution, the parliament appoints the heads of those institutions.

But the legislature is overwhelmingly dominated by the Democratic Party, and it has refused to cede control over either the security services or state broadcasting to the coalition government.

Congo city fears Zairean spillover

By LOUIS OKAMBA
BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP) - U.S. troops have begun arriving in this city, just across the river from Zaire's capital, for a possible evacuation of Americans in Zaire if that country's civil war gets to Kinshasa.

About 30 U.S. and several hundred French troops were at the military airbase in Brazzaville on Saturday and a U.S. Army airborne unit is expected to fly in Sunday from northern Italy. More U.S. troops were en route.

The United States is concerned about the safety of the 500 or so private Americans who are living in neighboring Zaire, 320 of them in Kinshasa, the capital.

For residents of this small capital, the big fear is that thousands of Zairians will pour in to escape the chaos and rebel insurgency in their own country.

"No one is surprised by the presence of the French, or even the Americans," said Louis-Marie Djama, a geology professor at Marien Ngouabi University. "What we are worried about is that the situation will degenerate, and there will be a flood of Zairian refugees in Brazza."

Much of eastern Zaire has fallen to rebels who accuse Mobutu Sese Seko, the nation's longtime leader, of robbing the country to enrich himself. The rebels say they will not stop their offensive until they reach the capital or Mobutu agrees to resign.

The people of Brazzaville are used to seeing French soldiers — Congo

was a French colony until 1960.

"Every time there is a problem in Kinshasa, the French send their troops here to go in and evacuate their citizens there," Djama said. "This is almost routine."

In 1993, the last time that happened, hundreds of people, including the French ambassador, were killed when Zairian army troops rampaged through the country's major cities after they refused to accept pay in devalued bank notes.

Rebels of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire are still about 800 miles east of Kinshasa. The concern is not so much of the danger they pose to the Zairian capital but what undisciplined Zairian army troops could do again.

After the rebels took Kisangani in north central Zaire last weekend, some wealthy residents of Kinshasa and those connected with the Mobutu regime began leaving for Brazzaville. But ordinary citizens appeared to be waiting to see whether the ailing Mobutu, who returned to Kinshasa on Friday from France, would be able to strike a deal with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

State-run radio and television have not mentioned the arrival of the American troops.

About 250 U.S. military personnel will be sent to Brazzaville and Libreville, Gabon. Another 1,000 Marines are aboard the USS Nassau, which will be deployed in the Atlantic Ocean off central Africa.

Taxi strike in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Police escorted tour buses from the San Juan airport to key hotels Saturday, after five tour buses were burned in attacks possibly linked to a taxi drivers' strike.

The cabbies stopped work Wednesday — during high season for tourism in Puerto Rico. Strikers are picketing the roads that hotels and tour companies use to take tourists from the international airport to beach hotels.

Cabbies rallied at the airport Friday night and blocked

traffic near there and at a tourist spot. Five tour buses were burned Friday and Saturday, leading police to start escorting tour buses and post extra officers at the airport and along tourist routes.

Authorities are still investigating the burning of the buses.

The Taxi Federation union accuses officials of failing to comply with a two-month-old accord that gives taxis priority over private tour buses for running tourists to and from the airport.



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Kabila vows no cease-fire

By KARIN DAVIES
KISANGANI, Zaire (AP) - Rebel leader Laurent Kabila on Saturday

told a U.N. envoy sent to make peace in Zaire that he won't quit fighting until he defeats President Mobutu

Sese Seko - and showed him one reason why. Kabila invited the envoy,



First lady Hillary Clinton takes a walk into a crowd of well wishers lining the streets after a wreath laying at the Hector Peterson Memorial in Soweto, South Africa, Tuesday. Mrs. Clinton is on the second day of her two-week goodwill tour through Africa. AP Photo

Mohamed Sahnoun, to a rally celebrating the rebel capture last week-end of Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city.

"Do you want a cease-fire?" Kabila asked. The crowd of 5,000 booed, hissed and shouted, "No!"

"Keep on going, keep on going," they cried. "Freedom! Freedom!"

Kabila promised, "This movement will continue until Gbadolite, until Kinshasa." Mobutu's home village is in Gbadolite in northern Zaire where he has built a palatial residence.

Sahnoun is trying to persuade the warring factions to lay down their arms before fighting ignites the whole region.

Kabila has repeatedly said he won't quit until Mobutu resigns.

The ailing president returned to Kinshasa on Friday from France but has not been seen in public.

Mobutu reportedly has internal bleeding linked to his prostate cancer surgery in August.

On Saturday, he was reported to be resting at one of his residences at Camp Tshatshi on the outskirts of Kinshasa, 800 miles west of Kisangani.

"We talked and talked and nothing worked. Gunfire is the only language Mobutu understands," Kabila said.

"There won't be a cease-fire before negotiations. That is it."

The rebels have captured a third of Zaire in six months and continue to make steady gains.

Kabila said his troops in southern Zaire are now just 125 miles from Lumbumbashi, the country's second-largest city, and moving toward the diamond-trading city of Mbuji-Mayi. At the rally, Kabila also announced the suspension of political parties until the war ends. He said a transitional government will be formed exclusively by his rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

"We are in the process of liberation. If we accept political parties, they will tell lies to stop the advance of the Alliance," Kabila said.

No one complained — at least not openly — around the ruling.

"We're all part of the Alliance now," said Eric Joseph Lunganga, vice president of the Democratic Union for Social Progress, or UDPS, the main opposition party led by Etienne Tshisekedi.

However, during a vote for local councils Friday in Kisangani, UDPS candidates won the leadership of each of the six zones.

Rebels open fire at peacekeepers

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) - Armed rebels fired on peacekeepers in this African capital Saturday, the first clash since an army uprising in January.

Gen. Edouard N'Kelly, the commander of peacekeeping forces trying to ease tensions after two mutinies in the past six months, said armed men fired at positions held by the multinational force, and that the peacekeepers returned fire, later arresting 11 rebels and seizing weapons and vehicles.

There were conflicting reports on casualties. Peacekeepers said no one was killed, but hospital officials said one man died, and the rebels said two of their troops were killed along with two civilians, including a young girl.

In a statement aired on national television, N'Kelly deplored the incident and said the peacekeeping force "will not tolerate" any more attacks.

The clash occurred in Petevo, a sector of Bangui known as a rebel stronghold.

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NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

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

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff

vs.
AUGUSTIN M. TAGABUEL and
MARGARITA S. TAGABUEL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-907

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice of the auction sale of the following described property:

- 45' Fishing Boat**
Vessel Name: KATSU MARU No. 1
Registered Number: ON2-0570
Place of Registry: Okinawa
Builder: Nitta Zosen, Ibusuki City, Kagoshima, Japan
Year Built: 1979
Hull Type/Material: Sampun/Fibre Reinforced Plastic
Length/Beam/Draft: 12.30/2.82/1.18 meters
Net Displacement: 11.21 Metric Tons
Machinery/Propulsion: One 400 hp Yanmar, 6 cylinder diesel engine, Model 6KES-HT, mounted inboard, and driving a single 3 bladed propeller
Recently appraised value: \$110,300

- Mazda B2600 Pick-Up Truck**
Make/Model: Mazda 4x4 CP Pick Up Truck
Year Built: 1993

- Other fishing related items, accessories, and equipment**

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the Department of Public Safety Office, Susupe, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 1997, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

SECTION ONE INSPECTION PROPERTY

The property described above is presently located at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai or at the Seaport, Lower Base, where it may be viewed and inspected between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. (8:00 a.m.) and four o'clock p.m. (4:00 p.m.) each weekday before the sale. All inspections of any property must be coordinated with Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, CDA Loan Manager. Failure to inspect any property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

SECTION TWO WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS

All property listed for sale in this announcement will be sold "AS IS" without any warranty or covenant on the part of the auctioneer or CDA as to quality, character, condition, size, weight, or kind, or that such property is condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended. No claim for any allowance on any of the grounds will be considered after the property is struck off to a bidder by auctioneer.

Neither auctioneer nor CDA may give any warranty, express or implied, as to quality or description of the property listed for sale in this announcement. Neither auctioneer nor CDA shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement or for any faulty description thereof, in any catalogue, advertisement, or other medium employed for announcing this sale. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account of the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement, or the faulty description thereof.

SECTION THREE CONDUCT OF AUCTION SALE

- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall be not binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to the Chief of Police of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP 96950; or to F. Matthew Smith, Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950; Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256. CDA may bid at the auction sale.
- Disputes.** Auctioneer may resubmit any property listed in this announcement if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

SECTION FOUR ENFORCEMENT OF AUCTION SALE

- Deposit: Payment.** CDA shall collect, and buyers shall pay, a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to CDA within ten (10) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check, otherwise CDA will retain the deposit and resell the property.
- Memorandum of Sale.** Auctioneer shall require, and all buyers must sign, a memorandum of sale immediately after sale of any property is consummated.
- Removal or Storage of Property.** Buyers shall have ten (10) days after payment of the purchase price to remove the property purchased from the place of sale. Buyers shall bear the entire risk of loss during storage prior to such removal as provided. After ten (10) days, buyers shall be liable for all expenses of storage of any property that was purchased but which has not been removed.

SECTION FIVE CHANGE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1997.

/s/ JOSE M. CASTRO
Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety

Poland approves new constitution

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
WARSAW, Poland (AP) - Poland's Parliament finally approved a new post-communism constitution for the country Saturday, giving a legal framework to the democratic changes wrought since 1989.

The constitution — strongly influenced by religion in this predominantly Roman Catholic country — still faces review by the president before it goes to a public vote May 25.

The National Assembly voted 461-31 for the charter, which received the backing of the ruling former communists, the left-wing Labor Union party and the Solidarity-rooted Freedom Union. Nine of Solidarity's 12 sena-

tors and most right-wing parties opposed it.

Drafters had rejected Solidarity's proposal that they recognize God-given law as higher than any man-made law. While invoking God as the "source of truth, justice, good and beauty," the constitution also says for nonbelievers that those are universal values drawn from other sources.

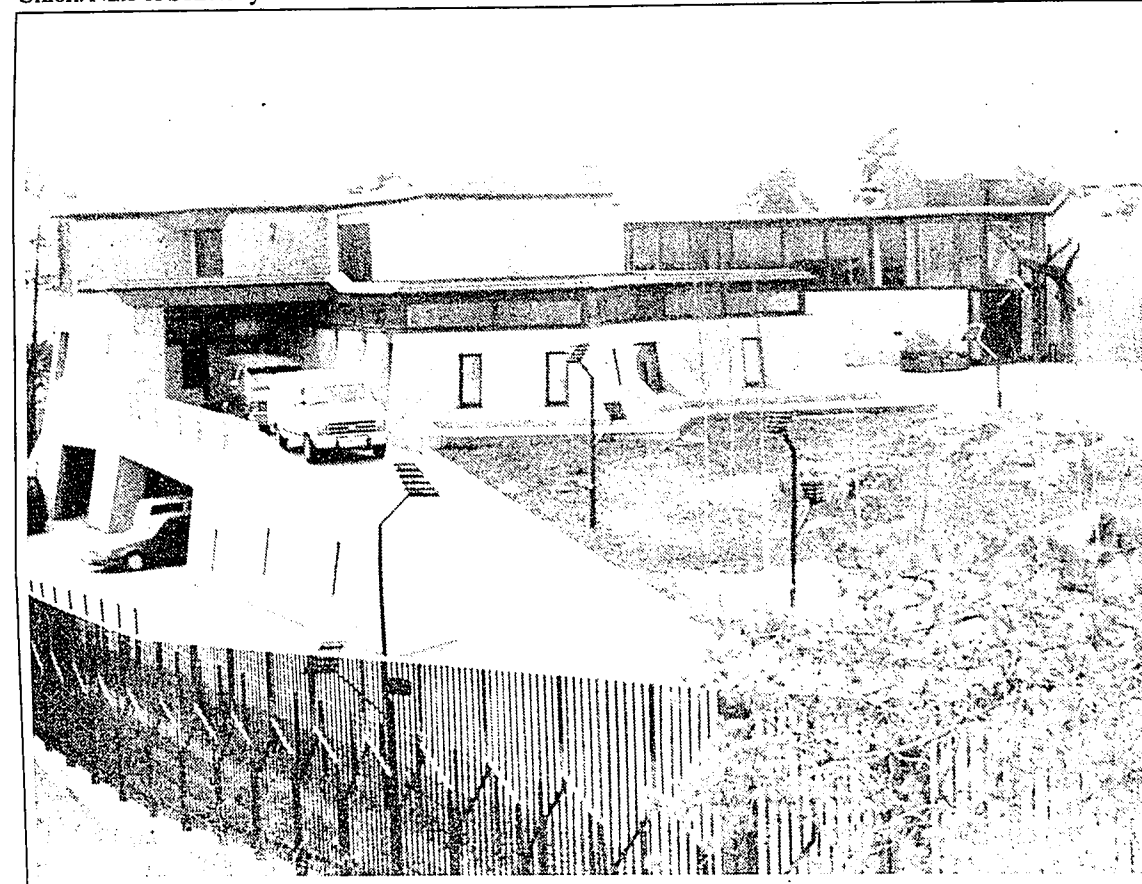
On demands by the church, the new constitution also outlaws homosexual marriages and guarantees the right of religion classes in schools.

The document says Poles have learned the lesson of communist times when "basic freedoms and human

rights" were violated, and cites 1989 — the year Poles ended communist rule in their country — as the time Poland regained sovereignty and democracy.

Poland's current constitution is a communist-era charter enacted in 1952 and repeatedly amended after 1989. The first two post-communist parliaments survived for only half their four-year terms and were unable to complete the document.

Former conservative prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki — the main author of the constitution — said the new charter was "not ideal, but not bad."



Service vehicles park outside the Mantyniemi residence in Helsinki, Tuesday where President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will hold a two-day summit. AP Photo

Spanish court seeks to declassify spy documents

MADRID, Spain (AP) - The Supreme Court ordered the declassification of spy agency documents on Saturday, taking a step that could shed light on Spain's dirty war against Basque separatists.

The documents, which are in the hands of Spain's spy agency, CESID, are believed to deal with the death squads that killed 27 people in an alleged secret war on suspected Basque separatists hiding out in southern France.

The killings stopped in 1987, the same year France began extraditing wanted members of the armed Basque separatist group ETA back to Spain.

The squads were allegedly directed by the government of former Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He has denied the charges but the controversy was one of the main reasons behind his electoral defeat last year, ending 13 years in office.

The Supreme Court judges met over four days to discuss the papers after Gonzalez's successor, conservative Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, rejected lower court requests for their declassification.

Germany moves to meet currency goal

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) - Germany is committed to making the 1999 deadline for introducing a European single currency, Chancellor Helmut Kohl says, countering suggestions that the German economy might not be ready for it.

"There can be no talk of any delay," Kohl told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

To participate in the single-currency system, nations must meet strict economic standards by late 1997, including bringing their budget deficits under 3 percent of the gross domestic product.

The Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, expressed doubt last month about whether the country could meet that require-

ment.

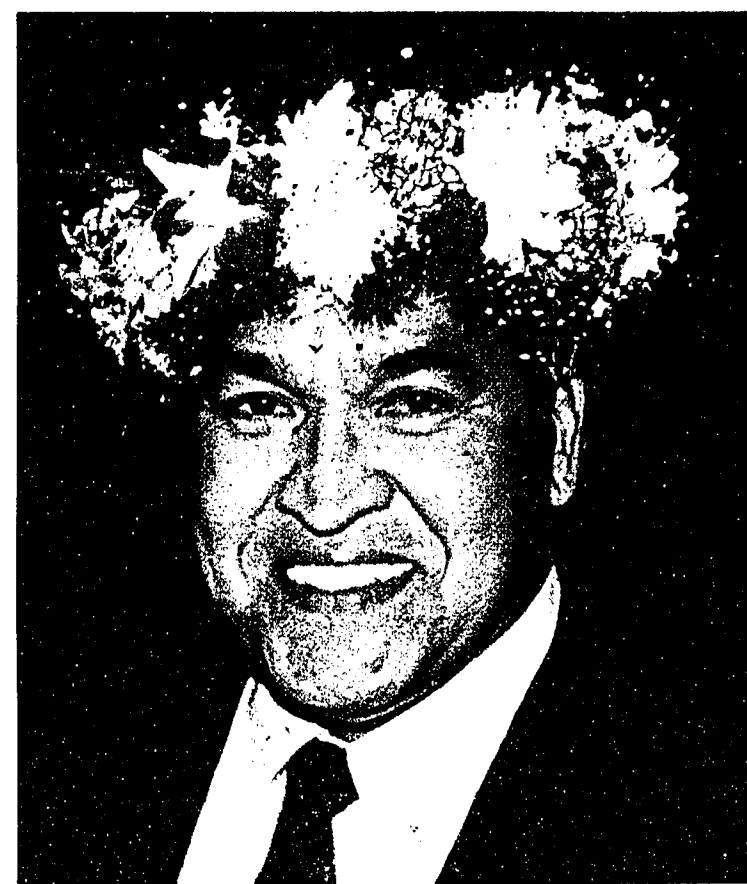
"Nothing has changed in my determination to fulfill the ... criteria so that the economic and monetary union can begin on schedule," Kohl said.

Kohl is meeting stiff resistance from labor unions as he tries to push through a series of austerity measures. The cuts are crucial for creating jobs, as well as for meeting the criteria for the single currency, Kohl said.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel said social benefits would be the first target for cuts, but acknowledged that taxes were possible as a last resort.

Germany has been a leading proponent of moves to increase the bonds between the 15 European Union nations, which proponents say will boost the continent's economies.

Covenant Day Message from the Governor



On March 24, 1976, the U.S. Congress, through its Congressional Joint Resolution, 549, signed into law the Covenant, which established the parameters of the political association between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. Implicit in the term "Covenant" for the new arrangement was a deep and abiding faith that both parties to the agreement would fulfill their obligations, to the benefit of all.

In the twenty-one years that have intervened, the political configuration of the world has changed in unforeseeable ways. Developments that those who drew up the Covenant could not have anticipated have transpired. Both parties to the Covenant have gained in wisdom what they had lost in innocence.

On this traditional coming-of-age anniversary of the signing of the Covenant into law, let us, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, accept the challenge contained in the Covenant. Let us recognize that the differences between the two parties to the Covenant frequently do not go beneath the surface. Let us stand on our own, as a strong member of the United States political family of states and territories. Let us renew our commitment to building our self-sufficiency and to accepting the sacred trust we assumed when we chose to become part of the United States.

Froylan C. Tenorio
FROYLAN C. TENORIO

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C. SEBASTIAN ALOOT
Attorney at Law

is pleased to announce the opening of his law office in

The Horiguchi Building
Fourth Floor, Suite A
Garapan, Saipan

voice: 233-3000 fax: 233-1675 e-mail: alootlaw@saipan.com

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staff housing (20-25 person) Can also be divided to two
house, semi-furnished Two ranges and refrigerators, good
power & water see to appreciate

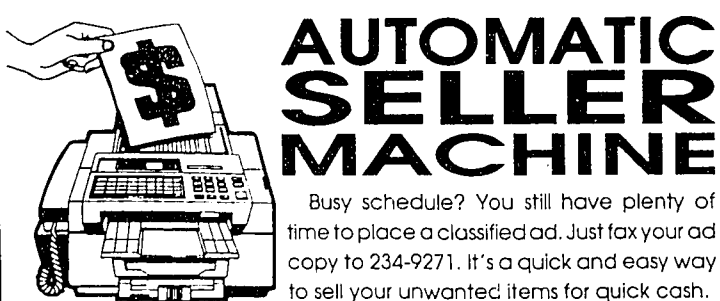
Call: 234-8868 work or 322-4181 Home
Peter or Jenny

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

RFP NO. RFP97-0089
FOR: APPRAISAL SERVICES
OPENING DATE: MARCH 28, 1997 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA,
THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING
COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR AP-
PRaisal SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PRO-
POSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PRO-
CUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS
(7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/S/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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MACHINE**

Busy schedule? You still have plenty of
time to place a classified ad. Just fax your ad
code to 234-9271. It's a quick and easy way
to sell your unwanted items for quick cash.

If you don't have access to a FAX machine. Call 234-9777/6341/7578
and a representative will help you place your ad over the phone.

Marianas Variety
FAX your ad to
234-9271

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233-2350 after 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-116

DOLORES HOASHI LIZAMA,
Plaintiff,

v.
KIM JU YEAN, JANG DOO YOUNG,
ZHU XIAO CHUN, YANG YONG, XU
YUN LU, YONG JIN KIM, WON JUNG
JA, and HAK BIN KIM
Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-116
SUMMONS

TO: KIM JU YEAN, ZHU XIAO CHUN,
YANG YONG, XU YUN LU, YONG JIN
KIM, WON JUNG JA, and HAK BIN KIM
You are hereby summoned and notified
to file any answer you wish to make to
the Complaint, within thirty (30) days
after the last publication of the Sum-
mons in this newspaper, and to deliver
or mail a copy of your answer to the Law
Offices of Vicente T. Salas, attorneys for
Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office
Box 1305, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon
as practicable after filing your answer
or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and
filed with the Clerk of this Court at the
Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may
be prepared for you by your counsel and
sent to the Clerk of this Court by mes-
senger or mail. It is not necessary for
you to appear personally until further
notice.

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

By order of the above Court.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Commonwealth Superior Court

Dated this 13th day of March, 1997

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-151

ANTONIO C. ARRIOLA,
Plaintiff,
vs.
LISA C. ARRIOLA,
Defendant.

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFEN-
DANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and
notified to file any answer you wish to
make the Complaint, a copy of which
is given you herewith, within twenty
(20) days after service of this Sum-
mons upon you, to deliver or mail a
copy of your answer to THE LAW OF-
FICE OF JOHN A. MANGLONA, P.C.,
the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address
is Post Office Box 2852, Saipan, MP
96950, as soon as practicable after fil-
ing 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
Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared
and signed for you by your counsel and
sent to the Clerk of this Court by mes-
senger or mail. It is not necessary for
you to appear personally until further
notice.

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

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 7th day of February, 1997.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Sekisui . . .

Continued from page 1

"Mr. Hiraga stated in his depo-
sition that if Mr. Tenorio were
elected governor, then he thought
it would help expedite negotia-
tions on the acquisition of gov-
ernment property in the CNMI,"
Sekisui said.

"Therefore, if anyone impugned

Castro . . .

Continued from page 1

edge of the legal system and the
requirement and meaning of bail
conditions.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Loren Sutton
opposed Villanueva's request,
saying the government considers
the defendant to be a person who
is a potential flight risk, given the
seriousness of the charges against
him and "the publicity and com-
munity antipathy which has been
generated."

Villanueva is a danger to others
and may be in danger himself if
released, Sutton pointed out.

Villanueva was charged with
murder in the first degree, bur-
glary, sexual abuse of a child, and
two counts of assault with a dan-
gerous weapon.

The defendant has been held in
connection with the incident in
Kobleville last Jan. 21 where he
reportedly broke into a house,
sexually abused a child and went
on a stabbing spree.

The assault left Bernadita B.
Mendiola dead and her three kids
injured.

Mendiola was stabbed 24 times
on the back and thrice on the
chest. She also suffered multiple
cutting wounds to the face, arms,
left forearm, and both hands.

Investigators believed that the
attack was "ice"-related.

A Crusade Against Drugs spear-
headed by Frances Sablan-Bellas
was formed after the Kobleville
murder.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1078

GEORGE FLEMING dba FAS MOVING &
STORAGE CO.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
TONY MARTOS,
Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1078
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

The Superior Court of the Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands to Defen-
dant Tony Martos:

You are hereby summoned to appear
within twenty (20) days after final pub-
lication of this summons, to wit, on or before
the 28th day of April, 1997, and defend the
above-entitled action in the above-entitled
court, and answer the complaint of the plain-
tiff, and serve a copy of your answer upon
the plaintiff's attorney at:

Law Offices of Douglas F. Cushnie
San Jose Village
Lim's Bldg., 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 949
Saipan, MP 96950

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will
be entered against you according to the
demand set forth in the complaint, which
has been filed with the clerk of the court.

Dated this 14th day of March, 1997.

JOVITA FLORES
Clerk of Court

BY: /s/ DEPUTY CLERK

the integrity of Governor Tenorio,
it is Mr. Hiraga and not Sekisui
House."

Hiraga's inflammatory re-
marks in his deposition, Sekisui
said, "have resulted in intense in-
terest on the part of the media."

Tenorio's demand for apology
was triggered by Sekisui's press
statement which Tenorio said was
"completely false and highly ir-
responsible."

"Coupled with Sekisui's other
statements. . . it is apparent to me
that Sekisui wants the people of
the Commonwealth to believe that
I unlawfully sought money from
Sekisui," the governor added.

The press release stated that
"on June 1, 1993, Sekisui in-
formed Tenorio that no funds
would be provided to him."

Sekisui said there was typo-
graphical error in the press re-
lease.

"The sentence inadvertently
referred to Mr. Tenorio when in
fact it was intended that Mr.
Hiraga's name be inserted in-
stead," Sekisui said. When read
in context, it is apparent that Mr.
Tenorio's name should not have
appeared in the sentence in ques-
tion."

Sekisui said the press release
contained 38 sentences, but
Tenorio "has apparently read the
press release and takes issue with
a single sentence in the press re-
lease which is an obvious typo-
graphical error."

Hangars . . .

Continued from page 1

hangars formerly used by the US
Naval Air Station.

The deal is being seen by CNMI
officials as "telltale" signs Conti-
nental is swaying to Guam in its
search for a hub site.

It has also bolstered suspicion
Continental is merely bluffing
Guam into accepting the former's
terms by sounding like it is taking
CNMI's proposal seriously, an
allegation dismissed by Ream as
"unfounded."

Ream said a decision was set to
be announced by March 19.

Dias said such a decision "may
finally be arrived at and made
public by next Wednesday."

There has been a delay because
"we are looking at each location
separately, weighing advantages
and disadvantages, and cost," Dias
said.

Asked for comments, Com-
monwealth Ports Authority Board
Chairman Victor Hocog main-
tained Saipan's "attractive" labor
force will eventually "pull Conti-
nental over here."

He said CNMI is willing to con-
duct further negotiations with
Continental "to accommodate their
requests."

He declined to say what these
"requests" are.

"We're more than willing to sit
down with them and come up
with an agreeable figure if they
think our rate is still not competi-
tive," Hocog said.

"Labor is one of our biggest advan-
tage. And hopefully, the executive
branch will come up with measures
to give them (Continental) additional
incentives."

"They (Continental) has nothing to
lose. In the end, it is going to be a win-
win situation," he said.

Marianas Variety
Classified Ads Section**Employment Wanted****Job Vacancy
Announcement**

01 ARCHITECT-Salary: \$750.00 per
month
10 CARPENTER-Salary: \$290-3.65 per
hour
10 MASON-Salary: \$290-3.15 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS CON-
STRUCTION, INC. dba General Con-
struction, Contractor Tel. 234-6485/(4/
7)M65053

04 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS, INC.
dba Folk Pub Disco Tel. 234-6485/(4/
7)M65052

02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05-
3.20 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Sal-
ary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour
Contact: DIAMOND HOTEL CO., LTD.
dba Saipan Diamond Hotel (4/
7)M65033

01 REFRIGERATION & AIRCON
TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: SAM JONG LEE/SAM COR-
PORATION dba SAM Electronics & Rel.
Aircon Shop Tel. 234-5419/(47)M65058

04 RESTAURANT WAITER-Salary: \$3.
05-4.17 per hour
02 RESTAURANT WAITRESS-Salary:
\$3.05-4.17 per hour
01 HOSTESS-Salary: \$3.04-4.17 per
hour
06 BERTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per
hour
01 HOTELIER-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per
hour
02 GENERAL MAINTENANCE
WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per hour
01 GENERATOR MECHANIC-Salary:
\$3.25-4.17 per hour
03 RESTAURANT CASHIER-Salary:
\$3.05-4.17 per hour
01 FRONT OFFICE CASHIER-Salary:
\$3.05-4.17 per hour
11 COOK-Salary: \$3.25-4.17 per hour
02 BELL HOP-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per
hour
02/ACC/ REFRIGERATION MECHANIC-
Salary: \$3.25-4.75 per hour
02 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.25-4.17 per
hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.25-4.17 per
hour
02 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.25-4.17 per
hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.25-4.17
per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA COR-
PORATION dba Dai-ichi Hotel Tel. 234-
6412/(47)M65059

02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: VICENT C. ALDAN dba V & A
Enterprises Tel. 235-2582/(47)M228525

01 TICKET AGENT-Salary: \$1,200.00-
1,900.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT
INC. Tel. 322-8876/(47)M228526

01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:
\$3.05 per hour
Contact: GEN. SALES, REPAIR &
MAINT. CORP. Tel. 288-7211/(4/
7)M228527

01 STOREKEEPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ALLIANCE ENTERPRISES, INC.
Tel. 322-2996/(47)M228529

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$3.05-
3.75 per hour
Contact: ASKUS (SAIPAN), INC. dba Cre-
ative Pacific Union Tel. 235-3456/(4/
7)M228528

01 ADM. ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05
Contact: AQUATIC MARINE CO. INC. dba
Amigo Aquatic Sport Tel. 233-0325/(4/
7)M228531

02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ANTONIETA R. AQUINO dba
Hairzone Beauty Shop Tel. 234-1035/(4/
7)M228530

01 INSTRUCTOR, SPORTS (SCUBA
DIVING)-SALARY: \$800.00-1,500.00
per month
Contact: MARINE FANTASIA CORPO-
RATION Tel. 234-6564/(47)M228533

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Sal-
ary: \$900.00 per month
01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:
\$3.05 per hour
03 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: DOUBLE M LIMITED Tel. 233-
0594/(47)M228539

01 COOK-Salary: \$600.00-1,000.00 per
month
Contact: PRO-DIVE SAIPAN, INC. dba
Pro-Dive Saipan Tel. 228538/(4/
7)M228538

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$7.03
per hour
Contact: CREATIVE TOURS
MICRONESIA, INC. Tel. 322-7417/(4/
7)M228537

02 ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR-Salary:
\$528.67-1,000.00 per month
Contact: ANGEL P. CRUZ, JR. dba
WECCO Inc. Tel. 234-3569/(3/
24)M228261

01 TOUR MANAGER-Salary: \$9.75 per
hour
Contact: TAE HYEONG CORPORA-
TION (47)M228532

01 INSTRUCTOR, SPORTS (SCUBA
DIVING)-SALARY: \$800.00-1,500.00
per month
Contact: MARINE FANTASIA CORPO-
RATION Tel. 234-6564/(47)M228533

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Sal-
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01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:
\$3.05 per hour
03 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: DOUBLE M LIMITED Tel. 233-
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01 COOK-Salary: \$600.00-1,000.00 per
month
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Pro-Dive Saipan Tel. 228538/(4/
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MICRONESIA, INC. Tel. 322-7417/(4/
7)M228537

02 ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR-Salary:
\$528.67-1,000.00 per month
Contact: ANGEL P. CRUZ, JR. dba
WECCO Inc. Tel. 234-3569/(3/
24)M228261

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$2,000.00-2,500.00 per month
01 SALES ASSOCIATE (REPRESENTA-
TIVE)-Salary: \$1,200.00-1,300.00
per month
Contact: PANTRAC TRADING CORP.
dba Cartier Store Tel. 234-0550/(3/
24)M228262

02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Sal-
ary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: QUINCY CORP. dba
Micronesian Marine Tel. 234-9696/(3/
24)M228263

01 PRODUCTION CONTROLLER-Sal-
ary: \$2.90-3.70 per hour
Contact: JIN APPAREL, INC. Tel. 234-
3252/(3/24)M228264

02 HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: LUCRECIA E. LIZAMA dba
Maintenance Services & Help Supply
Service Tel. 235-4857/(3/24)M228265

03 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HUGO W. MICHUNG dba Is-
land Style Beauty Salon(3/24)M228266

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: CHARM INC. dba Venus
Beauty Salon Tel. 233-9391/(3/
31)M228433

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-
Salary: \$4.50-4.75 per hour
01 AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICIAN-Sal-
ary: \$4.50 per hour
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRO-
DUCTS CORPORATION Tel. 322-
0407/(3/31)M228434

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50
per hour
Contact: VIRGILIO D. PULIDO dba
Pulido's Auto Repair Shop(3/
31)M228435

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:
\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ARSENIO N. FLORES dba
Arsenio Enterprises Tel. 288-0412/(3/
31)M228436

01 SALES, SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: CHANG HYUN CORPORA-
TION dba Koresco Hotel Gift Shop Tel.
288-7891/(3/31)M228437

01 MARKETING MANAGER-Salary:
\$5.00 per hour
Contact: EVERTRUST CORPORA-
TION dba 123 Discount Store Tel. 233-
4242/(3/31)M228438

15 DANCERS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: A.S.C. INC. dba Nagoya Start
Night Club & Karaoke Lounge Tel. 235-
7648/(3/31)M228439

01 JANITOR-Salary: \$5.25 per hour
Contact: EFRAN C. CAMACHO dba
EFC Engineers & Architects Tel. 322-
7814/(3/24)M64760

05 MASON-Salary: \$2.90-3.60 per hour
01 BULLDOZER OPERATOR-Salary:
\$2.90-3.60 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$2.90-3.50
per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary: \$2.90-3.90 per
hour
04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-
Salary: \$2.90-3.60 per hour
01 WELDER-Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per
hour
06 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-
Salary: \$2.90-3.90 per hour
01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:
\$2.90-3.60 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per
hour
01 CRUISER TENDER-Salary: \$2.90-
3.60 per hour
Contact: CONSTRUCTION AND MATE-
RIAL SUPPLY, INC. dba CMS Tel. 234-
6136/(3/24)M64763

02 MERCHANDISE DELIVERER-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: INTER GLOBAL CORPORA-
TION Tel. 235-4212/(3/24)M64774

01 SALES MANAGER-Salary: \$7.00-
10.30 per hour
Contact: YCO CORPORATION dba
YCO Servistar Hardware/Liberty Plaza,
General Construction Contractor Tel.
235-6604/(3/24)M64777

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per
hour
Contact: PAM Pacific Enterprises Corp.
dba PENNA HOUSE BOUTIQUE Tel.
235-7270/(3/24)M228260

01 STORE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: EUGENE LOUIS CORPORA-
TION dba Oleal Market Tel. 234-3031/(3/
24)M228267

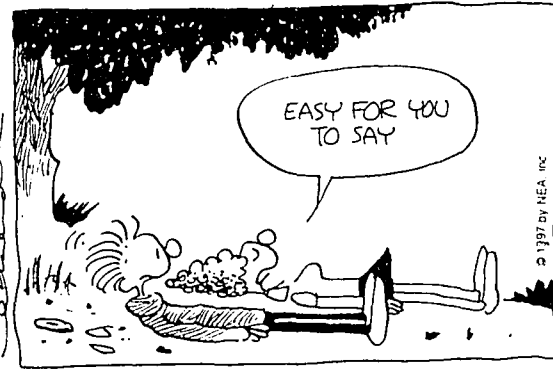
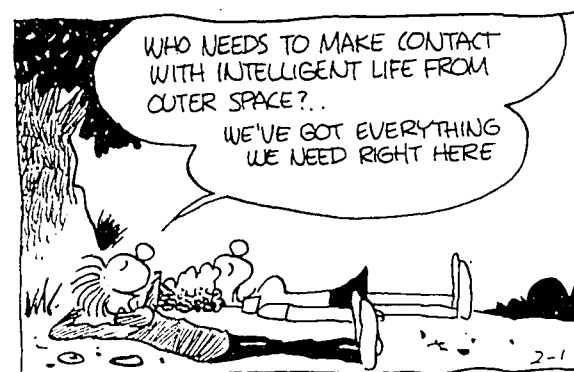
01 MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary:
\$3.05-4.25 per hour
Contact: MISA ENTERPRISES, INC.
Tel. 234-6900/(3/24)M228268

02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER,
BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05-4.25 per hour
01 RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR-Sal-
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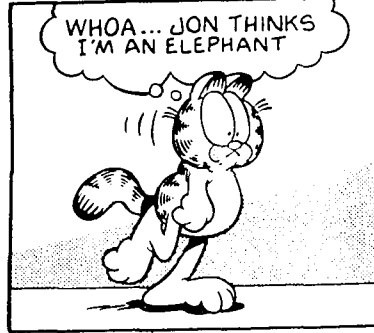
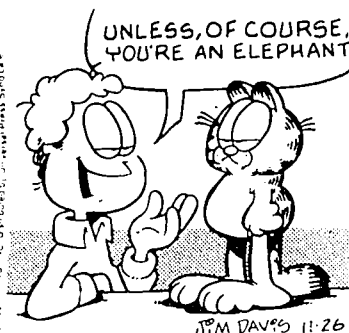
EEK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



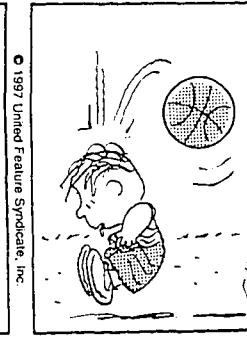
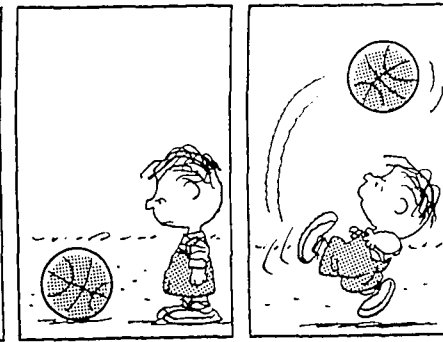
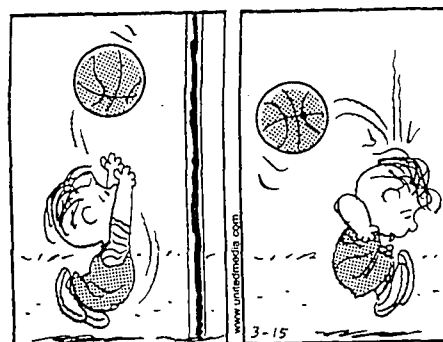
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YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you maintain a must-win attitude throughout life, even when you are facing the kind of odds that would inspire others to give up or run and hide. You are no stranger to adversity, but you are quite adept at keeping your head above water when others are sinking beneath the surface. You are used to pulling victory out of the jaws of defeat and coming through at the very last minute; indeed, others are even used to expecting you to come through in such a fashion. On those rare occasions when you do fail, it comes as a great surprise to everyone — including yourself.

You have a great sense of style and drama, and you always feel that you should be in the spotlight whenever possible. This is not so much a result of your ego as a result of your remarkable track record, you know what you are capable of, and you know that it is worth notice wherever you go.

Also born on this date are: Norman Fell, actor; Lawrence Ferlinghetti, poet; Bob Mackie, costume & fashion designer.

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There is no point in thinking that you are better than someone else. Concentrate instead on getting the job done, in whatever fashion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may have to be a little patient as the day opens. Later on, you can expect what you want will surely come your way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It is a good day, and the slowdown you expect may not materialize. If not, you can surge ahead of the competition in style.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — There is little for you to do today except focus your energies on tasks you have been assigned in an official capacity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You are getting in the habit of tending to your duties ahead of schedule. Today, however, you may come up against an obstacle that slows you down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Concentrate on status, and on the things you can do to improve yours on the job and within the community. Get the facts from one of the

experts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may feel you are better equipped than someone else to do the job that waits to be done, but you'll have to prove yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Take a look back at something that happened recently which left a sour taste in your mouth. You will realize that you were not at fault.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may find yourself fighting for the best-possible position at the workplace, and you have a chance. Watch what you say in public, however.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Time may be passing more slowly now than you expected; take the opportunity to save your energy and prepare.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may have the opportunity to be a host to someone you admire — in your home, or at the workplace. Be gracious, accommodating and stylish.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — It is not likely to do you much good today to object to what the experts have been saying and doing. Concentrate on your own style and tactics.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Purple Heart, e.g.
- 6 — Guard
- 11 Seinfeld's neighbor
- 12 Crosby/Hope "Road" co-star
- 14 Actor Garcia
- 15 Toward the left side of the ship
- 17 Ustinov ID
- 18 Actress Caldwell
- 19 — cheese
- 20 Star of 30
- 21 Chemical suffix
- 22 Make amends
- 23 Story
- 24 Fragrant
- 26 Mistake
- 27 — it Romantic?
- 28 Dye plant
- 29 JR's mother
- 31 Condiment

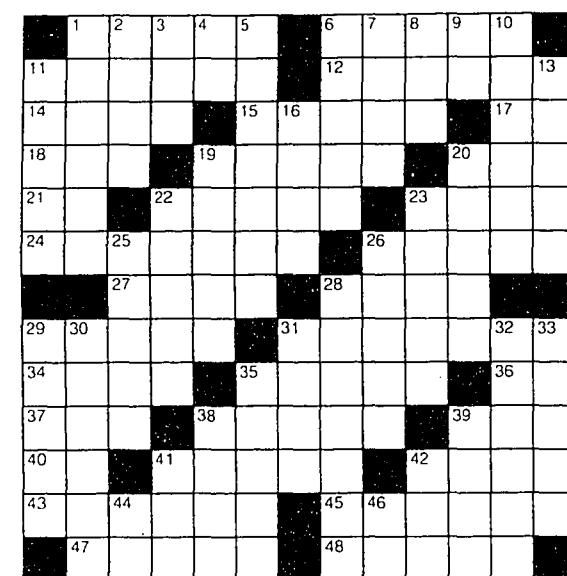
DOWN

- 2 "Eraser" star
- 3 Walk through water
- 4 Ms. Irving
- 5 Concerning
- 6 Evoked (2 wds.)
- 7 She's Cruella De Vil in "101"
- 8 Oly.
- 9 Cummings
- 10 Ship (abbr.)
- 11 Ms. Carter
- 12 Guido's high note
- 13 "Apollo 13" actor (inits.)
- 14 Memento
- 15 — tire
- 16 Vasco —
- 17 Frasier's ex-wife
- 18 Reasoning
- 19 Delete

Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 SAN BOND PGA
2 DOLE ANOA ORB
3 ISSUES BILLIE
4 TRET SAINT
5 DEGRADED SS
6 AREAS NOP HOT
7 S LEGATEE TR
8 HER DON RADIO
9 OP ACCURACY
10 CILIA YAKS
11 INLETS GEHRIG
12 NEE ISLE OISE
13 EER PEWS TAAL

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KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

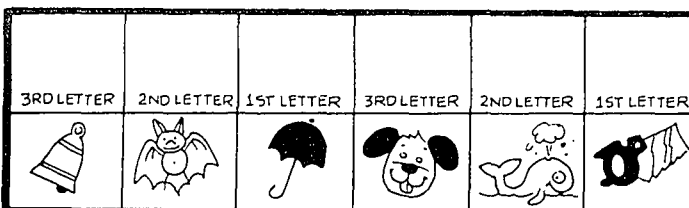
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OKAY, KIDS, LET'S SEE YOU WORK YOUR WAY THROUGH THIS PUZZLE. THE QUESTION IS: HOW CAN YOU TELL WHICH END OF THE WORM IS ITS HEAD?

USE THE CLUES TO LEARN THE ANSWER.



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National Basketball Association

Sonics slam Kings, 113-99

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle SuperSonics got 53 points and some words of advice from their bench.

"We have to approach the (referees) differently and that starts tomorrow," McMillan said after the Sonics survived Gary Payton's first ejection of the season in a 113-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings. "They're human. They remember how you reacted and what you did."

Payton was hit with two technical fouls by Terry Durham seconds apart early in the third quarter for protesting an on-call after he posted up Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf and thought he was fouled.

McMillan had 11 points, six assists and six steals in Payton's absence.

David Wingate added 14 points off the bench, Sam Perkins had 13 and Terry Cummings 12. McMillan, who is in 11th season in Seattle, said the Sonics bench is the best since he's been here.

"With Terry Cummings, Perkins, Wingate and myself, it's almost like another starting unit," Wingate, also in his 11th year, scored a season-high 14 points, including a game-breaking 3-pointer with 2:34 left that gave Seattle a 101-93 advantage.

"When you work hard, there will be nights when the shots fall," Wingate said.

The Sonics controlled the game but had some anxious moments as the Kings cut an 18-point first half deficit

to five points with 3:07 left.

Hersey Hawkins scored 22 points, led the Sonics with eight rebounds and had four steals. Wingate's shot from the deep right corner with 2:34 left started a 15-7 run.

Mitch Richmond led the Kings with 25 points and Abdul-Rauf added 21.

Seattle forced the Kings into 29 turnovers that were converted into 40 points.

Richmond, the five-time All Star, set up Wingate's basket with a key turnover — dribbling the ball inbounds against Sonics pressure.

Wingate, who had nine fourth quarter points, then nailed his key shot.

The Kings lost their first game under interim coach Eddie Jordan, who won his debut game Friday against the San Antonio Spurs.

"We didn't talk enough about their traps coming into the game and it showed," Jordan said. Perkins' three-point play put Seattle ahead 88-74 with 11:44 left in the game. The Kings stormed back as Kevin Gamble hit two 3-point shots and Corliss Williamson's post-up brought pulled the Kings to 91-86 with 6:34 left.

"We played well in spurts," Williamson said. "When you turn the ball over, that's going to kill

you."

With Payton ejected, the Kings made a run and trimmed a 65-51 deficit to 65-56 on a layup and three free throws by Olden Polynice.

Kemp then scored on a turn-around jumper and a two-handed stuff and Larry Stewart added a layup for a 71-56 advantage.

Terry Cummings had 10 points off the bench in the first half for the Sonics. Phoenix moved ahead of Sacramento in the battle for the eighth playoff spot by beating Houston 104-99. The Sonics beat the Kings for the seventh straight time. Abdul-Rauf was held scoreless in the fourth quarter.

Gilman . . . Continued from page 24

Best was third in 21:13.

Seung Jin Lee and Gerald Boyer clocked 19:37 and 25:46 as SSC betters recorded a 1-2 finish in the 11-12 boys bracket. MAC's Bill Whitman was third with 25:48.

Musashi Flores of TAR submitted a time of 33:24 to gain top honors in the boys' 13-14. Teammate Travis Bryce was second with 35:43 while Keoni Ichihara was third after clocking 36:00 flat.

Jessica Jordan led an SSC sweep in the Women's Seniors swimming the distance in 35:36 to beat Noriko Grandinetti by nine seconds. Sonya

Kosack came in third in 38:17.

In the Masters 30-39, Nicole Forelli and Pepe Laflemme emerged victorious.

Forelli of SM team, clocked 20:42 to beat Carol Lynn Pierce and Katherine Sinclair. Pierce and Sinclair clocked 23:32 and 34:48 respectively.

Laflemme, swimming for TAR, submitted 18:45 to prevail against Kevin Seely (20:25) and Stuart Smith (20:28).

In the 40-49 bracket, Jess Ronquillo

clocked 23:14 to beat Tony Stearns and Frank Whitman.

SSC president and coach Bill Sakovich bagged the 50-59 with a time of 23:03 while Akira Ohashi set the swim event's fourth record by

timing in 29:06 to win the 60-69 division. Lyle Cummings came in second with 33:39.

Bill Sakovich said that "the tournament was very successful not only because of the fairly calm waters but also because of the good turnout, especially in the Masters."

More than a hundred entries competed in the annual event set in special race course set in the lagoon.

Hong Kong Bank general manager Joan Kosack and 1988 Japanese Olympic Swimming team coach Yoji Suzuki presented the winners their respective medals during the Awards Banquet held later last in the evening.

A's . . . Continued from page 24

league record by fanning out 17 batters as the defending champions, San Roque D-9ers blanked Tanapag Falcons, 2-0.

Camacho, who brought his total strikeouts to a league record 29 batters in 10 innings, issued just two hits in sixth innings as the D-9ers racked up their third consecutive victory.

The winning pitcher also fared well offensively hitting a triple and a double in an all-around performance.

The Falcons absorbed their first loss in three starts.

In the other results, the Garapan Pirates nipped the Kagman Lions,

10-9; and Kautz Glass Tigers slipped past the St. Jude Hustlers, 5-4, in extra innings.

Pirates 10, Lions 9

Justin Sablan knocked in the winning run as the Pirates edged the Kagman Lions, 10-9, in the second of Saturday's triple header.

Sablan went 4 of 4 with a triple as Garapan ended its two game losing streak.

James Sablan took the loss. Pat Blas hit a triple and drove in three RBIs for the Lions. With the win the Pirates tied the Lions with identical 1-2 slates.

Tigers 5, Hustlers 4

AJ Taitano's single sent Joel Crisostomo for the winning run as the

Kautz Glass Tigers nosed out the Hustlers, 5-4, as the 1997 season marked its first overtime game.

Brian Concepcion came in top of the seventh relieving Ray Palacios. Concepcion issued a hit while striking out three batters as the Tigers held the Hustlers scoreless in overtime to preserve the win.

Steve Micah led the Hustlers with three hits while JJ Taitano took the loss after giving up two hits, two walks and retiring four batters.

The result of the game between the CK Little Padres and YCO/BK Youth Servistar is not yet available as off presstime last night.

Ol'Aces . . . Continued from page 24

took the first half, 51-46.

Winsor Peter added 26 points for the Ol'Aces' winning cause while three more players turned in double digit performances as the rest of the Lite team provided Rangamar solid scoring support.

Peter Camacho chipped in 25, Ryan Camacho had 16 and Jerry Ayuyu pumped in 10.

Tenorio . . . Continued from page 24

Bobby Guerrero came in at third with 66. Guerrero had a 91 but his 25 handicap allowed him to end the day three shots off Anthony.

Ray dela Cruz wound up fourth, one stroke behind Guerrero, with a net 67 after a gross 85 and an 18 handicap.

Ric Alegre led the Aces with 34 points. Junior Rengull and Keith Gamar added 25 and 21 respectively.

In the second game, the Wheels survived the MGD Brothers hot streak beyond the arc to eke out the 17-point win.

MGD rained 11 triples and drew 36 points from Jess Dela Cruz but it wasn't enough to prevent the Wheels from repeating against the Brothers in the main game.

Edwin Bubos led the Wheels

with 32 points. Luis Cepeda added 26 while Dado Vistal had 21 with three triples.

Dela Cruz paced MGD with 36 while Tony Diaz wound up with 35 including five triples.

Ed Diaz added 27 after sinking his last three attempts from the three-point region.

With the wins, the Ol'Aces and the Wheels remain as the only unbeaten teams in the semifinals.

Aquino and Diaz were tied for seventh and eighth with identical 71s. Camacho was one stroke back while Guerrero and Pete had similar 75s for joint ninth and 10th.

Manny Tenorio and Rudy Sablan shot similar 76s for 11th and 12th, while John Diaz and Annie Picklesimer took the next slots with a 77 and an 81.

BARBS

BARBS BY PHIL PASTORET

Headline: Pedestrian Run Over, Remains Critical. Well, most of us would be a tad critical, don't you think?

Opinion polls are more aptly named prejudice barometers.

How come the end of the money always arrives before the end of the week?

If taxes on alcohol and tobacco are "sin" taxes, we can think of some no-no's that would bring in some real money.

And then there's the overeager fed who wanted to bust anyone looking for the pot at the end of the rainbow.

"Au gourmet!" is a French term that translates to "tack on an extra \$3.50."

Remember when male bonding meant bailing your drunken uncle out of the slammer?

If you awake with a song in your heart, take pity on the family and let it drop in the shower.

Our minister attributes the recent surge in attendance to one of two things: His flock has seen the light, or it has discovered the church's new air conditioner.

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SPORTS



19th Ocean Swim event

Gilman, Sakovich take Masters' titles

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

ERIC GILMAN and Anneka Sakovich turned the fastest clockings last Saturday to win the Men's and Women's Masters titles in the Saipan Swim Club's 19th Ocean Swim held at the lagoon off Saipan Diamond Hotel Beach.

Gilman swam the 1.3 kilometer distance in 26 minutes and 35 seconds to win the 20-29 Men's Masters event ahead of Hiroyuki Yokota who

came in with a time of 31:43. Archie Obias arrived in 40 minutes flat to emerge third.

Sakovich of SSC clocked 19:38 to set a new record in the Women's 20-29 event. Triathlete Susan Burr was second with 20:19.

Xenavee Pangelinan and Joshua Taitano also set new records in their respective events to share the lime-light with Gilman and Sakovich.

In one of the events most exciting races, Pangelinan covered the 2.5 km

distance in 33:36 to edge Audra Winkfield by a second to win the 13-14 years old girls bracket. Tracy Feger checked in third with 34:55 as SSC bets completed a 1-2-3 sweep of the division.

Taitano, on the other hand, won the senior's men category after swimming the 2.5 km in 31:38 or just two seconds ahead of David Palacios in another photo finish. Robert Jordan arrived five seconds later for third.

In the boys eight and under, Ken

Tanzawa beat Brian Seo and Jae Young Shin for first place.

Tanzawa submitted a time of 14:12 while Seo had 15:55 while Shin clocked 17:31.

Pilar Denight and Sho Saso scored wins in the girls and boys' 9-10 age bracket.

Denight of MAC edged teammate Min Seo and Daniella Griffay after clocking 17:04. Seo had 18:27 while Griffay timed in at 20:53.

Saso covered the one kilometer

race course in 16:38 with Carlos Feger checking in at second with 17:03.

Marcial Sablan was third two seconds slower behind Feger.

In the swim event's third photo finish, Lorraine Sablan of MAC ripped SSC's Tarniko Winkfield by just a second to win the 11-12 girls event.

Sablan came in with 19:34, just a breath ahead of Winkfield. Mariana

Continued on page 23

NMIWF's 1st Annual Goodwill Dual Meet

Sanchez, DeVine lead winners

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

EDWARD Sanchez and Ron Devine led the individual winners as the Northern Mariana Islands Wrestling Federation marked the second day of its 1st Annual Goodwill Dual Meet last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

The 13 year-old hearing impaired Sanchez was named as the tournament's Best Wrestler after emerging on top of Group 7 while DeVine, a nine year old son of Michael and Tamara Devine, emerged as the tournament's most bemedalled wrestler after winning three awards-fastest pin, most takedowns and most points scored.

DeVine, a third grader from San Antonio Elem. School, pinned Darrell Eugenio in 25 seconds during his second match to register the tournament's fastest pin then scored five to win the most takedowns category. Devine, who also won first place in Group 2,

Continued on page 23

1997 Little League season

A's, D-9ers, Jets in 3rd straight wins

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

Team Standings	W	L
American Division		
San Roque D-9ers	3	0
Dandan Jets	3	0
SA Cardinals	3	1
Tanapag Falcons	2	1
CK Little Padres	0	3
Kagman Braves	0	3
YCO/BK YSS	0	3

National Division

San Vicente A's	3	0
MVR Ol' Aces	2	1
Garapan Pirates	1	2
KG Tigers	1	2
Kagman Lions	1	2
SJ Hustlers	1	2

BJSEMAN slammed a home yesterday to spark a three-run explosion in the top of the seventh inning as the Dandan Jets ended the San Antonio Cardinals' three game winning streak, 9-6, in seven innings as two more teams remain undefeated in the 1997 Little League at the San Vicente Elem. School Ball Park.

The Cardinals appeared to be on the way towards notching their fourth consecutive win after leading by four, 6-2, with one inning left in the regulation.

The Jets, however, leaned on four crucial miscues by the Cardinals to score four runs on the top of the sixth to tie the ball game at 6-6.

In the changeover, Jack Manibusan relieved Tony Sablan from the mound as the Jets held the Cardinals scoreless to send the game into an extra inning.

In the extra inning, Seman belted his third homer of the season as the Jets took the lead for good. The Dandan team scored two more runs before Ian Babauta was tagged for the Jets' third and final out of the game.

The Jets completed the comeback from behind win by holding the Cardinals to another scoreless inning to wrap the two and a half hour match and the league's second game that went into overtime this season.



For a strike—Dandan Jets' pitcher Tony Sablan prepares for a fastball against a San Antonio batter in yesterday's action in the 1997 Little League season at the San Vicente Elem. School Ball Park. The Jets beat the Cardinals, 9-6, in extra inning. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

The San Vicente A's and San Roque D-9ers beat separate rivals for their third successive wins to remain, along with the Jets, as the only unbeaten teams in the league.

Athletics 18, Ol'Aces 2

In last Saturday's opening game, Franklin Muna fanned eight batters while walking seven in a four inning no-hit job as the A's routed the erstwhile unbeaten MVROl'Aces, 18-2.

Muna later teamed up with Ray Dela Cruz in the bottom of the third as the A's exploded for seven runs to take the starch out of the Ol'Aces.

The 10 run-mercy rule saved the

Ol'Aces from further punishment as the A's won their third straight win for the solo lead in the National Division.

Jessie Aguon also had a good game for the A's hitting three doubles, drove in four RBIs while twice.

Vince San Nicolas and losing pitcher Nelson Simon scored Ol'Aces two runs Muna's wild pitch. The Ol'Aces dropped to solo second with a 2-1 record.

D-9ers 2, Falcons 0

Jonathan Camacho extended his

Continued on page 23

Son edges Dad by 2 strokes

Tenorio wins Club 10's March Ace

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

Leaderboard	G	H	N
Anthony Tenorio	103	-40	63
Jack Tenorio	75	-10	65
Bobby Guerrero	91	-25	66
Ray Dela Cruz	85	-18	67
Art Camacho	86	-16	70
Margaret Tenorio	106	-36	70
Alex Aquiningoc	86	-15	71
Jack Diaz	87	-16	71
Joe Camacho	74	-02	72
Frank Guerrero	95	-20	75
Pete Tenorio	84	-09	75
Manny Tenorio	86	-10	76
Rudy Sablan	88	-12	76
John Diaz	84	-07	77
Annie Pickelsimer	117	-36	81

ANTHONY Tenorio shot a net 63 last Saturday to win the Club 10 March Ace Tournament held at the Marianas Country Club by two strokes.

Tenorio, Club 10's youngest member, toured the greens with a gross 103 but his -40 handicap enabled him to beat his father, Jack, by two shots.

The elder Tenorio shot a gross 75 and with his -10 handicap finished the tournament with a net 65.

Continued on page 23

Ol'Aces edge UMDA; Wheels outrun MGD

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

LITE OL'ACES rode on Elias Rangamar's 29-point performance to deal defending champions, the UMDA Aces, its second loss in the tournament, 106-102, last Friday night in the Basketball Association of the Northern Marianas' 1997 Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

In the second game, the Toyota Wheels overcame MGD Brothers' torrid shooting from the three point territory to post a 128-111 victory.

Billed as the underdogs against the 1996 winners and 1997 pennant titlists, the Ol'Aces went to the stripes to withstood a late three point shot by Wayne Perry sending instead the UMDA to the loser's bracket with the rousing win.

More importantly, the Ol'Aces avenged a loss to UMDA in the elimination round and moving the Aces into the brink of elimination.

Another loss by the Aces will mean an outright elimination from further contention. The Ol'Aces

Continued on page 23

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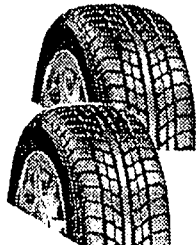
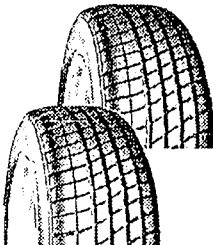
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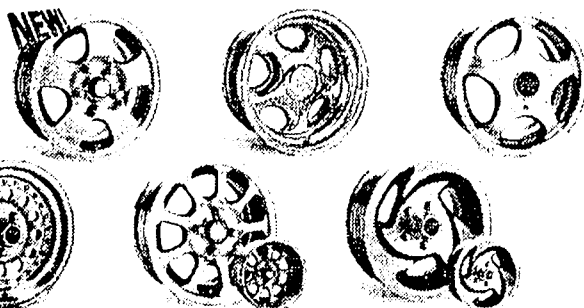
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& Views

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'Control citizenship'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he will soon "do something" about the rising number of new U.S. citizens born to alien parents working in the CNMI.

Tenorio did not elaborate, but said that he and his lawyers will

Governor says he will do something through legislation

"come out with something."

"We can do something about citizenship through legislation," he added.

"We can do something to prevent a situation."

Tenorio said former U.S. ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams

had advised him "that if there's something wrong with the way things are, we should just do it through local legislation" instead of amending the Covenant.

Tenorio, in past interviews, had said his lawyers are looking into the possibility of restricting the

granting of U.S. citizenship to children born of alien parents.

However, any such restrictions would require amending the Covenant which, in turn, would need the approval of Congress.

Signed 21 years ago, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America gave U.S. citizenship to anyone born in the NMI.

Williams was the head of the U.S. delegation during the nego-

tiations that led to the drafting of the Covenant.

The number of births in the CNMI has increased steadily since 1984, according to Census data, but because of the Commonwealth's large alien population, most of the children born have non-U.S. citizen parents.

Some CNMI leaders have expressed concern over this increasing non-indigenous U.S. citizen populace which, they say, would soon "take over" the Commonwealth and "displace" the indigenous people.



Amb. Franklin Hayden Williams (right) shakes hands with Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio as he receives a plaque of appreciation for playing a major part in Covenant negotiations more than 20 years ago. The presentation took place at the American Memorial Park yesterday, Covenant Day.

NMI to open office in Hong Kong soon

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he will soon open a CNMI office in Hongkong to attract investors and tourists.

"We'll open it pretty soon," he said, adding that he has asked Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan to "take a look at the place."

"We have one in (South) Korea, one in Taiwan, two in Japan,

so it's about time we have one in Hongkong.

"We can promote the CNMI there, and tell businessmen that we're U.S. territory and that their investments are safe here."

Tenorio, who was off-island from March 20 to 23, also mentioned meeting potential investors interested in constructing a condominium and a golf course

on Rota.

A British crown colony at the mouth of the Canton river, Hongkong will be "returned" to China in July of this year.

In 1984, Britain and China signed an agreement under which Hongkong would be allowed to keep its free enterprise system for 50 years after 1997.

Continued on page 16

Amb. Hayden Williams: No regrets on Covenant

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the unfavorable feedback the CNMI has been getting in Washington, Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams said yesterday he had no regrets about negotiating for the Covenant that established the Commonwealth.

"I don't look back with any regrets," Williams told reporters during a brief visit with Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio at the American Memorial Park. "In terms of accomplishments we all share in reliving this Covenant which was negotiated in very good faith."

Williams was the United States' sole representative who negotiated with 17 Marianas officials on the islands' political status in relation with the US. The Covenant was signed by President Gerald R. Ford in March 1976.

Hayden is on island for yesterday's commemoration of Covenant Day.

"I was very pleased to hear the governor say how happy he was (about the Covenant). If he's happy, so am I," Williams said.

Tenorio handed over to him a plaque of appreciation.

"This reminds me of the signing 21 years ago. It was beautiful spring day in Washington; cherry blossoms were everywhere. Bands were playing," Williams recalled.

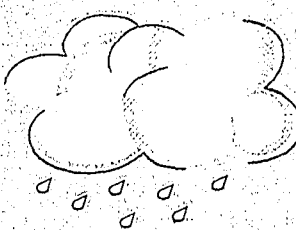
The Covenant established the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas in political union with the U.S.

It gives the Commonwealth autonomy in the areas of immigration, labor and taxation.

The formulation of the Covenant "wasn't a one-man show," Williams said. "I had a marvelous delegation. I had a team with

Continued on page 16

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

CNMI Bar moves to protect child victims of crime

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Bar Association has urged the judiciary to adopt court rules aimed at protecting the identities of juvenile victims of crimes and violence.

The call was made in the form of a resolution adopted by the Association members last week seeking a more discriminate approach to information dissemination involving minors in criminal, abuse or neglect cases.

The resolution was signed by

CNMI Bar Association President Michael A. White for the benefit of persons under the age of eighteen (18) who become victims of such injustice.

"We recognize that the public has an interest in obtaining information about the commission of crimes in our community," the Bar Association said in the two-page resolution.

"But child victims of crimes and other forms of abuse and neglect invariably experience greater and more enduring trauma if their identities as victims are

disclosed, whether or indirectly to the public," it added.

Noting that crimes and other forms of abuse cause children direct, immediate harm that often lasts well into the future, the Association said it is important that their identities be protected during court proceedings.

"As officers of court and members of the community, we would like to assist in reducing the suffering of and long term injury to child victims of crime and other forms of abuse and neglect," said

Continued on page 16



Michael A. White

PACC
NEWS PAPER STACKS

China tightens its security for Gore

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

BEIJING (AP) - Several prominent Chinese dissidents say police have intensified surveillance of their activities ahead of the visit to China this week by Vice President Al Gore.

Ren Wandong, Chen Ziming and Yang Qing — among the few dissidents not currently imprisoned — were told to stay at home, and their families report increased surveillance and harassment by police, the Hong Kong-based group Information Center for Human Rights and Democrat Movement in China said Sunday.

China often tightens security ahead of important visits and events. Angered by allegations it tried to influence U.S. elections by channeling money to the Democratic Party, the Chinese government is anxious to ensure that Gore's visit, which begins Monday, proceeds smoothly.

The state-run media on Sunday continued their campaign to rebut the allegations, portraying them as a plot



Al Gore

by Taiwan to spoil improved Sino-U.S. ties.

"Beware conspiracies to ruin China-U.S. relations," said a commentary in the Communist Party mouthpiece, the People's Daily, which described the accusations as "absurd."

While in Beijing, Gore is expected to discuss the controversy, which has inflamed anti-China sentiment in

Congress and complicated prospects for renewing low tariffs for Chinese imports to the

United States, known as most-favored-nation status.

Beijing has urged Washington to investigate how the allegations spread and limit the damage to relations that only recently recovered from a crisis over Taiwan.

Just a year ago, China-U.S. ties sank to their worst state in more than a decade as U.S. aircraft carriers were positioned off Taiwan after China, which regards the island as a renegade province, tested missiles near its shores to discourage support for independence.

The turnaround in relations was cemented at a meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin in the Philippines last November. If Gore's trip goes well and ties keep improving, Jiang is expected to visit Washington later

Continued on page 15

Japan still wants US forces around

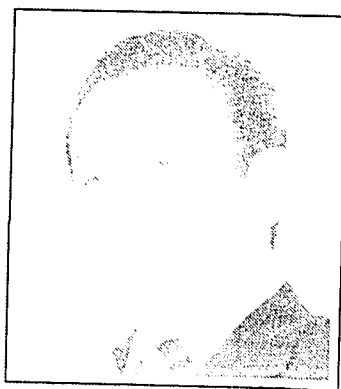
TOKYO (AP) - Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Sunday his government is taking steps to ensure the U.S. military can continue using land on Okinawa for which leases are due to expire May 14.

"To fulfill the obligations of the U.S.-Japan security treaty and maintain the U.S.-Japan security system, the government must avoid by any means losing the right to use these facilities and areas," Hashimoto said at graduation ceremonies for the National Defense Academy.

He did not elaborate.

Residents on Okinawa long have demanded a reduction in the U.S. military presence on their southern Japanese island, where the central government has the power to enforce continuation of base leases by private landowners.

Anger against American forces increased after a 12-year-old girl was raped by three U.S. servicemen in September 1995, and again this year after news that American troops had accidentally fired bullets con-



Ryutaro Hashimoto

taining radioactive uranium near Okinawa.

Agreement has been reached on moving some U.S. facilities off Okinawa, but the island will continue to house more than half of the 47,000 troops based in Japan, even though it makes up only one percent of Japan's land mass.

Okinawa was expected to be among the topics raised Monday with Vice President Al Gore, who arrived Sunday for a visit.

Clinton goes to Church in crutches

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton used crutches in public for the first time as he entered church for Palm Sunday services.

"How are you doing on the crutches?" reporters asked as Clinton left the church. "Better. Feels fine," the president replied.

He traded the crutches for a wheelchair before being loaded into a specially equipped van for the ride back to the White House.

Clinton, who underwent surgery March 14 to reconnect a torn tendon in his right knee, used a wheelchair during appearances at last week's summit in Helsinki, Finland, with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

On Sunday, he made his way on crutches into the Foundry Methodist Church and down the aisle to a seat in the front row.

During the service, the Rev. J. Phillip Wogaman referred to Clinton's meeting with Yeltsin at Helsinki. He said if the search for nuclear disarmament succeeds, "Future generations will be saved and will be preserved."

Infant run over by train escapes with a minor cut

TOKYO (AP) - An 18-month-old boy crouched in middle of railroad tracks as a train passed over Sunday and escaped with a minor cut on his forehead, police said.

The engineer spotted the child from 90 yards away and applied the brakes, but the two-car diesel train passed over the boy before coming to a stop, said a police official in Nagasaki, 600 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The engineer found the boy crawling out from under the train, said the official, Toshiyuki Hamasaki.

The baby was staying with his grandparents, who live nearby, and strayed too close to the railroad, Hamasaki said.

Torres to Continental:

'Let's sit down and talk'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

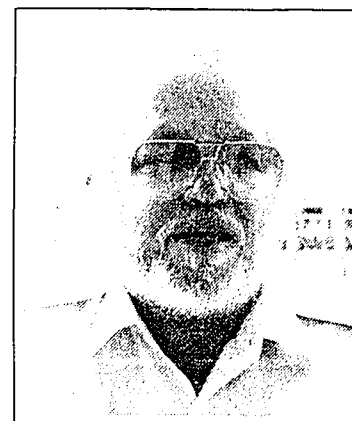
REP. STANLEY Torres (Ind-Saipan) yesterday said Continental Micronesia "should sit down with us and talk" regarding ways on how Saipan may accommodate the airline's \$22 million wide-body maintenance hub.

"I think Continental should directly approach the Legislature because the Legislature is in a position to approve (or disapprove) whatever they (Continental) desire or request to their benefit," said Torres in an interview at the Variety office.

Torres said Continental officials have recently sought audience with House Speaker Diego Benavente.

Nothing substantial was however arrived at during the meeting because "it was just a ceremonial visit... it's not a serious approach," said Torres.

Continental President James Ream, who recently was



Stanley Torres

on the island, has said the proposal submitted by the CNMI government is something "that makes sense."

Apparently unconvinced, Torres insisted a formal meeting be held to settle "once and for all what Continental wants."

Ream, who spoke before members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, has said the airline was still analyzing the proposal submitted by the CNMI.



Diego Benavente

He said Saipan's advantage is that it has a flexible skilled labor force, one thing Guam doesn't have and Continental needs.

Thus far, Guam has at least two "plus factors" going for it: A recently signed \$3.5 million 10-year lease agreement on the use of abandoned military hangars for narrow-body repairs at no down payment

Sablan says Borja-Sablan ticket prefers less private contributions



Benigno Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE BORJA-Sablan ticket, in an apparent bid to refrain from soliciting financial support from the business sector, will launch a series of fundraising activities to come up with an estimated \$300,000 needed to finance its electoral campaign.

"We have realized that if we want to have a credible government, the less contribution we get from the business sector the better it will be for us to operate should we win," said former Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan.

"We haven't even discuss

that (fund solicitation from businessmen) yet... we don't anticipate it at all. We want to do fundraising.

"We don't want to owe favors and work for them (businessmen) as a matter of reciprocity in the end," Sablan explained.

Sablan is running as Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja's mate in the gubernatorial race.

He was booted out of his post after Gov. Froilan Tenorio reportedly felt uncomfortable knowing he is running with the latter's opponent.

"Either I give up running with Jessie (Borja) or quit my post. Those were the choices given me," said Sablan.

Sablan, who has been making house calls as part of his campaign, admitted the task of raising the money needed to sustain their electoral bid is "a difficult one."

"I have not gotten a single penny yet. It's really difficult to get the money to run as predicted," Sablan said.

He said he is supposed to hand in \$25,000 to the ticket's coffers. The same amount is also expected from Borja, ac-



James Ream

allow Continental to attract skilled workers internationally;

* Education and training support for the facility's estimated 500 employees;

* Ability to waive duties on imports of parts and supplies;

* One-stop permit approval and assistance in meeting applicable laws and regulations.



Jesus Borja

According to Sablan. Among the fundraising activities slated include a fishing derby where every participating vessel will be charged \$100.

Fishing enthusiasts in 30 boats are expected to join the derby.

"It will be \$3,000. It's not a whole lot but it helps us in refraining from asking contributions and owe favors," he said.

The fishing derby is slated for May. A similar one is being organized in Rota.

Sablan said dinner fundraising activities too are being ironed out by the ticket's committee.

CORRECTIONS:

IN OUR March 20 story, "Hiraga 'Expected' Favors," Ponciano Raza was referred to as former speaker when he should have been mentioned as former Senate President Ponciano Raza.

In yesterday's issue, the photo of Sen. David M. Cing was inadvertently placed in the story "Jones calls for a 'fairer' CIP funds distribution." The photo should have been that of Rep. Dino M. Jones.

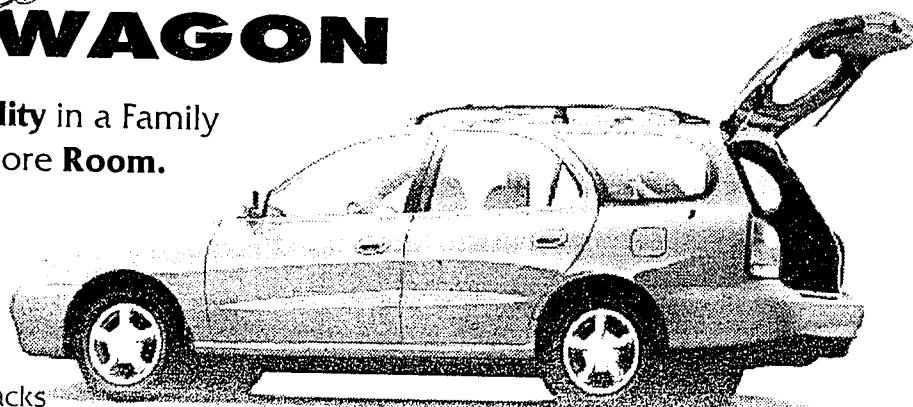
Our sincerest apologies.—Ed.

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Court grants. . . Continued from page 6

forced Coconut to pay.

According to the complaint, on May 6, 1994, Coconut and Evangelista entered a lease of real property.

Last Feb. 18, the former director wrongfully interfered with the plaintiff's use of the leased premises by boarding

up the entrance of "House no. 2."

Coconut asked the court to issue a judgment declaring that plaintiff is entitled to specific performance of the lease agreement for the remainder of the lease term which expires on 2049.—**Ferdie de la Torre**

- Part time employment
- Leave without pay
- Improved continuing medical education benefits

To complete and to maintain the services, Abraham added that CHC should recruit a non-invasive cardiologist, a full-time ENT surgeon, and a full-time radiologist.

In 1995, a disruption occurred at CHC's operations following the resignation of five doctors due to, among other things, Public Law 7-45 and lack of adequate supplies for laboratory work and insufficient drugs in the Pharmacy and Support Services in the OB/GYN clinics both in Pub-

25 Años na selebrasion este na Gasete

Ginen: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

GUINE gi mapas on semana i mina' 25 años na selebrasion i gasetan Marianas Variety. Mafañago gi 1972, 'nos kuantos años antes de tutuhon todo i batida guine yan iya Micronesia pot negosion estao politika, konbension konstitusion; primet na tax ni ma-implementa guine gi tiempion Trust Territory; un' metgot na mensahe pot sueddio ginen un' offisiat Depattamenton Interior ni matai gi hilo' promesa; masonggen i Congress of Micronesia yan otro siha na sinesede.

Guihe na tiempo, mampos makat maprodusen gasete pot rason na ti patte gi kutturhan tano' i gasete gi taimano tafa' kustumbre pago. I kutturata ha dimanda na ta mantene opiniõnta giya hita mismo piot ya taya' hao fumafaisen pot opiniõnmo. Guihe na tiempo i gasetan i seingsõng siha ginen palabras pachot taotao ni lumiliko' kanaha' enteramente gi halom Saipan. Pues siña ta konsidera na 'nai matto gi uttimo taotao ennao na mensahe, esta ti pareho yan i orihinat na infotmasion.

I tinituhonña i Marianas Variety dididi' kulan barañga pot ginen este na kustumbreta i mampos mahihot i relasion taotao ya tatnai guaha format na sahyan gasete guihe siha na tiempo. Lao adumididi', sige matulaika 'nai sige lokue' i komunidan Marianas umecho fitme mandaña i taotao gi mafotman demokrasiya na gobietnamento. Sumasaonao i Variety muna' fitme nu ennao na halige yan pisu guine gi tanota.

Guennao lokue' na tiempo 'nai hu tutuhon mañgge' komo gasetero. Guaha siha manmofona tat komo si defunto Tun Josen Pangelinan yan lahiña as John, i defunto Antonio R. Dela Cruz yan i chetluña as Jose, yan otro siha na taotao ni pumetsige manera 'nai siña i taotao tano' ha presenta dicho infotmasion pot sinesede siha gi komunida. Lao memegaiña guihe na tiempo kattan petsonat kontra Amerikano gi Deni. Estaya, guaha tumobet 'nai siña ta pega sentimentota kontra i offisiales ni mangaige gi siyan publiko.

I tutuhonña si Abed Younis solu para u famanague mangai talento na artista. Lao kada rato mafaisen kao siña ha establese un' gasete guine. Adumididi', sige ha pasensiaye i asunto ya maseha papagyo osino katma, ti sumeha gi disisionña umestablese hafa pago i tatataitai komo gasetan i tanota, Marianas Variety. Makat na chochu' este i diario debi un' rikonose hafa masusesede guine, haye sumusede, kao magahet, ya todo sinedamo infotmasion debi un' konfima antes de un' tuge' papa'.

Guihe na tiempo i preparasion ha tutuhongue' gi Lunes esta i Huebes. Tula noche gi pupueñgen Huebes i gasetero yan otro siha na empleao ma'usune prumepara i gasete kosake siña malagnos taftaf gi ogaan Biernes. Hu a'atan tatte i finapos mame yan Younis ya kulan hana' maaseyo' i amiguhoni todos i animuña pot para u guaha chalan format na preparasion infotmasion gi hechuran i tatataitai pago komo i Marianas Variety. Ya para todo i animuña yan i asaguña, ha mirese i onru yan mames na felisitasion siha ginen todos hit pot hasede na u guaha gasetan taotao Marianas.

Gi 1976, mamahan makenaria si Younis parake siña u mas lagse i maprintan pahenan gasete. I gasete siha ni mana' fañaonao gi pahenan i Marianas Variety pot entero elmundo, halom pasifiko, America, Africa, Asia yan Uropa. Megai siha manmasusesede pago gi oriyon iya Pasifiko ni manpresiso para iya Marianas. Este siha na sinesede debi u guaha kinemprende, intepretasion yan hinisga hafa sustansian niha gi todo kinalamteta. Estague' na tiempo siha 'nai debi i offisiat publiko unakalagtos macheten kabesan niha sa' mas didog na asunto siha ni para u fana'.

I taotao ni para ta pega halom gi offisinas publiko para u chogue i checho' linahyan, debi u edukao, menhalom yan kalagtos manhasso gi katkuet sakudida ni ginagagao nu i nuebo yan sustansiao siha na asunto. Ti siña na ginen un' fáfatos na makenista osino taotao ni ginen offision elektrisida mage para tana' fatachoñg guennao na siya. Dispues, ti mapot ta gacha' kao hana' siña offisiona. Atan hafa finaposña ya un' kuestiona kao siña ha lista maseha sinko na sustansiao na asunto ni apuebaio para benefision i publiko. Estague' patte gi responsablidad gasete yan ayo siha i manmamañgge' gi taiguine na attura guine na pahina.

Un' fiet na felisitasion para si Señor yan Señora Abed yan Paz Younis pot todo i animon miyo. Lokue', puede ginen i minaase' Sainata siña ta kontinua este na hinanaota sa' trabiha chachago' ha' i karera. Congratulations yan Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

No cameras too often means no lawmakers

WASHINGTON — The congressional corollary to the old tree-falling-in-a-forest conundrum might go like this: If a hearing is held, and the cameras don't come, did it really take place?

Many members of Congress have picked up the unfortunate habit of not showing up for hearings they're supposed to attend — unless, of course, television cameras are there to greet them.

Take last Tuesday. The House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing on a bill that would dramatically reform the government's housing policies. It's an important issue, as lawmakers must decide what role the federal government will play in rebuilding America's crumbling inner cities.

But Tuesday's hearing wasn't heavily covered by the media. Important as the issue may be, it lacks excitement—no scandals, no fiery confrontations between lawmakers, no partisan grandstanding. Television cameras stayed away from the hearing. So did members of Congress. In fact, the number of witnesses called to testify (four) nearly equaled the number of lawmakers on hand (five).

At the same time and in the same House office building, the Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight had convened to hear the report of the Internal Revenue Service's "taxpayer advocate."

Here the cameras were out in full force, perhaps expecting the taxpayer advocate, Lee Monks, to propose dramatic changes for the IRS. Several of the major networks were there, the large table full of television monitors adding to the circus atmosphere. Reporters' credentials were carefully checked, as seating was limited in the crowded section reserved for the press.

Not coincidentally, very few of the members' chairs were empty. Nearly every member of the subcommittee was present and accounted for.

But despite the fanfare, there wasn't much action for the many cameras to shoot. Monks listed the top 20 problems taxpayers have with the IRS. This list — the prized feature of Monks' presentation—turned out to be a near carbon copy of similar lists compiled by others in recent years.

Monks, whose office is supposed to speak

for disgruntled taxpayers and offer solutions to their problems did little more than recycle old material and soft pedal IRS inefficiencies. Subcommittee chairwoman Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., told Monks he was "simply missing the point."

"I want you to recommend solutions," she told him. "This (report) wasn't what I expected." Monks did little to defend himself.

"We have not made the progress I wish we would have," he sheepishly responded to Johnson's attacks. The hearing was a complete dud. Lawmakers wasted few opportunities to show off for the cameras though. Many used their opportunity to question Monks to praise themselves as champions of tax reform. Several told of "personal" conversations they had with constituents who had been wronged by the IRS.

Very little of substance was accomplished. On the other hand, the Housing hearing provided experts from around the country the opportunity to explain how reform of the current system might effect the lives of poor Americans who live in subsidized housing. The discussion, free from the kind of posturing that greeted Mr. Monks of the IRS, was quite illuminating.

But 19 of the subcommittee's 24 members had better things to do. An aide to one of the subcommittee members who failed to show up explained that "typically" his boss doesn't stay in Washington on days when there are no votes taken on the House floor. Even though the House was in session last Tuesday, no legislative votes were scheduled.

This aide, who would only speak on the condition of anonymity, told our associate Aaron Karp that his boss was justified in skipping the Tuesday hearing because "it was not really ... substantive." The aide said that his boss will definitely attend "the real substantive (Housing) hearing" scheduled for this week in which new Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo will testify.

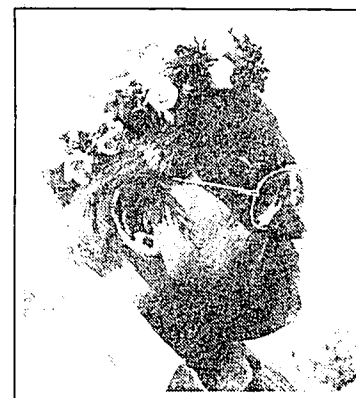
It will be Cuomo's first testimony on Capitol Hill as HUD secretary, and you better believe that the TV cameras will be there to cover it. For too many lawmakers that's a pass for substance.

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HIS PARTY may be split, his Republican opponent may be "very popular," and he may be even hounded by ethical questions arising from his getting a loan from a convicted briber—but despite all these, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said that there is "no chance" he will drop out of the gubernatorial election.

The only way he would withdraw, he said, is if he believes that his opponents could do a better job as governor.

However, Tenorio said he doubts the "aggressiveness" of Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, the Independent bet, and former governor Pedro P. Tenorio, the Republican candidate, in getting investors to do business in the CNMI.



Froilan C. Tenorio

"I don't know their position on Tinian's casinos, on the garment industry, and these are important industries for the CNMI," he said.

"I would like to think that the investors are coming in because they have faith in my administration."

"Would they have the same

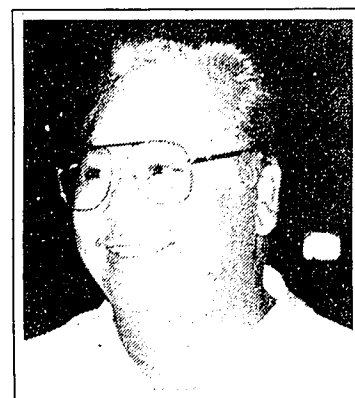


Jesus C. Borja

king of feelings toward the administration of (former governor Tenorio) or (Borja)?

"I don't know."

When told that it was during the former governor's administration from 1982 to 1990 that the CNMI first experienced an "economic boom," Tenorio said "What happened



Pedro P. Tenorio

to the boom?"

He added that during the former governor's administration, the Japanese economy was still "very strong" and there were "lots of money."

"But they were not invested and (today the Japanese economy is not that strong). That's the difference."

In contrast, he said, his administration had convinced not only Japanese but South Korean, Taiwanese and Hong Kong investors.

"We now have casinos, new hotels and new businesses, and years from now (we would reap) the benefits."

Tenorio, at the same time, maintained that he will not ask the court to rule on the former governor's eligibility to seek a third term despite the two-term limit imposed by the Constitution.

"I won't do it, and I won't ask the Democratic Party to do it," he said.

"The coming election is a referendum on (my accomplishments). The people should decide, (and) we should respect the wishes of the people."

Trial for alleged illegal recruiter starts

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE trial of a Bangladeshi recruiter who allegedly fleeced 16 compatriots started yesterday, preceded by a jury selection process which lasted over four hours at the federal district court.

Of 41 prospective jury members considered, 14 were finally selected by 2:30 p.m. Two of the 14 selected jury members will act as alternates.

While the selection of the jurors went on behind closed doors, eight of the alleged 16 victims waited outside the court chamber. The rest of them had returned to Bangladesh.

They recounted to a couple of mediamen the travails they had undergone since the time Akm. Alamgir Kasem tried to recruit them and collected fees ranging from \$4,500 to \$6,000

each.

Khaled Ahmed, 25, of Dhaka, planned in last March 19 to testify at the trial. He was among 10 Bangladeshis who were stranded in Manila in September last year after they were barred from proceeding to Saipan because the entry documents sent them by Kasem were not valid.

Ahmed had paid \$4,500 in processing fee and entry permit to Kasem, but his dream to earn more abroad was never realized. He has since been jobless in Bangladesh. The costs of his trip and accommodation here have been shouldered by the US government which filed the complaint on behalf of the 16 Bangladeshis in October last year.

Another alleged victim, Mohammad Kamal Hossain, Continued on page 7



PICKING UP THE PIECES. Eight Bangladeshis who were allegedly promised false jobs by a compatriot discuss the case among themselves outside the courtroom yesterday. Those interviewed in the accompanying article were Mohammad Kamal Hossain (third from left), Md. Rahim (fifth from left), Khaled Ahmed (third from right), and Abdul Momen (right).

BOS looks into Hillblom links to two RP bar girls

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan will take depositions in the Philippines to get information relating to, among other things, alleged Hillblom's sexual relationship with two bar girls who claimed to have kids with the late multimillionaire.

In documents filed Friday in the Superior Court, Rodney J. Jacob, counsel for the executor, summoned three persons for oral examination in May at Makati Sports Club in Makati City.

Summoned were Mercedes Feliciano, mother of Hillblom's alleged daughter Mercedita Feliciano, and Renita G. Duga and Betty Delos Santos who are both

related to Julie Cuartero, mother of the late businessman's alleged kid, Jellian Cuartero.

The BOS requested Mercedes to produce, among other things, all documents relating to the contention that Hillblom is the biological father of Mercedita Feliciano.

Mercedes was asked to provide documents referring to the conception and birth of Mercedita such as birth certificates, medical records and medical bills.

The executor wanted to get documents regarding communications, meetings, or sexual relationships between Hillblom and Mercedes such as letters, cards, notes, business cards, written telephone

Continued on page 7

MOM'S ROUND TWO

Menu for the Week

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Baked Pork Chop, Hawaiian Style Served with Mix Vegetable Roll, choice of rice, home made fries, mashed potato	Stir Fry Seafoods, Mussels, Wahoo Shrimps, Serve with Rice, Mix Vegetables and Roll	Roast Beef with Gravy, Serve with Mashed Potato, Corn & Roll	Chicken Fajitas, serve with Mexican rice, refried beans, tortilla soup	Fish & Chips, serve with fish chowder soup
\$7.00	\$7.50	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00

Have Fun at Mom's with our Dart Machine, Cherrrey Master, Pool Table, and Computer Games

For HOLY WEEK OBSERVANT, we are offering our Vegetable Burrito, Tostada and Fish Taco. Also, seafoods is available upon request in desire cooking.

Bring the whole family, and treated as family.

Open 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M.

Court grants possession of disputed land to firm

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan has issued an order granting a private firm possession of a property subject to a legal dispute between the company and former Tax and Revenue Director Juan L. Evangelista.

Manibusan in his order Friday said Coconut Corp. shall have "peaceful possession" of the premises as part of the property leased by the firm from Evangelista during the pendency of the case.

As a condition of granting Coconut possession of the premises commencing April 1,

1997, the judge asked the company to pay \$500 monthly as security to the Trust Account of Juan T. Lizama, counsel for Evangelista.

The previously collected \$500 shall be deposited into Lizama's account, Manibusan said.

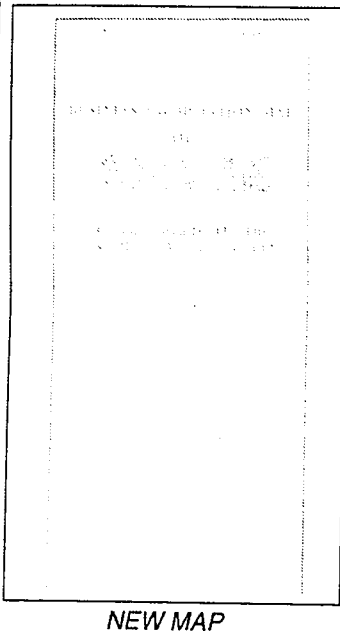
The lower court earlier issued a temporary restraining order enjoining Evangelista from harassing Coconut.

Evangelista was ordered to show cause why he should not pay \$500 as reimbursement from the amount he allegedly

Continued on page 3

New Saipan business info map now available

THE SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce has started is distributing a new but very different "Business Information Map". According to a news re-



NEW MAP

lease from economist and cartographer Bill Stewart, the map is unlike anything ever published in the region and contains a wealth of facts and data certain to be of interest to a new residents and potential investors.

"It is not a tourist map, but has been designed to provide helpful information to those considering Saipan as a new residence or a place to establish a business," said Stewart. "This unique map is a visual directory for almost every conceivable service a newcomer would need to get acquainted with the island and supporting businesses."

"The new map lists associations, clubs, hotels, motels and 'selected' apartments and contains information on many other subjects such as the weather, tips on moving, business licensing requirements, a review of the economy and population and



Bill Stewart

many other subjects.

It was designed by Stewart to be of use by those who will be living, working or investing on Saipan.

Copies are available at the Chamber office in the Family Building in Garapan between Middle Road and Beach Road, P.O. Box 806, C.K., Saipan, 96950 fax (670) 233-7151. Price \$3.00

MTC donates cars to school

TWO Saipan private schools serving the island's youngest students received an important donation this month from Micronesia Telecommunications Corporation.

The island's telephone service provider donated two of its own vehicles to Stepping Stone Pre-School and Joshua Generation Academy, a news release from MTC said.

MTC surprised the administration at Stepping Stone with the delivery of a station wagon.

"MTC has gone beyond the call with this," said Ely Jarman, Stepping Stone's principal. "It's the answer to a prayer."

The school was established in 1989 by Stepping Stone Ministries and receives no government funds and does not charge tuition

to the parents of its students.

Virtually all the school's equipment is donated and much of the labor needed to complete the facility was provided by the Department of Corrections' Bible study group, which is led by Jarman's husband.

"The station wagon will be a lifesaver for sick kids and for field trips," Jarman said.

MTC also donated one of its pick-up trucks to Joshua Generation Academy, another Christian-centered private school on Saipan. "We are so glad we don't know what to say," said Alice Jacoba, the school's principal. "MTC will be blessed by the Lord a thousandfold."

Jacoba commented that their new pick-up truck will be used for the school's normal day-

to-day business transactions as well as providing transportation home for students who become ill during their classes.

She added that at a recent prayer meeting, the school asked for God's help in obtaining a much needed vehicle for them. "And the next day Mr. Villagomez from MTC called to offer the pick up to us," she said.

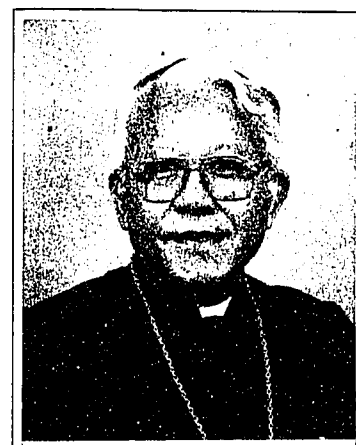
MTC's General Manager Del E. Jenkins sees the donations as an important aspect of how the company does business in the Northern Marianas.

"We talk a lot about running our company with island values. The donation of these vehicles is one way we turn that talk into action," he said.



Bernard Villagomez, MTC's supply and transportation manager, left, turns over the ownership papers for a station wagon to Ely Jarman, principal of Stepping Stone Pre-School.

Christians observe Holy Week



Tomas A. Camacho

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

CHRISTENDOM has put on the veil of gloom as it observes Holy Week to commemorate Christ's Passion and Death.

For Catholics, Holy Week turns into a cornucopia of rituals either done in churches or on their own.

Tomorrow at 7 p.m. the so-called Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Mount Carmel cathedral with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho as the main celebrant. Priests from the different parishes of the diocese of Chalan Kanoa will celebrate the Mass.

During this Mass Camacho will consecrate the oil used for the anointing of the sick and the oil used for the other sacraments like baptism and confirmation. All parishes have been encouraged to at-

tend this Mass.

On Maundy Thursday, the different churches, at varying times in the afternoon and evening, will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The Mass will recall one instance when Christ showed humility by washing the feet of the 12 Apostles.

After the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in each of the churches' specially adorned altar. Churches will be open until 12 midnight to allow the faithful to pray before and adore the Blessed Sacrament.

On Good Friday, Catholics will re-enact the cross-carrying Christ's walk to Calvary with a procession starting from Mount Carmel cathedral to Mount Tapochao.

A large wooden cross will be blessed in front of the cathedral at 7:30 a.m. and carried to Tapochao.

The local Church has discouraged persons from carrying individual crosses to Tapochao or any other place, asking the faithful to join the Church-sponsored trek to Tapochao as one community.

Good Friday will be a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

Churches will hold the Seven Last Words services on Good Friday. In Mount Carmel, San Vicente, and San Roque the services will start at 12 noon. Other churches

will have them at 1 p.m., while Santa Remedios at 2 p.m.

Some churches have also scheduled the stations of the cross before the Seven Last Words while others after.

After the two rites, there will be a veneration of the cross and communion.

Also on Good Friday, there will be a procession at the cathedral at 5 p.m. and in Santa Remedios in Tanapag at 6 p.m.

Holy Saturday will be a day of silence as Christendom mourns the death of Christ and await His rising from the dead.

The faithful have been encouraged to go to confession. Churches will make priests available to hear confessions in the evening. In Mount Carmel, the schedule starts at 9 p.m.

The Holy Week will culminate in the holding of Easter

Vigil Masses (9 p.m. at Mount Carmel).

After the gloom is glory and joy.

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate Christ's Resurrection, which signifies the triumph of life over death.

There will be an Easter prayer service in Tapochao at 5:30 a.m. Masses in different churches will follow the Sunday schedule.

Trial...

Continued from page 5

30, had also given \$4,500 to Kasem. On his own, Hossain came to Saipan three times to follow up with Kasem the jobs promised to him and the 15 others at Victory Trade International Corp., which Kasem purportedly owned.

Victory Trade was supposed to be a construction firm, but records at the Department of Public Works showed no company by that name. At other times, the firm was identified as Victory International Corp. According to the DPW, Kasem was also not known as having a construction project in the CNMI.

Hossain said he worked for Kasem doing odd jobs including washing Kasem's car, and received only \$200.

Md. Rahim, 29, and five others came here with a tourist's visa, and they were promised by Kasem that upon arrival here, their visas would be changed to a worker's.

Their tourist visas have ex-

BOS...

Continued from page 5

numbers, audio or videotape recordings, photographs, negatives and employment records.

BOS sought for papers that refer to meetings between Hillblom and Mercedita and documents to any live births, abortions, or miscarriages by

pired. They have been allowed to stay here only because of their pending case at the labor department.

Rahim does odd jobs for a Chamorro family to earn his living.

Abdul Momen recalled being beaten up by Kasem whenever he remind him about his unpaid salaries.

He claimed he worked for Kasem for five months, but that he got paid the equivalent of only two months' work.

In yesterday's trial, both prosecution and defense panels presented their respective introduction to the case.

Trial continues today.

Conservationist Corner

Pasture management

By Pamela M. Sablan
for the Variety

PASTURE management is the proper treatment and use of pasture land or hayland. The purpose is to prolong the life of desirable forage species, to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of forage, and to protect the soil and reduce soil loss.

Good grazing management will enhance pasture productivity and will help to avoid unnecessary fertilizer costs.

Quality pastures provide effective and economical forage for your livestock. The savings in feed and labor costs, as well as the improved health of the animals, proves its worth.

In the case of no management, cattle will graze plants down to the soil surface, if allowed, leaving little opportunity for the regrowth of pasture grasses.

Pastures will deteriorate rapidly if overgrazed because overgrazing depletes the vigor and vitality of the pasture grasses. The smaller the area, the greater the chances for overgrazing of vegetation even when ample hay is supplied. The result of no management is that undesirable weeds will take over and

soil erosion will likely occur.

Instead of one large field, proper pasture management uses several small fields in rotation which will produce more forage than one field grazed continuously. Proper grazing allows for two to four inches of growth to remain in the pasture; cattle are then rotated to new pasture sections having 12-18 inches of new growth. Supplemental feed may have to be provided during the dry season.

A careful planned grazing system will:

- Maintain or improve the forages in your pasture;
- Improve the efficiency of grazing; and
- Improve animal performance.

Keep in mind, it's the quality of your livestock, not the quantity of your livestock.

For further information please call NRCS/Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District at 233-3415/0650.

All NRCS programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, political status or beliefs, sex, age, marital or familial status, or handicap.

FEATURING AUTHENTIC TEX-MEX FOOD

DAILY SPECIALS

Monday	Burrito Supreme	\$6.75
Tuesday	Taco's	\$6.75
Wednesday	Enchiladas	\$6.75
Thursday	Fajita's	\$8.00
Friday	Gambas (Shrimp)	\$8.50
or a Healthy Taco Salad		\$5.75

Burrito Supreme, Taco's and Enchiladas served with Mexican Rice and Refried Beans. Includes ice tea with free refills.

Also serving Chili Poppers, Home-made Mexican Soups, Authentic Tex-Mex Chili, and we're proud to feature the best char-broiled steaks on the island.

We also do take-out orders.
Call us at 233-7480
We're located in Downtown Garapan in the Islander Hotel Building (Formerly Café Mogambo)

MARCH 28-30, 1997 ONLY!!!

Easter Clearance Sale

BUY ONE TOY GET THE SECOND TOY

for \$1.00 all size

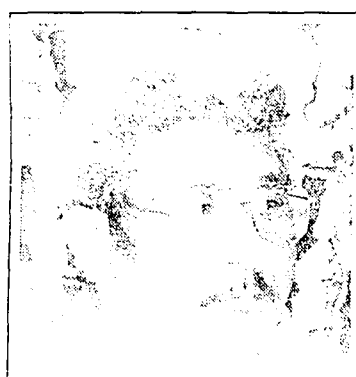
(SECOND ITEM MUST BE LESSER OR EQUAL VALUE)

See store for details.
Limited Quantity, While Supplies Last

The Hobby Shop

Easter Weekend Buss. Hour:
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
234-5584

3 alleged illegal aliens nabbed



Thomas O. Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
LABOR and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan yesterday said three Chinese nationals suspected to have been overstaying and illegally

employed were arrested by government operatives Sunday night.

Sablan refused to identify the three pending completion of an ongoing probe on their activities.

Reliable DOLI sources said the foreigners have been overstaying on the island for the past year.

They arrived using a 30-day business permit. They are now being held under DOLI custody where their repatriation papers are being processed.

Their arrest brought to four the total number of Chinese nationals arrested for overstaying and illegal employment this month.

It will be recalled that another Chinese national, identified as Qu-Lin Wang, was recently nabbed by immigration operatives inside the Zhong

Long Karaoke bar in Garapan where he is believed to be employed.

Wang entered CNMI on Jan. 26, 1995 using a 30-day temporary business permit. He went into hiding after his permit expired a month after.

Another batch of six Chinese nationals were also recently denied entry at the Saipan International Airport after they failed to show \$3,000 required from foreigners entering the

island on a 30-day business permit.

A total of 14 Chinese nationals were arrested last month. Half of these were found illegally employed in an underground garment factory in As Lito.

The other half were nabbed in a Garapan massage parlor believed being used as a prostitution den.

Also, 21 Chinese nationals, all overstaying and illegally employed, were deported last month.

At least three of last month's deported Chinese nationals were described by Sablan as "hardened" criminals believed to be working as "footsoldiers" for a prostitution and extortion ring operating in Garapan.

The three were identified as Xuan Den Huang, Xun Chen Zheng and Jian Ben Yu.

There were 31 Chinese nationals deported in January.

Cing on Hiraga issue:

'No one lends people money with no strings attached'



David M. Cing

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing yesterday said his earlier statement that Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio will lose in the November election is not a prediction, but a "foregone conclusion."

Cing (D-Tinian) said his party mate has done nothing but "shoot himself on the foot" since 1994, that it's no longer a "prediction" to say he will not be reelected.

When told Wednesday that Cing has predicted he will finish last in the

three-way gubernatorial election, Tenorio said the senator "knows nothing."

"He was wrong when he said that," Cing said yesterday.

He said Tenorio was also confident of winning when he first ran as governor in the 1989 election.

Cing said Tenorio even promised him the directorship of the Commerce Department.

"But I told him to wait until the chicks hatch," Cing said, adding that he promised Tenorio that he would win on Tinian.

Tenorio lost the election, winning only on Tinian.

"He shot himself on the foot by saying he would centralize education, and that scared a lot of people," Cing said.

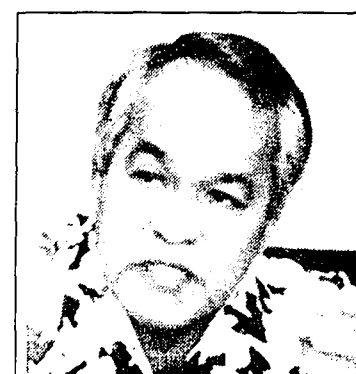
In contrast, Cing said Tenorio predicted that he (Cing) would lose reelection in 1995.

Cing won in a landslide.

"Several things may happen to this governor," he said.

"He will not be reelected, or he will drop out altogether if he ever comes to his sense, or something even worse will happen to him."

Cing did not elaborate, but added that the only thing he doesn't know is the loan Tenorio got from businessman Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga.



Froilan C. Tenorio

"And the only thing I can say about that is that I don't think a businessman would lend you \$650,000 with no strings attached."

"If (Tenorio) was not running for governor, do you think Hiraga would have lent him money?"

"If he were, for example, my close friend Bernard R. Cruz, would he get a loan from Hiraga?"

The only high-ranking Democrat who has thrown his support for the Republican candidates without switching parties, Cing earlier urged his party mates, to abandon Tenorio "for the CNMI's sake."

Since 1995, Cing and the governor have repeatedly clashed over what the senator calls the administration's "insensitivity" to Tinian's needs.

Restaurant warned on ADA

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE NEWLY reopened Ship Ashore Restaurant has received a twin message from the Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy

Systems, Inc.: a congratulatory letter to the management of the restaurant which was reopened last Feb. 22.

"The ship is very attractive, the menu appealing and the hostesses were charming and attentive," NMPASI Legal counsel William

C. Campbell wrote in a congratulatory letter to the management of the restaurant which was reopened last Feb. 22.

"However," Campbell continued, "there is a serious problem—



William C. Campbell

nowhere does your establishment meet even the minimal criteria accessibility to goods and services to persons with disabilities."

Campbell warned the restaurant owners of the "serious legal consequences" they may face if they failed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ship Ashore, which is berthed

off the beach facing the Horiguchi Building in Garapan, was closed for a few months. It was renovated after a new management took over.

Campbell requested the restaurant management to submit to NMPASI a plan for ADA compliance not later than May 30.

ADA requires that all privately owned public facilities which have been recently constructed comply with ADA Accessibility Guidelines.

Title III of ADA requires the removal of architectural barriers in places used for public accommodation to make them accessible to people with disabilities.

ADA requires the installation of entrance ramps, the widening of entrances and providing accessible parking spaces.

Work on Tinian airport starts June



Victor Hocog

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority is set to upgrade the Tinian airport following a Federal Aviation Authority ruling which indicated that the facility needs to be developed to accommodate flights seen to increase in the next few years.

CPA Chairman Victor Hocog said work will begin this June.

He said government may have to put up a new cargo handling and storage facility at a convenient place by the airstrip.

He said the existing cargo facility lies at the end of the runway, posing dangers to arriving and departing aircrafts.

"We will have to move the building away from there," said Hocog, in an interview.

The new structure, it was gathered, is expected to be op-

GOYA slates 2nd annual youth concert

THE Governors Office of Youth Affairs (GOYA) announced the holding of Second Annual Spring Youth Concert on April 19 at the Pacific Islands Club on Saipan.

The Concert is for CNMI youth who are musically skilled to showcase their talents, a news release GOYA.

Anyone who is between the ages of 10 and 18, and who can sing or play a musical instrument is invited to perform in the Concert.

Interested youth should sign up with their music teacher or principal. All public and nonpublic schools on Saipan have received rosters so that students can sign up for the Concert.

For additional information, call the Governor's Office of Youth Affairs at 664-4201 or 4202, or visit the office at Afetna Square in San Antonio, next door to the Saipan Mayor's Office.

DEA-DPS team arrests couple for selling 'ice'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

COMBINED elements of the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Department of Public Safety arrested on Friday a couple who allegedly engaged in selling crystal methamphetamine.

June R. Lizama and Jane Pangelinan Lizama were picked up after the officers found 10.24 grams of "ice" and drug paraphernalia during a raid at the couple's house in Kagman.

The couple were charged with illegal possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice").

During Friday's hearing, Assistant Atty. Gen. James Norcross said detectives sought a search warrant after they received information that the Lizamas have been using and selling drugs.

The warrant was executed Thursday at 11 p.m. Detectives found the "ice" sealed in three packages inside a room.

Police placed the defendants under arrest Friday at 2:30 p.m.

The raiding team also confiscated \$2,000 in sale proceeds of the drugs, Norcross stated.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas allowed the defendants to each post 10 percent of 10,000 cash bail for their release.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

"Pro Shop"

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc. (SLDI) is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals or firms for the operation and management of the golf Pro Shop, located at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman, Saipan. Proposing party should be a bona fide resident of the CNMI, and the granting of this concession is subject to the approval of DPL of DLNR.

Interested parties can obtain proposal specifications and further details at The Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, located above HITA Travel in San Jose, Saipan. Proposals should be submitted in duplicate and in a sealed envelope marked "Pro Shop", addressed to Mr. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950. Proposals must be received on or before April 18, 1997. SLDI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, and to waive or amend any defect in said proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in its best interest.

SOON

ALL ROADS
WILL LEAD TO

SUGAR KING HOTEL'S
BARBECUE FOOD PLAZA

BARBECUE•TAPSILOG
•BARSIOLOG•BULALO
•PAPAITAN•BATCHOY•MAMI

SOFT OPENING - SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1997

OPEN

6:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M.

6:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.



Bank of Guam

"The People's Bank"

P.O. BOX BW
AGANA, GUAM 96910

Tel: (671) 472-5300

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (at the close of business December 31, 1996 (in thousands of dollars))

Assets		Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 44,009	Deposits	
Interest-bearing deposits in other banks	9,202	Non-interest bearing	\$ 164,766
Federal funds sold, net	5,400	Interest bearing	439,413
Investment securities	186,775	Total Deposits	604,179
Loans	401,764	Accrued interest payable	2,393
Less: allowance for loan losses	7,691	Other liabilities	795
Net loans	394,073	Long term debt	10,000
Accrued interest receivable	4,391	Total liabilities	617,367
Premises and equipment	32,527	Shareholders' Equity	
Other assets	16,254	Capital Stock	2,050
Total Assets	\$ 692,631	Paid --in surplus	13,302
		Unrealized market valuation on available-for-sale securities	(17)
		Retained earnings	59,929
		Total shareholders' equity	75,264
		Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 692,631

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BRANCHES STATEMENT OF CONDITION (at the close of business December 31, 1996)

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 4,870,332	Deposits	
Loans	72,517,674	Non-interest bearing	\$ 29,238,941
Less: Allowance for loan losses	1,448,343	Interest bearing	92,021,575
Net loans	71,069,331	Total deposits	121,260,516
Accrued interest receivable	709,788	Accrued interest payable	578,500
Premises and equipment	3,869,378	Other liabilities	431,687
Other assets	1,337,946	Commitments and contingencies	-
Due from Headquarters	40,413,928	Total Liabilities	\$122,270,703
Total Assets	\$122,270,703		

The audited reports of Bank of Guam - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Branches are available for public review at the office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce and Labor, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Vanuatu students safe

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu students studying in various institutions in Papua New Guinea are safe.

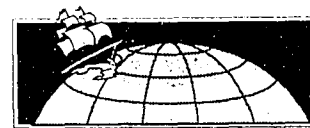
The PNG Ministry of Education, last Friday made the assurance to the Education Ministry in Port Vila, Radio Vanuatu reported.

The first Secretary in the Ministry of Education in Port Vila, Kalontas Alfred says they were asked to convey the PNG government's assurance to parents

in Vanuatu.

The PNG government also says all foreign students studying in the country are safe.

The assurance follows violent protests which had resulted in looting of shops and offices in Port Moresby against Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan's sacking of the country's head of the Defence Force, Brigadier General, Jerry Singirok last Monday.



South Pacific news roundup

Mercenary chief pleads not guilty to firearms charges

By GEOFF SPENCER
PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — The chief of the mercenary force that was supposed to quash

secessionist rebels on the island of Bougainville pleaded innocent in court Monday to illegal weapons charges.

Magistrate Boyo Kidu released retired British Lt. Col. Tim Spicer on bail but confiscated his passport and ordered him to appear for trial April 8.

That guarantees Spicer, the chief executive of Sandline International, will be in Port Moresby to testify April 1 at a government-ordered judicial inquiry into the validity of the contract between his company and the government.

"I will happy to talk to the commission of inquiry," Spicer said as he left the courtroom. "There is nothing wrong with the activities of Sandline," he added, refusing to comment further.

The contract prompted a mutiny by the Papua New Guinea army a week ago, when its commander refused to cooperate with the Sandline crew.

That led to street protests that escalated into two days of rioting and looting

as crowds demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan.

Spicer, 44, from Wandsworth, England, pleaded innocent to two charges of illegally carrying a Makarov 9mm pistol and 41 rounds of ammunition. The appearance in Boroko District Court, in a suburb of Port Moresby, lasted 15 minutes.

Conviction on either or both counts could carry a maximum sentence of six months in jail and fine of 500 Kina (about US \$400).

The rebellion on Bougainville began in 1988 as an environmental protest over a copper mine, but escalated into a guerrilla war to secede from Papua New Guinea. More than 1,000 people have been killed. Aid agencies estimate many more have died from preventable diseases and malnutrition. Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia in 1975.

Tuvalu PM asks telecom firm to clarify on phone sex service

FUNAFUTI (Pacnews)—Tuvalu prime minister, Bikenibeu Paeniu wants clarification from Asia Pacific Telecommunications on the use of his country's numbering codes, and area code in sex services worldwide.

As a result the executive director of APT, Garry Donoghue visited Tuvalu recently to clarify the agreement on the use of Tuvalu's telephone numbering plan, Radio Tuvalu reported.

Donoghue was also asked by government on the amount of revenue both the company and government get from using the Tuvalu numbering plan.

No exact figures were given, but according to Donoghue, the company is trying to meet its operational costs and make payments to the Tuvalu government in line with the agreement, before working out the total earnings obtained from such undertaking.

Samoan currency's new status still unrecognized

APIA (Pacnews)—Western Samoans overseas still can't exchange their local currency - the tala - in banks there.

The Central Bank of Western Samoa had allowed banks in Australia, American Samoa, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga to buy the tala (dollar) beginning March 1.

Not being able to exchange their tala has led Samoans to ask if perhaps the Central Bank has not

given foreign banks permission to accept the tala on March 1, as announced. Central Bank deputy governor, Ray Ah Liki says as far as the bank is concerned, it has given its permission.

He says they have also granted permission to the Bank of Hawaii to accept the tala.

Liki cautioned against expecting transitions to be perfect from the start adding that its is still something new.

2 killed in Australia cyclone

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — High winds and flooding from Cyclone Justin killed two people Sunday, a woman who died in a mudslide and a 12-year-old boy who was electrocuted.

The cyclone's 75 mph winds crossed the northeast coast of Australia on Saturday at Cairns in north Queensland state, uprooting trees, damaging houses and destroying a marina.

The storm moved down the coast but heavy rainfall and high winds remain in much of the northern third of the state.

Police at Innisfail, south of Cairns, said a live power line fell into floodwater where a boy was swimming. He died later in a hospital.

A woman was killed north of Townsville when she and her husband stopped their car to clear a fallen branch from the road. A landslide trapped her by her legs, forcing her husband to seek help. By the time he and emergency services returned, a second landslide had killed her.

Cairns, a major gateway for visitors to Australia from Asia, reopened its international airport Sunday after a 24-hour closure. But the Bruce Highway, the major road link between Cairns and Brisbane, 1,050 miles to the south, was closed in three places south of Cairns. The main rail link between Cairns and Brisbane was also closed.

PNG's PM not stepping down

By GEOFF SPENCER
PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Determined to survive the worst political crisis since independence, Papua New Guinea's prime minister refused on Sunday to resign over his hiring of foreign mercenaries.

In a television interview, Julius Chan denied any wrongdoing stemming from a \$36 million contract with mercenaries hired to quash a nine-year secessionist war on the copper-rich island of Bougainville.

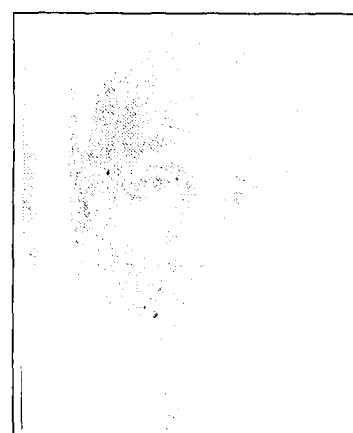
The army wants Chan to quit within the next two days, before Parliament reconvenes ahead of a June election, but says it won't use force to achieve its demand.

Chan has set up a commission to look into the deal with London-based Sandline International, and said he would testify at the inquiry.

Mercenary leader Tim Spicer may be forced to remain in Papua New Guinea long enough to testify at the inquiry as well.

Spicer is the last of the 60-odd mercenaries remaining in the country. Released after days of military detention and police questioning, he was staying at the British high commissioner's residence Sunday pending a court appearance Monday on charges of possessing an unlicensed pistol and ammunition.

The military deported the rest of his command on Friday, ignoring orders from Chan, who had hired them to end a rebellion on Bougainville, 800 miles (1,300 km) northeast of the



Julius Chan

capital.

Spicer refused to talk to reporters outside the diplomat's mansion, which has sweeping views of Port Moresby's expansive harbor.

Chan's government hired Spicer's firm to train the army in counterinsurgency warfare and to take part in a major attack. But the army, which is badly funded and ill-equipped, claimed the deal was illegal and unconstitutional.

The crisis blew up last week, when the army's leader, Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok, ordered his forces not to cooperate with the mercenaries.

Chan retaliated by firing Singirok and accusing him of treason.

The dismissal ignited two days of rioting in Port Moresby, 500 miles (800 kilometers) north of Cairns, Australia.

Singirok, in turn, called for Chan's resignation. Singirok said an investigation ordered by the government

into the use of the foreign soldiers would be impartial only if Chan stepped down.

But an army leader loyal to Singirok ruled out direct use of force should Chan ignore the call to resign by the time Parliament convenes on Tuesday.

The army leader who claims to be in charge of the troops now — Maj. Walter Enuma — said Saturday that

the defense forces consider the crisis to be political.

Despite his dismissal, Singirok remains at his official residence at Murray Barracks, where he enjoys overwhelming support from the 4,700 rank-and-file soldiers in the army.

Soldiers have refused to take orders from a replacement commander, Col. Alfred Aikung, who was appointed by Chan.

In an apparent concession to the mutineers a few hours after his television appearance, Chan fired Aikung and appointed a respected senior officer, Col. Jack Tuat, as the new commander, Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio reported.

Tuat had served as Singirok's deputy. The radio said Singirok had been consulted before the appointment was announced.



Police aim their guns at a crowd of men and youths that began to riot at a Port Moresby supermarket where police and the military fired tear gas and live ammunition into the air to scare off the mob, Thursday, in Papua New Guinea. Riots broke out during an anti-government protest.

AP Photo



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

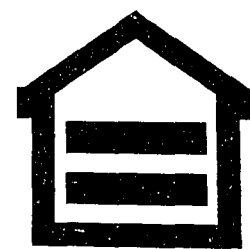
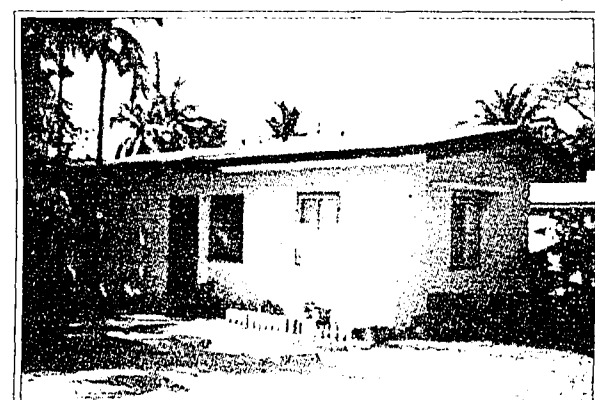
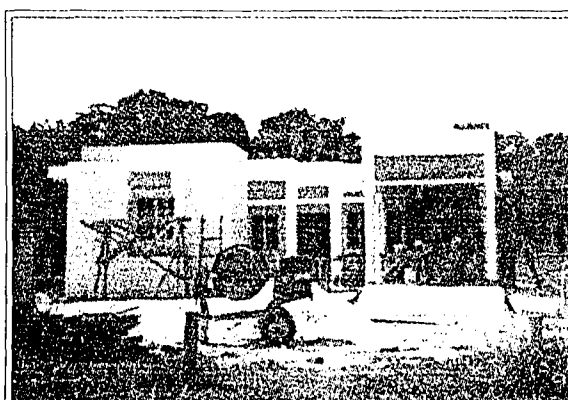
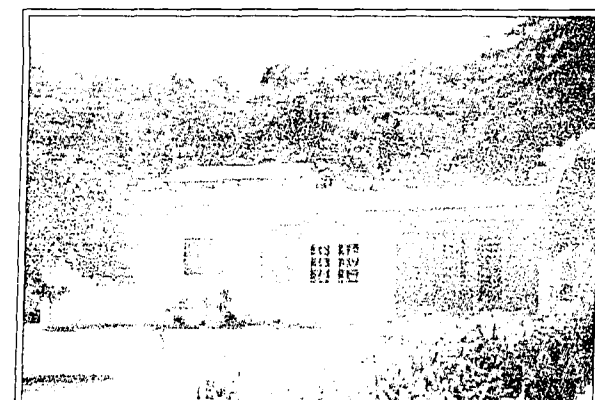
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) hereby serves notice to the general public of the increased availability of financing under its administration of several residential housing loan programs which offer varying interest rates and maximum loan limits. They are as follows:

1. Direct Family Home Loan (DFHL);
2. Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing (RH) 502 and RD 504 Programs;
3. Loan Purchase Agreement with Guam Savings & Loan Association (GS&LA);
4. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Native American Direct Loan (NADL);
Note: VA LOAN PROGRAM WILL EXPIRE IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. ELIGIBLE VETERANS, APPLY NOW!
5. Housing Preservation Grant (HPG); and,
6. HOME Program.

The NMHC/MPLT Loan Program will soon be implemented. The regulation for the program is being finalized. Loan term will be 30 years and interest rate will be between 6% to 8%.

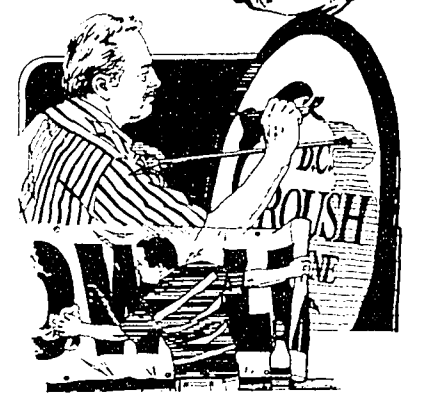
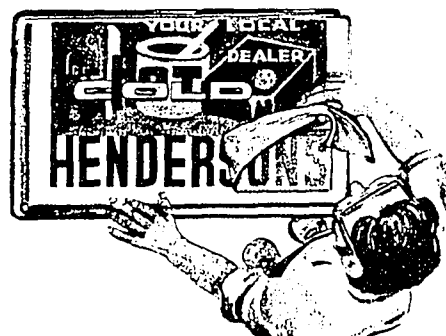
NMHC's loan programs provide opportunities to construct or rehabilitate existing homes. Those interested are encouraged to take advantage of the above programs. Contact the NMHC Office at 234-9447/7689 for more information.



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Israel may halt peace talks

By DAFNA LINZER
JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's Cabinet was expected Sunday to suspend political talks with the Palestinians following a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli women, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

In Hebron, Palestinians bombarded Israeli troops with rocks and empty bottles for the third day in a row. Palestinian police formed human chains to keep the protesters away from Israeli-controlled areas where the city's 500 Jewish settlers live among 130,000 Palestinians.

Fearing new attacks, Israel stationed troops at shopping malls and parks where children and parents celebrated the Jewish holiday of Purim. At a checkpoint outside Jerusalem, border police shot and wounded two Palestinians.

Netanyahu was to meet Sunday afternoon with Cabinet ministers to discuss Israel's response to Friday's bombing by a Palestinian militant at a Tel Aviv cafe. Three Israeli women were killed.



Benjamin Netanyahu

His aide, David Bar-Ilan, told The Associated Press that the ministers would probably decide that contacts with the Palestinians could only continue in regard to security and preventing terrorism.

"Until we see some movement on this level there will be no talks," he said.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused Israel of destroying the peace process. Speaking to the Organization of Islamic Conference, he said condemned Israel

for its plans to construct Jewish settlements in historically Arab east Jerusalem.

"Very serious events and developments concerning the peace process... have led us almost to a dead end that threatens the whole process," he said.

Relations between Israel and the Palestinians have deteriorated sharply following Israel's decision to go ahead with the Jewish Har Homa housing project in east Jerusalem. Arafat has refused to meet with Netanyahu, and last week's ground breaking for the project set off violent protests in Hebron and Bethlehem.

Sporadic contacts have continued despite the impasse, but an announcement by Israel that it was stopping talks would make it more difficult to bring two sides back to negotiating table.

Before the breakdown, talks had been underway on unresolved issues from the peace agreements signed by Israel's previous governments—such as prisoner releases and travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip—and Israel's promised troop with-



Yasser Arafat

drawals from rural areas of the West Bank. Talks on a final peace settlement—including issues such as the future of Jerusalem and Palestinian statehood—were supposed to start March 17.

Bar-Ilan accused the Palestinians of failing to crack down on Islamic militants and of releasing leaders of the militant group Hamas instead.

Police set up roadblocks at the entrances to Tel Aviv and other coastal cities and Tel Aviv's main thoroughfare, Dizengoff Street, was closed to traffic. Palestinians

were barred from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Sunday, Israeli troops opened fire on a Palestinian at a roadblock between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Two Palestinians were wounded and taken to the hospital, police said.

The army also placed a curfew on the West Bank village of Zurif, where suicide bomber Moussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat lived, and on the downtown area of Hebron where violent clashes erupted Saturday between Palestinians and Israeli troops.

Israeli troops sealed Ghneimat's home and barred reporters from the area. The army ordered the house demolished, but Israel radio said the family appealed the order to Israel's Supreme Court.

Israeli cities decided to go ahead with planned Purim parties despite Friday's attack, but national police commissioner Hefetz called on the public to be on alert at all public events.

"The awareness of the public is very important," he said.

"It's more important than the size or capability of the police force."

Mobutu out from seclusion

By BETH DUFF-BROWN

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - "My name is Mobutu." With those words, a smiling but tired-looking President Mobutu Sese Seko emerged from seclusion Sunday, trying to prove to the world that he still rules Zaire.

Wearing his signature leopard-skin cap and waving a wooden cane, Mobutu walked slowly out of his residence on the Zaire River in his first public appearance since returning home Friday to face the rebellion that has been ravaging his country.

To the journalists who shouted questions, he replied firmly: "My name is Mobutu." Then, more softly, the ailing president said, "I didn't come back to busy myself with the interests of Mobutu, nor the fortune of Mobutu, as you write from time to time."

He pledged himself to "the highest interest of Zaire—that is to say, our unity and our territorial integrity."

Mobutu brushed off questions about whether he was willing to meet with rebel leader Laurent Kabila, whose forces have taken nearly a third of the country. Asked what his role would be in efforts to forge a national reconciliation, he said only: "You will know within the next 48 hours."

He appeared with South Africa's

deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, who has played a key role in trying to bring about peace talks.

Mobutu's residence is on the Zaire River opposite Brazzaville, Congo, where the first wave of U.S. soldiers arrived Sunday to prepare for the possible evacuation of Americans from Zaire. About 500 American civilians live in Zaire, about 320 of them in Kinshasa.

The commander of the task force, Maj. Gen. Edwin P. Smith, said he expected to have about 200 American soldiers in Brazzaville within the next couple days and another 100 or so in Libreville, the capital of neighboring Gabon.

He stressed that he was not intervening in Zaire's troubles.

"We were not sent here to monitor their internal political situation of Zaire," he said.

The rebels trying to end Mobutu's 31-year dictatorship control a vast swath of eastern Zaire. Kabila said Saturday his forces are just 125 miles from Lubumbashi, the country's second-largest city.

The rebels have said they will stop fighting only after Mobutu holds direct talks with Kabila. Mobutu so far has refused.

Mobutu announced Thursday from France that he intended to call for a national council that would bring all sides together—"excluding no one"—to reunite the nation.

Boy's body found in airplane

LONDON (AP) - Airport workers found the body of a boy in the nose-wheel section of an airliner that arrived Sunday morning from Nairobi, Kenya.

The child suffered crush injuries, apparently caused by the hydraulic mechanism of the British Airways Boeing 747, which flew nonstop to London's Gatwick Airport, the national news agency Press Associa-

tion reported.

He appeared to be between 10 and 14 years old, police said.

Sussex police used a helicopter to search the plane's landing approach area to ensure that no one else had been with the boy and fallen out.

Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

"This was a tragic loss of a young life and one can only guess at what

spurred him into doing something so dangerous," police Inspector Peter Cooper said.

It was not immediately known if the youngster was injured when the plane took off from Kenya or when it landed, or whether he might have died from hypothermia in the sub-zero temperatures while the plane was in flight. He was wearing only light clothing.

US troops arrive in Congo

By CANDICE HUGHES

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP) - The first wave of a U.S. military task force moved cautiously into central Africa on Sunday, preparing for a possible evacuation of Americans from Zaire.

At midday, a huge C-17 transport plane that flew through the night from Aviano, Italy, disgorged a contingent of soldiers, along with supplies and equipment, onto Brazzaville's blistering tarmac.

Brazzaville is just across the Zaire River from Kinshasa, the Zairian capital that some fear could erupt into violence as rebel troops advance through the country.

While the rebels are still far from Kinshasa, many fear a rampage by Zaire's poorly paid soldiers if President Mobutu Sese Seko dies or the rebels continue their advance. A coup is another possibility.

Anti-gov't strike spurs violence in Bangladeshi

By HASAN SAEED

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Opposition party activists paralyzed Bangladesh on Sunday during a day-long strike, exploding homemade bombs, fighting with guns and meat cleavers and smashing buses. One person was killed and more than 100 injured, police and witnesses said.

It was the first major anti-government street protest against the administration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who took power nine months ago. When she was in the opposition, Hasina often led such strikes, which eventually forced out the government.

Opposition leader and former prime minister Khaleda Zia said her party opposes a government move to allow Indian commercial vehicles to traverse Bangladesh to reach a remote northeastern region of India. Her Bangladesh Nationalist Party says that would encourage Indian separatists to operate freely from Bangladesh.

Kinshasa has suffered several outbreaks of rioting in the past few years, including one in which the French ambassador was killed.

About 500 American civilians are in Zaire, including about 320 in Kinshasa. There are also an estimated 7,000 Europeans in Kinshasa, including 3,000 Belgians and 1,000 French nationals.

The French have had a task force in Brazzaville for several weeks. A Belgian force was expected on Monday. A small advance team from Britain was also in place.

U.S. military planners, who say they will coordinate with the other countries, are anxious to dispel any notions that the force will become embroiled in Zaire's five-month civil war.

The size of the advance party was cut at the last minute to lower its profile. The first contingent consisted

of 28 people. They joined an advance team of 20 to 30 that arrived last week. The force could eventually number several hundred.

"We're trying to keep our 'foot-print' small so the deployment will be viewed as what it is: preparatory and not provocative," the commander of the task force, Maj. Gen. Edwin P. Smith, told The Associated Press en route to Brazzaville.

Getting foreigners out of Kinshasa, a sprawling city of about 8 million, could be tricky. The only way across the river is by water or air. The most

likely scenario would be a helicopter airlift to the Brazzaville airport, where the U.S. force is setting up.

Smith said he expected to have about 200 American soldiers in Brazzaville within the next 48 hours and another 100 or so in Libreville, the capital of neighboring Gabon. Additional U.S. cargo planes were expected later Sunday.

Zaire has been ruled for 31 years by Mobutu, who is 66 and stricken with prostate cancer. Widely seen as a corrupt dictator who has robbed his impoverished nation, he returned

home Friday after a lengthy stay on the French Riviera.

The rebels, led by Laurent Kabila, have captured a wide swath of eastern Zaire. Mobutu has refused Kabila's demand for face-to-face talks.

The rebels took the eastern city of Kisangani earlier this week with little resistance from Mobutu's forces. His soldiers looted the city, Zaire's third-largest, and fled.

Congo has not objected to the presence of U.S. troops, welcoming anything that might discourage a spillover of Zairian refugees and looting soldiers.

Islamic world calls for unity

By KATHY GANNON

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned Sunday that the Middle East peace process was on the verge of collapse and issued a plea to Islamic leaders worldwide to "rescue" Jerusalem from Israel.

In a passionate 10-minute speech to the Organization of Islamic Conference, Arafat accused Israel of renegeing on peace agreements.

"Very serious events and developments concerning the peace process... have led us almost to a dead end that threatens the whole process and could undermine the achievements and the hopes that were raised because of that process," said Arafat, referring to Israeli plans to construct more Jewish housing in historically Arab east Jerusalem.

Arafat said it was the "duty" of all Muslims "to rescue Jerusalem from the settlements, from the danger of Judaism... I urge you to act rapidly and seriously to save it." He did not specify what he expected them to do.

Palestinians hope that east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967

Mideast War, will be the capital of a future state. Israel claims sovereignty over the entire city.

Before Arafat spoke, Pakistan's president opened Sunday's summit of Islamic leaders with a plea for Islamic unity and an attack on Israel's construction plans.

President Farooq Leghari also criticized the West for what he called its "hostile view of Islam."

The meeting, which coincides with Pakistan's celebration of 50 years of independence from Britain, is intended to underline the country's solidarity with the rest of the Muslim world and to identify problems facing Muslims as they move into the 21st century.

The heads of state of the 54-nation organization were invited, but friction with Iran kept many Arab leaders away. Arafat, who arrived late Saturday, had kept his participation a secret until the last minute.

The Islamic bloc represents one-fifth of the world's population, possesses half the world's oil resources and exports 40 percent of its raw material, but its income is less than five

percent of global output, said Leghari.

"We must stand united to seek common solution to our common problems... Solidarity among member states is the key to leading the Islamic world to greater prosperity in the 21st century," said Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

But the Islamic world is adrift, ranging from Afghanistan's rigid Taliban army to secular Turkey. The Taliban's version of strict Islamic rule bans women from the work force, girls from schools, forces men to wear beards, outlaws the playing of music, photography and most games.

Delegates said the Islamic bloc also has a serious image problem.

"Sadly our enlightened and tolerant faith is being portrayed in the West as the harbinger of hate and violence," said Leghari. "Unfortunately the West, by and large, is taking a hostile view of Islam and Islamic revivalism."

"Muslim scholars and societies must present the tolerant face of Islam to the outside world as well as to overzealous Muslims," he said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW97-RFP-009

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the architectural and engineering design and construction management of the Kalabera Sanitary Landfill Project on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The sanitary landfill will be sited, designed and constructed to ensure full compliance with applicable federal and CNMI environmental regulations. Specifically, the new sanitary landfill must be designed in strict conformance with USEPA regulations promulgated under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Subtitle D, Part 258, as amended.

Proposals will include the following and be limited to not more than twenty-five (25) pages of technical presentation:
1. Updated Standard Forms 254 and 255;
2. Design Approach and Methodology; and
3. Time Frame for the Proposed Work.

A detailed Scope of Work is available on or after Wednesday, March 26, 1997 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at 60 percent of the cost, with 40 percent matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. The award of a contract for this project is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

Proposals will be evaluated by a DPW Evaluation Committee and a selection will be made based on the following criteria:
1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and proposed staff (25%);
2. Experience on similar projects (20%);
3. Proposed project approach (20%);
4. Time frame for the design work (15%); and
5. Completeness of the proposal (15%).

Proposals must be marked "DPW97-RFP-009". One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Wednesday, April 30, 1997.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in the said proposals if, in its sole opinion to do so, would be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works
Date: 3/18/97

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director of Procurement & Supply
Date: 3/19/97

DEATH ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

We, the Husband and Children of the Late
ANA BOKI BABAUTA

wish to extend our profound invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us in the nightly rosary commemorating her FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY at 8:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at the family residence in San Roque.

On the final day, Wednesday, March 26, 1997, the rosary will be said at 4:00 p.m. at the family residence followed by the mass of intention at 5:00 p.m. at the San Roque Church.

Appreciation dinner will be served after the mass at the family residence.

Please join us in prayers
THANK YOU/SI YU'US MA'ASE
MANUEL M. BABAUTA & CHILDREN



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Funds scandal hits GOP Rep.

By SCOTT LINDLAU

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The summer after the riots of April 1992 laid waste to hundreds of buildings here, blacks and Korean-Americans squabbled bitterly over who was getting more government reconstruction money.

Blacks "are a bigger minority group and they are more visible," Robert Park, a director and former vice president of the Korean-American Coalition, an advocacy group, said then. "We haven't been around too long; we don't have one Korean representative in Los Angeles County."

That was about to change. That November, Jay Kim was elected the nation's first Korean-born congressman, a Republican representing parts of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange counties.

Last year he comfortably won a third term. Yet Kim, once a rising GOP star, has been dogged since his first term by a fund-raising scandal that grew directly out of Korean-Americans craving for more political clout.

Five companies based in South Korea have pleaded guilty to laundering donations to Kim, and two Korean-Americans were indicted on related charges.

The 3 1/2-year-old investigation "is at Kim's doorstep," one law enforcement source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Seo Kuk Ma, Kim's 1994 campaign treasurer, is to stand trial April 15 on charges he collected and laundered contributions from several firms and hid them from federal authorities.

The first man indicted, Hyundai Motor America executive Paul Koh, was acquitted last year of laundering corporate donations in 1992.

The Kim case, coming as scrutiny of the links between Asian money and the Democratic Party intensifies in Washington, shows a similar cloud hangs over at least one Republican.

It also underscores the causes of the Asian money affair that has deeply embarrassed the Demo-

cratic Party: a sense of political isolation voiced by Asian-Americans.

More than \$1 million collected by John Huang, the Democrats chief fund-raiser in the Asian-American community, is being returned because of questions about its origins.

In the Kim case, Hyundai Motor America, the automaker; Daewoo International America, a shipping and electronics concern; Samsung America, an import-export company and corporate cousin to Samsung Electronics; Haitai America, a food distributor; and Korean Airlines all admit they illegally funneled campaign donations through employees.

The five firms have paid fines totaling \$1.6 million.

Under federal law, corporations and non-citizens are barred from contributing to federal candidates. It's also unlawful to make donations in the name of another person.

Kim, 58, a civil engineer and former councilman in suburban

Diamond Bar, has said he didn't know the contributions were illegal, but he's been contradicted in court documents by his own 1992 campaign treasurer.

Jane Chong, the former treasurer, also told FBI investigators that Kim's wife, June, kept lists of the companies and the amounts they gave and asked Chong to destroy computer records of donors.

The investigation is creeping steadily closer to Kim, the law enforcement source said, but he declined to speculate whether grand jurors would indict Kim if prosecutors asked. But the statute of limitations on felonies is five years, which means prosecutors must act by this summer if they believe Kim was involved in money-laundering.

Prosecutors say some of those involved in the fund-raising scheme were so intent on sending their man to Congress that they ignored the law. It was the early 1990s, when Korean-Americans, like Asian-Americans nation-

wide, felt politically impotent, even as their population was swelling, say observers.

Americans of Asian descent had doubled in number from 1980 to 1990, and grown even faster in Los Angeles County, said Stuart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles.

Further spurring Asian political involvement were growing attacks on immigration, welfare and affirmative action, Kwoh said.

Then came the acquittals of four white Los Angeles police officers charged in the beating of black motorist Rodney King.

Three ensuing days of riots and fires left 55 people dead and \$1 billion in property damage.

Blacks, reacting to years of what they considered rude, discriminatory treatment from Korean shopkeepers, destroyed or damaged more than 100 Korean-owned convenience stores.

In July 1992, 2 1/2 months after the riots, a group of South Korean business executives known as the Korea Traders Club of Los Angeles hatched the laundering plan, prosecutors allege.

The club devised a plan by which corporations and foreign citizens would contribute to the Kim campaign "in a manner that would prevent them from being detected by U.S. government authorities," according to a plea agreement Daewoo signed in April 1996.

"The plan provided for member companies to make their contributions to the Kim campaign through and under the names of individual employees who were United States citizens or permanent residents," the agreement states.

Kim attended the meeting and was the featured speaker, according to court documents.

B.J. Lee, then the club's chairman, denied in an interview that any scheme to launder donations was discussed.

The Korean business leaders, he insisted, simply wanted to show solidarity with the people of devastated Koreatown, to rally Korean-Americans at a time when morale had hit bottom.

"At that time all the Korean community is heated up with the possibility of one Korean-American politician like Jay Kim," Lee said. "That is one of them. At that time the Korean community generally believed they were isolated in this country. Kind of a real minority."

Economically OK, but (not) socially. That's including politics."

The prospect of sending Kim to Congress, he said, restored Korean-Americans' faith that "as Americans they can have American dreams."

Today, Lee describes the federal probe and indictments as "a very good experience, I think, learning about American election law."

Allies defend Gingrich plan

By JIM ABRAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lieutenants Sunday defended his remarks that a balanced budget agreement might have to come before tax cuts, but promised Republicans are as determined as ever to eventually reduce taxes.

UN envoy confident Senate will act on weapons treaty

By JIM ABRAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said Sunday he is confident that Senate conservatives led by Sen. Jesse Helms will allow a vote on a chemical weapons treaty and that it will be ratified before next month's deadline.

Ambassador Bill Richardson's evaluation came as Vice President Al Gore, currently on a trip to Asia, said the administration was nearing a decision on consolidating foreign affairs agencies.

Helms, a North Carolina Republican and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has vowed to block a vote on the treaty until the Clinton administration acts to restructure the State Department.

"I am very confident that we will get a vote and the vote will be positive," Richardson said on Fox television.

He spoke of "very good discussions" with Helms and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, and said "some of the conditions and initiatives that Sen. Helms has put forward we're working on. We've accepted some."

Since taking control of the Senate committee two years ago, Helms has made reorganizing the State Department his top priority, including elimination of some agencies.

In 1995 he proposed the State Department take over the work of the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the U.S. Information Agency. He later modified that in a bill giving the administration the choice of abolishing one of the three, but President Bill Clinton vetoed the legislation.

In speaking of changes in the State Department, Gore admitted the admin-

"We are not giving any ground at all. We are still committed to balancing the budget and giving significant tax cuts to the American family," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, on "Fox News Sunday."

DeLay and Gingrich touched off a rebellion in the GOP ranks last week when they said the party should concentrate on forging a balanced budget agreement with the Clinton administration before turning to tax cut proposals that have been the cornerstone of the Republican agenda.

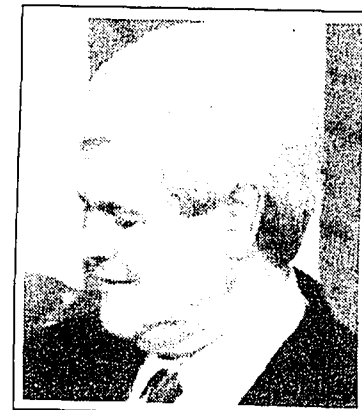
The outcry from Republicans both in and outside Congress is seen as further eroding Gingrich's hold on the speakership, already weakened by ethics problems and the perception of a do-little Congress under his command.

One of Gingrich's chief critics on tax policy, former Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp, said the speaker must clarify that there can be no balanced budget without tax cuts.

"He's got to step forward, in my opinion, and not get wobbly in the knee about this very important issue facing America," Kemp said on ABC's "This Week."

DeLay countered that Kemp, an advocate of supply-side economics, "has always said that deficits don't matter. We think deficits do matter."

Rep. Bill Paxton, R-N.Y., another member of the House GOP leadership and a staunch ally of Gingrich, said the speaker's comments



Newt Gingrich

shouldn't be interpreted to mean Republicans will compromise on tax cuts.

"Our principles are solid. This week we had a discussion about strategy and there was a little emotion, surprising for Republicans on that issue, but our goals are bedrock-solid," he said on ABC.

Paxton added the party might do better to keep its disputes to itself, however.

"We've had an open public discussion of strategy. I'm not sure that that's necessary from here on," he

said.

One Republican concern about holding off on tax cuts is that it could leave the impression the White House is driving the issue. But the Clinton Administration has indicated it too might be willing to set aside tax cut proposals to advance negotiations on reaching a balanced budget by 2002.

"If having a separate vote on tax cuts turns out to be a means of getting a bipartisan balanced budget agreement, we're open to that," said Gene Sperling, chairman of the White House National Economic Council.

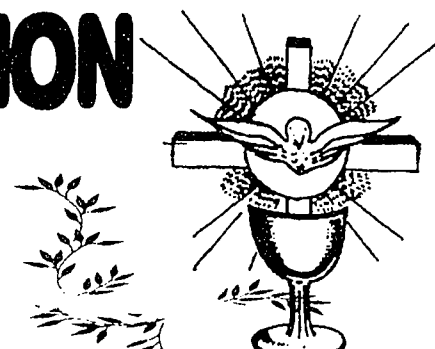
Clinton has called for a net tax reduction of some \$25 billion, including tax breaks for college tuition and a \$500-per-child break for middle income families.

Those cuts are offset in his budget proposal by tax and fee increases mostly aimed at businesses.

Republicans advocate far broader tax cuts, including reductions in estate and capital gains taxes and expansion of tax-free retirement accounts with the \$500-per-child tax break.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CONSOLACION AYUYU SANTOS



Born: November 17, 1930

Was called to her eternal rest on March 19, 1997

SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER DECEASED HUSBAND:

Antonio Lujan San Nicolas

HER PRESENT HUSBAND: Joaquin Pangelinan Santos**CHILDREN/SPOUSE:**

Jose P. San Nicolas & Remedio P. San Nicolas; Regina Pinaula & Francisco Taga; Agnes S.N. Camacho (deceased) & Vicente Camacho; David A. San Nicolas & Maria Rosa C. San Nicolas; Mariano A. San Nicolas & Josephine San Nicolas; Margarita S.N. Guevarra & Robert Guevarra; Ramon San Nicolas & Susan San Nicolas; Thomasa San Nicolas; Ana De Jesus; Carmen San Nicolas & Jose Agulto; Jose San Nicolas & Marites San Nicolas

BROTHERS & SISTERS:

Jose D.C. Ayuyu & (deceased) & Margarita A. Aldan (deceased); Maria A. Aldan & Antonio T. Aldan (deceased); Jesus D.C. Ayuyu & Engracia Santos; Rosa D.C. Ayuyu & Roman Lairopi; Ana A. Sacramento & Juanito Sacramento; Magdalena D.C. Santos & Vicente Santos; Bernadita D.C. Agulto (deceased) & Jose Agulto

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grand children & great grand children

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the family residence in Sta. Lourdes, As Teo.

Last respect may be paid on Wednesday, March 26, 1997 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 p.m.

at their residence in As Teo. Mass of a Christian Burial will be said at 3:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Burial will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

ISLAND FLORIST FUNERAL SERVICES

Tel. 235-1001

EASTER BUD HUNT

The 1st Annual Easter Bud Hunt at
Plumeria Resort

Enjoy a delicious Easter Sunday Brunch from 10am to 2pm \$22.00 for adults \$11.00 for children, 4 years olds and younger are free.

Get one complimentary Bud family per person.

There'll be an Easter Egg Hunt for children 11 and younger and Hershey's Easter chocolates and grab bag goodies for all participants!

The real fun starts when the adults

HUNT FOR THE BUD FAMILY! from 1pm to 2pm
THE EASTER BUD HUNT! FIND THE GOLD CAN AND WIN!

A GRAND PRIZE OF:

2 NIGHTS STAY AND DINNER FOR 2
AT THE PLUMERIA RESORT HOTEL.

Other special cans win;

1st prize: Budweiser Bowling Ball and Bag

2nd prize: Dinner for 2 at Plumeria Resort

3rd prize: Bud Family Polo Shirt

Plumeria Resort



**** Participant's in Bud Hunt must be 21yrs or older and MUST have eaten in Plumeria's Easter Brunch.**

China...

Continued from page 2

this year, and Clinton to visit China in 1998.

Gore is to meet Chinese Premier Li Peng, President Jiang and other officials before leaving for South Korea on Friday.

The sister of veteran dissident Wei Jingsheng, now serving a 14-year jail sentence for subversion, appealed to Gore to raise her brother's case with Chinese leaders during his visit.

Wei's family says the 46-year-old dissident is suffering from neck pain so severe he can barely hold his neck erect, but prison officials have not allowed him to get a medical examination, the group Human Rights in China said.

"Please raise these demands on Wei Jingsheng behalf with the Chinese government: immediately release him and, before his release, allow him to get outside medical attention," Wei Shanshan, who lives in Germany, said in a letter to Gore dated March 4, according to the New York-based group.

"Please do everything you can to help his destiny," she wrote.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1050ROY S. REYES,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
JON YE CHOI KIM, SEONG SOO
KIM, AKIYAMA YUKISHIGE,
Defendants**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 you herewith, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to KENNETH L. GOVEND, Attorney at Law whose address is P.O. Box 2377, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to 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 Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT

Dated this 17 day of September, 1996.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of CourtFor your child's
academic assistance,
Call**SAIPAN
TUTORIAL
SERVICES**

Tel. 288-1929

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

VICTORINO T. BORJA and
TRINIDAD A. BORJA,
Plaintiffs,vs.
KO, KYUNG MI; OK, YUL; and LEE,
HONG-RAE,
Defendants.**CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-259****SUMMONS**TO: KO, KYUNG MI; OK, YUL; and LEE,
HONG-RAE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, within thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons in this newspaper, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, attorneys for Plaintiffs, whose address is P.O. Box 1509, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

By order of the above Court.

DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Commonwealth Supreme Court

Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.



Medical experts tackle snoring

By DONNA ABU-NASR
ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)-For months, newlywed Lauren Collins tried dealing diplomatically with her new husband's problem in bed. She would go to sleep before he did, or tundle off to another bedroom to spend the night.

Nothing worked. Finally, she told him he had to do something about his incredibly loud snoring.

Dr. Lewis Newberg, an ear, nose

and throat specialist, was shocked. Like most people who suffer from sleep disorders, he didn't know he had a problem.

After surgery, Newberg says he has been cured of sleep apnea, the severest kind of snoring in which narrowed airways cause people to stop breathing briefly as they sleep.

It's a problem that Newberg took seriously enough to write a book about it urging people not to treat the

condition lightly.

Newberg is among more than 300 ear, nose and throat specialists who attended a three-day conference on sleep disorders ranging from simple snoring to sleep apnea and how to treat them. The conference ended Sunday.

While many people ridicule snoring and view it not as a problem but as an oddity, doctors at the meeting stressed that snoring is a serious con-

dition that affects 9 percent of adult men and 4 percent of adult women in the United States.

Both snoring and sleep apnea have been associated with development of hypertension, high blood pressure, increased risk of heart attack, stroke — even traffic accidents. They have ended marriages.

Dr. Samuel Mickelson, of Atlanta, Ga., said snoring and sleep apnea are the same disease, differing only in severity.

On the lower end of the spectrum are those who snore without experiencing other problems. At the other end are people who stop breathing and wake up gasping and choking several hundred times a night.

Besides the medical problems, snorers suffer socially. Doctors said some people worry so much about the problem they skip vacations with friends, fear new relationships or avoid business trips that require sharing a room.

While there is no magic pill to cure snoring, but doctors at the Arlington conference suggested experimenting with treatments that include using devices to reposition the lower jaw forward, open nasal air passages or retrain snorers by producing unpleasant sensations when they snore.

The problem can also be treated by regular or laser surgery.

Reflecting a growing market for snoring aids, several entrepreneurs displayed high-tech machines and devices at the conference that promised to help treat or diagnose snoring and sleep apnea.

A few, like Andy Owens, had toll-free numbers displayed that automatically hook up snorers with doctors in their areas.

Owens, who began that service in Dallas, said his service could not handle the flood of calls that came from all over the country. He switched to an 888 number that now routes calls to the 40 doctors who signed up with the service.

"Thousands have called in the past eight months," he said. "There's a real need for it."

Anti-logging protesters hit police 'brutality'**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia**

(AP) - An international environmental group has called for an investigation into allegations by some nomadic tribe members that police kicked and beat them during an anti-logging protest.

Senior officials were not available for comment, police said, when contacted by telephone Sunday.

The native people were demonstrating peacefully March 13 in Sarawak state on Borneo island, 1,300 kilometers (820 miles) southeast of the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, when the police assaulted them, the Malaysian branch of the Friends of the Earth said Saturday, quoting three Penan natives who claimed they witnessed the incident.

Four of the protesters were arrested. "Nineteen of our people, men and women were assaulted or beaten by the police using their machine gun butts and also kicking with their boots," the nomadic people, called Penans, said through a Friends of the Earth statement.

Mexico's new drug czar vows overhaul of war versus drugs

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Mexico's new drug czar said Thursday he is working to overhaul the country's top narcotics-fighting agency - including drug tests for its employees - after his predecessor's arrest over alleged links to a cocaine smuggler.

Mariano Herran Salvatti said employees of the National Institute to Fight Drugs will be subject to close scrutiny under a wider plan to weed out corruption throughout federal law enforcement agencies.

He said a "personnel review" of federal crime fighters was under way.

"I would like to emphasize that we are going to proceed case by case. All will be subject to the same examinations," said Herran Salvatti.

Already, the attorney general's office this week found at least 424 employees of its federal crime-

fighting agencies had tested positive for drugs, about half of those for cocaine use.

Herran Salvatti himself submitted to drug, psychological and proficiency tests and an audit of his personal finances before being named head of the institute. He said that from now on all new hires must submit to the same tests - something unheard of up to now in the federal government.

He also said Mexico's attorney general would lead a commission set up to recommend and oversee reforms.

Previously Mexico City's chief prosecutor, the 48-year-old civilian lawyer was tapped this month to replace Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, an army general ousted in February as drug czar on charges of being in the pay of a top trafficker.

Athisswearing-in, Herran Salvatti said his biggest challenge would be "recovering the confidence lost

and damaged by corruption, impunity and the irresponsible actions of many bad public servants over many years."

Until Gutierrez Rebollo's Feb. 18 arrest, Mexico was a shoo-in for recertification as a fully cooperating ally of the U.S. war on drugs. President Clinton re-certified Mexico amid an uproar in the U.S. House.

But after intense negotiations with the Clinton administration, the U.S. Senate approved a resolution Thursday that ends any chance for Congress to overturn the presidential OK of Mexico's anti-drug efforts.

The measure, passed 94-5, attacks both U.S. and Mexican failures against narcotics traffickers and demands more cooperation. It requires President Clinton to make another assessment after five months, but the bill focuses on joint progress against drug traffickers.

Interior officials blame this on the local government's "removal of the immigration cap."

"The administration and management of immigration are very difficult problems. We have (the same) problems in the mainland," Williams said.

"You are managing your own immigration, and I think it's up to those authorities responsible for it to be done in an effective manner," the ambassador added.

Amb . . .

Continued from page 1

very high position in the government."

"Throughout the negotiation, he added, the entire community was involved.

"I can't tell you how many community meetings I had. I think this was a very open negotiation...The people knew what we were doing," he added.

The people ratified the Covenant in an April 1, 1975 plebiscite.

The CNMI since then has been very prosperous compared to other territories, Williams said.

The Covenant, Williams said, has given the CNMI the opportunities to determine what kind of government it wanted to have, and has provided the CNMI "a base on

which you can begin to build an economy that will lead to more and more self-sufficiency—or as the governor says 'less reliance on the American taxpayers.'"

Asked by reporters about his opinion on Congress' plan to take over local immigration and federalize minimum wage, Williams replied: "I don't have any position. I came out here with no agenda but to see old friends."

Several critics in Washington, specifically in U.S. Congress, has been waging a campaign against the CNMI, criticizing the local government's handling of labor and immigration matters. Reports about labor abuses have triggered threats of federal takeover of local immigration.

From a population of 14,000 in the pre-Covenant era, the CNMI's population has grown to over 60,000.

Coming soon! KEICO MOTORS - SAIPAN

distributors of
Chrysler Jeep Dodge
is now hiring for the following positions...

General Sales Manager
Sales Executives
Parts Manager
Service Manager
Lot Attendants

Sales Manager
Office Manager
Stock Clerk
Mechanics
Detailers

We offer excellent salary and benefits and the chance to become part of a dynamic and growing company. Qualified applicants will demonstrate a desire to work hard and to have fun doing so! To apply, pickup an application form at Thrifty Car Rental (Airport Road) and return it no later than April 2, 1997. No phone calls please

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, refile, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted

01 GREENS' KEEPER/OPERATION
MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00-1,200.00
per month
Contact: SILK ROAD CORPORATION
dba Saipan Country Club Tel. 234-7300/(3/25)T228274

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSE T. TAROPE dba
Chemboy Enterprise Tel. 322-4919/(3/25)T228275

02 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$650.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: TARO SUE CORPORATION
dba Taru Sue Store Tel. 234-5416/(3/25)T228277

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
03 TOUR GUIDE-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: MARI SAI, INC. dba Saipan
Gold Beach Hotel Tel. 235-5501/(3/25)T228278

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$950.00 per month
Contact: J. LEE ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba Gold Mart, J. Lee Gift Shop Tel. 234-3181/(3/25)T228279

01 MARKETING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$600.00 per month
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$600.00 per month
Contact: GUERRERO TRADING CORPORATION Tel. 322-2112/(3/25)T228280

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: L T & R ENTERPRISES (3/25)T228281

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$6.60 per hour
Contact: MEITETSU SHOPPING CENTER, INC. dba Meitetsu Mart/Penny's Meitetsu Tel. 234-7313/(3/25)T228282

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 DRESSMAKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROLANDO G. BIGALBAL dba Arbeses Enterprises Tel. 234-9855/(3/25)T228284

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$700.00 per month
01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$500.00 per month
Contact: ROLANDO G. BIGALBAL dba RB Electrical & Construction Tel. 234-9855/(3/25)T228283

04 MASSEUR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
04 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TAGA INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT & MANPOWER (3/25)T228285

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: RANDALL H. STEELE dba Marianas Manpower (3/25)T228286

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary:\$7.03 per hour
Contact: CREATIVE TOURS MICRONESIA, INC. Tel. 322-7417/(3/25)T228287

03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SOO H. HAN SEUL HOTEL Tel. 234-7129/(3/25)T228288

02 COOK-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: NIPPON GENERAL TRADING CORP. dba Country House Restaurant Tel. 233-1908/(3/25)T228272

01 SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR-Salary:\$3.05-16.00 per hour
Contact: EIGHT CORPORATION dba Ecommunication Tel. 235-8373/(3/25)T228271

01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIAN S. ATALIG dba Renaissance (3/25)T64779

01 BATCHING PLANT SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$900.00-1,200.00 per month
05 TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN ROCK QUARRY INC. Tel. 234-3221/(3/25)T64781

06 DELIVERY MAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN WATER & ICE INC. Tel. 234-3221/(3/25)T64783

05 CONSTRUCTION HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN REALTY & CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. Tel. 322-5152/(3/25)T64782

02 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.75 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$4.00-5.00 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC. Tel. 233-9298/(3/25)T64797

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 CONTROLLER-Salary: \$1,500.00-3,500.00 per month
Contact: PELLEY ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-3973/(3/25)T64799

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 CARPENTER (FURNITURE ASSEMBLER & INSTALLER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MECHELLE CORPORATION dba Tongyang Carpet, BIF Furniture Tel. 234-1361/(3/25)T228289

01 TOUR COORDINATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: GOODMAN SAIPAN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405/(3/25)T228290

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,800.00 per month
Contact: UNICONS CORPORATION dba Yosan Yosu Restaurant Tel. 235-0405/(3/25)T228291

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$5.00-10.00 per hour
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
Contact: ISLAND LEISURE CORPORATION dba Las Vegas Game Palace Tel. 235-0405/(3/25)T228292

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: DAE HOON ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Riviera Restaurant Tel. 322-4190/(3/25)T228293

01 PROJECT SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$320-400 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary:\$290-3.15 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$290-3.15 per hour
02 CEMENT MASON-Salary: \$290-3.15 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$290-3.15 per hour
Contact: STAR FOUR CORPORATION dba SFC Construction Company Tel. 234-5520/(3/25)T228294

02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: FAIRTEX MANAGEMENT CO., LTD. Tel. 234-9522/(3/25)T228295

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$900.00 per month
01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DOUBLE M LIMITED Tel. 233-0594/(4/8)T228539

01 MANAGER, CUSTOMER TECHNICAL SERVICES-Salary: \$1,000.00-3,500 per month
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-6876/(4/8)T228540

01 CHIEF ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,000.00-2,000.00 per month
03 PRESS OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.25-5.00 per hour
02 REPORTER-Salary: \$650.00-1,000.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-8.00 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 TYPESETTER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 STRIPPER/CAMERAMAN-Salary: \$3.25-5.00 per hour
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. Tel. 234-6341/(3/25)T228443

01 FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
01 FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: ISLAND BUSINESS SYSTEM & SUPPLY (CNM) CORPORATION Tel. 234-8002/(5/15/4/1)T64961

01 FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: MARIBETH F. BABAUTA dba El Kay Jee Enterprises Tel. 288-0236/(4/1)T64962

02 MAINTENANCE WORKER (GENERAL)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PEDRO C. SAN NICOLAS dba PAB Construction and Manpower Services Tel. 322-3045/(4/1)T228452

01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: VICENTE M. CONCEPCION dba Ben and Ki Water Sport Tel. 233-7298/(4/1)T228453

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ANGELITA M. BUNIA dba Alana's Enterprises Tel. 234-0695/(4/1)T228455

01 MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PUYAT & SONS AND CO. INC. Tel. 288-1295/(4/1)T228457

06 WAITRESS/WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: M & H CORPORATION dba Linda Restaurant Tel. 233-8168/(4/1)T228440

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MASCO CORPORATION Tel. 234-0692/(4/1)T228442

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00-8.00 per hour
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
02 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
01 HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN INC. Tel. 322-3311/(4/8)T656060

01 CABLE TV TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIA ELENA B. PROVINCE dba E2JP2's Int'l Manpower Agency Tel. 235-4237/(4/8)T228535

10 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
20 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 FASTFOOD SERVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIA ELENA B. PROVINCE dba E2JP2's Int'l Manpower Agency Tel. 235-4237/(4/8)T228535

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$7.03 per hour
Contact: CREATIVE TOURS MICRONESIA, INC. Tel. 322-7417/(4/8)T228537

01 COOK-Salary: \$600.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: PRO-DIVE SAIPAN, INC. dba Pro-Dive Saipan (4/8)T228538

02 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary: \$1,160.00 per month plus 400.00 housing allowance per month
Contact: NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY MICRONESIA, INC. dba Mach Tour Tel. 234-9309/(4/1)T228443

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: EDGARDO B. LOS BANOS dba Jade Skills Construction Tel. 233-1709/(4/1)T228444

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.75 per hour
Contact: DON A. FARRELL/CARMEN LLC. FARRELL dba Micronesia Productions/Ric-Darsha Tel. 433-3082/(4/1)T228445

02 TRASH COLLECTOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JACINTO C. CRUZ dba Cruz Sanitation Services Tel. 234-0456/(4/1)T228446

01 LUNCH TRUCK DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
04 CATERER HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 COOK HELPER-Salary: 3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MANAGAH MARINE TOUR, INC. Tel. 233-2040/(4/1)T228447

03 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
06 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
06 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MANAGER-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month
Contact: MANAGAH MARINE TOUR, INC. dba Hodoli Garden Restaurant Tel. 233-2040/(4/1)T228448

01 TRANSLATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: X. CORPORATION Tel. 233-0691/(4/1)T228449

01 POLYNESIAN CULTURAL DANCER-Salary: \$425-5.25 per hour
01 AUTOMOTIVE RENTAL CLERK-Salary: \$3.50-3.75 per hour
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01 DAY CARE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
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01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
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01 MACHINE ENGRAVER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: Younis Art Studio, Inc. Tel. 234-6341/(4/1)T64980

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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are proud of the fact that you are what you are, despite the fact that your confidence and aggressive stance in life is sure to attract a good deal of criticism. You are knowledgeable, hard-working and honest; you see things as they are, and you never shy away from speaking the truth. It is important for you to be true to your own nature and to your principles at all times; you're not the kind to compromise for any amount of prestige or money. Your reputation is the most important thing to you; you will not risk it for anything.

You are sure to experience your share of ups and downs, but you realize that you will take from even the worst experience a new kind of knowledge and wisdom that you cannot acquire any other way. You have been known to let your mind, but this never gets a dent in your protective confidence.

Also born on this date are: Howard Cosell, sportscaster; Artha Franklin, singer; Elton John, singer and musician; Gloria Steinem, feminist, journalist.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You mustn't take it all on your own shoulders today; share the credit — and the blame — with all those who have played a role, however large or small.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may come up against someone whose moods are highly combustible; you must tread lightly if you wish to avoid getting burned.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Time spent away from the crowd can serve you well today; you need a little solitude in order to get your heart and your mind realigned.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You have been trying too hard to stay in balance these days. Today, try letting go and trusting that experience will keep you from going down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — The information you receive over the phone today will enable you to make key decisions and answer a loved one's questions about the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — There is little you can do once the blues have you in their grasp; but batten down the hatches and weather the storm. Avoid lasting decisions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You can derive a great deal of profit from an endeavor which seems trivial and surely unusual for you. You may hit pay dirt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can win over your subordinates today by simply making sense and doing things the simple, old-fashioned way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — It may be more difficult than expected today for you to earn the respect of those who have been highly suspicious of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You should be able to emphasize the more important moments today, enabling others to come to a greater understanding of what is going on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may be contemplating a move, but this is not a good day to make decisions which will lock you into one strategy or another.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may have a great deal of concern about the way things are working today. Perhaps you're not as modern in your thinking as you expected!

DATE BOOK March 25, 1997

Today is the 84th day of 1997 and the sixth day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1634, European settlers first arrived in Maryland.

On this day in 1911, 146 workers died, most of them immigrant women, when fire roared through the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York City.

On this day in 1944, British airman Nick Alkemade survived a fall of three miles without a parachute when he leaped from his burning bomber over Germany and fell 18,000 feet, landing in a snow drift.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957), conductor; Bela Bartok (1881-1945), composer; David Lean (1908-1991), director; Howard Cosell (1918-1995), sportscaster; Gloria Steinem (1934-), feminist, is 63; Aretha Franklin (1942-), singer, is 55; Elton John (1947-), singer-pianist, is 50.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1958, Sugar Ray Robinson won the middleweight boxing title for the fifth time in his career.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The clustered spires of Frederick stand / Green-walled by the hills of Maryland."

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Jospin Broz
5 "of Time"
9 At this moment
12 Maple genus
13 Actress Skye
14 Lyric poem
15 Cloud
17 Santa Fe's
18 Period
19 Arrow poison
21 Rains hard
23 Jogging
27 Langella ID
28 "Born"
29 Dog's doc
31 Auricle
34 "109"
35 Unit of light
37 Pecan or cashew
39 Armer soldier
40 Eat
42 One (German)
44 Art class subjects
46 Elevator sign
48 TV police

DOWN

1 Brown shade
2 Here (Fr.)
3 Pro
4 Of a planet's path
5 Japanese-American
6 Vowel sequence
7 Cable news abbr.
8 Doie's running mate
9 Rounded lump
10 Scent
11 Dampens
16 False
20 Ms. enc.
22 "Mice and Men"
23 Lights out!
24 G.V. linkup
25 Basketball's fifth quarter (abbr.)
26 Colin Powell, for one (abbr.)
30 "The Time ..."
32 Matured
33 "and shine!"
36 Roman 12
38 Region in Italy
41 Small wheel
43 Firearms grp.
45 Former UK Princess
47 Math term
49 Lane and Kent's co-worker
50 Traffic tie-ups
51 "Jazz"
52 "Minor"
56 Cudgel
58 22nd letter of the alphabet
59 LaRue of "All My Children"
60 Sun. talk
63 Proceed

Answer to Previous Puzzle

AWARD COAST
KRAMER LAMOUR
ANDY APORT PU
ZOE SWISS MEL
OL ATONE TALE
ODOROUS ERROR
ISNT ANIL
ELLIE MUSTARD
SEES LARUE EE
STR DIXIE ELA
EH RELIC FLAT
DAGAMA LILITH
LOGIC ERASE

3-25 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate

KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

(A) (B)

"I MUST BE THE GIRL, BECAUSE I JUST LAID AN EGG."

ANS: SUN, BIRD, SEAL, PENGUIN, EGG, CHICK, CLOUD.

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CHEVY CHASE

MOVIE HOUSE

VEGAS VACATION

Thursday 7:00
Friday 7:00
Saturday 3:00
7:00
9:15

Showtimes 234-FILM

Senyevins. . . Continued from page 20

undefeated team in the league and Senyevins is it, Senyevins rallied for 5 runs in the 6th inning to take the lead after Kepelol scored twice on the top half of the 6th to tie the score at 5 apiece, but couldn't score enough runs on the top of the 7th, final score was 10 to 6. Tony Luzama was 2 for 4 with a run scored and drove-in 2 and Willard Saimon hit a 2-run homer for Senyevins. Macario Scaliem hit two doubles to lead Kepelol offense.

Red Torch 20, Angaur 11
Game IV: Payton Sakuma was 4 for 5 with 2 rbs and 2 runs, Darwin Masaharu was also 4 for 5 with 2 rbs and runs and Leo Ichikawa hit an inside a park homer to lead Red Torch offense to a 20 to 11 victory over Budget Rent A Car Ngeaur. Dave was 3 for 4 with 2 runs and 3 rbs for Ngeaur.

Bombers 17, Sedi Kau 4
Game V: Bombers scored 10 runs in the 3rd inning to put the game away and held Sedi Kau to only 4 runs in 5 innings of play for a 5-inning mercy rule victory, 17 to 4. In that 10 run 3rd inning Jeff Diaz hit a 2 run double, Melvin Sakisat hit a 2-run homer and Patrick Tenorio hit a 3-run homer. Eric Kani was 2 for 2 and scored one

Mister. . . Continued from page 20

Mister and Neville went undefeated through the eliminations with a perfect 6-0 slate to installing themselves as one of the top picks for Sunday's finals.

Steele and Remsen, on the other hand, came in second in Pool A with a 5-1 slate.

Eventual winners Mister and Neville rallied from a 2-8 deficit to win the match, 11-9 and in the process, dealing Steele and Remsen's lone setback in the eliminations.

Owens and Moses were the top qualifier from Pool B.

In the double round playoffs, Mister and Neville walloped Steele and Remsen, 15-3 to emerge as the qualifier from the winners bracket.

Steele and Remsen, however, remained in contention by beating Owens and Moses, 16-14.

In the return match, Owens and Moses gained their revenge and the second finals' berth by posting a close 17-15 win over Steele and Remsen.

The top three teams received money prizes from tournament organizers. 1996 winners, Doug Mauro and Chris Nelson didn't compete this year.

Aside from BSEA Marine Sports, the two-day grass volleyball tournament was sponsored by Bud Light/Marpac and PCI.

Aquiningoc. . . Continued from page 20

day's second best score.

Rosario, however, prevailed in the tiebreaker to edge Aldan and take the second spot.

Joe Camacho and "1996 Amigo of the Year" winner, Til Cabrera shot identical net 68s for the fourth and fifth slots.

Camacho submitted an even 35 for front and back to end up with a two under par 70. Camacho's -2 handicap gave him the net mark.

Cabrera, on the other hand, needed 42 strokes in the first nine holes then another 47 for the back nine for a gross 89. Her -21 handicap allowed her to tie Camacho with a similar 68.

Eli Maravilla came in next with a net 69 on rounds of 43-40 for a gross 83 and a -14 handicap.

PJ Igitol and Dave Igitol were bunched in seventh and eighth with identical 70s.

PJ toured the front nine with a 45 then rebounded with a 41 in the back for an 86 gross. His -16 handicap gave him a share of the seventh and eighth slots.

Dave, on the hand, had a hot 37 in the first nine holes but faltered on the way back with a 47 to bring his total output to an 84 gross minus his -14 handicap.

Ben Lizama and AGC vice-president Art Camacho completed the top 10 finishers by coming in ninth and 10th respectively.

Lizama netted a 71 while Camacho was three shots adrift with a 74.

A total of 20 golfers, including three guest parbusters, competed for the monthly ace tournament.

The top four finishers received cash prizes from AGC.

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Fun. . . Continued from page 20

LVP to complete the win.

With the good showing, Bud Ice improved to 14-6 or just half a game behind the joint leaders.

Four teams are locked in a tie for the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th slots with similar 11-9 records.

Except for RP Taxi & Co., the three other teams, Budweiser, JH Enterprises (JHE).

Mark Shark (MS) sustained a good opening game to offset a big comeback by JHE in the last round, 1,064-911; 966-947; 992-1,028.

The team capped the big week by amassing a total of 3,022 pins compared to JHE's 2,886. MS improved to 6-14 or 11th overall.

JCW Wholesale blasted Bud Ice Light, 1,018- 908; 1,047-1,044 and 987-980 for the week's lone shutout win.

JCW's unbeaten run hiked its mark to 7-13 while Bud Ice remained at the bottom of the team standings with an anemic 3-17 slate.

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SPORTS



AGC's monthly tournament

Aquiningoc takes March Ace

Amigos Golf Club Ace for March																								
Name	Hole 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	GROSS	hdcp	NET	Ranking
Aquiningoc, Alex	4	4	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	38	5	5	5	5	4	2	7	4	4	41	79	15	64	#1-Ace
Rosario, Joe	5	5	2	5	5	7	4	5	4	42	4	4	7	5	5	5	5	2	4	41	83	17	66	#2
Aldan, Lucio	4	5	3	4	4	6	3	5	4	38	5	3	6	5	5	2	4	3	4	37	75	9	66	#3
Camacho, Joe	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	35	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	3	3	35	70	2	68	#4
Maravilla, Eli	5	4	3	7	5	5	4	6	4	43	5	7	5	5	4	3	4	3	4	40	83	14	69	
Igitol, PJ	5	5	3	6	5	6	5	4	6	45	5	5	5	6	5	3	4	4	4	41	86	16	70	
Lizama, Ben	6	4	4	5	4	7	3	4	4	41	6	5	6	5	6	3	4	4	5	44	85	14	71	
Camacho, Art	5	4	3	5	6	4	4	6	5	42	5	6	6	5	7	5	5	4	4	47	89	15	74	

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

ALEX Aquiningoc shot a net 64 to win the Amigos Golf Club's March Ace Tournament by two strokes last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

The AGC president toured the front nine with a 38 then shot a 41 in the back for a 79 gross. His -15 handicap enabled him to beat Joe Rosario by two shots giving him

the third slot for the club's season ending "Amigos Tournament of the Year".

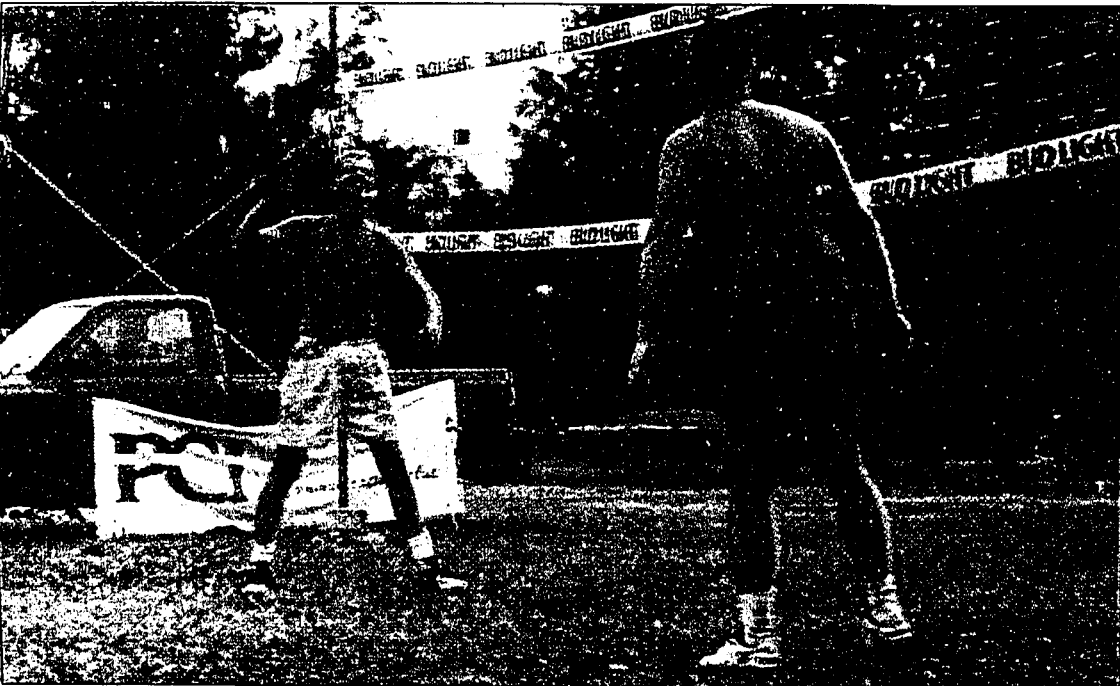
Rosario had rounds of 42 and 41 for a gross 83 and with his -17 handicap, he ended his March Ace campaign with a 66.

Lucio Aldan netted a similar 66 on a rounds of 38 and 37 for a 75 gross. Aldan's -9 handicap allowed him to tie Rosario for the

Continued on page 19

2nd Annual BSEA Marine Sports tilt

Mister, Neville win grass volley title



Grass Volley—Randy Steele (left) prepares to return the ball to the opposite court while teammate Mike Remsen looks on during a semifinal game in the recently concluded 2nd Annual BSEA Marine Sports' Grass Volleyball Tournament held at the American Memorial Park.

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

TYCE MISTER and John Neville defeated Bill Owens and Dave Moses in the championship game to win the 2nd Annual BSEA Marine Sports' Grass Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the

American Memorial Park.

The Mister and Neville tandem came up with excellent plays to frustrate Owens and Moses, 15-6, en route to winning the title.

Randy Steele and Mike Remsen wound up third while Russ Quinn and John Kramer came in fourth.

A total of 15 teams, divided

into two pools competed in the grass volleyball event.

Each team played a single round robin eliminations in the first day of the tournament. The top four teams from each pool advanced to Sunday's double elimination playoffs.

Continued on page 19

1997 Palau / Marpac Men's Slowpitch League
Senyevins rack seven straight win

TEAM STANDINGS					
Division A	Win	Loss	Division B	Win	Loss
Turtles	6	1	Senyevins	7	0
Ambassadors	5	2	Pepsi Spec	6	1
Red Torch	5	2	I Luv U Man	6	2
Warriors	4	2	YCO Servistar	5	3
Koror Tigers	4	3	Bombers	5	3
Tarzans	4	3	Tres Rai	4	3
MGD Kabekel	3	4	Odesangel	3	4
Budget Angaur	3	4	Kepelol	2	5
OK&A's	3	5	Sedi Kau	2	5
UMDA G. Force	2	5	Thai House Stingrays	2	6
Cool Running	2	5	COP 47 Tamers	2	6
Hustlers	1	6	Aschooschoo	1	7

By Patrick Tellei
for the Variety

THE Senyevins streak to its seventh straight win last Sunday to remain as the oly unbeaten team in the 1997 Palau-Marpac Men's Slowpitch League at the Koblerville Ball Park.

Spec 21, YCO 10

Game I: Pepsi Spec rebounded from its first loss 2 weeks ago by defeating a talent-loaded YCO Servistar 21-10. This loss incidentally was Servistar's first loss in 5 games. Peter Camacho hit a Grand Slam in the 6th inning as Spec scored 7 times to put the game away for good.

Bradly Ngewakl went 4 for 4, and scored 3 times, Winsor Peter was 3 for 5 with 2 runs and the

rest of the team had at least a hit and scored a run for the victory.

Greg C. Camacho to sole lead in the homerun department by hitting 2 in this game, a solo shot and a 3-run homer and his brother, Carlos Camacho also hit a solo shot.

Aimeliik 11, OK&A's 2,

Game II: Tony Moreham hit tow 2-run homers, walked and scored 3-times as Aimeliik Ambassadors defeated & A's by a score of 11 to 2. Ed Cepeda and Steve Tesei both hit 2-run singles for the victory. Stanley Aldan had the hit and scored one of the two runs for OK & A's.

Senyevins 10, Kepelol 6

Game III: There is only one

Continued on page 19

17th PBA season

Fun&Games ties V&L on top

TEAM STANDINGS							
Pos	Tm Team Name	Won	Lost	Pct	GB	Pins	Avg
1	7-V&L Enterprises	14.5	5.5	.725	-	14827	988
2	9-Fun and Games	14.5	5.5	.725	-	14711	981
3	5-Bud Ice	14.0	6.0	.700	0.5	14770	985
4	9-Budweiser	11.0	9.0	.550	3.5	14633	976
5	4-J.H. Enterprises	11.0	9.0	.550	3.5	14531	969
6	1-LVP Pacific	11.0	9.0	.550	3.5	14490	966
7	10-RP Taxi & Co.	11.0	9.0	.550	3.5	14417	961
8	12-Buccat Land Surveying	8.5	11.5	.425	6.0	14596	973
9	11-CMS Inc.	8.5	11.5	.425	6.0	14329	955
10	3-JCW Wholesale	7.0	13.0	.350	7.5	14381	959
11	2-Mark Shark	6.0	14.0	.300	8.5	14512	967
12	6-Bud Ice Light	3.0	17.0	.150	11.5	14149	943

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

FUN AND Games beat erstwhile solo V&L Enterprises, 2.5-1.5 to forge a two-way tie for the lead in the 17th Philippine Bowling Asso-

ciation-Budweiser Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Fun and Games leaned on its big opening game to cushion a last ditch rally by V&L in the third, 1,011-874; 986-986; and 938-995

pins for a 1.5-0.5 lead.

Fun and Games' 137 pin lead in the first game gave the team the extra point to tie their victims on top the team standings with identical 14.5-5.5 win loss slates.

Bud Ice remained in contention overhauling LVP's first game win with strong performances in the next two rounds to eke out a 3-1 victory. Bud Ice had rounds of 869, 952 and 957 versus LVP's 921, 945 and 903. Bud Ice's three game series of 2,778 gave the team a slim nine total advantage against

Continued on page 19

Buenaventura, Lomantas top CCA Active Chess tournament

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

ELY G. Buenaventura and Junel Lomantas scored identical 1.5 points in the playoffs to share the honors in the recently concluded CNMI Chess Association's Active Chess Tournament held at Pinoy Special Restaurant.

Buenaventura and Lomantas, along with Lou Piliwale, were tied with similar 6.0 points after seven rounds of the round robin eliminations forcing tournament organizers to have another single round robin to break the tie.

In the playoffs, Buenaventura

and Lomantas beat Lou Piliwale to arrange a showdown for the title. The two, however, drew their match to share the top prize.

A total of nine players showed up for the chess tournament.

In a related event, the CCA is set to hold its Junior and Kiddie Tournament on April 6 at Pinoy Special Restaurant.

Kids from 8-12 and junior chessers from 13-18 are encourage to come and participate.

For more information, please contact CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura at 234-6070 or tournament director Vic Brana at 234-6010.



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News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

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Wednesday • March 26, 1997

Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 25 Years

50¢

Appleby gets 40 years

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SHAWN Appleby, the confessed triggerman in the gunslaying of a grocery owner during a robbery last November, was sentenced yesterday to 40 years imprisonment.

Superior Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan ordered the 17-year-old Appleby to serve a minimum prison term of 10 years.

This means, Manibusan said, Appleby may be eligible for pa-

But grocer's killer may seek parole after 10 years

role after serving 10 years in jail.

The judge turned down the request of Kevin Moore, counsel for Appleby, for leniency in imposing sentence.

Manibusan expressed concern about a report from the Probation Office (PO) indicating the teenager's deviant behavior while under custody at the Kagman Juvenile Detention Center.

"It would seem that trouble fol-

lowed Appleby wherever he is, be it in school, at home or among friends," the PO's report stated.

The PO said the fact that Appleby has expressed remorse for killing another person, "one may assure a beginning of an attempt on self rehabilitation on his

part."

However, the PO citing incident reports from Juvenile Detention Center, still revealed the teenager's deviant behavior.

An incident report said Appleby threatened a police officer that he is "a killer and will kill again if he

gets out from jail."

The court convicted Appleby last Feb. 18 of first degree murder after he admitted killing Byung Ok Suh, owner of Chalan Market in San Antonio.

Appleby admitted shooting Suh when he and four other suspect-- James Michael Ada, Arthur

Continued on page 19

Rota complaints on rise again-- Varela



Jesus B. Varela

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

INCIDENTS of unfair labor practices committed against non-resident workers on Rota

are on the rise again, according to the Philippine Consulate.

In an interview, Jesus B. Varela, Philippine Labor Attache, said the labor complaints include underpayment and illegal deductions on salaries of domestic helps and club workers on the island.

"Problems on Rota are increasing again," Varela said.

It was gathered there were about 30 cases of unfair labor practices involving Filipino workers documented during the first three months of this year.

Ten of these cases are from Rota.

Continued on page 19

Population of Pacific islands down to 6.7M

SUVA, Fiji (AP) - The population of 22 Pacific islands was estimated at 6,780,600 in 1996, about 103,400 fewer than in 1995, according to the South Pacific Commission, the region's main development and research agency.

It said the total excluded Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville, which is fighting a war for independence. In 1990, Bougainville's population was estimated at 155,000.

The figures also do not include expatriates who have left their home countries to seek work elsewhere.

The commission provided these population figures:

- American Samoa, 58,900
- Cook Islands, 19,900
- FSM, 109,200
- Fiji, 800,500
- French Polynesia, 220,000
- Guam, 153,700
- Kiribati, 78,400
- Marshall Islands, 57,400
- Nauru, 11,200
- New Caledonia, 196,800
- Niue, 2,300
- Northern Mariana Islands, 62,700

Continued on page 19

House ready to reject E.O. 97-1

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST 12 of the 14 Republicans in the House of Representatives are "ready" to reject Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's executive order that would split the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. into two separate agencies.

In an interview yesterday, Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said there is already a consensus among the House leadership, and that is to reject E.O. 97-1.

A House session, he added, is tentatively scheduled for April 10, to give the other members

"more time" to review the E.O.

"We're not yet ready for reorganizing CUC," he said, adding that the E.O. is in conflict with, and violates, the partnership agreement signed by CUC with the Interior Department.

The agreement provides that there should be a move towards a more autonomous and more self-sustaining CUC.

But the E.O., he said, "would pull CUC back to the arms of the governor under the Department of Public Works."

On the governor's statement that it's "okay" for the Legislature to reject the E.O. as long as "they find a way to reduce the

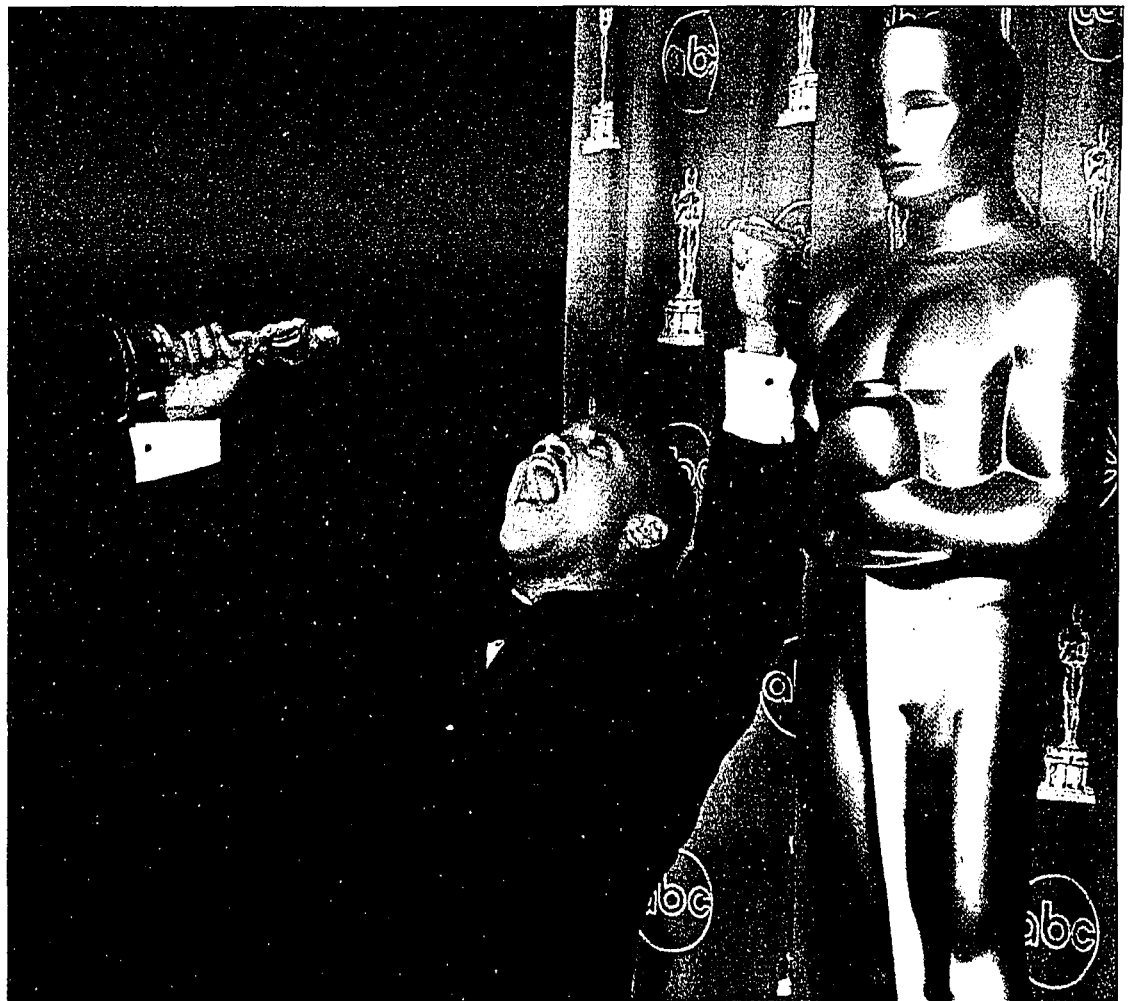


Diego T. Benavente

power rates," Benavente said CUC has already stated that there's a need to increase power

Continued on page 16

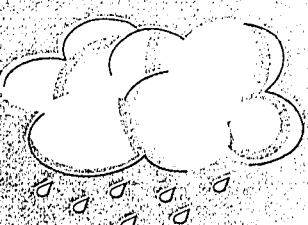
A night of excitement at the Oscars



Cuba Gooding Jr. celebrates his Best Supporting Actor Oscar for "Jerry Maguire" backstage at the 69th Annual Academy Awards Monday night, March 24, 1997, in Los Angeles.

(See story on page 15)

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

PACC
CURMS PAPER STACKS

Report says China is threatening Taiwan

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - China is threatening to stage more war games near Taiwan if the island continues to take actions Beijing views as steps toward independence, a Taiwanese newspaper said Monday.

The United Daily News said China was planning the exercises for next month, but would make a final decision on whether to carry them out based on how Taiwan behaves. Similar exercises a year ago seriously rattled Taiwan.

The Taiwanese military refused comment on the report.

China has been closely watching Taiwan's treatment of the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet who arrived Saturday for his first-ever visit to Taipei.

Like Taiwan's leaders, the Dalai Lama is viewed in Beijing as bent on dividing China. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, which it lost in the 1949 civil war, and Tibet, which it has governed with military force since occupying it in 1950.

But the Dalai Lama maintained Monday that his six-day visit to Taiwan was simply an attempt to

bring Tibetans and Chinese together, and would break down "feelings of distance" between the two peoples.

A year ago, China staged war games and missile tests in an effort to curb what it saw as Taiwanese abandonment of the doctrine that Taiwan and China are one country.

The United States sent in two aircraft carriers to deter a Chinese attack, and the crisis demonstrated how vulnerable Taiwan is to muscle-flexing by Beijing.

Taiwan's stock market dropped 3.48 percent Monday in response to the reported plans for a new round of Chinese military maneuvers.

Options laid out for the exercises include test-firing ballistic missiles, anti-missile training, amphibious landing and an air-and-sea blockade, the United Daily News said.

The Dalai Lama is scheduled to meet President Lee Teng-hui and members of Taiwan's main opposition party, which advocates formal independence from China. But he canceled plans to address parliament, saying he doesn't want to cause anyone embarrassment.

DNC urged Clinton to make calls to donors

By JAMES ROWLEY

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic Party officials urged President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore to ask major donors for \$1.2 million for a TV ad blitz, according to a 1995 memo.

Top Democratic National Committee officials suggested that Clinton make 18 to 20 telephone calls to donors and that Gore speak to another 10 as part of an effort at the end of 1995 to raise \$3.2 million.

Even though the DNC prepared "call sheets" to brief Clinton before he talked to donors, "there is no indication he made the calls referred to in that memo," said DNC spokeswoman Amy Weiss Tobe.

White House spokesman Lanny Davis said that "as the president has previously stated, he doesn't believe he made any phone calls for money but he can't say for sure he never did."

Gore has acknowledged he made calls from the White House, insisted he broke no laws, but said he will not do so again.

The DNC fund-raising memo was released by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee



President Clinton

Monday along with ledgers showing that each coffee klatch hosted by Clinton at the White House was expected to raise \$400,000 from donors. A memo to Clinton and Gore reported this information to them.

In other developments Monday, the president is preparing a petition asking the Federal Election Commission to curb large unlimited contributions from labor unions, corporations and wealthy individuals to

political parties for TV ads, mailings and phone banks, said a White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The FBI interviewed a lobbyist about his allegation that Republican Rep. Dan Burton threatened to cut off his access to influential Republicans if he did not raise money for Burton's campaign."

The \$1.2 million fund-raising suggestion to Gore and Clinton was made in "response to information requested" by the White House about raising \$4 million for TV ads, according to the Nov. 20, 1995, memo.

"This will provide us with an advantage to assure our projections an assist in raising an additional \$1.2 million," DNC Chairman Donald Fowler and top party officials wrote in the memo to Harold Ickes, Clinton's deputy chief of staff.

"Because of the short lead time and lack of time to cultivate additional donors, we believe the following represents the maximum that can be raised prior to year end," said the memo, also signed by Finance Chairman Marvin Rosen, Treasurer Scott Patrick, and Finance Director Richard Sullivan.

The document also proposed raising another \$2 million at six events attended by Clinton, Gore or first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We believe this \$2 million is the maximum we can raise," the memo said.

The documents were among those turned over to Congress by Ickes, who has since left the White House staff.

"To the degree the public ever believed it, these documents put to rest the fiction that they were anything but fat-cat fund-raising events," said Ellen Miller, head of Public Campaign, a nonpartisan political watchdog group.

The White House initially had described the coffee klatches as opportunities for citizens to discuss issues with Clinton. But after the disclosure of Ickes' campaign files, the White House acknowledged the coffee klatches were, indeed, fund-raising events.

Clinton acknowledged at a news conference last month that he expected people who had attended the coffee klatches to be subsequently asked to make donations to the DNC.

Suit against Japanese PM is dismissed

TOKYO (AP) - A court on Monday dismissed a lawsuit filed against Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and his predecessor over the liquidation of seven debt-ridden housing loan companies.

Forty-three citizens filed the suit, claiming they suffered psychologically when tax money was used to mop up losses resulting from the liquidation of the companies, Kyodo News said.

In his ruling, Judge Kunio Aoyama said public servants such as Hashimoto and former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama are not responsible as individuals for such a use of tax money.

The 685 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) bailout was outlined by Murayama's Cabinet in December 1995 and enacted by the Diet under Hashimoto, who succeeded Murayama in January 1996.

Senate mulls override

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

SENATE President Jesus R. Sablan yesterday said the Senate is "willing" to override Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's veto of a bill that would reestablish an autonomous board of public lands, but has yet to decide what action to take on the veto of bill that would limit the governor's state of emergency powers.

Sablan (R-Saipan) said though the Senate is "ready" to override the veto on Senate Bill 10-62, "we want to hear from the governor first if he's willing to come up with a proposal" on Saipan's water problems.

Sponsored by Sablan, the bill would require the governor to seek legislative approval for any extension of a state of emergency declaration beyond 60 days.

In early 1995, Tenorio declared a water state of emergency for Saipan and has, since then, repeatedly renewed the declaration.

Tenorio, in vetoing the bill, said



Jesus R. Sablan

it was "unconstitutional" as it gives the Legislature a veto over the governor's emergency power.

Repetitive

However, Sablan yesterday said his bill would not limit the governor's powers, "(though what's happening now is) a prolonged, repetitive call for an emergency declaration, when there is no clear framework for it, and when it could be done in a more responsible manner."

He said the lack of water is "of great concern" for the Legislature, "but calling it an emergency after every 60 days is not the solution."

Citing the Puerto Rico dump as an example, Sablan said that when Tenorio asked money to clean the dump and relocate it, the Legislature appropriated the money and supported the governor's proposal.

"He didn't have to declare a state of emergency on that one."

Sablan said he will "listen" to Tenorio for any proposal on how to resolve Saipan's water problem.

"But if he's determined to go on with his state of emergency declarations, we may go for an override."

Regrets

Sablan, at the same time, said he "regrets" that Tenorio vetoed H.B. 10-325, which would reestablish an autonomous board of public lands.

"We disagree that the present

setup is better," he said.

"Look at what's happening now. Even a piece of property being used by the people for their fiesta was leased by the governor to a private company, just like that."

"I believe that's wrong."

Sablan said he will urge the House of Representatives to join the Senate's "override efforts."

Tenorio, in a letter Thursday to Sablan and Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), said he had vetoed a similar bill in June of last year.

Introduced by Rep. Vicente M. Atalig (R-Rota), the bill "even

has the same grammatical and typographical errors," Tenorio said.

"I do not understand why you are sending me this bill again."

"It still has the same serious flaws that cause me to veto it last year."

He said giving autonomy to the board is "the single biggest problem with that system."

Tenorio, shortly after becoming governor in 1994, abolished the autonomous Marianas Public Lands Corp., and transferred its functions to the Division of Public Lands which is under the Lands and Natural Resources Department.

PIA ready to meet the needs of Rota passengers

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

THE Pacific Islands Aviation said it is ready to fill the needs of passengers bound for Rota from Saipan and vice versa.

PIA's announcement was made in the light of what its officials said is the temporary cancellation of Freedom Air flights to Rota and Guam using its 30-seat twin-engine plane.

"Pacific Islands Aviation is ready and able to fill any air transportation void into and out of Rota or Tinian which may develop as a result of Freedom Air's temporary or permanent cessation of its 30-seat passenger flight operation," Jim Stowell, PIA executive vice president, said Monday.

Freedom Air is using a seven-seater twin-engine in its Saipan-Rota-Guam route. According to Joaquin Flores, Freedom Air general manager, the 30-seater was undergoing a "required maintenance" in the airline's hangar in Guam.

But Stowell said, "Our understanding is that Freedom Air is currently involved in belated training and proving run exercises which need to be completed to maintain their large aircraft operating authority."

He said commuter airlines in the United States, like PIA

and Freedom Air, had been required to upgrade the safety and operational standards of their planes with over nine seats by March 20.

These standards, in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations 121, should make the rides in commuter planes as safe as the planes of large airlines like Northwest, Japan Airlines, and United Airlines.

Stowell said that PIA achieved its FAR 121 certification last January, the second airline in the US to "pass through this same transitional certification required of Freedom Air."

"The process demands comprehensive writing of operations and maintenance manuals, new training, and... passage of Federal Aviation Authority conducted proving runs," Stowell said.

Apparently, Stowell said, Freedom Air could not make the deadline and "is attempting to receive some extension of that deadline in which to complete their proving runs."

PIA flies five times daily between Saipan and Rota and between Saipan and Guam, using four Shorts 3-60 aircraft. It also flies its Shorts aircraft to Tinian according to demand, Stowell said.

"Our airline can put as many as 90 seats on any one flight using multiples of the 30-seat aircraft," Stowell also said.

Stayman cautions Governor on CUC reorganization plan



Allen Stayman

INTERIOR Department's Director for Insular Affairs Allen Stayman has cautioned Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio about the latter's executive order to split Commonwealth Utilities Corp. into two separate agencies.

In a letter dated March 24, Stayman asked that action on Executive Order 97-1 be delayed pending a determination on whether it would contradict a CUC partnership agreement forged between CUC, the CNMI government and the Interior in 1995.

"I am concerned that inconsis-

tencies may arise between the executive order and the CUC partnership agreement," said Stayman.

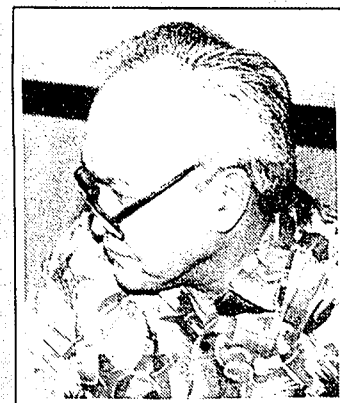
"As you know non-compliance with the partnership agreement could lead to the disapproval of subsequently proposed capital improvement and operations and maintenance projects in the CNMI," he warned.

While there may be nothing explicitly written in the March 1995 partnership agreement, the Interior official is calling on concerned local officials to make a clarification on the issue to make sure there will be no potential conflicts.

Stayman also noted that Tenorio's order references a "recently completed study on the privatization of CUC," but that such a study has neither been finalized nor officially submitted.

He asked that the Administration await final submission of the study before acting on the CUC reorganization.

E.O. 97-1 seeks the creation of a Northern Marianas Power Authority and a Northern Marianas Water Authority to handle power, water and wastewater services currently being



Froilan C. Tenorio

delivered by CUC.

The executive order has the force and effect of law 60 days after its submission to the Legislature, unless the Legislature, through majority votes in both houses, rejects or amends it.

The Senate, during a recent session on Rota, voted to reject the governor's proposal, leaving the fate of E.O. 97-1 to the House of Representatives.

During a meeting yesterday, the House leadership has agreed to push for the rejection of the order in an upcoming session.

RP law enforcement agencies asked to track down Ubongen

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate yesterday asked the Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Immigration to track down Segundino Ubongen in Manila.

Jesus B. Varela, Philippine Labor Attache said the move was made upon request of the CNMI Attorney General's

Office through Assistant Attorney General James Norcross.

"We want to verify Ubongen's whereabouts in Manila. It was reportedly confirmed he was there. We want to know where he exactly is so that we may go on with the process of bringing him back to the CNMI," said Varela.

Ubongen, by virtue of an existing extradition treaty be-

tween the US and the Philippine Governments, "can be forced to go back" to the Commonwealth, said Consul Julia Heidemann in an earlier interview.

Ubongen is facing \$1.4 million in fines slapped him by the Administrative Hearing Office of the Department of Labor and Immigration.

Three counts of immigration fraud have also been levelled

against him by the AGO.

These were in connection with his alleged illegal recruitment of 191 Bangladeshis and two Filipinos who were promised good-paying jobs in the Commonwealth.

At least 34 of the Bangladeshis have been repatriated.

The remaining displaced workers were given until May 5 to find work. They will likewise be repatriated if no employment has been

secured by then.

Ubongen fled the CNMI on Feb. 26 on board an Asiana Airline flight to Seoul.

The CNMI's Liaison Office in Manila recently confirmed his presence there.

Dan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General assigned to DOLI said Teri Ramos, LO deputy officer quoted an unidentified witness as saying Ubongen was seen attending to his placement firm in Manila.

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21st Holiday of the Covenant Agreement

By: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

For most, it was just another government holiday. It was a good day to head to the beach or the family ranch for rest and recreation. For government employees, it's a freebie with pay while private sector employees sweat it out to make sure the company makes money to ensure that highly paid government employees get their pay checks this Friday.

For the founding fathers of the basic document, it was a time to reflect upon the agreement, its fundamental significance and substance from the guaranteed rights of the NMI to self-government, land alienation, control of immigration and wages. There's also the conflicting views of how things ought to be from and through our lenses versus those of the NMI's detractors from Washington who speak with the usual white man's tongue depicting the manner they've treated African and Native Americans or Amerasians.

Immediately south of the NMI is the unincorporated territory of Guam posturing to persuade Uncle Sam for the same political arrangement as the NMI. Its own newspaper has seen fit to browbeat the NMI for problems which come with the territory of development and growth of any burgeoning society. But it preferred to take the NMI to task blaming us for the hardship and difficulty it finds in convincing the US Congress to address its Commonwealth Conquest.

If I may say so, the opportunity to secure Guam's Commonwealth Quest is closed, shut and bolted since 1975. This political aspiration should have been dovetailed with the with the approval by Congress of the Covenant Agreement 21 years ago. It would have been the most appropriate time given that the territory of Guam is within the same geographical area as the NMI. There were stronger reasons to present it then than now. The NMI's political status negotiations came at the right time when the curtain of the cold war was still hanging across the world stage. Congress would have had every reason to be sympathetic to Guam's Quest for Commonwealth.

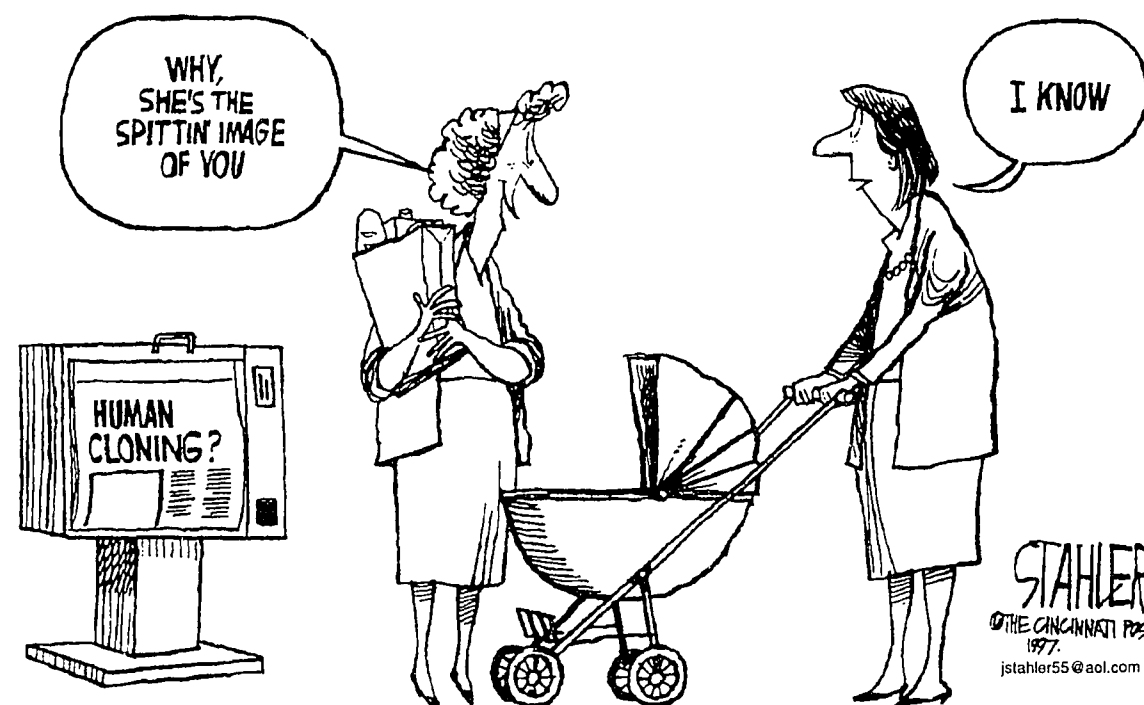
With the cold war turning into a close chapter in world history came the simultaneous rendering of these islands (Guam included) useless in terms of whether Guam and the NMI are defense perimeter or buffer zone. We both are the latter, therefore, understandably the loss of our significance by way of importance in defense needs of the US. The sad part is the fact that we belong to the US where our value isn't measured in terms of being Americans, but primarily on the basis of defense needs, no more, no less. Our claim to everything else that is American is therefore reduced down to defense needs of the US, again, no more, no less.

In retrospect, the NMI was very fortunate to have pushed and secured its political aspirations with the US. Even then, we sailed through the window of opportunity no larger than a needle's hole at the most appropriate time, several years before the iron curtain was ruffled and slammed into just another chapter in world history. Had the same arrangement been delayed and presented today, it will never see the light of day on Capitol Hill. A lot has changed in terms of the political mood in Washington. Not one of the original proponents of the Covenant Agreement is left. Some have died or since retired from public office. Our only hope today is the bridge that Governor Froilan C. Tenorio has built with the conservative leadership of House Republicans in Congress.

If there's any plus or surprise gift that came for the NMI and other insular areas, it is the re-authorization of the Magnuson Act which permits each jurisdiction effective control and management of its seabed and other sea resources. It is a most appropriate congressional decision for it opens yet another window of opportunity for the NMI to reap the benefits of her ocean resources, specifically, migratory fish. The subsequent development of this sector alone would definitely compliment other industries already established here.

Perhaps the one issue that is most misunderstood pertains to the right of migration of our friends from the Freely Associated States, an issue that appears to be local in from but strictly a matter of foreign affairs in substance. In other words, the US has unilateral authority over this matter. In short, the federal government has the final say on this issue whether we like it or not. Of course, any positive decision it makes on this controversial matter must be fully supported by federal appropriations to make-up the difference given that it is a drain on the meager financial resources of individual jurisdictions in such costly areas as education, health, etc.

Hindsight tells this scribe that the Covenant Agreement is that golden package that will never come our way again. Guam's Quest for Commonwealth will die a dream though I really feel for them in that our brothers and sisters equally have the inalienable right to self-government. But experience tells us that such rights and its shifting definition is all in the hands of the powers that be on Capitol Hill. At any rate, Guam must never use our misgivings to even minutely insinuate that it was because the NMI that she can't secure her Commonwealth's Quest. That window of opportunity has been closed, shut and bolted since March 24, 1975. In the words of an arrogant US State Department official, "Sir, we own you!" That condescending statement tells a lot about their attitude of territorial possessions. Happy 21st birthday NMI!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PTA Council chair rebuts Pangie

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to Mr. Pete Pangelinan whose editorial comments appeared in the Variety News and Views (March 21).

When I read your comments about the "PTA Council" which you should have officially addressed its corporate name as the "CNMI Council of PTA," I immediately felt it was necessary to rebut your negative opinion about the existence of the council. It appears Mr. Pangelinan that you have no or little knowledge about the organization's mission, objectives and accomplishments.

I assumed this is why your statement called for the dissolution of the council because you believed that the children, administration, parents and school subsidized the council's adult group for coffee and cookies. First, the CNMI Council of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) whose membership is open to local level PTA units (includes teachers, parents, guardians, grandparents and some students who are members of their local PTA/PTSA) pay \$150.00 annual membership dues.

The CNMI Council of PTA is the largest volunteer organization working exclusively to improve the education, health, safety and well-being of all school children and youth. PTA members gain confidence and knowledge that enable them to fulfill their varied roles as a parent, family member, caregiver, activist and child advocate. Through each PTA, parents, teachers, administrators and others work for quality education and a true partnership between home and school.

The CNMI Council of PTA was established in 1989 formerly called the Council of PTA Presidents and then later unofficially changed to Council of PTA Officers. It brings together the efforts of members, local units on child-centered issues.

With reference to your statement about the Board of Education's role, council policy has made it clear that the CNMI Council of PTA shall work with the schools to provide quality education for all children and youth and shall seek to participate in the decision-making process establishing school policy, recognizing that the legal responsibility to make decisions has been delegated by the people to the board of education. And if you believe that the council has no force or authority towards changes in our education, then why was the council successful in changing certain school board policies and making other impacts such as naming and renaming local schools by policy-makers other than BOE, the school and the PTA, and authorities not to build facilities that will endanger the health and safety of our children? Since the reorganization of the PTA in 1995 it has played an important role in many areas. Examples of accomplishments include the following:

- Reinstated the PTAs/PTSAs image as partners in education and not as the typical "Fundraiser" through its New Vision for PTAs/PTSAs
- Participated in the Goals 2000 Parent Involvement, an integral part of national education reform
- Supported the implementation of PL 7-45 which requires teachers to be graduates of U.S. accredited Universities and Colleges for purposes of establishing some basis

of teacher qualification standards

• Through PTA Resolutions, made several policy changes affecting our children in the areas of Fundraising by PTAs/PTSAs and Children's Playground Safety and Maintenance Program.

Other policy concerns brought up to the Board of Education include School Violence Curriculum, Parent/Family Involvement Policy, Funding new schools and classrooms, Clarification of Policy on Teacher Refusing a Student, etc.

• Secured \$66,000 Drug Free Grant from the U.S. Department of Education and PSS which thus so far accomplished 50% of the goal of providing communities awareness to parents, teachers and students through training, conferences, educational materials, etc.

• Awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Education on our joint grant application with Pacific Resources in Education and Learning (PREL) for a PTA Parent Information and Resource Center

• Co-Sponsored the 2nd Annual Parent Summit in 1995

• Planned and coordinated the first "Parent Drug Free Workshop" in Saipan, Rota & Tinian

• With our objective to protect the welfare and safety of our children, we advocated against proposed Garment Factory and Staff Housing immediately adjacent to Koblerville Elementary School (garment permit was subsequently denied).

Mr. Pangelinan, these are just but a few of the major accomplishments which have been witnessed through the efforts of so many hardworking and concerned parents, teachers, and students who are bonafide and proud members of the CNMI Council of PTA.

Again, an organization duly registered as a non profit, tax exempt volunteer entity whose existence would not have been possible were it not for the individuals who voluntarily dedicated themselves without being paid for one simple cause or action as the conduit between the PSS and the Board of Education and local PTA by "Putting Children First."

Further, the coffees and cookies aren't being subsidized by PSS and the like but rather, are provided by local PTAs/PTSAs who again out of their pouring desire to advocate for our children donate each time CPTA meets monthly. In fact, Tinian and Rota PTAs/PTSAs have graciously flown in with their pastries at previous meetings made possible from their "own" pockets (not from taxpayer subsidies as you adamantly proclaimed).

And by the way, you're kindly welcome to join us at our monthly meetings and be an active advocate for your and our children of the CNMI. Our meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month and are open to the general public.

Instead of unnecessarily coughing up mere hot air borne out of ignorance and lack of awareness (thus blatant inaccuracies), please join us for fruitful discussions, networking and action. Our children, I'm definitely sure, are better off if we "work together" and "do" something good for them.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and hot to see you work with us advocating for quality education and better equipped educational facilities.

THOMAS J. CAMACHO
Chairman
CNMI Council of PTA

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE NINTH Circuit Court of Appeal has affirmed District Judge Alex Munson's ruling that a public employee in the CNMI "has no right to bring an action for money damages against the Commonwealth directly under the Fourteenth Amendment without a congressionally created cause of action."

The Ninth Circuit court's opinion involved an appeal filed by Filipino nurse Teophanie M. Magana, who sued the CNMI for employment discrimination practice and nonpayment of overtime.

While upholding Munson's opinion on the 14th Amendment issue, the three-man circuit court ordered a review of the District's Court's opinion on discrimination and overtime issues.

Defendants in the case are the CNMI, Public Health Secretary Isamu Abraham, and Jose Chong.

Magana worked at the Com-

Charges of discrimination vs CHC remanded

monwealth Health Center as a level PN II nurse.

In September 1994, Magana complained to Abraham about what she claimed to be a disparate pay for Caucasian nurses with less education and experience than her.

Magana's complained resulted in nonrenewal of her contract because "she did not take criticism well and exhibited a poor attitude with patients."

Magana filed a suit on Oct., 1995.

In her complaint to the CNMI district court, Magana said the CNMI discriminated against Filipino nurses "on the basis of race and national origin."

Magana said she was qualified for PN III position but CHC gave favors to Caucasian nurse.

She filed for money claims against the CNMI invoking the Fourteenth Amendment in the



Isamu Abraham



Jose Chong

U.S. Constitution which provides for equal protection of the laws.

The circuit court, in upholding Munson's statement on the 14th Amendment, said the Covenant between the U.S. and the CNMI authorizes Congress to enact legislation for monetary damages 14th Amendment against the CNMI.

"But has refused to exercise such power despite the absence of the 11th Amendment immunity constraints applicable only to the states," the court said.

However, the court said, said 14th Amendment is not "self-

enforcing" and Congress did not enact legislation to authorize such suits "no authority exists to entertain such suits," against the CNMI.

Another issue raised by Magana was the CNMI's alleged violation of the Federal Labor Standards Act in connection with nonpayment of overtime.

The CNMI, represented by acting Atty. Gen. Robert Dunlap, argued that Magana, being employed in executive, administrative, and professional capacity, was not entitled to overtime pay under FLSA.

"That exemption is an affirmative defense that has to be pleaded

and proved," the Court said.

"The CNMI officials failed to raise that affirmative defense until three months after filing their answer. An affirmative defense must be set forth on a pleading preceding pleading," the court said.

On the discrimination issue, the court said that Magana, has presented circumstantial evidence that "is sufficient to create a genuine issue of material fact."

But Munson, the court said, "failed to consider any evidence presented in the form of answers to interrogatories, supplemental declarations, a deposition and other materials then before the court."

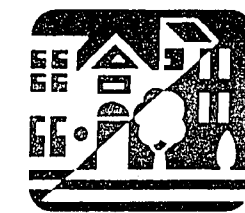
These supporting documents, the court added, "presented sufficient circumstantial evidence discriminatory intent to withstand a motion for summary judgement."

"The court had evidence that a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and three years of nursing experience are the minimum requirements for a PN III position...and evidence that such standards were arguably arbitrarily applied along racial lines in hiring and recertification decisions."

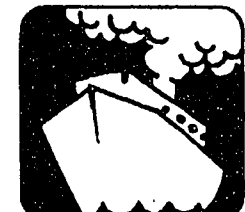
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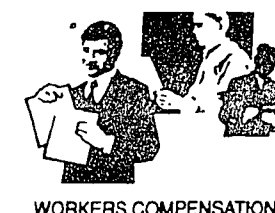
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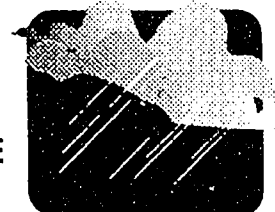
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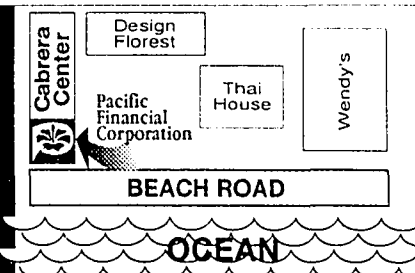
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US Congress staffers here

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A BATCH of seven US mainland delegates are on a four-day all expenses paid tour of the Commonwealth "to spread the good word" about the CNMI to US mainland policymakers, Public Information Officer Mark

Latest group includes journalists, PR executive

Broadhurst yesterday said.

The three Congressional staffers, three practicing US journalists and a public relations firm director are among 50 US mainland officials who have, thus far,

been "invited" to the CNMI "to get a firsthand account of what is really going on around here," said Broadhurst.

At least four US Congressmen have been among those already sent here.

Broadhurst said he has no idea on the amount allocated by CNMI Gov. Froilan Tenorio's administration for the public relations campaign, launched to counter "negative exposure" of the Commonwealth to the US mainland.

He said the move to influence US policymakers through paid trips to the islands is "part of a strategy to educate" Washington DC on CNMI. "We believe that with better education on the CNMI, they (visitors) may be able to help us out," explained Broadhurst.

CNMI is seemingly caught in a quagmire of "bad publicity" caused by reports on the plight of thousands of non-resident workers and problems on immigration.

The visiting delegates are led by

Edward F. McDonald, US Rep Howard Coble's chief of staff for the past 13 years. Coble is a Republican from North Carolina.

Other members are Greg Peek, Bob Holste, Helle Bering-Jensen, Jason W.A. Bertsch, John Liu and Philip Terzian.

Peek has worked for US Rep. Barbara Vucanovich (R-Nevada) while Holste is US Rep. Philip S. English's chief of staff. English is a Pennsylvania Republican.

Bering-Jensen is the Deputy Editorial Page Editor of the Washington Times; Bertsch is Managing Editor of the Public Interest, a neoconservative policy quarterly; and Terzian is a columnist working with a Rhode Island journal.

Liu is Director of Research and Policy of the San Francisco-based Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy.

EAW to focus on coral reefs

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THIS year's Environmental Awareness Week on April 20-26 will focus on the importance of coral reefs in line with the observance of the International Year of the Coral Reef.

With the theme "Clean Water, Beautiful Reefs; Their Health, Our Future," the EAW organizers will initiate new activities including field trips for students to the sea to view CNMI's reefs and other marine resources, as well as to the water-treatment and drinking water plants.

"Last year, we just had the kids come in and had a tour of the office (of the Division of Environmental Quality), and so they saw people sitting at their desks working on their computers. They didn't really learn much from that, so we thought we should take them out in the field and show them what's out in the field and show them what's out there," Susan Burr, of DEQ, told the Variety.

The week, as usual, will culminate in the world-wide celebration of Earth Day, which will be highlighted here in the CNMI with cleanup activities and picnic with entertainment at the American Memorial Park.

"We're trying to get both the private and public sector to come out for the cleanup day. We're hoping that a lot more of the private sector will be out there," Kathy Yuknavage, of the Division of Environmental Quality, said.

Like last year, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be actively involved in cleanup and other activities during the EAW.

Yuknavage said they're trying to get the hotels' participation, too.

The hotels and firms could print their logos and their environmental

messages on T-shirts, and "it's good advertising for them; it shows they care," Yuknavage said.

There will also be an aluminum-can recycling contest among elementary school students. Although every student who participates will get a token prize, the classes which gather the most number of cans will receive major prizes.

Each school will also adopt a beach whose cleanliness they will maintain. Tanapag Elementary School has in fact chosen to adopt the beach from their school to Plumeria Resort.

Yuknavage urged the schools which have not chosen the beach it would like to adopt to do it now and submit it to the DEQ through Gus Camacho.

The practice of adopting a beach, Yuknavage said, is being done in the United States.

"It would be nice if we could actually get a sign posted at the beach saying this beach was adopted by a certain school. The school can take pride in the care of that beach, not just for Environmental Awareness Week," Yuknavage said.

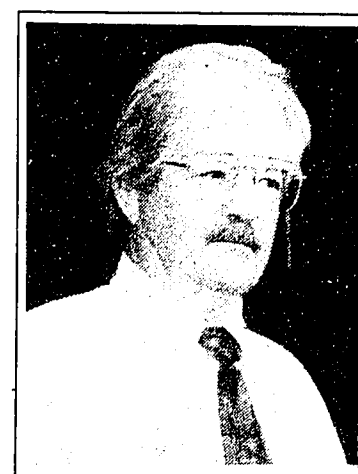
Other activities lined up for EAW are:

- Essay-writing contest for students in each of the island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Entries will be categorized into the Grades 7-8 group (junior high school) and Grades 9-12 group (high school). The essay should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words, typed double-spaced, on the EAW theme. Deadline for submission to DEQ (care of Tom Castro) is April 11, 4:30 p.m.

- Television forum participated in by environmental professionals from DEQ, Coastal Resources Management, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

- Radio trivia contest to be hosted by a radio station.

Court warned about Tenorio



Theodore R. Mitchell

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LAWYER Theodore R. Mitchell has warned that Gov. Froilan Tenorio would become "a law unto himself" if he will be immune from the court's power and not be held accountable for his actions.

In opposition to a motion to dismiss taxpayer's suit against Tenorio and C. Sebastian Aloat, Mitchell underscored the need of judicial review of executive action as an essential element of the checks and balances set up in the Constitution.

Mitchell, on behalf of plaintiffs Rep. Stanley T. Torres and lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand, said Tenorio and Aloat assert that they can't be named as defendants in the suit because they are individuals and not the government nor one of its instrumentalities.

Mitchell said the defendants are mistaken when they suggest that Article X §9 is the only source of authority for taxpayer suits.

"Taxpayer suits are of ancient origin and they may be brought to challenge a wide range of governmental action from illegal expenditure of funds to illegal distribution of

government property of any kind," he said.

The governor is an instrumentality of the Commonwealth government, Mitchell said, adding that Aloat was the Deputy Attorney General and sometimes Acting AG of the Commonwealth.

"Indeed the government, a fictional entity, can only act through some tangible instrumentality of some kind," Mitchell said.

The lawyer contended this is just another attempt to win untouchability for Tenorio and incidentally for the beneficiaries of his misconduct.

He explained that the complaint filed by Torres and Rayphand as amended last Feb. 19 together with the summons, was served on Tenorio within 120 days after the filing of the complaint in accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure.

Thus, Mitchell said, the governor was properly served in this case and his contention to the contrary is patently frivolous.

On the other hand, he said Aloat does not enjoy any kind of immunity for his role in obtaining the contract.

Under the statute, Mitchell said a citizen's suit can be brought to "enjoin the expenditure of public funds for other than public purposes."

In the context of the Aloat contract, Mitchell said, the money paid to Aloat is not for a public purpose.

"It is for the plain and simple enriching him beyond reason for the performance of services which have no where near the value he is paid," he said.

Aloat, Mitchell said, was the Attorney for the people of Commonwealth when he was negotiating and signing "this

very sweet, sweetheart deal."

Mitchell added that the case does not present a non-judicial political question.

He said the suit raises the issue of whether the governor breached his fiduciary duty by entering a contract for the ex-

penditure of public funds on terms which are unfair to the Commonwealth and provide grossly excessive compensation for Aloat.

Torres and Rayphand sued Tenorio and Aloat seeking nullification of the latter's

\$180,000 legal service contract with the government.

Tenorio sought the dismissal of the government as he stated that the lawsuit may be politically motivated designed to embarrass him during the election season.



SHOT IN THE ARM. Bishop Thomas A. Camacho receives a \$5,000 donation from Lufthansa Airlines through Regional Manager Reinhard Guth. Camacho expressed hopes the Chalan Kanoa Diocese's Board of Director will vote in favor of using part of the money to the displaced Bangladeshis on Saipan.



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Woman who 'stole' ATM card charged

THE ATTORNEY General's Office filed yesterday charges against a woman who allegedly withdrew money from a bank using a stolen ATM card.

Beverly Odeurengul Skerei a.k.a. Beverly Isaac Echang was charged with theft (scheme or course of conduct) before the Superior Court.

According to the complaint filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli, from Nov. 22 through 25, 1996, Skerei stole an ATM card from a woman. Skerei then withdrew \$2,020 from the woman's Bank of Hawaii savings account using the ATM card.

Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man was arrested Friday for assaulting a police officer.

Hwa Bao Chen was held for obstruction of justice, resisting arrest, and assault and battery.

Initial investigation showed that a police officer pulled over a car for traffic violation along Beach Road in Garapan.

The officer talked to the car's operator as he also instructed Chen who was a passenger of the vehicle to remain inside the vehicle.

Chen, however, ran away, prompting the officer to chase him.

A struggle ensued, but the officer subsequently arrested Chen.

In Koblerville, four persons were arrested when they engaged in a fight over the weekend.—Ferdie de la Torre

Immanuel Methodist sets Holy Week schedule

AN EVENING service will be held for Maundy (Holy) Thursday March 27 at 6:30 p.m., commemorating Jesus' last night before crucifixion.

Special music will be provided by the Fijian choir and the Immanuel choir.

For Good Friday, March 28, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from noon to 3 p.m. Pastor Barbara Grace Ripple will be there to serve communion.

On Easter Sunday, March 30, there will be two services. The Sunrise Service will be held at Laulau Bay at 6:00 a.m. and the Traditional Worship Service will be held at the church at 9:15 a.m. The Immanuel choir will provide special music.

Immanuel United Methodist Church is located in Koblerville off As Lito Road. Come join us! For more information contact Rev. Barbara Grace Ripple at 235-7706.

DPS to close some roads during Good Friday

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety announced yesterday that some highways will be temporarily closed during the annual Good Friday procession.

DPS Public Information Officer Cathy Sheu said the 16 Highway in San Jose near Price Costco will be closed starting at 8 a.m. until the duration of the procession.

Sheu said Beach Road in Chalan

Kanoa from the intersection leading to Sugar Dock south to the Post Office will be closed from 4 p.m. until the duration of the procession.

Sheu said 2W Highway in Tanapag by the Mobil Service Station south to the intersection leading to Tanapag homestead will be closed from 6 p.m. until the duration of the procession.

The information officer reminded all persons who will be attending the

"carrying of the cross" to Mt. Tapochao on Friday, and the "Easter Sunday Sunrise Prayer" that the parking spaces at the mountain have been reserved.

Only vehicles with "passes" will be permitted to park.

For further information regarding the "passes," Sheu asked the public to call Chancery Office at 234-6177.(FDT)

Sablan: I'll never ask foreign money to fund my campaign

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE REPUBLICAN Party's candidate for lieutenant governor yesterday said that, unlike reelectionist Democrat Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, he will never ask foreigners to finance his campaign.

"I want to assure the people that even though I will need money to run for office, I would not and could not carry it in my heart to say 'I borrowed money for my campaign,'" Senate President Jesus R. Sablan said.

"I cannot use (that) gimmick." He said that a candidate cannot borrow a large amount of money, especially from a foreign source, and say there were no strings attached.

"I cannot tolerate that," Sablan said, "but I can only speak for myself, of course."

Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, who is running against Tenorio as an independent candidate, has refused to comment on the governor's \$650,000 loan from convicted bribe-giver Shigenori "Chico" Hiraga.

Sablan is the running mate of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

Governor Tenorio, in a press statement, has described Hiraga as a "good man," and a "close friend."

Tenorio said his loans from Hiraga, which amounts to some \$650,000, was made public to "embarrass" him "so that I could ask Chico...to drop his case (against Sekisui House)."

Tenorio said he doesn't condone any criminal activity, but "I also do not abandon my friends in time of need, especially given the facts in



Jesus R. Sablan

(Hiraga's) case."

It was the federal official who extorted a bribe from Hiraga's business associates, he said.

At Hiraga's sentencing, Tenorio added, the judge said that the Japanese businessman was more a victim than a wrongdoer.

Despite getting loans from Hiraga, however, Tenorio said the businessman "never got" anything from him.

He said he will soon pay his debt to Hiraga, using his land property on Tinian.

DOI grants for PSS OK'd

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior has approved the Public School System's fund request for its After School Program.

Darla Knoblock, DOI's technical assistance director, told a PSS official that the \$225,000 technical assistance grant will be sent to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio "early next week."

"We are also processing the drawdown for funds in the existing grant," Knoblock said in a March 19 letter to PSS federal



William Torres

coordinator Tim Thornburgh.

Education Commissioner William Torres said PSS originally requested \$400,000 but was told that "\$225,000 was the only available amount they could give us."

The request was made in October last year.

The grant money will be drawn from DOI's Technical Assistance Fund, Torres said.

He said the fund will be used for this school year's program

and "the balance will be carried forward to next school year."

The After School program, which is on its third year now, offers remedial classes for students who need extra help in their academic problems.

"The idea behind this program is to make sure that students who need help are not way behind their studies, and ultimately to avoid student dropouts," Torres said.

Covered by the program are students "referred by their teachers and counselors"

"This is the first time we're getting this federal grant for our After School Program. The funds we used in the past came from local funds," Torres told the Variety.

The money, he said, will be used to defray the expenses on extra supply of instructional materials needed in the program, as well as payment for personnel giving tutorial services.

MOU for HPO project inked

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THREE government agencies have forged a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on a history book project.

The Division of History Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Public School System, agreed last January to pool their resources for the publication of *Tiempon I Mammofo'na: An Introduction to Chamorro Prehistory*.

DCCA and HPO have prepared the manuscript consisting of important information about prehistory and early history of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Michael Cody, an employee of PSS, will undertake designs that will accompany the manuscript.

Finished copies of the book will be distributed to public school libraries throughout the CNMI.

JROTC gets high praises

THE Commonwealth's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program has earned a high degree of praise from U.S. Army Col. Duane H. Hardesty, the Public School System said in a news release.

Col. Hardesty, who visited the CNMI last month, said in a brief follow-up letter to Commissioner of Education William S. Torres, he is "deeply impressed with the quality of the CNMI's JROTC program and with the level of community support for the program."

He also said the JROTC programs at Marianas, Rota and Tinian High Schools "are blessed with exceptional instructors, especially our two on Rota."

Hardesty, the head of the JROTC program for the entire region, also said that he fully supports the employment of an additional instructor to serve the growing MHS program.

Commissioner of Education William S. Torres said that Hardesty's praise was further confirmation of the significant positive impact that the JROTC program has on the lives of young adults in the Northern Marianas.

"The JROTC program appears to be a model program for our students. It has an interpersonal dimension that involves giving our students the additional time and attention they need. The program has become like an extended family in which the students and instructors both set high expectations for themselves," Torres said.

The CNMI's JROTC program is currently pushing hard to put together a cadet marching band.

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South Pacific news roundup

Proposal to change law on names for Hawaii streets

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—On the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, since 1978, it has been a requirement that all new streets be given a name in the indigenous Hawaiian language.

The law has helped Hawaii's multi-cultural resident population, as well as millions of holiday visitors annually, become familiar with Hawaiian words—such as aloha, lei, and mahalo—and some of Hawaii's past leaders, including King Kamehameha and Queen Liliuokalani.

The law, educators say, also reinforces efforts to expand everyday use of the Hawaiian language. But a Honolulu City Council effort now is under way to change the almost 20-year-old

street naming requirement.

Supporters of the resolution to abolish the current law say other groups—including Asian and Pacific Islander Americans—deserve having their citizens and

cultures honored with Honolulu and Oahu street names.

Opponents, however, say changing the law will be another blow to the preservation of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii.

Sea search called off

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The search in the Coral Sea for a New Zealand yacht with five people on board have been called off.

The yacht, Queen Charlotte, is believed to have sunk last week in rough seas whipped up by Cyclone Justin about 275 nautical miles south west of Honiara.

A big search of the area by the Australian air force and navy as well

as merchant ships found wreckage and life jackets but no sign of survivors.

On board the yacht when it left New Zealand for Papua New Guinea, were four New Zealand males, and an Australian female aged 18.

Search authorities in Canberra said yachts should keep well away from the Coral Sea during the cyclone season.

Fiji urged to probe looting

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji Chamber of Commerce will petition government for an enquiry into the looting and ransacking of shops in the Western Division during Cyclone Gavin. Most shops in Ba were broken into and 47 people arrested and charged, Radio Fiji reported.

Chamber President Jo Singh says the Chamber's annual meeting in Suva over the weekend insisted that an enquiry be ordered into the looting.

The Chamber also expressed concern over the ineffectiveness of the Disaster Management Committee and wanted its new Board to approach the Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister and asked for an inquiry, so that such events are not repeated in the future.

Solomons offers to supply fish to cannery

SUVA (Pacnews)—Pacific Fishing Company of Fiji has welcomed the Solomon Islands government's interest to supply fish to its cannery.

General Manager of the company Miteli Baleivanualala was grateful for Fiji government's initiative to secure a supplier for PAFCO, the Daily Post reported.

Baleivanualala says he is pleased that government has come up with the initiative and if the talks come through, it would greatly help the country.

He says one of the cannery's major set-back was the lack of fish supplies.

Baleivanualala says that Solomon Islands had been suppliers to PAFCO previously but increased production in the Solomons had led them to using their own catch.

During the recent visit of Fiji's foreign minister, Filipe Bole, to Honiara, Solomon Islands government had expressed interest in supplying fish to PAFCO.



Acting Papua New Guinea military commander Col. Alfred Aikung listens to Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, in Port Moresby. Aikung replaces Brigadier General Jerry Singirok who was fired last week. AP Photo

New commander takes over helm of PNG army

By GEOFF SPENCER

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—A new leader assumed control of Papua New Guinea's army Monday, addressing the troops alongside the army chief ousted in a fracas over foreign mercenaries.

Col. Jack Tuat must try to win over soldiers who support Brig.-Gen. Jerry Singirok, who was fired by Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan last week when he refused to work with government-hired mercenaries.

The firing set off two days of rioting in the capital and the worst political crisis the 22-year-old Pacific nation has seen. Mobs demanded Chan's resignation, a demand echoed by the fired army chief.

Singirok says the prime minister acted illegally in hiring British and South African mercenaries to combat secessionist guerrillas in the copper-rich island of Bougainville. Chan has refused to resign, but

has promised to cooperate with a government-backed judicial inquiry into the \$36 million contract with Sandline International mercenaries.

Governor-General Sir Wiwa Korowai urged Chan Monday to stand aside until the investigation is completed, a sign of how much public and official opinion has turned against Chan.

The governor-general represents Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who is also Papua New Guinea's head of state. He does not have the constitutional power to dismiss the prime minister and government.

Chan made one concession to the mutinous army Sunday when he dropped his initial, little-known candidate to replace Singirok, picking Tuat instead, who commands more respect among the troops.

Singirok has no official post, but stood by Tuat Monday when he addressed several hundred soldiers.

The army deported all of the roughly 60-strong mercenary force

Friday except for its leader, retired British Lt. Col. Tim Spicer.

Spicer appeared in court Monday to plead innocent to weapons charges. A judge confiscated his passport and ordered him to return to court for trial April 8.

That guarantees Spicer will be in Port Moresby, the capital, to testify April 1 at a government-ordered judicial inquiry into the contract between his company and the government.

"I will happy to talk to the commission of inquiry," Spicer said as he left the courtroom. "There is nothing wrong with the activities of Sandline."

Spicer is a former British officer with the Scots Guards, who served in the Falkland Islands war, saw service in the Gulf War, and was a U.N. peace-keeping spokesman in Bosnia. He won the Order of the British Empire for service in Northern Ireland.

Papua New Guinea—a nation on the eastern half of the island of New Guinea—won independence in 1975 from Australia, 350 miles to the south.

Vanuatu puts forth increases in property tax

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Property owners in Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila have lashed out at the big increase in property tax recently introduced by the Port Vila Municipality.

Tax on all buildings under the Municipality's jurisdiction have been increased by 200 percent, the Trading Post reported.

The tax of 5.5 percent of the value of the property is levied on all properties including residential, commercial and industrial properties and real estate companies have voiced their concern over the size of the increase.

One property owner says company records show the increase range between 150 and 300 percent which is huge and will be deterrent to investors.

The property owner says that a house that paid a tax of \$1,600 vatu (US \$277) a year now has to pay 92,400 vatu (US \$810), which is a 300 percent increase.

However, the Port Vila Municipality says tax has not changed since 1984 and that the increase on all property rates is in line with today's values.

Samoan student to sue Columbia U

APIA (Pacnews)—A Samoan university student plans to sue Columbia University of the United States, for allowing famous anthropologist Margaret Meads to publish what he calls lies about Samoans.

According to the Samoa Observer, Malapaupo Isaia is studying law at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia to prepare himself to sue Columbia University.

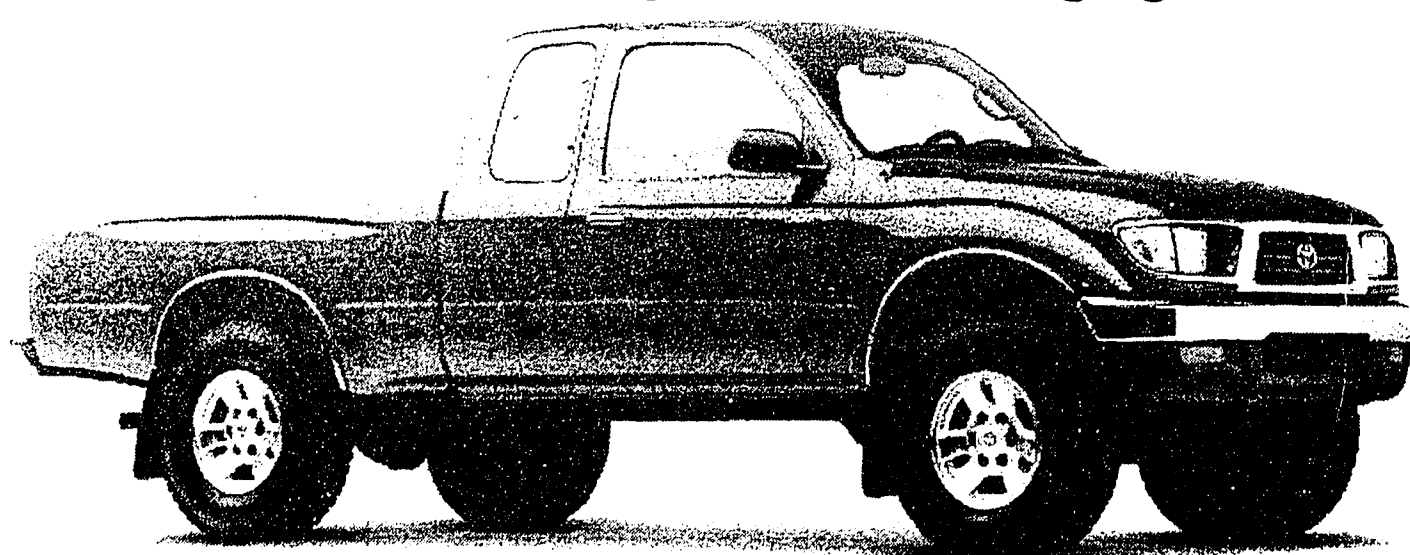
The 30-year old student is upset by Mead's best-selling book, "Coming of Age in Samoa," which depicted Samoan life as that of casual free love and promiscuity, amongst other things.

Mead based her book on research she did in an American Samoan island, one of several directly under the authority of the titular chief, the Tuimanoa.

The amount of the defamation lawsuit was not reported but Malapaupo said Columbia University had endorsed Mead's findings without any knowledge of the Samoan culture.

He said he was negotiating with a publisher in Australia, where he lives, to publish his manuscript "Natives Come of Age," which challenges the authenticity of Mead's book.

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Department of Lands and Natural Resources

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: HOMESTEAD ADMINISTRATOR
LOCATION: DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS, SAIPAN

INTRODUCTION: This position is within the immediate supervision of the Director. The incumbent is required to be generally familiar with the policies and regulations pertaining to all types of homesteading program.

DUTIES: Act as the principal administrator for all homestead programs, including the agricultural homestead waiver's program. Review all CNMI laws, rules and regulations pertaining to all types of homesteading program.

SALARY: Beginning salary will depend upon qualification and experience; from \$28,800 to 45,000 per annum.

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from a recognized college or university with a degree in public administration, business administration or a related field and four years of experience in responsible office management or staff work.

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APPLICATION BY APRIL 14, 1997 TO:

Division of Public Lands, DLNR, P.O. Box 10007
Capitol Hill Main Office, Saipan, MP 96950

Quebec police probe fiery cult suicides

ST. CASIMIR, Quebec (CP) - Three teen-agers found drugged near a burning house could provide clues into the final hours of the five latest victims of the doomsday cult Order of the Solar Temple.

Police are investigating the suicide pact that took the lives of their parents, grandmother and two other adults Saturday night.

The deaths brought the number of cult members killed in organized suicides over the past 2 1/2 years to 74 in Quebec, Switzerland and France.

Firefighters arriving at the two-story house overlooking a stream in St. Casimir discovered the two boys, aged 13 and 16, and a 14-year-old girl in a dazed state in a nearby workshop.

"Why weren't the children inside the house during the fire, even though they were drugged with either narcotics or medication?" asked Lieut. Alain

Quirion of the Quebec provincial police.

The bodies of their parents, Didier Queze and Chantal Goupillot, both 39, were found in bed with those of another man and woman arranged in what police described as the shape of a cross.

The other victims were identified as Bruno Klaus, 49, and Pauline Rioux, 54.

Goupillot's 63-year-old mother, Suzanne Druau, was found lying on a sofa downstairs with a plastic bag over her head - a characteristic of previous Solar Temple murder-suicides.

Police also located letters and documents mentioning a planned "departure." Solar Temple followers believe suicide instantly transports them to a new world on the planet Sirius.

There were no visible marks of violence on the latest victims, three of

whom were of French origin, one Swiss, and one Canadian. Autopsies were to be done Monday.

Provincial police said Sunday they believed Quebec was home to 30 to 40 current or former Solar Temple members.

Hermann Delorme, an ex-member of the cult, said he believed the cult was no longer well-organized but still had small groups of followers.

"There's no longer a structured group as such," Delorme, who quit the Solar Temple in 1992 and wrote a book about the group, said from his home near Granby.

"But it doesn't mean people have dropped out - we've just seen the proof of that."

Quirion said police did follow up tips about the Solar Temple, but nothing led them to anticipate the latest suicides.

Police contacted authorities in France and Switzerland after the weekend fire to try to prevent any similar mass suicides in those countries.

In 1994, Swiss authorities found the bodies of 48 people linked to the cult in a farmhouse and three chalets, all consumed by fire.

Five more bodies, including a baby's, were found the same year in Morin Heights, north of Montreal.

In 1995, 16 cult members were found dead in a burned house outside Grenoble, in the French Alps. Most of the bodies were arranged in a star shape on the floor.

In all of the cases, at least some of the dead were found to have been murdered by the others, who then committed suicide.

Propane tanks, gasoline containers and small electric ovens, all of which were found in Queze's house, were also found after the Morin-Heights house fire.

Investigators said cult leaders, who were among the dead in the Swiss fires, had promised to lead followers through fire to a new world on the planet "Sirius."

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Israel braces for more attacks

By HILARY APPELMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) - Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank for a fifth day Monday and Israel warned that new attacks by Islamic militants were possible. With little sign of tensions easing, the United States discussed sending mediator Dennis Ross back to the region.

Israel has accused Yasser Arafat of giving the go-ahead for attacks against Israelis and demanded the Palestinian leader crack down on militant groups before the peace process can move forward.

But Mohammed Dahlan, head of preventive security in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip,

Palestinians are sending mixed signals, say Israelis

By SAID GHAZALI

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) - In one West Bank riot Monday, Palestinian police formed a human chain and pushed Palestinian stone-throwers away from Israeli troops.

In another, Yasser Arafat's troops stood by and watched for hours, with one officer finally telling protesters to go home and "save your energy for another day."

Israel says Arafat's security forces are sending mixed signals about the Palestinian Authority's attitude toward violence. But Palestinian leaders insist they are simply having a difficult time controlling anger over Israel's hard-line policies.

The different approaches Monday in Hebron and Bethlehem may also reflect disagreement among Palestinians over how to respond to Israel's decision to build a large Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as a capital.

"We are telling Arafat stop the double game, get serious and address us with one voice," said Dore Gold, foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli officials say that even after a suicide bomber linked to Hamas group killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe Friday, Arafat has not moved to rein in militant groups.

Palestinian security officials interviewed Monday indicated a breakdown in their close cooperation with Israel that began during a joint crackdown on the militants a year ago, after a wave of bombings killed 63 people in Israel.

Attorney General Khaled Kidreh said the Palestinian Authority would not take its instructions from Israel — whose Cabinet on Sunday demanded the Palestinians arrest and disarm the militants.

said the Palestinians were already fighting terrorism.

"We are against using violence. ... We are against the killing of civilians or innocent people," he said. "We are not waiting for orders from Israel" to crack down on militants.

Arafat was traveling in Sri Lanka on Monday, and his absence from the region was harshly criticized by Israeli officials.

Dore Gold, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, accused the Palestinian leader of leaving so he could "disassociate from terrorism."

"It is absolutely necessary that he come back here" and make clear to Palestinian militants that "terrorism is not an option," Gold said in an interview.

Asked by a reporter in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, about Gold's criticism, Arafat said tersely: "He can't tell me what

to do."

In Hebron, meanwhile, several dozen Palestinians threw stones at Israeli troops in renewed clashes Monday.

This time, however, Palestinian police moved in quickly — forming human chains and firing in the air to disperse the crowd.

In Bethlehem, however, the Palestinian police did little to stop about 200 Palestinians who threw stones at Israeli troops at Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli-controlled religious site.

Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 17 Palestinians.

After clashes in September in which 80 people died, Ross, the U.S. mediator, spent weeks in the region pushing the two sides back to the negotiating table. They eventually reached an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from most

of Hebron.

Edward Abington, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem, said no decision has been made to bring Ross back to the region, but the possibility was being discussed.

Talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke off two weeks ago after Netanyahu's defiant decision to go ahead with construction of a housing project for about 30,000 Jews in east Jerusalem, which Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast War and the Palestinians claim as a capital.

Israel broke ground for the project last week, setting off Palestinian protests that quickly turned violent.

On Friday, a suicide-bomber blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing three Israeli women and himself.

Maj. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, head of Israeli military intelligence, said Monday there would probably be

more terrorist attacks in the coming days if Arafat did not make clear to Islamic militant groups that such attacks were unacceptable.

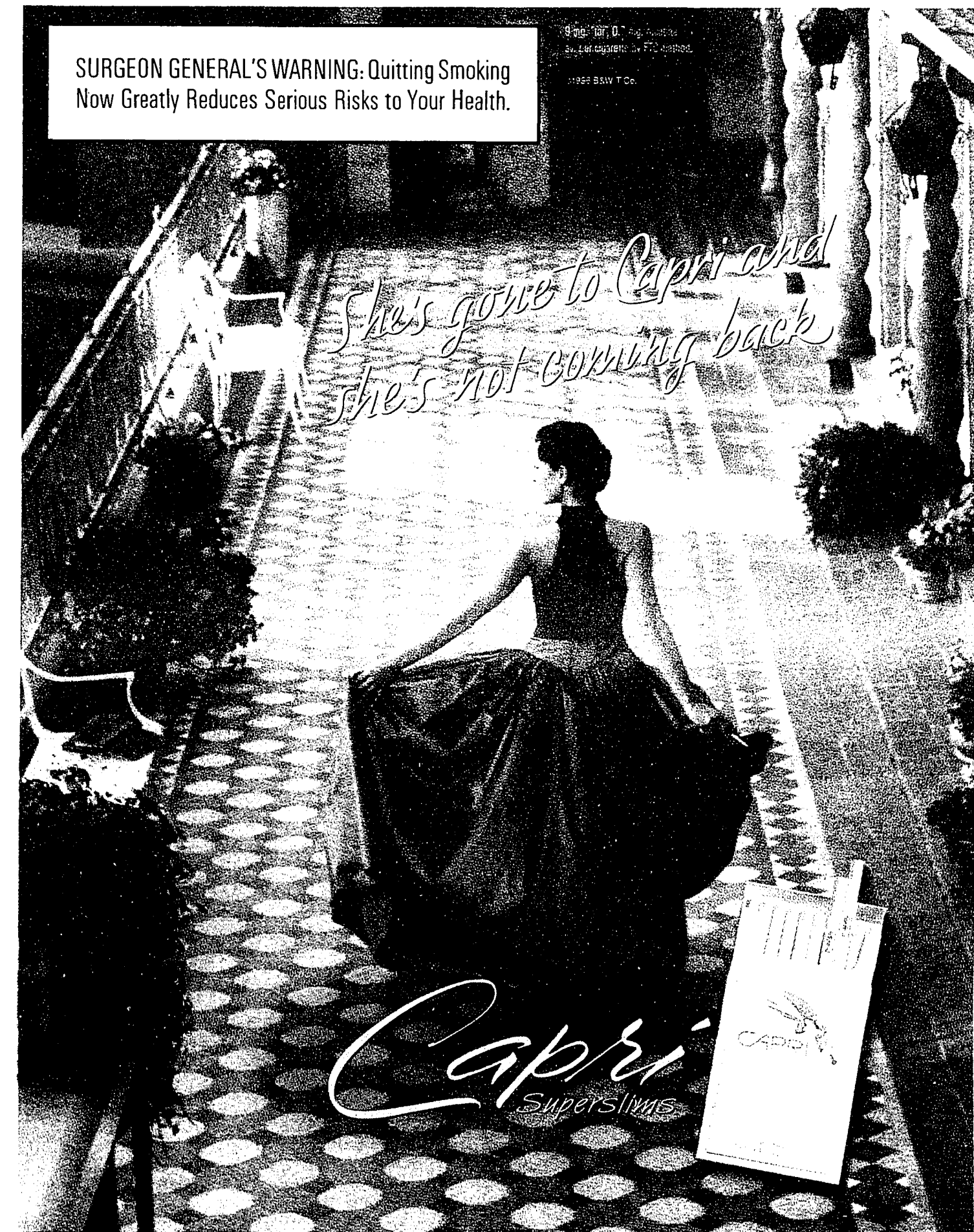
Yaalon said Arafat met with leaders of Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip on March 9, and the militants walked away from that meeting with "an understanding ... that they have the green light from chairman Arafat to commit such acts."

U.S. officials had strongly criticized Arafat for releasing from prison leading Islamic militants involved in attacks on Israel, an American official confirmed Monday.

The Americans told Arafat he needed to do more to fight terrorism, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But U.S. officials have stopped short of saying that Arafat gave his approval to attacks against Israel.

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Interest rates may rise

By DAVE SKIDMORE

WASHINGTON (AP) - Even though inflation shows no signs of worsening, the Federal Reserve apparently is preparing to raise interest rates for the first time in two years.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan seems bent on pre-emptive action—the economic equivalent of firing before the enemy actually gets to the battlefield.

The nation's inflation rate is actually lower so far this year: 2.3 percent for January and February compared with 3.3 percent for all of last year.

But based on Greenspan's public statements, economists believe a quarter-point increase in short-term rates is the nearly certain result of Tuesday's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank's monetary policy arm.

In congressional testimony last week, Greenspan stressed the "importance of acting promptly — ideally pre-emptively — to keep inflation low."

"If this is not the handwriting on the wall, I don't know what is," said economist Sung Won Sohn of Norwest Corp. in Minneapolis.

If all goes as anticipated, the Fed will drain reserves from the banking system, pushing the rate charged among banks on overnight loans from 5.25 percent to 5.5 percent. It will be the first increase since Feb. 1, 1995.

In response, lenders are expected to nudge the prime rate they charge their best business customers from 8.25 percent to 8.5 percent. And millions of American consumers with short-term loans — everything from auto loans to credit cards to adjustable-rate home mortgages — will have to pay more, too.

As a result, six months to a year later, economic growth should slacken a bit. That in turn should accomplish the Fed's intended result: a small reduction in the economic pressures — drum-tight labor markets, red-hot demand for raw materials — that exacerbate inflation.

That's the theory — applauded by many economists though panned by some. The Fed first tried it in 1994. Starting in February of that year, it doubled the overnight interbank rate from 3 percent to 6 percent, in seven steps over a 12-month period.

"It was very revolutionary and absolutely correct," said economist Allen Sinai of Primark Decision Economics in New York.

"In the old days, interest rates weren't raised until the whites of the eyes were there, until inflation was rising, and it was always too late."

The result of the new policy: contained inflation and sustained economic expansion. Growth slowed from 3.5 percent in 1994 to 2 percent in 1995, before in-

creasing to 2.4 percent in 1996.

As counter-intuitive as it seems, an early growth-slowing increase in interest rates is aimed at extending the expansion, which began its seventh year this month.

"Once inflation begins to accelerate, it's much more difficult to get it back down without a recession," said economist Paul W. Boltz of T. Rowe Price Associates in Baltimore. "Now is the time to just very lightly tap on the breaks."

But other analysts — and the Clinton administration in its 1997

Economic Report of the President — argue it would be more risky to slow economic growth prematurely than to allow a modest increase in inflation.

"Right now Greenspan wants to pre-empt on the basis of a projection no one is sure is right. That doesn't lead to good policy," said economist Donald Ratajczak of Georgia State University.

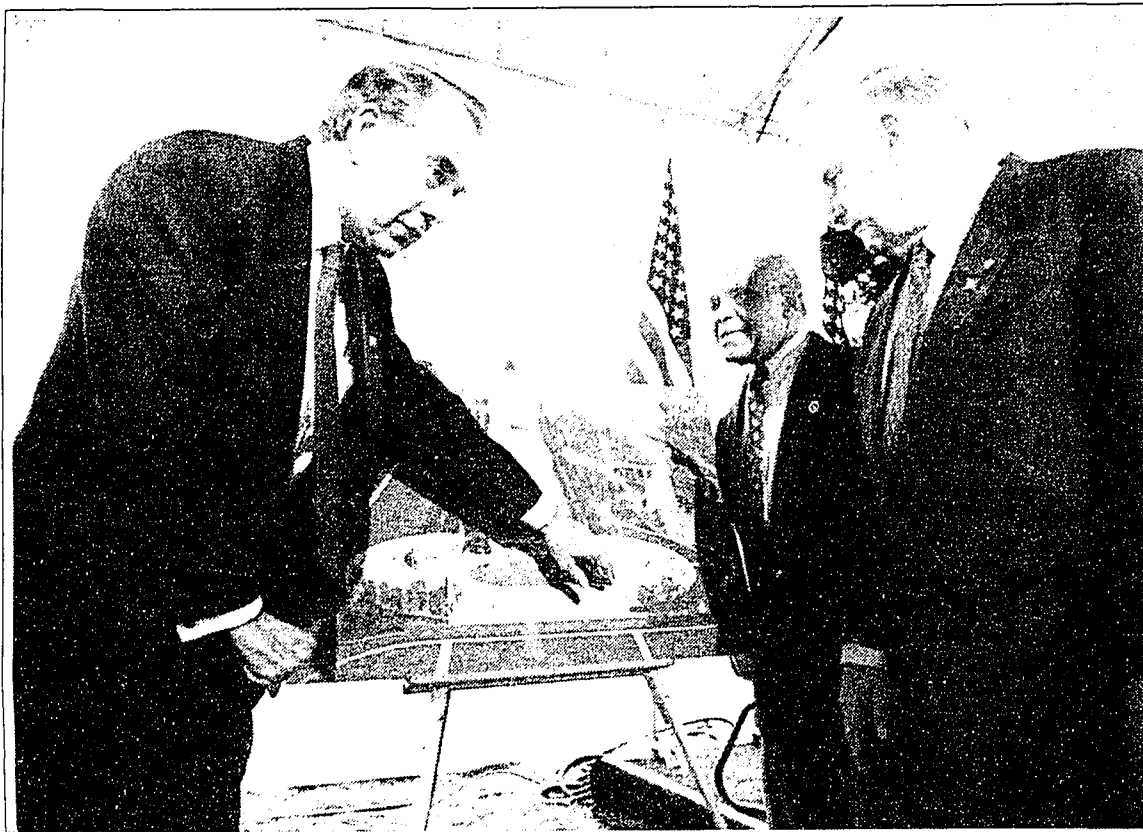
That was just the point made by lawmakers to Greenspan last week.

"We're deeply concerned that a rise in interest rates will choke off

... growth ... and all those people ... who haven't had an opportunity to take part in it, will be denied that opportunity yet again," said Rep. Maurice Hinchey, R-N.Y.

But Greenspan said the long lag between changes in interest rates and their impact on the economy dictates a policy of pre-emption.

"We have no choice but to forecast and act on a forecast," Greenspan said. "Unless we do that, we will be behind the curve a good deal of the time."



Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, left, points to an artist's rendering of the proposed World War II memorial during a ceremony on the Mall in Washington Wednesday, where he announced he would lead the \$100 million fund-raising effort for the memorial. Georgia Director of Veterans Affairs Peter Wheeler, right, and former Tuskegee airman Luther Smith look on. AP Photo

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/s/TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

'English Patient' wins 9 Oscars

By BOB THOMAS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "The English Patient," a romantic war epic that Hollywood didn't want to make, won nine Oscars Monday night, including best picture, director and supporting actress.

"I said my cup was full before. Now it runneth over," producer Saul Zaentz said as he accepted the night's top award.

It was a night for independent filmmaking, as Australian Geoffrey Rush, the mentally disturbed concert pianist of "Shine," won best actor and Frances McDormand, the pregnant Midwest cop in "Fargo," was named best actress at the 69th Academy Awards Monday night.

Anthony Minghella won best director for "The English Patient," and its Paris-born co-star, Juliette Binoche, claimed the supporting actress statuette.

The last time a film won as many as nine Oscars was "The Last Emperor" at the 1988 Oscar show. "The English Patient," which had the most nominations with 12, also won for cinematography, dramatic score, film editing, sound, costume and art direction.

Concluding his thanks, Rush gave special tribute to "the unstoppable David Helfgott: you truly are an inspiration." "Shine" told the story of the real-life Helfgott's struggle to overcome a mental breakdown.

McDormand strutted to the stage and exclaimed: "What am I doing here? Especially considering the extraordinary group of women with whom I was nominated." She also complimented producers who allow directors to make "autonomous casting decisions" not based on "market value."

The top acting honors prevented a sweep by "The English Patient," a burn victim's tortured recollections of his misdeeds in time of war.

"I'm so surprised," said Binoche, who, like many, thought the statuette would go to Lauren Bacall. "I didn't prepare anything. I thought Lauren was going to get it. And I think she deserves it."

Binoche portrayed the compassion-

ate Canadian nurse in "The English Patient." Bacall, a star since 1944 but never before nominated, was named for her role as a domineering mother in "The Mirror Has Two Faces."

Winning the Oscar for best foreign language film was "Kolya," from the Czech Republic.

"Kolya," set just before the fall of the Berlin Wall, is about an old man who marries a young Russian woman for convenience; she soon moves to West Germany, leaving her son in his care.

Besides "The English Patient's" competitive Oscars, Zaentz received the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award for his career. He also produced previous Oscar winners "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus."

Zaentz ran into financing problems after beginning production on "The English Patient" and shut it down. Twentieth Century Fox, which supported the film early on, decided it wanted more commercial casting to make it more of a box-office movie.

Reportedly, the studio wanted Demi Moore in the female lead. Zaentz declined any change in casting and won financing from Miramax.

The only major award for Hollywood studios went to Cuba Gooding Jr., the football star who repeatedly asks his faltering agent to "Show me the money!" in "Jerry Maguire." He won the supporting actor Oscar.

After hugging "Jerry Maguire" star Tom Cruise on his way up to the stage, Gooding shouted out thank-yous and I-love-yous and jumped around like he had just caught a game-winning touchdown.

The Shrine Auditorium audience loved his exuberance and applauded as he yelled out thanks to his family and everyone connected to the movie.

"I know I have a little bit of time so I'm going to rush and get in everyone. You can cut away, I won't be mad at you," the excited Gooding warned the audience as he exceeded the 40-second acceptance speech limit.

Another award "The English Patient" didn't get went to Billy Bob Thornton, for his adapted screenplay of

"Sling Blade," in which he also starred and directed.

Besides McDormand's award, "Fargo" also won for original screenplay.

Oscar specializes in sentiment, and a high point was reached when the documentary feature Oscar was presented to the producers of "When We Were Kings," which depicts a key fight in the career of former boxing champion Muhammad Ali.

When the producers gave credit to Ali, who was seated in the audience, the crowd applauded wildly in a standing ovation.

Ali, who has Parkinson's syndrome, made his way hesitantly to the stage along with one-time opponent George Foreman, who is also in the film.

"Well, thank heavens there wasn't a song in 'The English Patient' is all I can say," said Andrew Lloyd Webber as he and Tim Rice collected the original-song Oscar for "You Must Love Me" from "Evita."

Before the show, the contenders for top honors were largely unknown to most moviegoers.

Except for Cruise, Diane Keaton, Bacall and a couple of others, most of the 20 acting nominees hadn't gotten much attention before.

In fact, three were nominated for their very first movies: Emily Watson, "Breaking the Waves"; Edward Norton, "Primal Fear"; and Marianne Jean-Baptiste, "Secrets and Lies." Fourteen others were never before nominated.

And in the best picture category, four of the five nominees were independent films with relatively small audiences: "The English Pa-

tient," "Fargo," "Shine" and "Secrets and Lies." Only "Jerry Maguire" was released by a major Hollywood studio.



Stuart Craig and Stephanie McMillan beam after winning for Best Art Direction for "The English Patient."



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Sandra Bullock clowns around for photographers at backstage during the ceremonies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MICHAEL DIAZ,
Plaintiff,
VS.
HERMAN VINCENT CEPEDA,
VICENTE I. CEPEDA and NATIONAL
UNION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF PITTSBURGH, PA.,
Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-150

SUMMONS

TO: DEFENDANT HERMAN
VINCENT CEPEDA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
and notified to file any answer you wish
to make to the Complaint, a copy of
which is given you herewith, within thirty
(30) days after service of this Summons
upon you, to deliver or mail a copy of
your answer to THE LAW OFFICE OF
JOHN A. MANGLONA, P.C., the
Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is
Post Office Box 2852, Saipan, MP
96960, 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
Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared
and signed for you by your counsel and
sent to the Clerk of this Court by
messenger or mail. It is necessary for
you to appear personally until further
notice.

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

By Order of the above Court.
Dated this 12th day of February,
1997.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Miriam O. Baker,
Plaintiff,
versus
Ricky O. Baker,
Defendant.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-1176

ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE
MOTION by Petitioner for an Order of this
Court requiring the Respondent to answer
or otherwise plead herein and permitting
service to be made by publication pursuant
to 7 CMG Secs. 1301 and 1302:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the
Respondent shall be served by publication
of this Order in a local newspaper of general
circulation for four consecutive weeks and
by posting a copy of this Order on the public
bulletin board at the Court House in Susupe,
Saipan for two (2) weeks.

The Respondent is further ORDERED
to answer the Amended Summons and
Complaint for Divorce or otherwise plead
in this action within (30) days from the final
date of publication in the newspaper. If
Respondent fails to respond or otherwise
plead as ordered herein, judgment by
Default may be entered against him.
Dated this 12th day of March, 1997.

/s/ EDWARD MANIBUSAN, Associate Judge

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INVITATION TO BID**

ITB NO.: ITB97-0092
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 2, 1997 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA,
THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE
SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR
FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND
SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND
SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO
4:30 P.M.)

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**CLOSE OUT SALE !!!****NP SHOPPING CENTER**

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House . . .

Continued from page 1

rates with or without the reorgani-
zation.

He said even if the E.O. would
lead to reduced power rates, it
would only mean that the people
would pay higher taxes to subsidize
the water and sewer opera-
tions.

The Senate rejected E.O. 97-1
last March 12, and Benavente has
said that he will lobby for a similar
action by the House.

Tenorio said last week that if
the House votes against the E.O.,
he would submit a bill for a reduction
of power rates.

He said his E.O., which pro-
poses to split CUC into two new
agencies, the Marianas Power
Authority (NMPA) and the Northern
Marianas Water Authority (NMWA),
would lead to lower power rates.

CUC's sewer and water divi-
sion is currently losing money,
Tenorio added, and has to be sub-
sidized by the power division,
which is making money.

Tenorio said separating the di-
visions into agencies on their own
would lead to reduced power rates.
He said his E.O. is "in the spirit"
of the Interior Department-CUC
partnership agreement, and would
lead to an eventual privatization
of the utility company.

There is nothing unusual with
his E.O., he said, citing the ex-
ample of Guam.

With the CUC's present set-up,
power consumers are subsidizing
water and sewer operations.

When told that a government-
contracted study proposed a 35.8
percent increase in the power rates,
Tenorio said, "No way," adding
that he will oppose any plans to
hike power rates.

The Senate, in a session on Rota,
unanimously voted to reject the
E.O., saying that the proposed
reorganization is "flawed" and
"unpersuasive."

Tenorio has expected the Sen-
ate to reject the executive order,
which was submitted to the Leg-
islature last Feb. 28, but said he is
"hoping" that there will be not
enough votes in the 18-member
House to reject it.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GENERAL MANAGER - who has at least four to six years managerial
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ASSISTANT MANAGER - who has at least four to six years work
experience in assisting a Scuba Diving and travel agency. Qualified applicant
will direct and coordinates through subordinates, management personnel,
scuba diving and travel operation and control activities in incoming and
outgoing of patrons. Reviews agents schedules and bookings. Assists the
General Manager in conducting operations.

Salary ranges from \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00 per month depending on experience.

ACCOUNTANT - A Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in
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Applicants with Korean language skills helpful.

Interested applicants should mail their application with resume to
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Telephone calls will not be accepted.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

RFP NO. RFP97-0090
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OPENING DATE: APRIL 2, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA,
THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE
SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PRO-
CUREMENT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS
MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING
WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID**

ITB NO.: ITB97-0091
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 2, 1997 TIME: 2:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA,
THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE
SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR
FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND
SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND
SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO
4:30 P.M.)

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**Marianas Variety
Classified Ads Section****Employment Wanted****Job Vacancy
Announcement**

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dba Star Ichiban Karaoke Club Tel. 288-
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01 OPERATIONS AGENT-Salary:
\$3.05-\$3.25 per hour
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Marianas Freight Services Tel. 233-
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10 MASON-Salary:\$2.90 per hour
12 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.90 per hour
Contact: GTS ENTERPRISES, INC. dba
GTS Construction Tel. 234-8803(3/26)W228311

01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JAGUAR LTD. dba James-Co
Tel. 234-8804(3/26)W228314

05 SINGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WORLD INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATION dba Russian Roulette
Tel. 234-8804(3/26)W228313

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.25 per hour
Contact: NIZELKI INTERNATIONAL
SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba Discotheque
GIG Tel. 234-5050(3/26)W64837

01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIR-
Salary:\$3.75 per hour
Contact: JOSEPH C. ADA dba Ada's
Apartment Tel. 234-6854(3/26)W228320

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05-5.00
per hour
Contact: ASKUS (SAIPAN), INC. dba
Creative Pacific Union Tel. 235-3456(3/26)W228327

02 LAUNDRY WORKER-Salary:\$3.05
per hour
Contact: FABRICLEAN OF CNMI, INC.
dba Marianas Cleaner Tel. 234-6239(3/26)W64852

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILD-
ING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ALLIANCE ENTERPRISES,
INC. Tel. 322-2996(3/26)W228326

01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-3.25
per hour
Contact: PAULO A. BASTO dba P. Basto
Plumbing & Electrical Services Tel. 288-
0291(3/26)W228325

01 AIRCON MECHANIC-Salary:
\$600.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: HERBERT A. AZON dba JH
Enterprises Tel. 234-6710(4/2)W228472

20 PRESSER-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per
hour
05 QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICIAN-
Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
05 PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR-Sal-
ary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
14 PACKER (HAND)-Salary: \$2.90-3.05
per hour
01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary:
\$2.90-4.00 per hour
04 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$2.90-4.00
per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Sal-
ary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
02 SUPERVISOR, SHIPPING & RE-
CEIVING-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:
\$2.90-3.05 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: 2.90-3.05 per
hour
230 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-
Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
24 CUTTER (MACHINE)-Salary: \$2.90-
3.05 per hour
01 FACTORY MANAGER-Salary:
\$2.90-7.00 per hour
06 MESS COOK-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per
hour
Contact: US-CNMI DEVELOPMENT
CORP. Tel. 234-5821(4/2)W228473

01 TOUR COORDINATOR-Salary:
\$800.00 per month
Contact: KOREA TOURISM INC. Tel.
233-3001(4/2)W228474

01 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN KORESCO CORPO-
RATION dba Saipan Koresco Resort
Club Tel. 288-6001(4/2)W228475

01 CLASSROOM TEACHER-Salary:
\$594.60 bi-weekly
Contact: SR. MARY LOUISE
BALZARINI, MMB, PRINCIPAL/SIS-
TER REMEDIOS EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEV. CTR. Tel. 234-6247(4/2)W228477

02 HE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per
hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-
2700(4/2)W228478

01 POKER ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: DOMINGO P. FAJARDO dba
Fajardo's Enterprises Tel. 234-3956(4/2)W228482

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TSK-ECG JOINT VENTURE
Tel. 288-7166(4/2)W228480

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$1,200.00
per month
Contact: ELENA G. AGUON dba E & J
Enterprises Tel. 256-0414(4/2)W228481

05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AMUSEMENT CORP.
dba Star Ichiban Karaoke Club Tel. 288-
4888(3/26)W228299

05 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-
Salary:\$2.90 per hour
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-
9555(3/26)W228309

05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
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Contact: JAGUAR LTD. dba James-Co
Tel. 234-8804(3/26)W228314

05 SINGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WORLD INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATION dba Russian Roulette
Tel. 234-8804(3/26)W228313

10 SECURITY GUARD-Salary:\$3.05
per hour
Contact: GTS SECURITY, INC. Tel. 234-
8803(3/26)W228312

10 MASON-Salary:\$2.90 per hour
12 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.90 per hour
Contact: GTS ENTERPRISES, INC. dba
GTS Construction Tel. 234-8803(3/26)W228311

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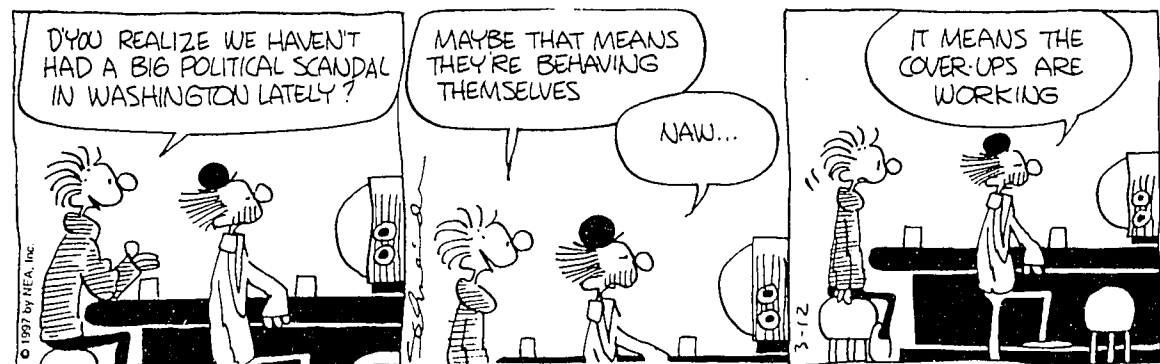
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01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05-5.00
per hour
Contact: ASKUS (SAIPAN), INC. dba
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EEK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



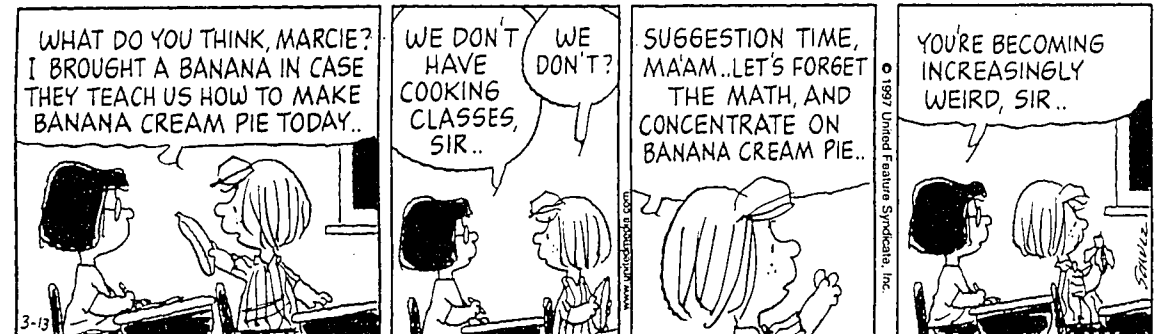
Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are a physical, volatile and rather emotional individual, not nearly as adept at balancing the emotional and the intellectual as most of your Aries brothers and sisters. Too often you can be counted on to fly off the handle in some way, merely because you have come up against a situation that is not to your liking. If that were the only excuse needed to react in such a way, the whole world would be at odds with itself every minute of every day! You must learn to control yourself — and particularly your temper — if you really wish to get on in the world.

On the positive side, you have so many talents that it is likely that you can pick and choose for yourself from a wide variety of career options. You are not the kind who likes to work in solitude, however, and it's probable that you will choose work which brings you into contact with a wide audience of sorts.

Also born on this date are: Marcus Allen, football player; Alan Arkin, James Caan, Leonard Nimoy, actors; Vicki Lawrence, actress and comedian; Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice; Diana Ross, singer and actress.

DATE BOOK

March 26, 1997

Today is the 85th day of 1997 and the seventh day of spring

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1892, American poet Walt Whitman died. On this day in 1979, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin signed the Camp David Peace Accord.

On this day in 1992, cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returned to Earth after having spent 313 days aboard the Mir

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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may have difficulty rising in the morning, but when you remember what you are looking forward to, you'll spring out of bed!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — At home, things may seem to be in the midst of a minor slowdown, but someone is getting ready to spring some surprising news on you very soon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You should be able to do today what many Aries natives do best: capitalize on an error made by someone else. Do not gloat, however!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be ready to move on in attitude and enthusiasm, but the fact is that you don't yet have the experience you need to progress successfully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone who is looking for your specific comments will ask for them today; do not volunteer any opinions or information at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — In trying to help out, you may actually be promoting someone else's

bad behavior. There are times in which it is best simply to let go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You will want to take better care of yourself throughout this possibly confusing day. Take care that you don't try to impress the wrong people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be paying today for the late night you spent last night. If so, remember that you can only do so much without asking for assistance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You will be in very good shape to accomplish a major goal today, but because a friend asks for help you may want to postpone your efforts a while.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — No one is expecting you to do the impossible today — except, quite possibly, yourself. Lighten up, and realize you're only human.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — What you say to others in moments of high stress today will be quite telling. Many will realize just whom they've been dealing with over time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Your memories are likely to take you back repeatedly to a favorite place and time today. Take care you don't get so lost you can't get back!

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space station.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Frost (1874-1963), poet; Tennessee Williams (1911-1983), playwright; Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-), U.S. Supreme Court justice; is 67; Leonard Nimoy (1931-), actor; is 66; Erica Jong (1942-), writer; is 55; Bob Woodward (1943-), journalist; is 54; Diana Ross (1944-), singer; is 53; Marcus Allen (1960-), football player; is 37.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1992, boxer Mike Tyson began serving a six-year prison sentence for rape.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "No really great song can ever attain full purport till long after the death of its singer — till it has accrued and incorporated the many passions, many joys and sorrows,

it has aroused." — Walt Whitman

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1991, strong winds blew down trees and powerlines and damaged homes from Arizona to Kansas.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (March 23) and last quarter (March 31).

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America's space program has provided consumers with countless spin-offs, including ultra-efficient insulation for fishing boats, rare book preservation via special deacidification techniques, and special bras to prevent shoulder and back strain.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Israeli airline (2 wds.)
- 5 Lucie's dad
- 9 Decay
- 12 Ireland
- 13 — the finish line
- 14 One (Sp.)
- 15 Negligent
- 17 TV collie
- 19 Similar in kind
- 21 Rosters
- 22 Of fluffy cloud
- 26 Italian river
- 27 Turn inside out
- 28 Ms. Ryan
- 30 Cry
- 33 Film'som's Apollo Creed (init.)
- 34 Cold symptom
- 37 Richmond's St.
- 38 Outer (prefix)

40 Author Anais

- 41 Heavens
- 43 Baseball's Cobb
- 45 Excess
- 47 Last
- 50 Abominable snowman
- 51 African —
- 53 Houston cager
- 57 Entire
- 58 Hindu queen
- 60 Flight prefix
- 61 Witness
- 62 Dies —
- 63 Actress
- Whitfield

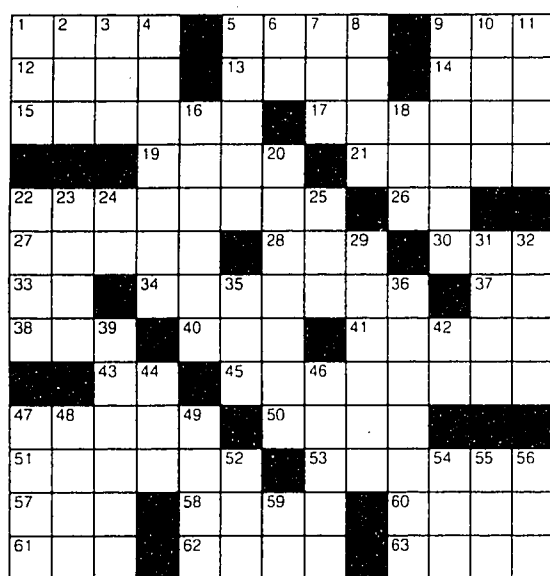
Answer to Previous Puzzle

TITO NICK NOW
ACER TONE ODE
NIMBUS NM DOT
INEE POURS
TROTTLING FL
ASTAR VET EAR
PT LUX NUT GI
SUP EIN NUDES
UP IRONSIDE
JULIA ALEC
ATL SB SLAVES
MAE IAGO NEVE
SHY ATON YEAR

3-26 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate

DOWN

- 1 Ending with election
- 2 Fabricate
- 3 — wrestling
- 4 Free time
- 5 — Duck
- 6 — garde
- 7 — soda
- 8 Type style (abbr.)
- 9 Actress Rene and family
- 10 "Step —!"
- 11 "Little piggies"
- 16 Moroccan ruler
- 18 Small taste
- 20 Within one's power
- 22 Singer
- 23 T-Y linkup
- 24 Myself
- 25 Dry, as wine
- 29 "In the —" (Presley tune)
- 31 Completed
- 32 Theda —
- 35 Tear
- 36 Moral
- 39 Film'som's Lawrence of Arabia
- 42 — Chi Minh
- 44 Mr. Brynner
- 46 Uncanny
- 47 Ms. Gardner, et al.
- 48 Choler
- 49 TV's Hatcher
- 52 "— Baby"
- 54 — lime pie
- 55 Seabird
- 56 2,000 lbs.
- 59 Sodium symbol



KidSpot™

by Dick Rogers

SCHOOL DAZE

BILLY COMPLAINED TO HIS TEACHER THAT THE SCHOOL EXAM WAS RIGGED. HOW COULD HE TELL? THE ANSWER IS HIDDEN IN THE SQUARES THAT ADD UP TO 13.

BECAUSE THE SMART STUDENTS GOT ALL THE

7+3=	9+4=	15-2=	6+5=
T	G	O	H
8+5=	17-4=	14-2=	10+3=
O	D	C	G
8+8=	19-6=	11+2=	15-3=
A	R	A	L
19-6=	7+6=	9+5=	14-1=
D	E	M	S

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ANS: GOOD GRADES

CHEVY CHASE

VEGAS VACATION

Thursday 7:00
Friday 7:00
Saturday 3:00
7:00
9:15

Showtimes 234-FILM

Top . . .

Continued from page 20

The Dart Busters have more wins than Red Dog but the latter had a better winning percentage to remain in solo second. The Dart Busters have a 66-55 slate for third.

The Shockers increased their lead in the B Division after racking eight victories in 11 assignments.

The Pacific Isle team hiked its record to 85-36 for the most wins in the tournament to lead White Trash and the Angus Beef Eaters by seven wins.

The Oleai Beach and Pacific World teams sport identical 78-43 records for joint second and third.

The Blind Navigators continue to remain as the team to beat in the C Division. The Navigators padded their overall slate to 80-41 after adding eight more wins against three losses.

The Little Monsters are second nine wins adrift of the leaders with a 71-50 mark. Rudy's Dominant Mikes kept the theirhold of third place with a 67-54 tally.

Mii and Suzi went almost unbeaten emerging triumphant in 10 out of 11 outings but their efforts were not enough to snatch the lead from idle Bobby and Dinabut was sufficient to give them the second spot in the Mixed Doubles Division.

Bobby and Dina's superior winning percentage, 62.73% (69-41) as compared to Mii and Suzi's 60.33% (73-

48), enabled them to remain on top the bracket.

Erstwhile leaders, PJ's, fell to third after going 4 of 11 for an overall total of 64-47.

Bud Light Dart League

Standings as of March 17, 1997

Team Name	W	L	Pct
Pacific Trading "Life Beer FBI"	78	32	70.91
Mom's Round Two "Bad Boyz"	38	43	38.38
Pacific Amusement "Masters"	37	62	37.37
EP's "This is It"	0	0	0

A-Division:	W	L	Pct
Johnson's "Pugua Power"	78	43	64.46
Team Red Dog	62	48	56.36
Dart Busters	66	55	54.55
Manny's Flyboyz II	65	56	53.72
Oleai Beach Restaurant	61	60	50.41
Lo Cash	58	63	47.93
Tom's Golf Club Repair "Tommy Monors"	52	58	47.27
Riley's Cafe	0	0	0

B-Division:	W	L	Pct
Pacific Isle "Shockers"	85	36	70.25
Oleai Beach "White Trash"	78	43	64.46
Pacific World "Angus Beef Eaters"	78	43	64.46
Johnson's "Pescado 2%	64	57	52.89
Calvo's "Out Throats"	62	59	51.24
Dart Busters	56	54	50.91
Dart Busters	54	57	48.63
STS "Snipers"	53	68	43.80
Tom's Golf Club Repair 2	46	64	41.82
Victoria's Secrets	47	74	38.84
Sigman Computer Services "Team VCS"	46	75	38.02

C-Division:	W	L	Pct
Johnson's "Blind Navigators"	80	41	66.12
Tom's Golf Club Repair "Little Monsters"	71	50	58.58
Rudy's "Dominant Mikes"	67	54	55.37
Bad Company	54	56	49.09
Pacific World "Angus Beef Eaters"	58	63	47.93

Pacific World:	W	L	Pct
Pacific World "Angus Beef Eaters"	57	64	47.11
Oleai "Angels"	51	70	42.15
Mixed Doubles Division:			
Bobby & Dina	69	41	62.73
Mii & Suzi	73	49	60.33
PJ	63	47	57.27
Dina & Jean	44	44	50.00
Mahon & Lydia	39	49	44.32
Mike & Sheila	43	58	42.63
Pat & Ted	30	47	38.56
Rudy & Miles	35	64	35.35

Marshall Islands' tennis program gets ITF boost

By Giff Johnson

Majuro - Tennis development in the Marshall Islands which is "pretty far behind other small islands in the Pacific region" depends on greater local participation and a change in attitude, said the Fiji-based regional director of the International Tennis Federation.

ITF's Daniel O'Connell visited Majuro this week and said in an interview that he was impressed to see the increased activity of the Marshall Islands Tennis Federation.

Serious development of young tennis players will happen once coaches begin to be paid for their time, said O'Connell, who is in charge of tennis development in the Pacific region for the ITF. "If people pay for something, it will develop," he said. "Everywhere that coaches are earning money, the tennis program progresses."

Five years ago, few coaches in the Pacific region were making money for helping to develop tennis local talent. In the South Pacific, however, that has now changed dramatically, with many coaches now working on a full time basis, O'Connell said.

He said the MITF's plan to expand junior tennis development through a school coaching program is the right way to go. The school program is free for the students, but O'Connell said that the community needs to pay for tennis lessons to make the tennis improvement program work in the long run.

The ITF, through its regional office in Fiji, will be assisting the Marshall Islands program in a number of areas. ITF encourages all of its member countries to participate in regional tennis tournaments, and provides the majority of support toward air fares and other travel costs.

If Marshall Islands players win in sub-regional (within Micronesia) tournaments, they become part of a north Pacific team that goes for regional competitions in other parts of the Pacific. If they win in the regional, they get to play in a six week tennis circuit in Australia or New Zealand, that culminates in being able to go to the Australian Open.

As Marshall Islands players get better and can compete on a regional level, they'll have the opportunity to compete with other Pacific island students to attend a special tennis school that ITF runs in Fiji.

Right now, high school students from Nauru, Saipan, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Fiji attend academic classes during the day, and have two tennis workouts each day in the mornings and evenings at this school in Lautoka, Fiji. The school opens up opportunities for the best young tennis players to play in top regional tournaments, as well as get a first class education making them eligible for scholarships to U.S. universities, O'Connell said.

For the Marshall Islands, all of these opportunities are in the future. The key now, said O'Connell, is to focus on developing interest among young tennis players so that the country can begin turning out competitive players.

"If the Marshall Islands Tennis Federation starts a good juniors program here, with tournaments and training clinics in the schools, the path will be started toward sub-regional competition," O'Connell said.

Four . . .

Continued from page 20

MGD is expected to go to its dreaded 1-2-3 punch composed of Tony Diaz, Ed Diaz, and Jess Dela Cruz. Tony, Ed and Dela Cruz have been the most dominating and consistent players in the MGD lineup.

For the Sunrisers to neutralize the trios' explosive games, defense will be the key in tonight's game plan.

Jeff Diaz, Steve Rasa and Tony Benavente are expected to provide scoring support as MGD hopes to rebound from lopsided loss to the Wheels in

Marshall . . .

Continued from page 20

Marshall culture. It was the main craft used for fishing and food gathering in the traditional Marshall culture. Korkor racing is also considered as a very important sport until today.

The historic national race will feature a four mile men's and women's race in a course set at the new Outrigger property.

"We are so proud to be spon-

Lakers . . .

Continued from page 20

all-around game. Look at the numbers - we outrebounded them, outshot them, had more steals. The numbers don't lie."

The Lakers' lead remained at 11 going into the fourth quarter, and Knight scored the first three baskets on a layup, a two-handed dunk off one of his six offensive rebounds and a finger-roll follow shot after rebounding his own miss.

Knight then blocked a shot by Kerry Kittles, his fourth of the game, and

Appleby . . .

Continued from page 1

Lizama, Bo Sung Kim, and Andrew Joseph Camacho -- robbed the store last Nov. 13.

He said they smoked marijuana when they committed the crime.

Appleby was charged with murder in the first degree, two

Rota . . .

Continued from page 1

Varela said there have been complaints of abuses from workers on Rota in the past, "but not as many as these."

Domestic helps and club workers are categorized by the Consulate as a "high risk" sector.

More than 500 of these workers

Population . . .

Continued from page 1

- Palau, 17,270
- Papua New Guinea, 4,181,800
- Pitcairn, 47
- Solomon Islands, 395,200
- Tokelau, 1,500
- Tonga, 90,000

their last outing.

Eric Atalig's team, on the other hand, will lean on playmaker Gus Palacios, Edsel Mendoza, Jun Aaron, Robert Quitugua, and Jerry Benavente to exert effort in hurdling their tough assignment tonight.

The rest of the GCS' crew, especially the bench, will have to do more than what they usually do in order to avoid suffering their second loss and the end of their Islandwide campaign.

In the second game, the Aces, still smarting from their surprising defeat to the resurgent Lite Ol' Aces team last Friday, hope to bounce back into contention against the

soring the first annual Marshall Islands Cup," Laverne Salvador

The main race will feature a one-man korkor while the Women's Paddling Race will be composed of two women korkor team.

The Marshall Islands Cup is expected to attract entries from the republic's more than 21 atolls that include Namu, Majuro, Ailinglaplap, Namrik, Arno, Kwajalein and Ebon.

The Marshall Islands Cup, which has the complete support of the iroij or the council

Byron Scott made two free throws to cap a 10-2 run that put Los Angeles ahead 87-70.

"The young kid from Connecticut hurt us big-time," Nets forward Xavier McDaniel said. "We talked about him from the first game. We wanted to be physical and not let him roam, but basically he kicked our butts."

The Nets got no closer than 15 notes of the way.

Rests: @ Reserve centers Jack Haley and Sean Rooks exchanged hard fouls in the fourth quarter. ... Nets guard Jim Jackson was booted

counts of theft, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, five counts of accessory after the fact, conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary, conspiracy to commit robbery, two counts of robbery, and two counts of theft.

He entered into a plea agreement with the government and agreed to testify against his

have managed to secure employment in the CNMI following the lifting of the ban on their deployment to the Commonwealth, in May of last year.

The ban was imposed after a five-man fact-finding team led by Washington DC-based Philippine Labor Attache Manuel Imzon gathered close to 400 pending cases of abuse involving Filipino workers in the CNMI, the bulk of which were on Rota.

•Tuvalu, 9,600
•Vanuatu, 173,900
•Wallis and Futuna, 14,800
•Western Samoa, 165,100
The South Pacific Commission said its estimates were based on the latest and most comprehensive available figures, checked and validated with all national statistics offices.

unpredictable Sunrisers squad.

Expected to lead the Aces' comeback bid are Ric Alegre, streak shooting Junior Rengull, prized slotman Lloyd Hartman, Bob Lee and Keith Gardner.

Despite coming off to a loss from their last outing, the defending champions are still the solid pick to repeat over the Sunrisers. The Aces beat the Sunrisers during their first meeting in the elimination round.

The Sunrisers will go to Jay Moreshita, Clark Ngraidong, Jess Stole, Oscar Masga and Poland Yamada in their bid to extract revenge from the Aces.

of chiefs, encourages all interested parties from other islands to participate in the races.

The Outrigger Marshall Islands Resort is the first full-service hotel to open in the Marshall Islands. It is managed by the Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, a lodging and hospitality company based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

For more information, call 1-800-OUTRIGGER (1-800-688-7444) within US or Canada or call the resort at (692) 625-2525.

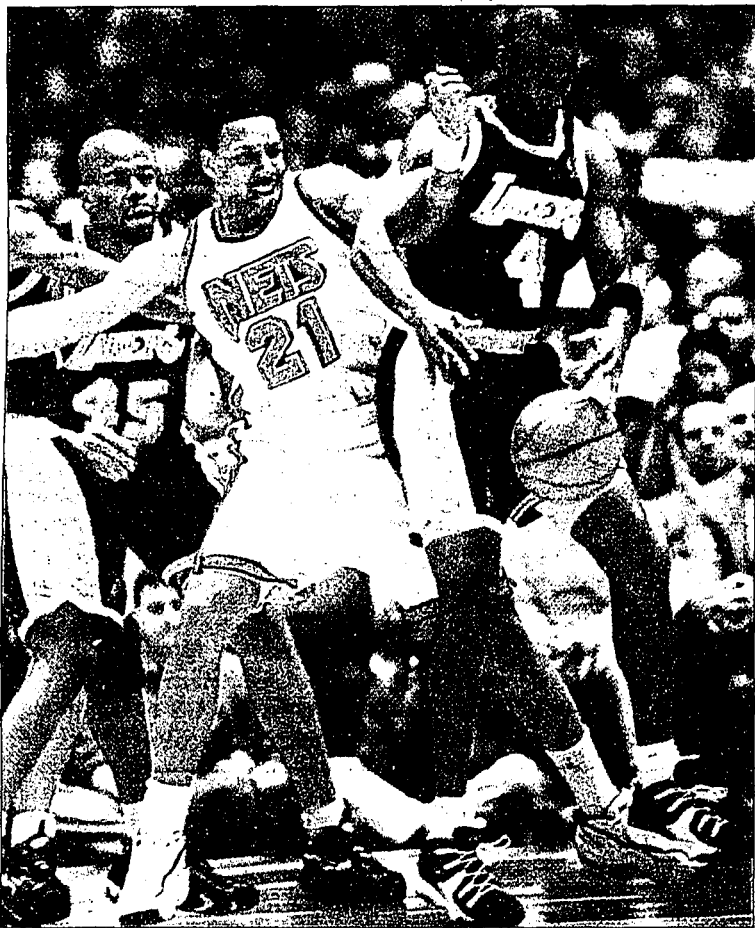
by the crowd for his poor shooting. He finished with five points on 2-for-14 shooting. ... Kendall Gill suffered a laceration above his right eye early in the fourth quarter and did not return. ... The Lakers, who swept the two-game season series, have won six straight against the Nets. ... Los Angeles improved to 29-

SPORTS



National Basketball Association

Lakers rip Nets, 109-84



New Jersey Nets' Kevin Edwards (21) holds off Los Angeles Lakers' Sean Rooks (45) as he gets tangled with Lakers' Byron Scott (4) during the first half Monday night, March 24, 1997, in East Rutherford, N.J.

(AP Photo/Bill Kostroun)

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Rookie Travis Knight, spurred by a pre-game chat about being the "next Jim McIlvaine," had the type of game Monday night that can make him millions in the future.

Knight had 18 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots to break out of a recent funk and the Los Angeles Lakers avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season by beating the New Jersey Nets 109-84 Monday night.

"For a rookie, those are exciting numbers," Lakers coach Del Harris said of Knight's night. "But obviously consistency is the thing we're looking for. A game like this shows what he's capable of."

Knight was a first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bulls, the 29th player taken overall. But the Bulls decided they'd rather release him than guarantee him the three-year contract that all first-round picks must get.

Knight then signed a one-year deal with the Lakers for the minimum rookie salary of \$220,000, and the Lakers will be able to offer him no more than a 20 percent raise for next year.

And with 7-foot centers in short supply around the NBA, Knight knows he stands to get a few lucrative offers when he becomes a free agent next summer.

"I'd like to stay in LA, but with the way things are, it doesn't look like that's going to happen," Knight said. "I try not to think about it too much, but it is my future and it does weigh on my mind."

Knight is aware of the seven-year, \$33 million free agent deal that McIlvaine got last summer from the Seattle SuperSonics, and he was pleased to hear that he'll be the youngest free agent and one of the few available centers next summer.

Asked afterward if the chat made him play a extra hard, Knight smiled, winked and said, "Maybe."

Knight's performance helped make up for a mediocre night by Elden Campbell, who has thrived in most of the 20 games since Shaquille O'Neal went down with a foot injury. Campbell, who has averaged 21 points since O'Neal was injured, finished with 10 points on 5-for-14 shooting.

Knight shot 8-for-12 from the field in tying his season high for points, and he reached double figures for the first

time in 15 games. His eight straight points at the end of the third quarter and beginning of the fourth helped Los Angeles pull away.

Nick Van Exel added 23 points and Eddie Jones 16 for the Lakers, who finished 3-2 on a five-game road trip and bounced back from a 26-point loss to the Orlando Magic on Sunday.

Kerry Kittles had 17 points and Sam Cassell and Kendall Gill 15 each for New Jersey.

The Lakers are 10-10 since O'Neal injured his knee. The victory moved them a half-game ahead of the Houston Rockets in the race for the third-best record in the Western Conference. Los Angeles will play seven of its remaining 13 games at home.

The Lakers pulled ahead for good early in the third quarter as Van Exel scored nine straight points on two layups, a short jumper from the lane and a 3-pointer in an 11-2 run that made it 67-56.

Los Angeles scored 20 of its 25 third-quarter points from inside.

"We shot ourselves in the foot yesterday on national television by shooting too early and too quick," Harris said. "This was more of a good

Continued on page 19

1997 Bud Light Dart League

Top teams keep lead

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

LITE BEER FBI continues to set the pace in the premier Masters Division as four other teams kept their hold of the top spot of their respective groups in the ongoing 1997 Bud Light Dart League.

The Pacific Trading team increased its lead over its closest pursuer to 40 wins after finishing the week with a 78-32 win loss slate to give the team the highest winning percentage in the league with 70.91%.

The Bad Boyz of Mom's Round Two are second with a 38-43 slate while Pacific Amusement's Masters are third toting a 37-62 card.

Johnson's Pugua Power continues to set the pace in the A Division despite having a losing record for the week. Pugua Power went 4-7 but it was enough to give them the lead an overall 78-43 record.

Team Red Dog is second after winning seven of its 11 outings for a 62-48

Continued on page 19

MGD vs GCS; Aces against Sunrisers

Four teams in 'must win' situation

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

TWO TEAMS will remain in contention while two more will have an early vacation as the MGD Brothers, Get Covered Surf, defending champions UMDA Aces and the Solid Builders Sunrisers see action in crucial encounters tonight in the ongoing playoff of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' 1997 Men's Islandwide Basketball

League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

The MGD Brothers will face Get Covered Surf in the opener at 7 while the beleaguered UMDA Aces tangle with the Sunrisers in the nightcap.

With all four teams absorbing their first losses earlier in the double round playoffs, a win is a must to keep their championships bids alive.

Against Get Covered Surf,

Continued on page 19

Marshall Islands Cup set in May

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE OUTRIGGER Marshall Islands Resort Hotel is set to hold the first-ever Marshall Islands Cup on May 1 in the Micronesian Republic.

Participants from Marshall Islands' more than 21 atolls

are slated to test their skills using small sailing canoes called korkor.

"Canoes have played an important role in Marshallese history. With the islands being widely scattered, the Marshallese developed some of the finest canoe-building and navigational skills in the

Pacific. We are so proud to sponsor the first annual Marshall Islands Cup," Laverne Salvador, general manager of the Outrigger Marshall Islands Resort, said.

Korkor has been an indispensable part of the

Continued on page 19



On the go!—Upcoming swimmers are off to a good start in the Men's and Women's Senior Division's 2.5 kilometer race course of the recently concluded 19th Ocean Swim held at the lagoon near Saipan Diamond Hotel. Saipan swimmers dominated the annual swim event sponsored by Hong Kong Bank.

(Photo courtesy of Chuck Jordan)

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US 'interference' hit

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio is "not buying" the Interior Department's "caution" that he should slow down with his plan to split the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. into two separate agencies, his spokesperson said yesterday.

Mark Broadhurst, in an interview, said the governor will not "kowtow to this kind of federal interference."

"This is another example of a 'federal helping hand' that delays progress and creates obstacles to progress," Broadhurst said.

"The governor is irked with this kind of interference and the leaders of the Legislature should also be irked."

In a March 24 letter to Tenorio, Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman said that the executive

PIO says Governor is upset over Stayman letter



Mark Broadhurst

order reorganizing CUC may be in conflict with the partnership agreement between the Interior Department and the utility company.

Broadhurst said the governor disagrees.

"Here we are trying to make CUC more profitable, its services better and cheaper for consumers,

and here comes a middle-level bureaucrat, 10,000 miles away, telling us to be cautious," he said.

Noting that the leaders of the Legislature have been using

Stayman's arguments against the E.O., Broadhurst said the governor "seems to be the only CNMI elected official who has the courage to face" the Insular Affairs director.

All the leaders of the CNMI,
Continued on page 16

BOE seeks emergency on classroom shortage

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

EDUCATION officials, frustrated over the stagnancy of the emergency classrooms project, consider asking Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio anew to declare a state of emergency for the Public School System.

"We have asked that new classrooms be built on an emergency basis. It's been a year now since we made the request and we don't even have a contractor yet," Board of Education chairman Don A. Farrell said at yesterday's board meeting.

PSS Commissioner William Torres first sought the emergency declaration in May last year, citing the "critical" shortage of classrooms in the Commonwealth.

Tenorio declined Torres' request, and instead approved the

proposal for the construction of emergency classrooms.

The Legislature later enacted a bill appropriating \$3.8 million for the construction of 60 classrooms throughout the CNMI.

In October last year, the Department of Public Works proposed to award the contract for the project to Demapan Engineering, but the second placed bidder, Marianas Pacific, protested the pre-bidding result, claiming the procurement regulations were not complied with.

The Office of Public Auditor is now reviewing the preliminary result of the bidding. More than 10 companies submitted proposal.

At yesterday's meeting, board members expressed frustration over the continued delay in the construction of the classrooms.

Continued on page 16

Lower reconnect fee starts today

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

LOWER reconnection fees take effect today and will apply to those whose electrical lines are disconnected, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday.

CUC Public Information Officer Pamela A. Mathis explained that households which got disconnected yesterday or on previous days and are reconnected today would still be charged the previous higher reconnection fee of \$150,

and not the newly approved \$75.

The new reconnection charge was adopted by the CUC board two weeks ago, after the board resolution lowering the fee was first published in the Commonwealth Register.

The new fee takes effect after a required second publication in the Register. Only residential customers are benefited by the lower rate.

The resolution stated that the fee was reduced by 50 percent to "reflect the average salary

and community standards."

Both houses of the legislature had also requested the CUC to reduce the fee to \$75.

According to the CUC, however, the actual cost of electrical disconnection and reconnection is \$518.52, which it hopes to recover through improved collection of bills.

A CUC report said that from October 1996 to January 1997, an average of 260 got disconnected and 269 reconnected.



Emergency medical technicians administer first aid to a man who was injured in a three-vehicle collision along Middle Road in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon.

Photo by Erel Cabatbat

Hong Kong handover to cause problems-- DOLI

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GIVEN its grossly undermanned state, the Department of Labor and Employment could be faced with a "monstrous" labor and immigration problem when Hong Kong reverts back to mainland China a few months from now.

"We are expecting an influx of people from Hong Kong coming in... that's why we are getting prepared," said DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan.

He said DOLI intends to open a

liaison Office in Hong Kong to "better facilitate" entry of tourists, workers and businessmen to the CNMI.

"We will use that office to screen people coming in. We'll use it to cut the time spent for people to come in," Sablan said.

He said the Tinian casinos are also expected to play a role in the expected influx.

Mainland China's estimated 10 million-strong active labor force is expected to spill over Hong Kong and the rest of the Pacific

Rim carrying with it workers that could be dislodged from the former British colony as the reversion takes fullswing on July 1.

This, a ranking DOLI official requesting anonymity said, is expected "to give us a big headache in ensuring that no illegal workers get in."

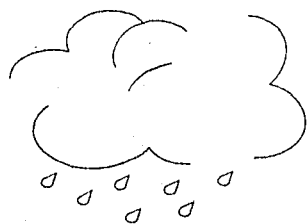
There already are an estimated 5,000 illegally employed and overstaying foreigners in the CNMI.

Continued on page 16



Thomas O. Sablan

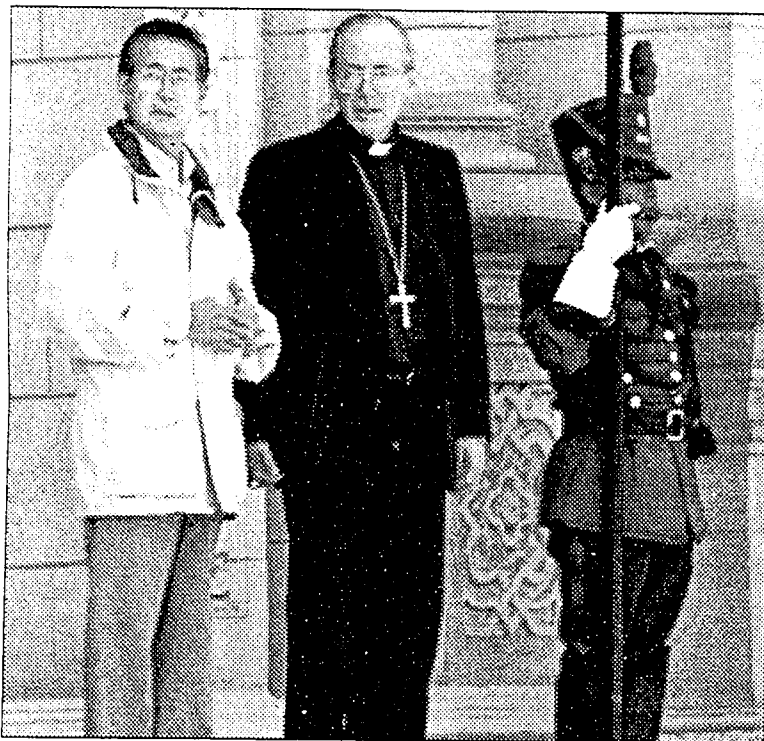
WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Reports on Peruvian crisis:

Mediators offer deal



Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, left, walks out of the presidential palace accompanied by Vatican mediator for the hostage crisis Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, upon a meeting in Lima, Monday. AP Photo

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Peruvian rebels holding 72 hostages would fly to Cuba and 17 of their jailed comrades would be released in exchange for releasing their captives, Lima newspapers reported today.

The deal, reportedly being considered by the government and the leftist Tupac Amaru captors, would mean both sides would have to cede ground on the key issue in negotiations.

Talks stalled this month over the rebels' demand that at least 300 jailed comrades be freed. President Alberto Fujimori said freeing the prisoners was out of the question.

Citing unidentified sources close to the negotiations, the opposition La Republica newspaper said Fujimori and rebel leader Nestor Cerpa had agreed to the proposal, with details to be worked out.

But El Sol, another Lima newspaper, said the two sides had not yet reached agreement. It cited sources linked to a panel of mediators trying to end the standoff, which began Dec. 17, when the guerrillas stormed the Japanese ambassador's compound during a cocktail party.

Under the deal, a group of rebels would fly with some hostages and a multimillion-dollar payoff to Cuba, which has offered shelter for the rebels if a settlement is reached. The hostages would be freed in Cuba.

Cerpa would stay with the remaining guerrillas and hostages in the compound and travel later to Cuba, where the remaining captives would be released.

La Republica said Peru had offered to fly the rebels in a Peruvian air force plane. Cerpa rejected that, saying he wanted a Cuban commercial airliner instead.

Both El Sol and La Republica said the list of the 17 rebels to be freed includes Nancy Gilvonio, Cerpa's common-law wife.

It was not clear whether the proposal was part of a settlement that mediators reportedly plan to propose in the coming days. That deal includes a multimillion-dollar payoff and asylum abroad for the rebels, as well as the early release of some comrades.

China says Dalai Lama a 'schemer'



Dalai Lama

BEIJING (AP) - China is challenging the Dalai Lama's insistence he does not advocate independence for his Tibetan homeland, saying Tuesday that the exiled religious leader was an insincere schemer.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai accused the Dalai Lama of "misleading the press and confusing people's minds" while harboring his aim to split Tibet from China.

The Dalai Lama, now on his first visit to Taiwan, said he only wants Tibet to have true autonomy, not independence, from Beijing. As spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, he has said his six-day trip is religious and cultural.

But China views both the Dalai Lama and Taiwan's leaders as being bent on splitting their home regions from China. It regards Taiwan as a renegade province and suspects President Lee Teng-hui wants to lead the island to outright independence.

"Dalai on the one hand internationally spreads this argument that he does not want Tibetan independence and on the other hand everywhere engages in activities to split the motherland," Cui said.

"This proves he fundamentally lacks sincerity and has not abandoned his advocacy of so-called Tibetan independence."

Chinese troops entered Tibet in 1950. Since the Dalai Lama fled in 1959, Tibet has been subjected to waves of harsh repression. The latest campaign aims to purge Buddhist monasteries of clergy who remain loyal to the Dalai Lama and the independence cause.

Although the Dalai Lama has urged peaceful resistance to Chinese rule, the independence movement has grown more violent. At least four bombs went off in Tibet last year. The last one, on Dec. 25, damaged Lhasa government buildings and injured five people.

DOLI deports 2 convicts

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

TWO Filipinos convicted of a felony case were deported yesterday by the Department of Labor and Immigration.

The two, identified as Marifi C. Gopez and Hermogenes B. Hiponia, were recently charged with eight counts of forgery and theft respectively in connection with the \$8,400

Instead of serving 5- and 10-year sentences in jail

in checks they allegedly encashed last year.

The bank notes belong to their employer, Yung Chen, proprietor of the Ming Palace restaurant.

Hiponia was sentenced to five years while Gopez was meted a 10-year imprison-

ment.

The two were however deported without having fully served their sentence.

DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan explained the duo's deportation was made on condition that they not be allowed entry to the Commonwealth

in the future.

Gopez' entry permit expired April last year while Hiponia supposedly still had until Aug. 20 this year to legally stay on the island.

The felony case against the latter has nullified the validity of his entry permit, according to Sablan.

Gopez has been on the island since Sept. in 1994 and was employed as Chen's accountant.

She was found to have forged the checks between July 19 and Sept. 5 last year, two months after her alleged live-in partner arrived on the island.

DOLI sources said the two "were having a good time with the money" at the time of their arrest.

Speaker shuns override, eyes bills' reintroduction



Diego T. Benavente

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE SENATE is "all set" to override the vetoes on two bills the Legislature considers important, but Speaker Diego T. Benavente said Tuesday that there may be not enough votes in the House of Representatives.

An override requires the 2/3 affirmative vote of the 9-member Senate and the 18-member House. Instead of an override, Benavente (R-Saipan) said "it may be better" if new versions of the vetoed bills are reintroduced.

"We can probably work out a better piece of legislation which, if the governor vetoes them again, we could easily override."

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio last week vetoed five bills, among them House Bill 10-325, which would establish an autonomous Board of Public Lands, and Senate Bill 10-62, which would require the Legislature's approval of any extension of a state of emergency declaration beyond 60 days.

Both bills are considered "very important" by the Legislature's Republican majority.

Senate President Jesus R. Sablan (R-Saipan), in an inter-

view Tuesday, said the Senate is "ready" to override the vetoes on both bills, but added that he will consult first with Benavente.

In vetoing S.B. 10-62, Tenorio said the legislation authored by Sablan is "unconstitutional."

He said the Legislature does not have any veto power on the governor's emergency power.

He added, however, that he "understands" the concern on the duration of the water emergency, but "it would be within the legitimate scope of (the Legislature's) powers to hold an oversight investigation..."

Tenorio said he would "give all reasonable cooperation to such an investigation."

As for H.B. 10-325, which was authored by Rep. Vicente M. Atalg (R-Rota), Tenorio said he had vetoed a similar bill in June last year, and is "wondering" why the Legislature has sent him the same bill again.

Giving autonomy to the board, Tenorio said, is "the single biggest problem with that system."

Board appointments would be made for political reasons, not based on expertise, experience or integrity, he said.

"Once in office board members were not subject to any meaningful control. The executive director was even less accountable."

Tenorio, shortly after becoming governor in 1994, signed an executive order that abolished the autonomous Marianas Public Lands Corp., transferring its functions to a Division of Public Lands which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The Legislature's Republican leaders, however, have complained that the governor himself is "abusing" his authority over the disposal of public lands.

3 hurt in Middle Road mishap

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A MAN was injured during an accident involving three vehicles along Middle Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

It took several minutes before responding police officers and emergency medical technicians could pull out the victim from the wrecked van with license plate ABD-593.

After providing emergency treatment, medical technicians then transported the victim through an ambulance to the Commonwealth Center.

A girl who was among the passengers of the vehicles cried as she was carried out for safety. The kid was unhurt, the Variety learned.

The accident occurred in front of Dolphin when three vehicles collided. The vehicles involved were a van with license plate ABE-838, van (ABD-593) and a car (AAU-966).

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release today more details about the accident.

In other police report, a 30-year-old woman lost her purse to two

snatchers in Garapan yesterday morning.

The woman told police that while she was walking with a friend two unidentified men approached them.

One of the suspects then grabbed her purse.

The purse contained \$50, a passport and an identification card, the victim said.

In San Roque, an unidentified person/s broke into a container and stole 17 cases of beer and 22 cases of softdrinks at La Fiesta Mall Tuesday morning.

'Crisis' on PSS CIP plan foreseen

By Mar-Vic c. Munar
Variety News Staff

IN THE next seven years, growth rate of student population in the CNMI will increase by 2.4 percent annually, and the Public School System will need \$24 million for additional classrooms and school buildings.

This prediction has come true," she said.

For the next seven years, Hanson stated in the CIP Plan, PSS will need \$24 million "which includes the \$8.4 million in funds currently appropriated."

"This result in a net need of \$15.68 million for new schools and classrooms over seven years or an average of \$2.14 million annually."

She said there is also a need to replace "some critically deteriorated classrooms and buildings resulting from lack of funds."

Rehabilitation of deteriorated facilities will cost \$15.5 million or an average of \$2.14 million annually, according to Hanson's projection. "Critical maintenance/upgrade

modate the projected student population growth.

In 1992, Hanson predicted a housing crisis by 1993-1994 "unless funding was made available for the identified projects."

"This prediction has come true," she said.

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Rehabilitation of deteriorated facilities will cost \$15.5 million or an average of \$2.14 million annually, according to Hanson's projection. "Critical maintenance/upgrade

projects such as roof replacement, flood control, storm drains, lighting replacement, air condition, covered walkways and bus stop shelters are needed," she said.

Hanson said PSS needs a steady revenue sources to carry out these capital improvement priorities at a level approximately \$5.58 million yearly or \$39.38 million over the next seven years.

"PSS has to continually compete with all other needs in the legislature," she said.

As a result, she said, PSS is unable to set priorities, plan for a long range facility needs or implement facility project "because the funding is inadequate and uncertain."

"PSS cannot attempt to implement a plan without a steady long term income stream specifically allocated for new construction and preventive maintenance of their facilities," Hanson said.

US court enforces camera ban

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE federal district court enforced the other day a two-year-old general order from Judge Alex R. Munson banning cameras inside the lobby of Horiguchi Building while there are court proceedings going on in the courtroom which is on the building's ground floor.

Cameramen from the Marianas Cable Vision and the Saipan Cable, who were in the building lobby for the trial of a Bangladeshi recruiter, were told by the US Marshal Service to leave.

But reporters said it was the first time they were made aware of such an order.

MCV reporter Chau Nguyen, who is also president of the Society of Professional Journalists (CNMI chapter), on the same day wrote a letter to Munson objecting to the "selective enforcement" of the order.

"I believe the selective enforcement of this order prejudices members of the media, since it has never been enforced in the past," Nguyen told Munson.

Munson and Nguyen met yesterday afternoon to discuss and clear the matter.

As SPJ president, Nguyen said she would enjoin all concerned members of the media here to abide by the order.

General Order No. 95-00002, issued on March 8, 1995, by Munson, bans the "contemporaneous broadcasting of proceedings from the courtroom or other court facilities, to the public beyond the courthouse walls."

The courthouse walls shall extend to the entire area of the first floor lobby adjacent to the courtroom, the entire area of the second floor lobby adjacent to the Judge's Chamber and the Office of the Clerk of Court, and the third floor area adjacent to the Grand Jury Room," the order stated.

According to the order, the court may authorize the broadcasting, televising, recording or taking of photographs in the courtroom and its adjacent areas only during "investitive, naturalization, or other ceremonial proceedings."

The order has its basis on a policy adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The policy is applicable to all federal courts.

Judge Munson told Nguyen during their meeting, wherein this reporter was present, that he does not have the

discretion or the authority to waive the policy to suit the time or local custom because "it is a federal law."

He said it is for security reasons that the rule was adopted, following the Oklahoma bombing and OJ Simpson trial incidents.

Allowing the taking of photographs within the courtroom and its vicinity would give terrorists a layout of the courtroom areas, Munson said.

He also said that even if his order had not been enforced in the past, "it does not mean the law has been repealed or abandoned."

"If you got away with it in the past, you were lucky," Munson told Nguyen.

Deputy US Marshal Rex Fuller said that they enforced the order Tuesday when they observed that the mediators were "harassing" court witnesses in the lobby, with the "cameras (trained) on their (witnesses') faces."

"The (cameramen) were interfering with the operation of the court," Fuller said.

Fuller admitted that they had been lax in the past, but after he met with Munson yesterday, he said they had decided to enforce the judge's order from now on.

DPS' 911 lines out of service

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety informed the public yesterday that the main administration phone lines and the 911 emergency line at DPS are temporarily out of service.

DPS in a press release said MTC personnel are currently working on addressing the problem.

Anyone with an emergency

needing the assistance of either the police, ambulance or fire personnel to call 234-6333, said the DPS.

"This number will get your call directly to the police central communications system. You may also contact Fire Station #1 at 234-6222 should you need the assistance of either the ambulance or fire personnel.

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

I mina' bente años gobiernamentota

Ginen: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

GI MAPOS na Lunes i mina' bente un' (21) año deste ke ma'apruueba i kontratan i Covenant. Dañgkulo significasiona este na haane. Lao buente para memegaiña gi entre hita, kulan ordinario na dia 'nai ta kone' i familia man picnic gi kanton tase osino gi lanchu. Para i manmachochochu' gi gobierno, un' haane ni dibadde i apas niha. Lao para ayo i manmachochochu' gi bandan bisnis, un' haane na debi u usune kosake siña manmasueddo i empleao gobiernamentota.

Para ayo i munegosio i Covenant, un' solemne na haane 'nai sige ha akanteha tatte i pasun niha deste tutuhon i negosio, asunto siha 'nai guaha ginaddon, makonfitman ennao na kontrata estake ma'apruueba ni Congresson Amerika ya mafitma as President Gerald Ford. Baraŋka na chalan lao ni uno gi entre siha sumeha estake ma'apruueba i kontrata nu i Congresson Amerika.

Maseha guaha kinentra, i puntun i otro banda para u guaha homlo' na inatungo' pot hafa sustansiaña i kontrata. Lao mas metgot i fumabot ennao na kontrata ya uttimoña felis kareraña pareho ha' guine yan gi pisun Congresson Estados Unidos de America guine na tiempo. Gi katkuet koyentura 'nai un' atan, mauleg sustansiaña ennao na kontra i mafananaan Covenant.

Dispués de todo, guaha siha kumeke diroga atoridat federat ni manae' Marianas guine na kontrata tat komo immigration, sueddo, tax yan direchon taotao Marianas gumubetnan maisa siha. Gi mismo tiempo mafato dañgkulo na konsiderasion ginen hita mismo kao hafa bidata dañgkulo na linache na guaha este siha na chinatsaga ginen lago. Lao dipotsihe taiguine mañan Amerikano i siha ha' ni man apaka' i dinanche. Sen hasan 'nai talie' ha respetu kuturan otro na rasan taotao sa' ha konsidera na i finoña i solu dinanche.

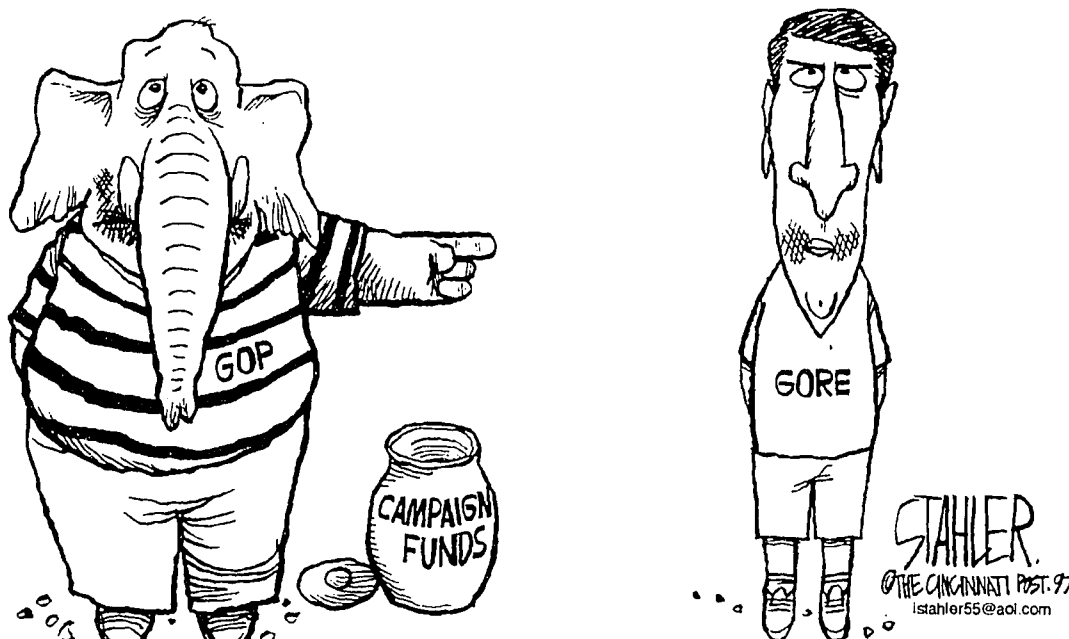
Kontodo ayo siha na offisiat Depattamenton Interior and 'nos kuantos membron Congresson Amerika i umespipia eskuso para u yamag i direchon Marianas gomubietnan maisague' ti mañgontento nu manera 'nai ta opepera gobiernamentota. Ti malago makomprende na problemaman gobiernamentota patte gi maseha mano na sistemaman gobiernamenton demokrasia. Achogha' patgon ni pago ha tutuhon mamokat, siempre u basnag 'an pago kahulo' ya u sige bumasnag estake fitme tumohge gi dos adeñña. Taiguine finapos maseha mano na sistemaman gobiernamentota kontodo Amerika.

Dispués manmalefa este siha na taotague na ti mañaonao bulontariamente manman ayuda 'nai pago ha tutuhon Marianas gumubietnan maisague'. Kulan un' saina ni ha abandona famaguonña ya 'nai ha soda i los probes hinagoñg niha sin ayuduña, matto ya sige' ha aminasa na todo i hachochogue puru lache. Malefa na agas ha abandona i famaguonña ya pago tumalag hahalom para u fan aregla 'nai este sumen atrasao. Alakuenta unogue' gi dicho problema sa' ti ha esgañon i famaguonña guine na tiempo 'nai ha nesesa ayudon sainaña. Taiguine i masusesede gi entalo' kontratarion Marianas ginen i federat.

Lamita patte gi problema i ñaba' yan gueko na kabesa i ta elilihe komo guaddian Marianas pareho ha' guine yan gi menan i Congresson Amerika. Ni uno listo yan preparao dumefende interes Marianas gi este siha na sakudida soluke si Governor Froilan C. Tenorio. I otro siha oficiales ni ta elihe para i lehislatura, kulan mohan manmafañago udu yan taña ya sige man'ensinayao para umake soda' palabras siha pot para uson niha. Lao tinahong fitme na edukasion yan sensian atigo na mimimo para u chogue checho' niha. Namase Marianas gi este na estrakada siha.

Kulan mohan kontrario lokue' si Governor Tenorio 'nai ha matatñgaye i asunto ya hasañge i Congresson Amerika na hu chule' salape' niha lao solta iya Marianas ya u libre gumubietnan maisague' sa' homlo' ekonomiaña pago ya siña tumohge gi dos adeñña. Manmamakilo i pumalo oficiales Marianas sa' entre tiha komprende sustansian fino' Governor Tenorio osino mahasñgune i prohimo pot politikan gueko yan natata.

Gi hilo este na kustumbre, mapot Marianas ha choneg hafa dicho asuntoña sa' memegaiña besis 'nai ta usa hinesguan yan finatane' gi entalo' kabayeros. Manmalefa na ma'elihe gobierno si Señor Froilan Tenorio, yan niha pat ti yan niha. Lastima i puesto ni mafa' masetan halom kusina. Lao sumen namagof sa' maseha i lehislatura ni tinimomon ni Republica na pattida, metgot si Governor Froilan C. Tenorio gi dinispachan asunto yan direchon Marianas gumubietnan maisague'. Ginen este siha na chechoña na guaha mas respeto para iya Marianas ginen i federat yan Congresson Amerika. Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Banned Haitian clan donated to Democrats

WASHINGTON — It didn't take long for one of Haiti's most powerful families to make the journey from political purgatory to the inner sanctum of the Clinton administration.

In 1994, members of Haiti's influential Mevs family were effectively banned from the United States by the Clinton administration. Along with two other families, members of the Mevs clan had their visas blocked as part of the U.S. economic embargo of Haiti.

But not long thereafter—with President Clinton's frenetic re-election campaign in high gear—Mevs family members apparently turned up at a Miami fund-raiser with Vice President Al Gore and at a White House reception in Washington.

In their battle for rehabilitation, access and influence with the administration, the Mevses have employed a number of weapons—including money.

Lords of a large sugar and manufacturing empire, the Mevses have long been open about their desire to influence U.S. political and economic policy toward their tiny impoverished Caribbean nation.

Records filed with the Justice Department show they've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on a well-connected Washington attorney, Gregory Craig, whose job is to lobby key members of the administration and Congress on the family's behalf. At key times they've provided lines of communication between Haiti and Washington.

A partner in the influential Williams & Connolly firm, Craig is a veteran Washington player with extensive experience on Capitol Hill. He was acquainted with the president and first lady while studying law at Yale.

Documents on file with the Justice Department show that Craig lobbied key players on the administration's Haiti policy team on the National Security Council and in the State Department. He also reached out on the Mevses' behalf to ranking Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Craig represented the Mevses from January 1992 until September 1995. Records reviewed by our associate George Clifford III show that from February 1993 until June 1995, the Mevses

paid Craig and his firm \$492,352.51 in fees and expenses.

So it came as a huge disappointment in 1994 when the administration blocked the visas and froze the U.S. assets of some family members. The administration cited concerns that the Mevses had possibly been adversaries of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the former president of Haiti who was ousted by a military coup and then returned to power with America's intervention.

Known for their political astuteness and adaptability the Mevses were soon distributing 8-by-10 color photos of Aristide in their meetings with government officials and business contacts. In Washington, their lawyer worked to counter the ban of his clients. Eventually the ban was lifted.

On December 1995, Youri Mevs made a \$10,000 contribution to the Democratic National Committee, according to documents on file with the Federal Election Commission. Officials at the Democratic National Committee said their records show she attended a Miami fund-raising dinner with Gore.

Five months later, family patriarch Fritz Mevs is quoted in the Village Voice bragging about a White House reception he attended. Members of the Mevs family did not return repeated calls

for comment to their residences and businesses in Haiti and Florida.

While most other foreign donors to the Clinton campaign have remained mum about their motives, the Mevses make no secret of their desire to influence American policy.

The family has also worked hard in recent years to ingratiate itself with the political allies of Aristide, who remains a strong figure behind the scenes in Haiti. By buddying up to the Clinton administration, the Mevses were simultaneously improving their standing with the new regime at home, as well as their business contacts in the United States.

DNC spokeswoman Amy Weiss Tobe said the party was unaware of any documents filed by the family regarding their desire to influence U.S. foreign policy.

"People can come and give a donation with an agenda in mind but policies are made and changed because of what's right for the American public," Weiss Tobe told us, "not because of a donation to a political party."

Even without E.O. 97-1:

'CUC can lower power rates'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATE President Jesus R. Sablan on Tuesday said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can reduce its power rates even without going through a reorganization.

Sablan was reacting to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's saying that it's "okay" if the Legislature rejects his E.O. that would split CUC into two separate agencies, "as long as they find a way to reduce power rates."

The Senate rejected the E.O. last March 12, and Speaker Diego T. Benavente has said that the House is



Jesus R. Sablan

"ready" for a similar action.

Sablan, in an interview, said there is already a new law exempting CUC from the liquid fuel tax.

"That will give them close to \$4 million a year," he said, "so now if they still raise their rates then they're doing so for no other reason."

He added that CUC should have "necessary funds" from the exemption, which should lead to reduced power rates.

"But if they think they don't have enough funds even with the tax exemption, I hope they won't raise their power rates."

However, Sablan said that if CUC hikes its rates, "then they probably don't need the tax exemption, and maybe we should review this, take away the exemption and look for another agency that needs a tax relief."

A government-contracted study has proposed a 35.8 percent increase in CUC's power rates, but Governor Tenorio said last week that he will oppose any plans to hike power rates.

Tenorio, at the same time, said if the House votes against the E.O., he would submit a bill for a reduction of power rates.

He said his E.O., which proposes to split CUC into two new agencies, the Marianas Power Authority (NMPA) and the Northern Marianas Water Authority (NMWA), would lead to lower power rates.

CUC's sewer and water division is currently losing money, Tenorio added, and has to be subsidized by the power division, which is making money.

Benavente said Tuesday, however, that even if the E.O. could lead to reduced power rates, the people would then have to pay higher taxes to subsidize the water and sewer operations.

Social Security reps to visit Tinian and Rota

SOCIAL Security Representatives will be visiting Tinian and Rota during the first week of April to receive applications for Social Security Numbers, to discuss Social Security and SSI benefits and to provide information about the programs administered by Social Security.

Individuals who need SSN's for tax purposes are reminded that this will be Social Security's last visit before the tax filing deadline, the SSA said in a news release.

A representative will be on

Rota on Tuesday, April 1, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Aging Office in Songsong.

A representative will be on Tinian on Wednesday, April 2, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Division of Natural Resources conference room in San Jose.

For more information, Rota residents can call Social Security on Saipan, toll free, at 532-9421. Tinian residents can call, toll free, at 433-9421. The local number on Saipan is 234-6203.

Garapan prostitutes lying low?

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

PROSTITUTION activities in Garapan has taken a "low profile" following the arrest, on Sunday night, of three suspected pimps one of which will be deported today, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan claimed.

Sablan declined to identify the three Chinese nationals believed to have been overstaying on the island for the past two years.

"They were found to be engaged in soliciting patrons for suspected prostitutes," said Sablan.

The three, insiders said, were known "regulars" of "hotel street" or that road in Garapan flanked by the Hyatt and Dai Ichi hotels on one side, and rows of karaoke bars, souvenir shops, and massage parlors on the other.

"It looks like Garapan is getting the message...we don't want them (alleged pimps and prostitutes) there," said Sablan.

He said immigration operatives have been ordered to intensify nightly surveillance operations in the area following Sunday's scatch.

The arrests, put to 13 the total number of Chinese nationals nabbed in Garapan on suspicion

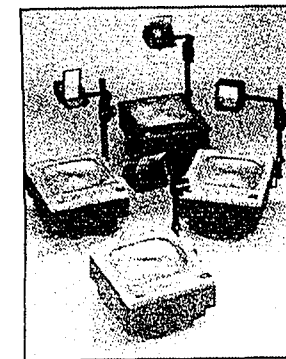
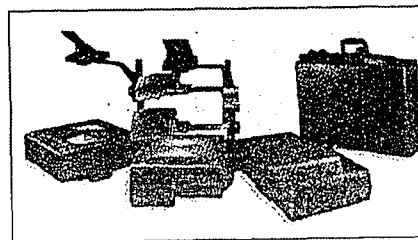
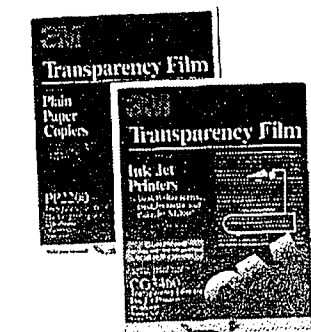
of involvement with a prostitution and extortion ring in the area.

It will be recalled that at least seven Chinese nationals, six of whom were women, were arrested by immigration operatives last month at a massage parlor believed being used as prostitution front by the syndicate.

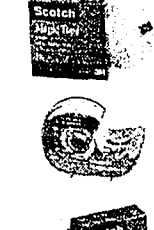
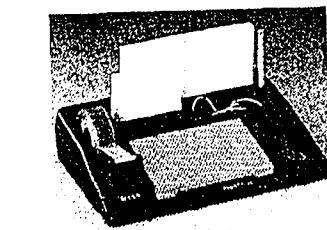
Another batch of three Chinese nationals were also arrested earlier all of whom have been deported.

The three, identified as Xuan Den Huang, Xun Chen Zheng and Jian Ben Yu, were "hard core criminals" according to Sablan.

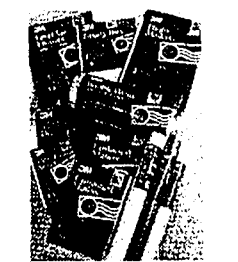
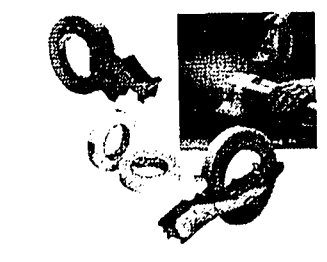
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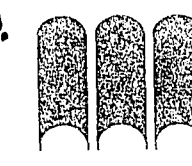
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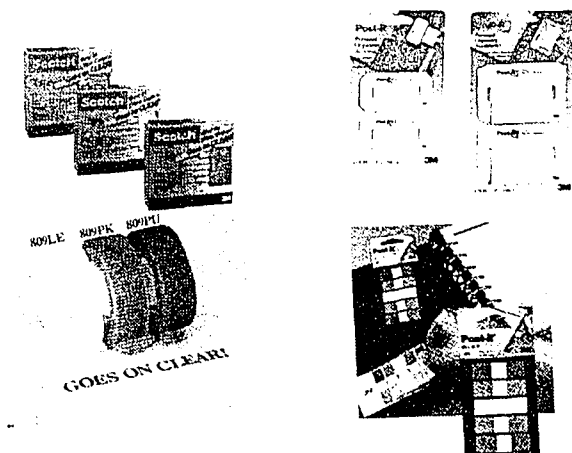
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Tenorio gets tourism input

THE JAPANESE members of Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's Council of Economic Advisers have come up with suggestions on how to strengthen the CNMI's position as a favored destination for Japanese tourists.

The recommendations were aired during the Council's third

annual meeting held recently in Japan. "We all know the Northern Mariana Islands are beautiful," said Tenorio, "but what I want to know is what we have to do to provide added value for tourists coming to Saipan, Tinian and Rota."

According to one member, beyond golf and shopping, there is very little to do for the family-oriented tourist market.

Another suggested the government should "fix the roads and power as well as the rest of the infrastructure."

Others warned the CNMI to carefully watch the demographics of Japan as the population gets older and tailor attractions accordingly.

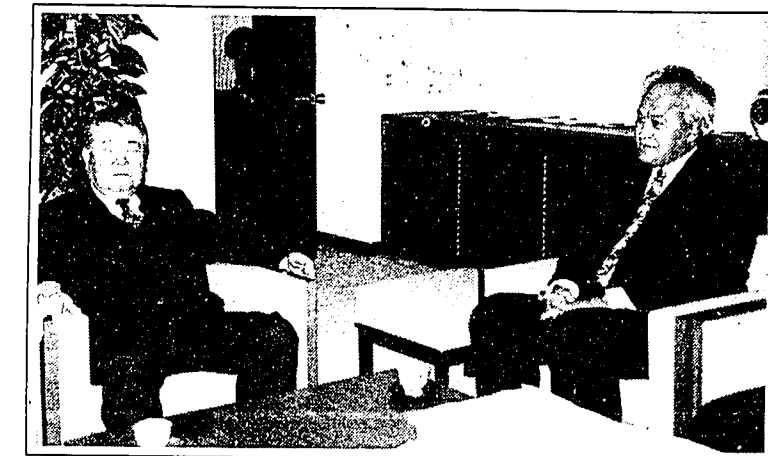
One concern aired during the meeting was that there be more planning for the future and more attention paid to creating new visitor attractions.

In much the same way Americans are reassured by the sight of a McDonald's on the streets of Tokyo, members suggested that establishing branches of mainline Japanese department stores and banks on Saipan would help attract their fellow countrymen.

Arts and sporting events would also help, some said. There was discussion on the creation of an artists' village, with incentives making it attractive for local and visiting artists to produce their works for the enjoyment of visitors.

One member said the CNMI could generate tremendous publicity and interest by playing host to one or more international sporting events.

Overall, council members addressed three areas of immediate



Gov. Tenorio (right) with Takuhiko Tsuruta, president of Nikkei Shinbun.

interest to Tenorio: Bonds and financing; 'Silver Towns' and a proposed Environmental Impact/Protection fee.

"Silver Towns" for retirees are quite popular in Japan and both Governor Tenorio and his Council Members think such a retirement community might work well on Saipan. "My Administration will do all that it can to provide Japanese retirees with a safe and healthy environment that they can enjoy."

Tenorio was told that individuals investors in Japan have dumped about \$5 billion into the markets and due to the current sluggishness of the Japanese economy, foreign denominated bonds are of much interest.

Some of the money may come to the Commonwealth depending on its bond rating by the Japanese, participants said.

Interestingly, Katsuhiko Goto, a member of the Economic Council, is also Executive Vice President of Nikkei Research, Inc., the only firm in Japan doing such ratings.

The Economic Council also recommended that a 'project team' look into a proposal to assess all incoming tourists with a fee to be dedicated to projects to enhance the environment, such as beach maintenance and island beautification.

Members cautioned though that the results of the fee will have to be visible for it to be supported by travelers and tour operators.

"The Council shared a lot of good ideas with me," Tenorio said, "but if we really want to strengthen our position in Japan, we had better start carrying some of them out."

CPA opens sewer project bids



Victor B. Hocog

RESIDENTS of Dandan, As Perdido, and Koblerville will soon be able to hook up to the sewer system that will be installed in a project to be jointly undertaken by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) and the CNMI Government.

Pacific Drilling company was the apparent lowest bidder for the project opened last Friday at the CPA Executive Director's office with a bid of \$3,924,000, a news release from CPA said.

"This is one of the most significant capital improvement project in a very long time," Board Chairman Victor B. Hocog said.

The project has been in the making for at least six years. Originally, according to Hocog, the project was to extend a sewer line from the airport directly down to Agingan Waste water Treatment Plant.

"What subsequently happened," according to the CPA Board Chairman, "was that the Board reexamined the project two years ago and decided that the airport can also better serve the community by assisting in the infrastructure development of the island."

So, the sewer line that was to have gone directly to Agingan Waste water Treatment Plant from the Saipan International was redeveloped.

"It culminated in the sewer line going down along Tun Herman Pan Road, then making a westerly turn along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and make a southerly turn at Shell Gas Station along As Perdido Road, on to Koblerville and eventually to Agingan Waste water Treatment Plant."

With this alignment, the community within the airport, Dandan subdivision, one of the largest homestead subdivision on Saipan,

As Perdido Road, and Koblerville can connect to the sewer line.

Some residents of San Vicente and most definitely all the residents and businesses along Tun Herman Pan Road will benefit from the new sewer line, the release said.

Sablan Construction came in

second lowest with \$4,449,000; followed by Black Micro which submitted \$4,498,430; and West-em Equipment, with \$4,556,900.

According to the CPA board chairman, CPA was pleased with the bid results because originally, the project was estimated to cost about \$12 million.

Subsequently, CPA consulting engineer, E.F. Camacho Architects and Engineers, finetuned the project and brought it down to \$6.1 million.

The bids are now being reviewed by the engineers and the Board will make the award shortly based on their recommendations.

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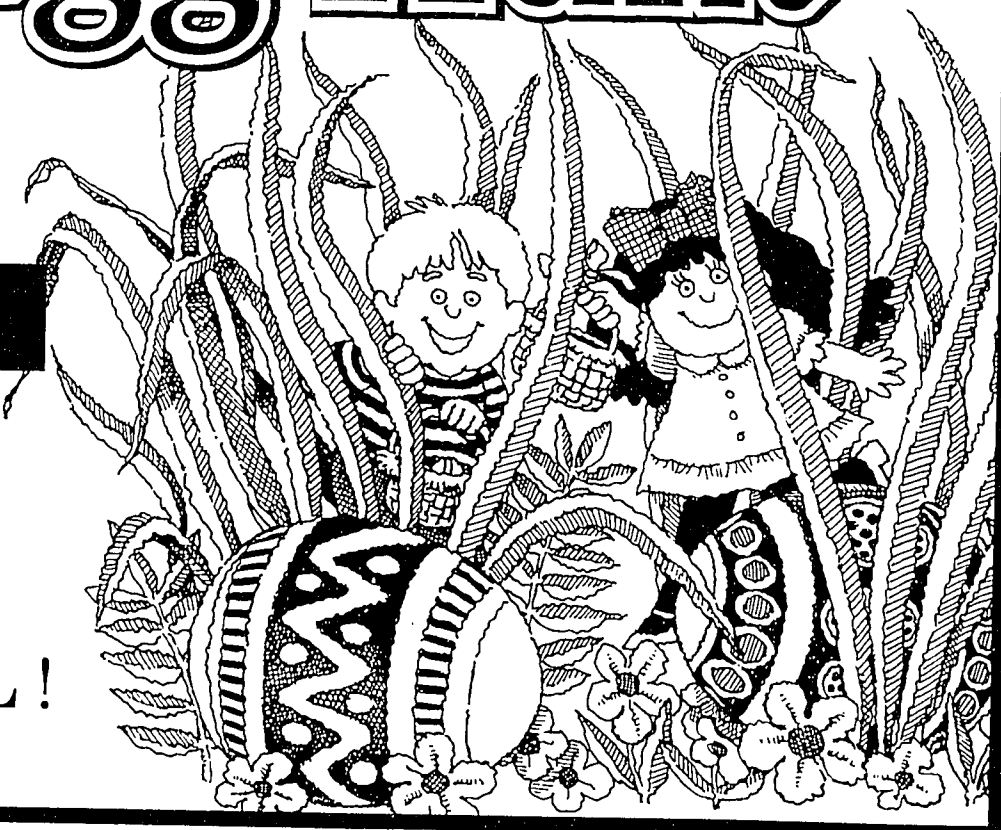
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Homestead project waits approval from governor

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE Department of Lands and Natural Resources' public lands division is set to submit to Gov. Froilan Tenorio a proposal on the road clearing project involving 200 homestead lots in Kagman III.

Bertha Camacho, Public Lands Directress, said the project will take six months to complete before it can be opened for applicants.

Camacho said her office has already picked a likely contractor from a slate of four applicants to do the job.

"We are awaiting the Governor's approval on this," she said.

The road clearing project, she said, is estimated to cost government some \$160,000.

Once done, the Kagman project will add up to an estimated 1,400 lots out to be granted to qualified applicants.

Aside from the mentioned 200 Kagman lots, another 1,000 and 200 respectively are being developed in Marpi and Koblerville.

However, Camacho said her office is yet to receive bids from firms interested to clear the Marpi homestead lots of World War II bombs.

"We have to come-up with a Re-



Bertha Camacho

quest for Proposal from firms for the Marpi project," said Camacho.

At least 30 World War II bombs have been unearthed in different occasions by construction men in Marpi last year.

The most recent "find" are five ones dugged-up by contractors hired by the Marianas Visitors' Bureau by the road from the old Japanese Last Command Post to the Suicide Cliff. MVB is undergoing a beautification project of the area.

Camacho, citing unconfirmed reports, said an area in Marpi used to be a bomb storage pit of the defeated Japanese army.

PTA Council meets today

PARENTS, teachers and interested members of the community are invited this month's meeting of the PTA Council, set for today, PSS announced in a news release.

Several important issues concerning education and the quality of services being provided to school children in the Commonwealth are expected to be discussed at the meeting, which is

scheduled to start at 9 a.m. at the seventh floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe.

People interested in having more input and involvement in important decisions involving education in the Northern Marianas are urged to attend this meeting.

For more information, contact PTA Council Chairman Tom Camacho at 322-3014/15.



Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 30th, 1997



Easter Sunday Brunch

Treat your family and friends at a traditional Easter Sunday Brunch at Giovanni's.

In addition to the regular Champagne Sunday Brunch the buffet will also include Easter favorites and specialties. Only \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. From 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your children over to Club Elan after you eat lunch at any of the restaurants at the Hyatt, and enter them into the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Begins at 1:00 p.m. So don't be late.



Asian Easter Sunday

For a fabulous Easter Sunday experience enjoy the freshest seafoods, tempura, sushi, sashimi, shabu - shabu and more at the Miyako Restaurant Japanese Lunch Buffet. Only \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under twelve years old. From 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday Brunch

Celebrate Easter Sunday in style with your family and friends at Kili Cafe & Terrace's exquisite Champagne Brunch. Our Chefs have prepared traditional Easter specialties just for you to make your day memorable. Only \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. From 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday Dinner

For dinner, Kili Cafe & Terrace offers a terrific Easter Sunday Dinner Buffet that includes a carving station, while enjoying live music provided by "The Spirals" Quartet. Only \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. From 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Club at the Hyatt Cards welcome.



For reservations or inquiries, please call 234-1234 ext. 26

Ramos: No decision on defector

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - No decision has been reached yet on how long a high-ranking North Korean defector will stay in the Philippines before leaving for South Korea, President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday.

The Philippines is worried about security for Hwang Jang Yop, the most senior North Korean to seek asylum in the rival South. It has imposed a blackout on informa-

tion about Hwang's location and has placed immigration officials on alert to watch for foreigners who might be sent to assassinate him.

Hwang, 74, arrived in the Philippines on March 18, five weeks after defecting at a South Korean consulate in China.

The Philippines agreed to allow him to stop off on his way to South Korea to help China avoid

angering longtime ally North Korea with a direct trip. Hwang was an architect of North Korea's guiding ideology of "juche," or self-reliance, and a member of its policy-setting Central Committee.

China reportedly wants him

to stay in the Philippines for an extended period, while South Korea wants him to leave as quickly as possible.

Ramos told reporters that the Philippines has asked China and South Korea to "consider that his stay here be as short as possible." The Philippines

is still awaiting a reply from the two countries, he said.

After his arrival last week, Hwang was whisked by helicopter to the northern mountain resort of Baguio, according to airport officials. He was reportedly shuttled to another site after dozens of journalists quickly converged on the city.

While Hwang was in Beijing, he was heavily guarded at the South Korean consulate by Chinese troops who feared that he might be attacked by North Korea.

In February, a North Korean who had defected in 1982 was shot in South Korea outside his apartment despite having undergone plastic surgery. South Korean authorities said they believe he was killed by North Korean agents as a warning to other would-be defectors.



Philippine President Fidel Ramos at a news conference confirms in a statement he read before the media, the safe arrival of North Korean defector Hwang Jang Yop from Beijing. The President refused to disclose further details of Hwang's stay in the country for security reasons.

AP Photo

Flagellants in RP urged to donate their blood instead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

The Red Cross is asking zealous Filipino Christians to donate blood during Holy Week instead of being nailed to crosses or slashing themselves in bloody observances of Jesus' crucifixion.

Every year on Good Friday, hundreds of Filipinos cut their backs with whips and pieces of broken glass or are nailed to crosses in Easter rituals.

The Red Cross said the sacrifices would go to a better use if the penitents donated their blood instead, the newspaper Philippine Star reported Wednesday.

The newspaper quoted Red Cross official Rowena Flores as saying that a penitent can lose as much as 100cc of blood during the sacrifice.

"I know it is difficult to change tradition, but it is worth thinking about, opting for blood donation which can also take on spiritual significance in the saving of lives," it quoted her as saying.

Christians believe Jesus died while nailed to a cross and was resurrected two days later on what is now celebrated as Easter Sunday.

The Philippines is Asia's only predominantly Christian country, with 84 percent of its population nominally Catholic.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy officially frowns on the re-enactments, which have been held in the country since 1955, but does little to discourage the popular rituals.

Miss Flores said all penitents would have to undergo blood tests before being allowed to donate blood. They will be barred from making a donation if they have hepatitis or the AIDS virus, she said.

Cing on faulted consulting contract:

'Governor's Office hired B&M'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing yesterday said it was not him who hired B&M Consulting Services, but the Office of the Governor.

Cing (D-Tinian) was reacting to news accounts that mentioned his name in connection with the Office of the Public Auditor's report on the professional services contracts of Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's administration.

The OPA report alleged that the contracts were unfavorable to the CNMI, "questionable" payments were made, and procurement regulations were not followed.

"I did not sign any contract, and I never got any contract to hire B&M," Cing said.

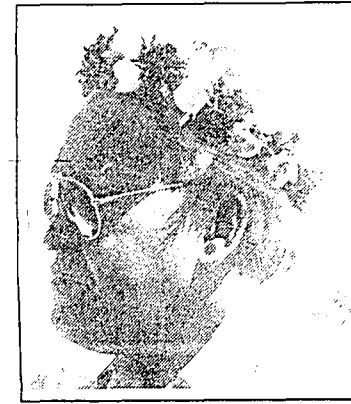
"I don't know why I was



David M. Cing



Benjamin T. Manglona



Froilan C. Tenorio

dragged into this."

B&M Consulting Services is owned by former lieutenant governor Benjamin T. Manglona who ran with former governor Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero in the 1993 election won by Tenorio.

Cing said the Tenorio administration contracted Manglona to work with him (Cing) in "all aspects of CNMI-federal relations."

Cing said the contract was for a year (June 6, 1994 to May 31, 1995), but added that

the administration revoked it when the senator opposed the minimum wage rollback proposed by Tenorio.

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said yesterday that his report did mention the Office of the Governor's hiring of B&M.

"I don't think it was unclear in the report," he said.

"(Cing) was the recipient of the services and that's the extent of his involvement."

The OPA report stated that the contract amount for B&M was for \$42,000, but total payments made amounted to \$26,950.

The billings submitted, the report added, did not include any supporting documents or explanation of work performed.

According to the governor, however, inadequate written explanation does not necessarily mean that the services required by the contract were not provided.

He said he will form a committee made up of representatives of the Finance Department and the Attorney General's Office to look into the contracts.

Koblerville School sets registration for kindergarten

PARENTS and guardians whose children will be attending Kindergarten at Koblerville Elementary School next school year need to be ready for registration in May.

Koblerville Elementary Principal Brigida DLG. Ichihara announced this week that the school would open a first-come, first-served registration period in May for students who were born in 1992.

The school's Kindergarten registration is set for May 1-30, 1997, from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on weekdays.

The document requirements for registration are:

- Birth certificate
- Health certificate
- Social security number
- Health insurance number
- Entry permit (if not U.S. citizen)
- Map of residence

4th annual Easter egg hunt slated

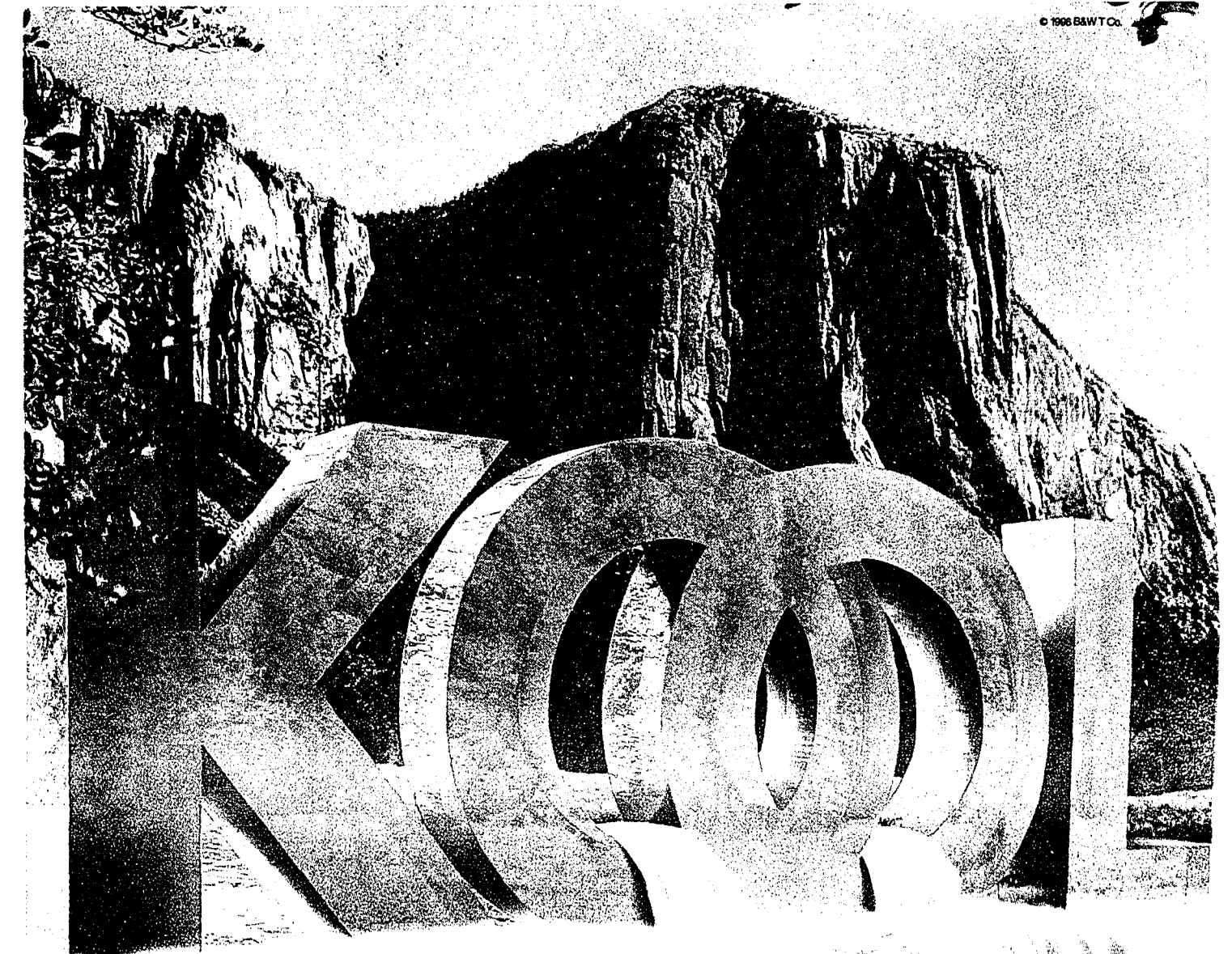
THE FOURTH Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Governor and Mrs. Froilan C. Tenorio will be held on Saturday, March 29, at Garapan Central Park, the Women's Affairs Office announced in a news release.

Toddlers to age 12 are invited. There will be a lot of great prizes.

The event will begin at 1:00-3:00 p.m. Bring your children to search for eggs with great prizes.

I gobetto as Froilan Tenorio yan I asagua-na ha kombibida todo famaguonni man dikikiesta 12 anos na idat para I mina Kuatro anos na celebration I Easter Egg Hunt gi Sabalo, Matsu Dia 29, Guatu gi Garapan Central Park gi oran 1:00 asta 3:00 gi Talawne.

Kone Guatu I famaguon miyu sa bula premi'u para hu maresibe ni sumotda i chada ni gai premi'u.



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Sale \$18.99	Sale \$31.25	Sale \$3.99

2'D' Flashlight #1530 Reg. \$2.29	3'D' Flashlight #1550 Reg. \$2.69	Miniblinds 60" x 48" (Ivory or white) Reg. \$23.25
Sale \$1.39	Sale \$1.69	Sale \$15.99

Mini Blinds (72" x 60") Reg. \$27.75	Towel Rail Reg. \$10.49	18" Towel Bar Reg. \$5.49
Sale \$19.99	Sale \$7.59	Sale \$3.69

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PNG's Chan steps down

By GEOFF SPENCER
PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan resigned Wednesday after facing an army mutiny, riots and nine days of public uproar over a plan to use foreign mercenaries to crush a rebellion.

His defense minister and finance minister also agreed to resign while an interim government runs the country until national elections are held. "I think I have taken the right course ... to preserve peace, to preserve or-

der. This is the right thing to do," Chan told Parliament.

Chan said he would convene the Cabinet within 24 hours to appoint an acting prime minister.

This will guarantee public confidence in a government-ordered judicial inquiry into the country's mercenary contract with Sandline International, a British mercenary firm, he said.

Chan said he was acting in the interest of the country to defuse an "explosive" situation after protesters

and mutinous soldiers blockaded Parliament House on Tuesday and refused to let lawmakers out.

Some 2,000 protesters outside cheered loudly at the news, and both sides of the house gave him an ovation at the end of his address to Parliament.

Chan said the pressures the mutinous army had put his government under for nine days were "against the principle of a stable democracy," which is why he resisted demands for his resignation this long.

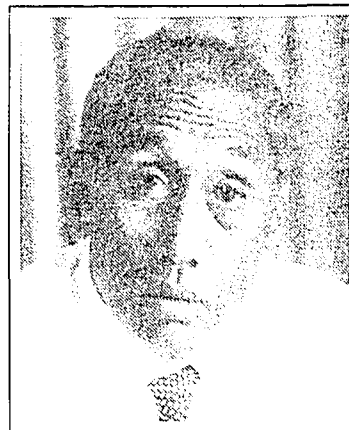
"Please bring order back," Chan said, indirectly addressing the troops.

He made no reference to any of the allegations of corruption that military officers and opposition legislators have made against him, Finance Minister Chris Haiveta, or Defense Minister Mathias Ijape, who are also resigning.

Chan's government hired the British and South African mercenaries to quash a 9-year-old rebellion on the island of Bougainville.

When news of the mercenary contract leaked out, the country's soldiers revolted, angered that the government spent \$36 million on the foreign fighters. Civilians joined them, protesting what they saw as government mismanagement and corruption.

Army leader Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok had directed his forces not to cooperate with Sandline International. Chan dismissed



Julius Chan

Singirok, but the fired officer appeared to retain influence over the military.

After a no-confidence motion against Chan was voted down 58-39 Tuesday, about 150 soldiers ordered parliamentary workers, journalists and others out of the Parliament building. Soldiers set up roadblocks and searched cars to ensure that no legislators left.

American Samoan MPs push for salary increases

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)—The American Samoa Fono (Parliament) has passed a bill allocating US \$326,000 to pay a salary increase for legislators.

However, Governor Tauese Sunia is expected to veto the vote. The pay rise for legislators was approved by the former adminis-

tration of Aifili Lutali last year but was not included in the Fono's 1997 financial year budget.

The legislators began receiving higher paychecks on January 3 with

members' salaries jumping from US \$15,000 to US \$30,000. Governor Tauese announced at a recent press conference that he would veto the legislators' pay increase because there's no money in the Fono's budget to cover the increase.

Tauese said the legislators have the choices of stretching their salaries to last until the end of the financial year in September or receive higher paychecks now then have their pay reduced later.

Fiji cyclone damage may reach \$27-M

SUVA (Pacnews)—The total cost of damage caused by Cyclone Gavin in Fiji is estimated at around 33.4 million Fiji dollars (US \$27 million).

And Cabinet has approved to provide about \$US218,000 for emergency food rations to affected families in the outer islands, the Fiji Times reported.

According to a full report from the Disaster Management Committee (DISMAC) which cabinet received Tuesday, the immediate requirement was the provision of emergency relief, especially in the outer islands of the Yasawa Group, Malolo, Vatulele, Yadua and Kia. On housing assistance, Cabinet has agreed to provide US \$852 for each family whose family dwelling was completely destroyed.

The assistance would either be in the form of a cash grant or building materials depending on individual case. Relief assistance to be provided to other parts of Fiji is being considered. Meanwhile, field surveys are being carried out and expected to be completed within two weeks.

Gingrich assures President Kim:

US to protect S. Korea

By JU-YEON KIM

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) - Looking across the world's most heavily guarded border, House Speaker Newt Gingrich declared Tuesday that the United States is still resolute about protecting South Korea from any threats by its northern neighbor.

"We are committed to defend Korea. ... We believe that partnership is very, very important to us," he said.

Wearing a camouflage military coat over his civilian clothes, Gingrich told about 50 U.S. and South Korean soldiers at the border that their dedication keeps both South Korea and America safe.

"I think there is something sober about seeing the demilitarized zone, but it's also a great success story," said Gingrich, in South Korea on a two-day visit as part of a five-nation Asian tour. "For 44 years it's worked and I hope it works until unification."

The Georgia Republican is the first U.S. House speaker to visit South Korea since 1971. His visit follows a period of heightened tensions between North and South Korea, which eased this month when aid offers helped coax North Korea into tentative peace talks with South Korea for the first time in 25 years.

Panmunjom is a neutral village inside the DMZ, a 2 1/2-mile-wide buffer that separates North and South Korea. Running roughly along the 38th parallel, it has kept an uneasy peace since the three-year Korean War ended in 1953.

Two million soldiers guard the border. About 37,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea under a mutual defense treaty.

A security breach - a North Korean soldier brought an unauthorized assault rifle into the neutral zone - forced Gingrich to alter his visit at the last minute.

Under the 1953 armistice, security soldiers inside Panmunjom are allowed to carry only side arms.

Instead of being briefed at the Bridge of No Return, just 100 yards from a North Korean observation post, Gingrich was brought to a post farther from the border.

Earlier Tuesday, Gingrich met President Kim Young-Sam and reaffirmed Washington's security commitment to South Korea.

Presidential spokesman Yoon Yeo-joon said Kim briefed Gingrich on the peninsula's security and thanked him for joining Seoul in opposition to a Taiwanese plan to store 200,000 barrels of low-level nuclear waste in North Korea. Gingrich has said he will ask Taiwan to cancel the deal.

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WHETHER YOU ARE WALKING, DRIVING, SAILING, OR FLYING. LITTERING IS ILLEGAL IN THE CNMI.

Gingrich also was briefed by South Korean Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-ha on the progress of proposed four-way peace talks that would involve South Korea, North Korea, China and the United States.

North Korea reportedly has expressed interest in taking part in the talks if it is given large amounts of food aid. The United States and South Korea say they would consider such aid only after North Korea attends the talks.

North Korea's chronic food shortage was aggravated by floods the past two years. U.N. officials warn that the country could face a famine this year unless aid arrives soon.

North and South Korea had been at odds in recent months over the defection of a top North Korean official and an intrusion by a North Korean submarine. The tensions at times have led to heightened security alerts in South Korea.



U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, left, is welcomed by smiling South Korean President Kim Young-sam during his courtesy call at the presidential palace in Seoul Tuesday, March 25, 1997. Gingrich is in Seoul on his nine-day Asia trip. (AP Photo/Yun Jai-hyoung)

EASTER BUD HUNT

The 1st Annual Easter Bud Hunt at

Plumeria Resort

Enjoy a delicious Easter Sunday Brunch from 10am to 2pm \$22.00 for adults \$11.00 for children, 4 years olds and younger are free.

Get one complimentary Bud family per person.

There'll be an Easter Egg Hunt for children 11 and younger and Hershey's Easter chocolates and grab bag goodies for all participants!

The real fun starts when the adults

HUNT FOR THE BUD FAMILY! from 1pm to 2pm
THE EASTER BUD HUNT! FIND THE GOLD CAN AND WIN!

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2 NIGHTS STAY AND DINNER FOR 2
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Other special cans win;

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3rd prize: Bud Family Polo Shirt

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** Participant's in Bud Hunt must be 21yrs or older and MUST have eaten in Plumeria's Easter Brunch.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSED ADOPTION OF MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Department of Public Safety hereby gives notice to the public of its proposed adoption of motor carrier safety regulations which was authorized by the CNMI legislature and approved by the Governor in PL 10-11 and 1 CMC 2501 et seq. This notice is pursuant to the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

The purpose of these regulations is to adopt safety regulations for motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles which are consistent with current United States Motor Carrier Safety Regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The proposed motor carrier safety regulations are published in the Commonwealth Register. Copies of the Commonwealth Register may be obtained from the Office of the Attorney General. The public may submit written comments and recommendations regarding the proposed regulations during the thirty day period following the date of publication in the Commonwealth Register. Comments or recommendations should be sent to the Department of Public Safety at the following address:

Department of Public Safety
Callier Box 10007
Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

POMOL ADOPTION REEL ALLEGHUL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

Depatamentool Public Safety sangi milleel nge ekeke arongar towlap igha ekeke pomoli bwe ebwele adaptaali Alleghul Motor Carrier Safety sangi bwangliir Sow-Alleghul CNMI (legislature) nge Gubbenno e angunguw melloil Alleghul Towlap ye PL 10-11 me 1 CMC 2501 et seq. Arongorong yeel nge e attab-weey lemeleml Administrative Procedures Act 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

Bwulul Allegh kkaal nge ebwe ayooora me adaptaali Alleghul bwe essow yoor filiwoos reel motor carriers me commercial carriers igha ebwe weeve fengal me Alleghul Unites States Motor Carrier Safety Regulation iye feruyeer school U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pomol fteerul Alleghul motor carrier safety kkaal nge e atotoowow melloil Commonwealth Register. Aramas ye e tipali nge emmwel schaghebwele bweibwogh kopiyaal Commonwealth Register sangi Bwululiyool Attorney General. Rekke tingor ngaliir towlap bwe rebwe ischitiw meeta mangemangliir me tipeer reel owtol allegh kkaal ilol eligh (30) ral sangi igha e toowow melloil Commonwealth Register. Mangemang me tip kkaal nge rebwe afanga ngali Dipatamentool Public Safety reel address ye fall.

Department of Public Safety
Callier Box 10007
Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

I MA PROPOPONI NA INADAPTAN REGULASION MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

I Dipattamenton Public Safety ginen este ha nana'i nutisia i pupbliko nu i prinoponini-na para u adapta i regulasion motor carrier safety siha ni ma aturisa nu i Lehislaturan CNMI yan ma apureba nu i Gubetno ni Lai Puppbliku Numiru 10-11 yan i 1 cmc 2501 et seq. Este na nutisia umakton fotme yan i manggina-gagao siha na kondesion i Administrative Procedures Act yan i 1 CMC 9104 et seq.

I proposition este siha na regulasion ayu i para u ma adapta i regulasion inasigura para i motor carriers yan karetan kometsiante siha ni manakonfotme yan i presente na regulasion Estados Unidos put Motor Carrier Safety ni ma laknos nu i Dipattamenton Transpottasion Estados Unidos.

I manma propoponi siha na regulasion motor carrier safety manma pupbliko gi halom i Rehistran Commonwealth. Kopia siha put i Rehistran Commonwealth siha manma chule' ginen i Ofisina i Attorney General. I pupbliko siha mana'halom tinige' siha na komento yan rekomendasion put i manmapropoponi siha na regulasion gi duranten trenta (30) dias na terminu despues di i fechan pupblikasion gi halom i Rehistran Commonwealth. Todu komento osino' rekomendasion siha debi di u mana'fanhanao guato gi i Dipattamenton Public Safety gi i sigente na adres.

Department of Public Safety
Callier Box 10007, Civic Center, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Ota hits Tokyo plan on bases

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DPW97-RFP-009

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the architectural and engineering design and construction management of the Kalabera Sanitary Landfill Project on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The sanitary landfill will be sited, designed and constructed to ensure full compliance with applicable federal and CNMI environmental regulations. Specifically, the new sanitary landfill must be designed in strict conformance with USEPA regulations promulgated under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Subtitle D, Part 258, as amended.

Proposals will include the following and be limited to not more than twenty-five (25) pages of technical presentation:

1. Updated Standard Forms 254 and 255;
2. Design Approach and Methodology; and
3. Time Frame for the Proposed Work.

A detailed Scope of Work is available on or after Wednesday, March 26, 1997 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at 60 percent of the cost, with 40 percent matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. The award of a contract for this project is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

Proposals will be evaluated by a DPW Evaluation Committee and a selection will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and proposed staff (25%)
2. Experience on similar projects (20%);
3. Proposed project approach (20%);
4. Time frame for the design work (15%); and
5. Completeness of the proposal (15%).

Proposals must be marked "DPW97-RFP-009". One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Wednesday, April 30, 1997.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in the said proposals if, in its sole opinion to do so, would be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO/
Secretary of Public Works
Date: 3/18/97

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS/
Director of Procurement & Supply
Date: 3/19/97



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto listens to Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota, left, during their talks about U.S. military base on Okinawa at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Tuesday.

AP Photo

TOKYO (AP) - Okinawa's governor voiced strong opposition to a government plan to force the renewal of land leases to U.S. military bases during a meeting Tuesday with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"I told the prime minister that we cannot agree to the illegal use of the land," Gov. Masahide Ota said at a press conference after the meeting.

Hashimoto plans to revise legislation to force the extension of land leases to U.S. military facilities before a May 14 expiration date.

Ota said he understands the U.S. has recently toughened its stance on the base issue, but that he will continue to push for a reduction of troops.

"As a prefecture we are hoping for base-free Okinawa," he said.

Ota called the appropriation of Okinawan land for U.S. military facilities Japan's "greatest postwar problem."

Although Ota expressed his opposition to Tokyo's plans to renew land leases to the U.S. military, he vowed to continue dialogue with the central government.

The meeting came on the heels of Vice President Al Gore's visit to Japan, during which Hashimoto promised not to reduce U.S. forces in Japan.

Anger against American forces in Okinawa boiled up after a 12-year-old girl was raped by three U.S. servicemen in September 1995, and again this year after news that American troops had accidentally fired bullets containing depleted uranium.

An agreement has been reached on streamlining some U.S. facilities on Okinawa, but the island will continue to house more than half of the 47,000 troops based in Japan, even though it makes up only 1 percent of Japan's land mass.

EASTER SPECIAL

CARMEN'S

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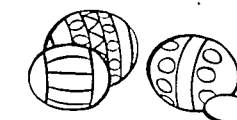
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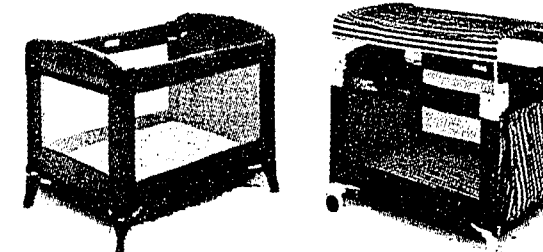
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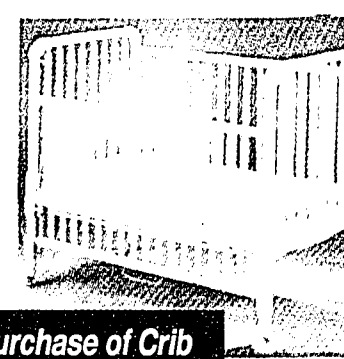
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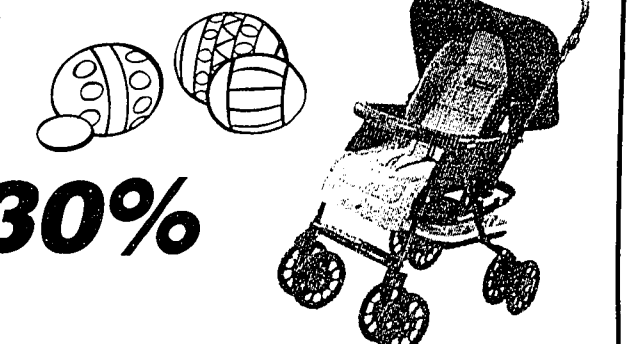


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State curbs aid to illegals



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By RICH HARRIS
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - The state said Tuesday it plans to deny illegal immigrants access to 200 programs, ranging from rent assistance to licenses to sell alcoholic beverages.

However, officials said the state will continue coverage for at least some illegal immigrants in nine programs, including medical care for the elderly and infirm and sick children.

The administration of Gov. Pete Wilson says the cuts are mandated under the federal welfare law that President Clinton signed in August, which includes a provision requiring states to abolish state-funded benefit programs for illegal immigrants.

Wilson "asked us to reiterate the fact that he does indeed believe ... that services are a magnet for illegal aliens to our state," spokesman Sean Walsh said. "But for humanitarian purposes,

and to protect public safety and public health, we will seek some exemptions." It could be more than a year before any cuts begin.

The state has no idea how much money will be affected by the cuts because it doesn't know how many illegals are getting the benefits, Walsh said.

Hospital emergency care for illegal immigrants is continued under the federal Also not affected are programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the food stamp program and Medi-Cal, the health care program for the poor.

The Wilson administration plans to ask the Legislature to continue allowing illegal immigrants access to some other public programs, including Witness Assistance Program centers, rape crisis centers, Child Protective Service and a child immunization program.

Condemned killer executed in Florida

By RON WORD

STARKE, Fla. (AP) - A condemned murderer's black leather face mask burst into flames as he was electrocuted Tuesday, prompting the attorney general to warn killers to stay away from Florida "because we may have a problem with the electric chair."

The governor said the state will consider changing its method of execution after the grisly death of Pedro Medina, a Cuban refugee who was put to death for killing a teacher who befriended him.

"We've had an occasion of smoke before," Gov. Lawton Chiles said. "But the question is really, 'Is this something that is torturous or painful?'"

However, Attorney General Bob Butterworth said Medina's gruesome end would be a deterrent.

"People who wish to commit murder, they better not do it in the state of Florida because we may have a problem with our electric chair," Butterworth said.

Medina, one of nearly 125,000 Cubans who came to the United States during the 1980 Mariel boatlift, was executed for stabbing a woman to death in 1982.

It was the second time an inmate's mask has burst into flame during a Florida execution. The first time, in 1990, executions were suspended for three months.

While there was no visible reaction from Tuesday's 39 witnesses, some later said they were nauseated by the sight and the smell.

US, China seek closer ties

By JOHN KING

BEIJING (AP) - Vice President Al Gore assured China on Tuesday that investigations into whether Chinese money influenced American elections will not derail the Clinton administration's efforts to forge strong ties.

Gore made the commitment to Premier Li Peng during a day of meetings in which the vice president said he became increasingly confident that the United States and China can elevate their relationship to a higher level of trust and understanding despite pointed differences on human rights and other issues.

"Both sides are clearly expressing a desire to lend forward momentum to the relationship, recognizing areas where we agree to disagree," Gore said as he took a break from meetings to tour Beijing's Forbidden City, the imperial compound built during the 15th century Ming Dynasty.

On Wednesday, Gore was to deliver a speech on U.S.-Chinese relations and meet with President Jiang Zemin to discuss, among other things, plans for Jiang to visit President Clinton at the White House this fall. Clinton, in turn, is planning to visit China in 1998.

Gore's national security adviser, Leon Fuerth, said the vice president would use the speech to "reiterate the American belief in democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law as the guiding principles of society."

In Washington, presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton was "very satisfied with the reports he's getting on the vice president's conversations with Chinese leaders."

With his China policy already facing stiff criticism at home, there has been speculation that the campaign controversy would persuade — or force — Clinton to put his efforts to improve U.S.-China ties on a slower track.

When Li casually raised the issue Tuesday, Gore "intervened very forthrightly and very directly" to say the allegations were "very obviously in the air" and being investigated, according to a U.S. official in the meeting.

In the meantime, however, Gore stressed that "the important point was that this in no way would deflect the administration from pursuing its policy of engagement with China," said the official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

At that point, Li repeated his government's denial, and the talks moved on to other subjects, the official said.

Briefing reporters, Chinese spokesman Cui Tiankai did not directly address the campaign controversy. But he said China was convinced U.S. policy "will not be disturbed by a single act or a short period of time."

The FBI warned a half-dozen members of Congress last year that China might try to curry favor with U.S. lawmakers by steering money to their campaigns. There also have been allegations, none of them substantiated, that tainted Democratic Party contributions collected by Asian-American fund-raisers could have come from businessmen with ties to the Chinese government.

The talks with Li, conducted in China's Great Hall of the People, put Gore across the table from the man who declared martial law during the

bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

At one point, they also put Gore in

the awkward position of clinking glasses in a champagne toast with the man many blame for the military action against the protesters. The toast, during which a bit of Gore's champagne splashed onto the floor, came after the signing of three agreements, including lucrative new contracts for Boeing Corp. and General Motors.

"That was an ordinary thing that happens after signing ceremonies," said Gore spokeswoman Ginny Terzano. "You rent the room and you get the glasses."

In Tuesday's sessions, aides said Gore pressed Beijing to improve its human rights record and curb arms sales. But they gave few details, saying they did not want to complicate the atmosphere for the meeting with Jiang by requesting specific policy steps or better treatment of specific dissidents.

Fuerth said the administration

hoped that the "Chinese government, exercising its own sovereignty, might take some steps with some of these people that would sit well with opinion in the United States."

Cui, the Chinese spokesman, called differences on this issue "quite natural" given the differences between the U.S. and Chinese political systems and gave no indications any goodwill gestures were at hand. "It is impossible for two large countries with totally different cultures to have no differences," Cui said.

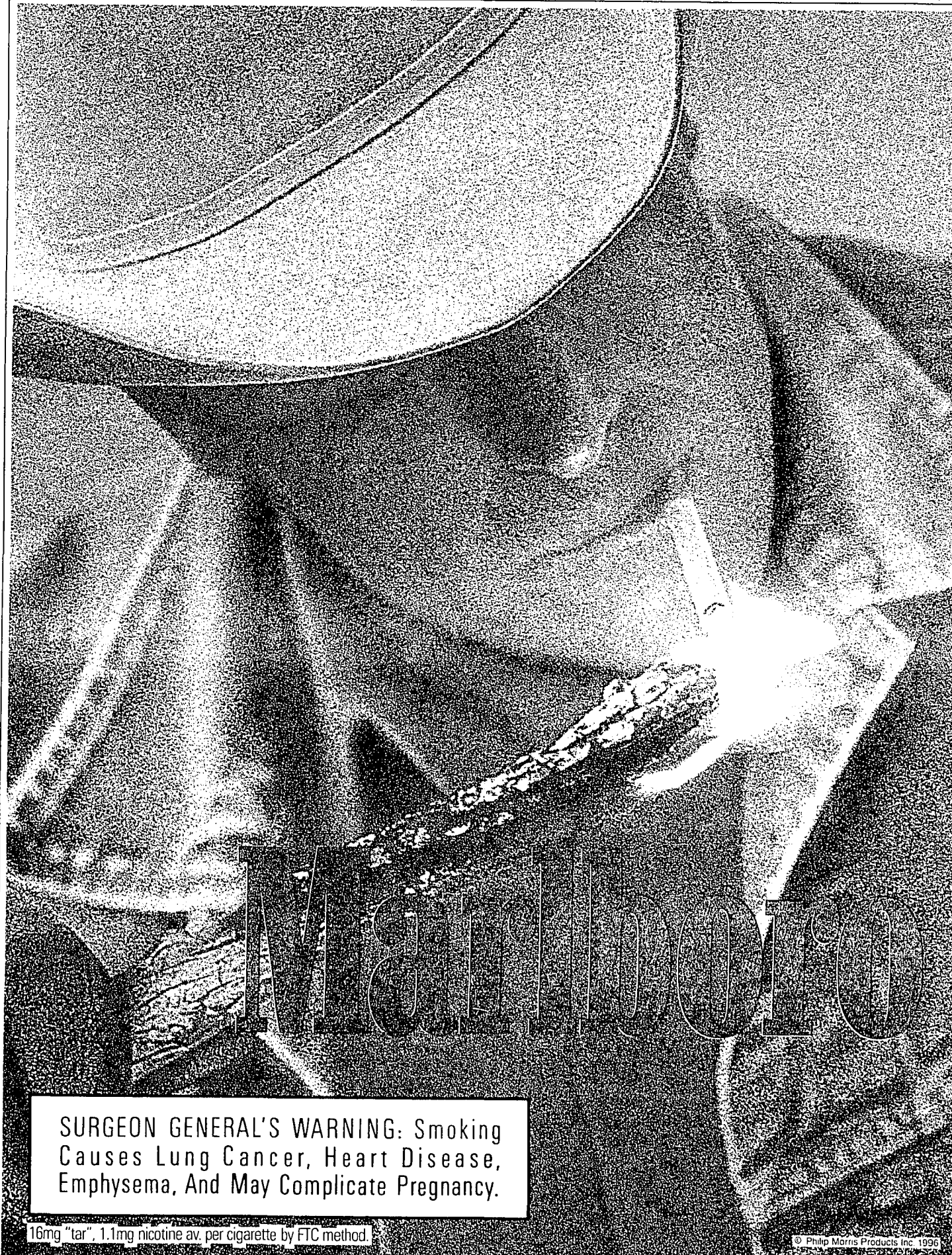
Another area of concern for the United States is the scheduled transfer of Hong Kong from British to Chinese control on July 1.

Li assured Gore that "China is optimistic about the smooth transfer and the prosperity of Hong Kong" and would keep its commitment to allow it to maintain significant autonomy, Cui said.



U.S. Vice President Al Gore, left, and Chinese Premier Li Peng toast at the conclusion of a signing ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Tuesday.

AP Photo



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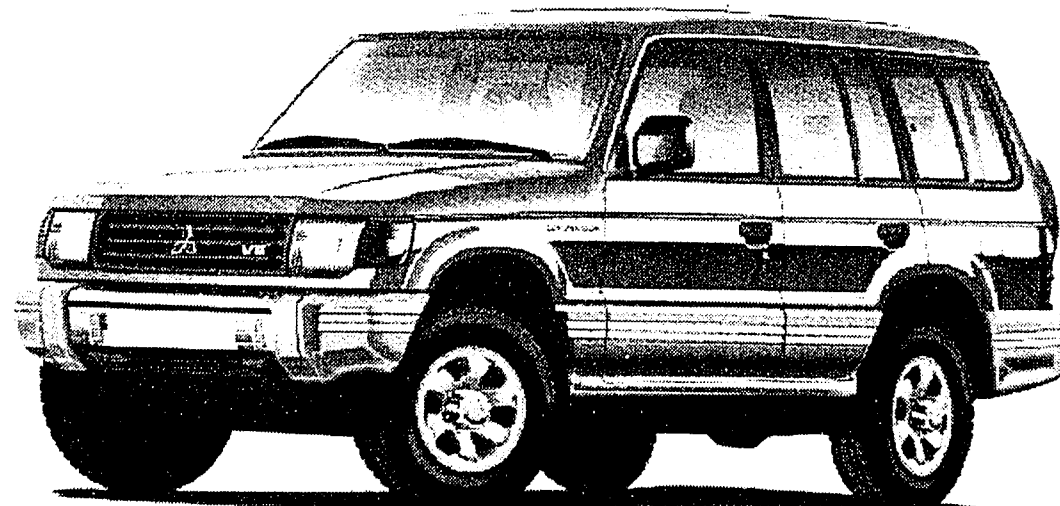
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS 97-X-73 submitted by H.K. Pangelinan and Associates on behalf of Mr. Jung Han Kim for the construction of Utopia Hotel.

The proposed project calls for the construction of a seven (7) storey hotel which includes twenty-seven (27) suites and fifty-four (54) standard hotel rooms for a total of 81 rooms on 3,381 square meters of combined public and private land in Garapan, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 1997 at 6:30 pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. A second and final notice of this public hearing will be published at a later date.

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

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

/s/ MANUEL C. SABLAN
Director
Coastal Resources Management

Former bureaucrat pleads guilty to charges of bribery

By KOZO MIZOGUCHI

TOKYO (AP) - Two top bureaucrats and a nursing home developer pleaded guilty Wednesday to their roles in a bribery scandal that has tarnished Japan's powerful bureaucracy.

Nobuharu Okamitsu, once the highest-ranking bureaucrat in the Health and Welfare Ministry, apologized for accepting bribes of 60 million yen (\$530,000), a car and membership in a golf course.

Okamitsu, 58, is accused of receiving the gifts from nursing home developer Hiroshi Koyama in exchange for funneling government subsidies to Koyama's company. He faces up to seven years in prison.

Koyama also pleaded guilty to bribing charges Wednesday. Shigeru Chatani, a former health ministry official, pleaded guilty to charges taking bribes from Koyama. All three are on trial at Tokyo District Court.

The scandal has underlined the cozy relationship between government regulators and the fast-growing health care industry in Japan, where the proportion of elderly people is rising rapidly.

It also has increased scrutiny of government ethics. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has made reform of the bureaucracy a top priority, and the government in December

forbade bureaucrats from accepting gifts from the industries they regulate.

"There have been problems in the way we have handled things up until now," said Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi. "We must make reform our No. 1 priority."

The prosecution said Okamitsu received a total of 60 million yen (\$530,000) in cash in two occasions in the summer of 1994 at his office during visits by Koyama.

Okamitsu was arrested in December. Chatani, accused of accepting 11.2 million yen (\$91,000), and Koyama were arrested in November.

Hong . . .

Continued from page 1

The figure, he said, "could double... even triple by next year."

He said DOLI has picked up a trend on the supposed modus operandi of foreigners seeking employment in the Commonwealth.

"They (foreign workers) come in as tourists or businessmen using 30-day temporary permits. Once inside, poof... they're gone," he said.

This, he said, "could only make the job doubly hard for us."

"Described in a word, our prob-

lem will be a 'monstrous' one if nothing appropriate is immediately done," he warned.

DOLI's Compliance and Monitoring Section which conducts inspection on factory sites investigating labor abuses and pursuing cases against violators only has four staff, including its chief, Gil San Nicolas.

CMS recently had to pull all available manpower to attend to the "crisis" which involved the apparent ille-

gal recruitment of 191 Bangladeshis to the CNMI.

The Immigration Investigation Unit, which is tasked to go after illegally employed and overstaying foreigners has about 10 staff led by Maj. Ralph Demapan.

Despite this situation, Sablan said he is optimistic government can work something out.

"We will continue to be on top of the situation," he vowed.

US . . .

Continued from page 1

Broadhurst added, should not allow Stayman to dictate how "we run our local affairs."

"But let's face it. This is an election year and the E.O. might get mired in local politics."

"Stayman by commenting on this issue is already meddling in local politics," he said.

Tenorio, in an earlier interview, said his E.O. is "in the spirit" of

the Interior-CUC partnership agreement, which aimed to make the utility company more autonomous and self-sufficient.

The Senate rejected the E.O. last March 12, and Speaker Diego T. Benavente said Tuesday that the House will follow suit.

Both Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez and Benavente cited the E.O.'s possible conflict with partnership agreement as a main reason why it should be rejected.

BOE . . .

Continued from page 1

Farrell suggested that PSS prepare contingency plans to address the student overcrowding problem in the event the emergency classrooms project fails.

Aside from emergency declaration by the governor, board members also consider as an option the cancellation of the result of the October bid and re-bidding the project again.

If a state of emergency is declared, the governor would have the power to skip the bidding process, and choose a contractor for the classroom project.

Torres said another alternative is to move the school opening to

September until new classrooms are built.

Board member Esther Fleming, for her part, proposed that multitrack system be implemented in more schools.

"We can't wait until May. We have hired new teachers and what are they going to do. We can adopt the multitrack system be it on a temporary or permanent basis depending on the situation," Fleming said.

Torres said the multitrack system is scheduled to be implemented next year in William S. Reyes, San Antonio, and San Vicente elementary schools, to accommodate the constantly growing student population.

Enrollment in public schools registered over 10,000 this school year.

Barcinas . . .

Continued from page 24

one double elimination tournament," Mary McKenzie of the of Pacific Amusement said. Handicaps are based on the players PPD or point per dart average.

It is composed of six legs and serves as qualifying event for the Ultimate Scorpion Tournament, one of the world's major darts tournament, in Orlando, Florida.

Each leg awards points to par-

ticipants and the more players join the tournament, the more points they get.

"The top 128 players from the region, that includes Saipan and Guam, will earn automatic berths to the Ultimate Scorpion Tournament," McKenzie added.

Ike Dela Cruz, Joey Pangelinan, Mike Ngirbabul, Oliver Arguelles, Paul Cielo, Joe Cruz, Edward Pope, Mashon Mongami and Ben Dautil complete the top 12 finishers in the 22-man draw.

Palestinians defiant to Israel

By HILARY APPELMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) - A Palestinian security chief responded defiantly Tuesday to Israeli demands to crack down on Islamic militants, saying cooperation with Israel on security issues depended on progress in peace talks.

"Palestinian security cooperation was buried with the first bulldozer that went up on Jabal Abu Ghneim," said West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub, using the Arab name for the hill where Israel is building a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

Palestinians in the West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Hebron staged a sixth day of violent protests against the project Tuesday, with Israeli troops firing tear gas and rubber bullets at hundreds of stone-throwing Palestinians.

Eight Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets in Bethlehem, and at least two Israeli soldiers were hurt.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of giving the go-ahead to Islamic militants to carry out attacks against Israelis, and has demanded the Palestinians take steps to combat terrorism before peace agreements can go forward.

Rajoub refused Tuesday, saying Netanyahu's decision to build Jewish housing in east Jerusalem was what sparked the crisis.

"There will not be any security coordination as long as there is no political coordination," Rajoub said, adding that security cooperation would only resume after a "real commitment from the Israeli side and political progress... on the ground."

Netanyahu insisted Tuesday that the Israeli construction in east Jerusalem was "not the root of the problem but an excuse to spill blood."

"The real struggle... is over our sovereignty over Jerusalem, and in the end our sovereignty" over the entire state of Israel, Netanyahu told a gathering of Israeli police officers.

The Palestinians hope to create a capital in east Jerusalem, which Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast War. Netanyahu insists the entire city must remain undivided under Israeli sovereignty.

Israeli and Palestinian security cooperation has been frozen at every level because of the latest crisis, including putting a halt to joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in most West Bank cities. On Tuesday, Palestinian police refused to allow a dozen Jewish students to return to their seminary in the West Bank city of Nablus, saying it could not be coordinated with Israeli troops.

Security contacts with the Palestinians have been "severely weakened," said Dore Gold, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, adding that the peace process could not go forward unless Arafat made clear that the disapproved of attacks by Islamic militants.

Israeli officials say that even after a suicide bomber linked to Hamas group killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe Friday, Arafat has not moved to rein in militant groups.

However, a senior Israeli security official told the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee there was no explicit evidence that Arafat approved attacks, Israel Tele-

vision reported. It did not name the official.

Meir Dagan, Netanyahu's anti-terrorism adviser, said Palestinians are obliged by the peace agreement to cooperate on security and said he hoped they would "return to their senses soon."

Many of the recent Palestinian riots have been organized by Arafat's Fatah movement, until now the strongest supporter of peace with Israel.

Fatah is the largest faction in the PLO. During the 1987-1993 uprising, Fatah had a leading role in organizing protests and when the peace agreements were signed, swung its support behind the accords.

Kamel Ihmeid, a Fatah leader in Bethlehem, said he expected more violence unless Israel stops building in east Jerusalem. "In a week or two, if the Israelis don't stop building, we cannot control the situation," he said.

Ihmeid said Fatah leaders also were concerned about the growing popularity of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements as Palestinians become increasingly frustrated with Netanyahu's tough policies.



Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian youth holding stones face off against each other around a corner in the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday March 25, 1997. Similar clashes took place in Bethlehem as Israel and the Palestinians have been sliding deeper into crisis since the resumption of construction of Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem. AP Photo/Nasser



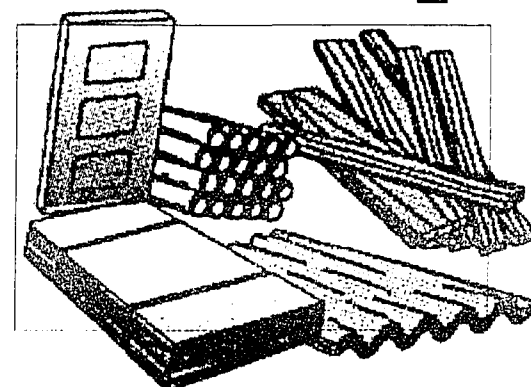
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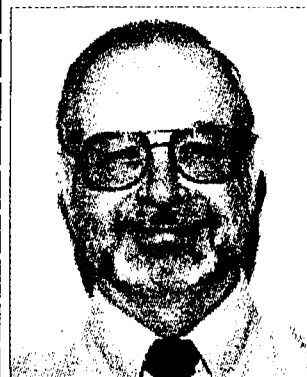
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South African President Nelson Mandela, left, talks with U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, right, at a meeting in Cape Town Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, American comedian Bill Cosby, and Mrs. Clinton all dropped by Mandela's Cape Town residence to spend quality time Thursday with the former political prisoner turned president.

AP Photo

Hillary backs Rwanda probe

By SONYA ROSS

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton voiced support Tuesday for efforts to bring to justice those who carried out the genocidal slaughter of an estimated 500,000 people in Rwanda two years ago.

"The war in Rwanda was waged against the lives and dignity of women and children," Mrs. Clinton said. "The evidence suggests that rape and sexual assault were committed on a mass scale. Of this the world community must speak with one voice; such tactics will never be tolerated."

She said the United States will see to it that as many of these crimes as possible are prosecuted. The United States has earmarked \$12 million to support the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, created to punish the perpetrators of the Rwandan slaughter.

"We seek punishment not for its own sake, but as a signal of the return of the rule of law and accountability, as a stark warning against future acts of horror," she said.

Following a meeting with lawyers and prosecutors on the tribunal's work in finding and interviewing witnesses in sexual violence cases, the first lady said the panel "deserves our strong support" but also must adhere to reforms instituted by the United Nations in order to be "fair, efficient, effective and just."

"A tribunal that does not live up to these standards will undermine the prospects of peace in central Africa, and dishonor the memory of those who perished in Rwanda," she said.

The tribunal was created in November 1994 to prosecute those who carried out the mass slaughter, mostly of members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group.

After the meeting, the first lady taped a radio address for broadcast in Rwanda.

"We will continue to stand with you in partnership as you do the hardest, most important work of all - healing your wounds, learning to live together, repairing your country," she said.

Her words were welcomed by Francois Nzabamwita, 30, a Tutsi

whose parents and siblings - a total of 15 family members - were slain. He covered Tuesday's meeting as a journalist for Rwandan television.

Nzabamwita said he doubts that he will ever receive true justice, regardless of how successful the tribunal is, because of the sheer numbers of crimes committed.

"The people who have been killed were about 1 million people. The killers are about 3 million," Nzabamwita said. "Justice is very slow here. I feel angry."

Justice Louise Arbour, a Canadian who is the tribunal's chief prosecutor, acknowledged that the tribunal's work "is particularly slow to bear fruit," but she urged patience.

"We are very conscious of this," Arbour said. "We are working in completely new environments in which we have to build the trust of the communities."

Three Killed in Burundi blast

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) - Three people were killed today when anti-tank mines exploded on each of two major roads to Bujumbura airport on a day when Burundi's military leader was headed to the airport, an army spokesman said.

After the two mines exploded early Tuesday morning, Maj. Pierre Buyoya delayed his trip until later in the day, army spokesman Lt. Col. Isaie Nibizi told the independent radio Studio Ijambo.

The Tutsi military leader was unhurt. But three people were killed, and 23 injured in the explosions.

Buyoya, who seized power in a coup last July in an avowed attempt to ease ethnic violence between Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-led army that has plagued the country since 1993, was on his way to an Organization of African Unity summit in Togo.

Wednesday's summit was called to the crisis in neighboring Zaire, where rebels have captured most of the eastern portion of the mineral-rich country during the past six months. The Zairian government accuses Burundi, as well as Rwanda and Uganda, of backing the rebels. The neighboring countries deny the accusation.

Nibizi said an investigation was underway into the explosions, and that investigators were "following some serious leads." He did not elaborate.

When three anti-tank mines exploded March 12 in Bujumbura, killing seven people, extremist Tutsi military officers were blamed. Earlier that same day, the government said it had arrested five people in connection with an alleged plot on Buyoya's life. It was not clear whether the explosions had anything to do with the arrests.

Buyoya also is a member of the minority ethnic group that has ruled Burundi virtually non-stop since independence from Belgium in 60. But he is opposed by hard-line Tutsi officers who refuse to have anything to do with rebels from the majority Hutu people.

Ex-Argentina dictator nabbed

By LEON LAZAROFF

MADRID, Spain (AP) - A Spanish judge has ordered the arrest of a former Argentine dictator linked to the disappearance of hundreds of Spaniards in Argentina's "dirty war," the state news agency said Tuesday.

National Court Judge Baltasar Garzon will seek an international arrest warrant for Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the EFE news agency reported.

Garzon is investigating the disappearance of 600 Spaniards during Argentina's violent campaign

against suspected leftists from 1976-1983.

Chances are slim, however, that Galtieri or any of the 96 other Argentine military officials the judge is investigating will ever appear in a court here.

In the past, the government of Argentine President Carlos Menem has tacitly ruled out extradition, saying Galtieri and other officers already had been acquitted there.

Galtieri served as Argentina's leader from December 1981 until July 1982,

when he was replaced by Gen. Reynaldo Bignone. Bignone called elections that returned the country to civilian rule in December 1983.

Galtieri was absolved of human rights violations by Argentina's supreme court under the 1987 "full stop" law, which halted trials of middle- and senior-ranking officers accused in connection with the deaths and disappearances of at least 9,000 people during the dirty war.

Galtieri, 71, now lives a vir-

tual recluse in suburban Buenos Aires.

More than 340 people have testified in Garzon's investigation, which began in September. Garzon also plans to gather testimony in Argentina.

Spanish law allows the prosecution of genocide no matter

where it is committed and regardless of the nationality of those accused.

The private news agency Europa Press said Galtieri is wanted for "creating a state of terror and genocide" and other crimes against suspected leftists.

Georgian power company cuts electricity to two hours a day

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) - Homes in Georgia, which were receiving electricity for only a few hours a day, will be cut back even further to just two hours each night due to worsening power shortages, an official said Tuesday.

Electricity will be supplied to homes only from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at night, said Vazha Metreveli, the head of the national Gruzenergo power company.

Power will continue to flow round the clock to vital facilities such as bakeries, hospitals and to the subway

system in the capital Tbilisi, he said.

The announcement was made on national television, which most people can't watch due to the long blackouts. Instead, most people must pick up television broadcasting signals on their battery-powered radios.

Since November, power to homes has officially been restricted to six hours a day - two hours in the morning and four hours at night.

But since the beginning of March, most homes have been receiving even less, with some getting only an hour a day.

Hydro-electric plants haven't been

able to work to full capacity due to low water levels in the rivers, Metreveli said. He warned that the restrictions would stay in effect until the snows start melting in the mountains and feed the rivers.

Georgia has been strapped for fuel and has struggled economically since the 1991 Soviet breakup. It can only afford limited supplies of natural gas and oil from Russia and Turkmenistan, its suppliers during Soviet times. Instead, it must rely on the small hydro-electric plants on its mountain rivers.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS Office of the Secretary of Public Works INVITATION TO BID DPW97-ITB-008

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Department of Public Works and in conjunction with the Public School System, are soliciting sealed bids for the construction of the Kobleville Elementary School Outdoor Stage, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bids in duplicate will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m. local time, May 2, 1997 at which time and place the bids will publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bid Bond or other form acceptable to the Government made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466."

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his business permits in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Specifications and plans of the project are available on or after April 11, 1997 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set; payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer.

Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time, April 18, 1997 at the DPW Technical Services Division Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan.

Attention is called to the Wage Rate Determination of the Labor Standards Provisions of the specifications and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bid bonds, certified checks, or cashier's checks which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications section, Instructions to Bidders, section 5 "Bid Guarantee."

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Procurement & Supply

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Acting Secretary of Labor,
United States Department of Labor,
Plaintiff,
v.
Eugene R. Zamora, Sr. and Francisco
Matsunaga doing business as Zamat
Enterprises (operating as Club Kalesa),
a partnership, Kalesa Corporation, Ltd.,
Eugene R. Zamora, Sr., Marylou "Malou"
Zamora, and The Estate of Francisco
Matsunaga,
Defendants.

To: Marylou "Malou" Zamora
Mailbox 236 Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
Summons in a Civil Action
Case Number: 97-0002

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and
required to file with the Clerk of this Court
and serve upon

Plaintiff's Attorney
Steven R. DeSmith, ESQ.
Office of the Solicitor
71 Stevenson Street, Suite 1110
San Francisco, CA 94105

an answer to the complaint which is
herewith served upon you, within 20 days
after service of this summons upon you,
exclusive of the day of service. If you fail
to do so, judgment by default will be taken
against you for the relief demanded in the
complaint.

Clerk: Gail L. Perez
Date: 2-4-97
/s/ Deputy Clerk

In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands

In the Matter of the Adoption and
Change of Name of:
ASALSCHIGH KHOBBOY ROMOLOR
KAIPAT,
A Minor Child,
By
CESARIO ROMOLOR KAIPAT and
DOLORES WABOL KAIPAT,
Petitioners.
Adoption Case No. 97-0016

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR ADOPTION AND
CHANGE OF NAME**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a
Petition for Adoption and Change of
Name for the above-named minor child
by CESARIO R. KAIPAT and
DOLORES W. KAIPAT, as Petitioners,
have filed with the above-entitled Court
and is open for review at the Office of
the Clerk of the said Court, in Susupe,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for
Adoption and Change of Name will be
held in Courtroom "C", of the above-
entitled Court on April 17, 1997 at the
hour of 1:30 p.m., or as soon as
thereafter.

Dated this 21st day of March, 1997.

JOVITA C. FLORES,
Clerk of Court
/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

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

BRIGITTA W. NEKAIFES-KAPILEO,
Plaintiff,
vs.
LUM KIT MING, and
YOUNG L. OH
Defendants
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-0075

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

From: The Superior Court of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands
To: All the above-named Defendants.

You are hereby summoned to appear
within twenty (20) days after final
publication of this summons and
completion of posting, and defend in the
above-captioned action in the above-
entitled Court, and answer the Complaint
of Plaintiff, Brigitta W. Nekaifes-Kapileo,
and serve a copy of your answer upon
the Plaintiff's attorney, The Law Offices
of Robert C. Naraja, PC, P.O. Box 1960,
Saipan, MP 96950. If you fail to do so,
judgment by default will be rendered
against you according to the reliefs
demanded in the complaint non-payment of
rentals in the Lease Agreement, of which
you are privy to in your capacities as
lessor and Assignee.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Superior Court of the
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands

In re the Estate of
CONCEPCION MUNA MANGLONA
Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-307

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF ADMINISTRATOR**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES,
LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF
CONCEPCION MUNA MANGLONA,
DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
TITO M. SABLAN has filed with the
Clerk of this Court a Petition for
Appointment of an Administrator for the
Estate of Concepcion Muna Manglona,
deceased. The hearing on the Petition
is set for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the
22nd day of April 1997, at the Superior
Court, Susupe, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands.

For further particulars, please refer
to the petition on file herein.

Creditors of the Decedent or of his
estate are hereby notified that they
must file their claims with the Clerk of
Court for the Superior Court within sixty
(60) days of the first publication of this
Notice, or the claims will be forever
barred.

Dated this 25th day of March, 1997.

/s/ CHARLENE TEREZEYO
Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands

SHIGEKI YOSHIDA,
Plaintiff
vs.

KTT CORPORATION, FUKUMOTO
CORPORATION, SAKURA
KOBAYASHI AND KAZUO
KOBAYASHI, in his individual capacity,
Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-162

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: SAKURA KOBAYASHI

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

Your answer should be in writing and
filed with the Clerk of this Court at
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared
and signed for you by your counsel and
sent to the Clerk of this Court by
messenger or mail. It is not necessary
for you to appear personally until further
notice.

If you fail to file an answer in
accordance with this summons,
Judgment by Default may be taken
against you for the relief demanded in
the Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT.
Dated this 26th day of March, 1997.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

A-One Shoes
Needs Part Time
Sales Clerk
after 3:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Superior Court of the
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO.,
Plaintiff
vs.
JAE SOUL LIM dba K-STORE,
Defendant.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-177

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant
to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court
in this matter on December 18, 1996, I will
sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder,
for current lawful money of the United States
of America, all the right, title, and interest
of Defendant in and to the following property:
that Hill Phoenix 25 feet x 6 feet x 3 feet,
eight month old food freezer, Model GIZO-
12, located in the former premises of K-Store,
situated on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan,
The auction sale will be open to the
general public and will be held at the former
premises of K-Store, situated on Middle
Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. on
Saturday, March 29, 1997, subject to the
following terms and conditions:

1. Inspection of Freezer - The freezer
described above is presently located at the
former K-Store, Gualo Rai, where it may be
viewed and inspected between the hours of
eight o'clock a.m. (8:00 a.m.) and four o'clock
p.m. (4:00 p.m.) each weekday before the
sale. All inspections of the freezer must be
coordinated with John Joyner, auctioneer.
Failure to inspect the freezer will not
constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment,
or rescission by any buyer.

2. Warranties and Covenants - The
freezer listed for sale in this notice will be
sold "AS IS" without any warranty or
covenant on the part of the auctioneer or
Cosmos as to quality, character, or condition.
3. Conduct of Auction Sale
A. Reserve. The auction sale shall be
held with reserve.

B. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.
Auctioneer shall have the following rights and
duties in conducting the auction sale:

(1) To withdraw the freezer listed for sale
in this notice before sale or before a bid for
such freezer is accepted.

(2) To adjourn the sale without notice at
any time before the freezer is struck off,
without incurring any liability whatsoever
thereby; and

(3) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any
and all bids.

C. Bids. Bids may be submitted in
advance for the freezer listed in this notice.
Such bids shall be not binding, except that
the highest of such bids will automatically be
considered the opening bid for the item and
shall be binding. Bids may be entered in
person, in writing, or by fax to John B. Joyner,
2nd Floor, Union Bank Building, Clear Center,
P.O. Box 508, Saipan, MP 96950; Phone:
235-8061; Fax 235-8070. Cosmos may bid
at the auction sale.

D. Disputes. Auctioneer may resubmit the
freezer listed in this notice to additional
bidding if a dispute arises as to any bid
thereon.

4. Enforcement of Auction Sale -
A. Deposit: Payment. The successful
buyer shall pay a deposit of ten percent
(10%) of the purchase price immediately after
the sale in cash or by certified check payable
to Cosmos. The balance must be paid within
three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash
or by certified check, otherwise Cosmos will
retain the deposit and resell the freezer.

B. Memorandum of Sale. Auctioneer shall
require, and all buyers must sign, a
memorandum of sale immediately after sale
of the freezer is consummated.

C. Removal or Storage of Freezer.
Buyers shall have seven (7) days after
payment of the purchase price to remove the
freezer from the place of sale. Buyers shall
bear the entire cost and risk of loss during
removal and storage prior to such removal.
After the seven (7) days, buyers shall be
liable for all expenses incurred for storage
of the freezer.

5. Change of Terms and Conditions -
Auctioneer reserves the right to change any
of the terms of conduct and enforcement of
the sale by announcement, written or oral,
made before the auction sale or at the
commencement thereof, and such change
or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be
binding on any buyer.

DATED, this 20th day of March, 1997.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer

Marianas Variety News Classified Ads Section**Employment Wanted**

01 FOREMAN/MAINTENANCE-Salary:
\$3.05-6.00 per hour
Contact: FIESTA INCORPORATED (4/
3)Th285017

01 DEL. RT. TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:
\$3.05-3.75 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO.,
INC. Tel. 233-9298(4/3)Th65014

01 KITCHEN SUPERVISOR-Salary:
\$3.25 per hour
01 COOK (PIZZA)-Salary: \$3.25 per
hour
Contact: NEED INTERNATIONAL INC.
dba Pizza Station Tokyo Tel. 235-
3939(4/3)Th228493

200 GARMENT WORKER-Salary: \$2.90
per hour
Contact: ONWEL MANUFACTURING
(SAIPAN) LTD. Tel. 234-9522(4/
3)Th228494

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-
Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: RAYMOND FALCON dba Fal-
con Manpower Services Tel. 234-
8338(4/3)Th228495

01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$580.00 per
month
Contact: SALA INTERNATIONAL
SAIPAN CO. LTD. dba Sala Crystal Tel.
233-8081(4/3)Th228496

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$600.00 per
month
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-
Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: WILDRED P. CHUN dba Faci-
lity Engineers & Consultants Tel. 288-
0847(4/3)Th228497

01 UPHOLSTERER-Salary: \$3.05 per
hour
Contact: FERNANDO C. BENAVENTE
dba Nanding's Upholstery Tel. 234-
7665(4/3)Th228498

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:
\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WENEFREDA M. DOINOG dba
Winlim Ent. Tel. 235-6538(4/
3)Th228499

01 MANAGER, FLOOR-Salary: \$3.05-
5.00 per hour
02 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
12 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: USA FRIENDSHIP CORP. LIM-
ITED dba USA Friendship Karaoke (4/
3)Th228501

01 MASON-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: MILNE & REYES ENTER-
PRISES dba Micronesian Builders &
Dev. Tel. 234-5871(4/3)Th228503

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-
Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: ROBERT J. BRACKEN dba
H.W.G.T. Services Tel. 235-6655(4/
3)Th228504

01 MASSAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GRAND CYCLE INCORPO-
RATED dba Tanaga Acupuncture Clinic
Tel. 233-8511(4/3)Th228507

01 OFFICE CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per
hour
Contact: PETE A. TENORIO & ASSO-
CIATE Tel. 234-8555(4/3)Th228509

01 PHOTOGRAPHER-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: RENATO G. AZUCENAS dba
Sunshine Photo Shop & Mobile Eatery
& Restaurant Tel. 234-1058(3/
27)Th228368

01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIRACLE CORPORATION
dba Pilgrim Restaurant Tel. 235-0405(3/
27)Th228369

Classified Ads FIRST

03 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE-
Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
14 LAUNDRY WORKER-Salary: \$2.90-
3.50 per hour
12 CUTTER-Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per
hour
412 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-
Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
24 PRESSER (HAND PRESSER)-Sal-
ary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
34 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-
Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
03 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Sal-
ary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
05 COOK-Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
04 SEWING MACHINE MECHANICS-
Salary: \$2.90-3.50 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN PACIFIC TEX-
TILE INC. Tel. 234-1501(3/27)Th64855

01 LIFE UNDERWRITER-Sal-
ary: \$950.00 per month
Contact: MOYLAN'S INSURANCE UN-
DERWRITERS Tel. 234-2489(3/
27)Th64866

01 WATER TANK ASSEMBLER-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: Y.M. BM CORPORATION Tel.
234-1115(3/27)Th228349

01 PIANO INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
Contact: NEW E.A. CORPORATION
Tel. 234-1525(3/27)Th228350

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROBERT AND ESTHER
MARPLE dba E & R Enterprises Tel.
235-2688(3/27)Th228348

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.25 per hour
Contact: ALLIED MARINE SURVEY-
ORS, LTD. Tel. 234-9511(3/
27)Th228346

02 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-5.00
per hour
Contact: ISLAND LEISURE CORPO-
RATION dba Las Vegas Game Palace
Tel. 235-0405(3/27)Th228344

02 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 DANCERS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENT.
INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club Tel.
234-6622(3/27)Th228341

02 GOLDSMITH/JEWELER-Sal-
ary: \$3.05-6.00 per hour
01 VISUAL MARKETING DESIGN AS-
SISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
02 SALES PERSON-Salary: \$3.05-5.00
per hour
Contact: THE PERFECT SETTING,
INC. dba The Perfect Setting(3/
27)Th228347

01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: H.A.F. CORPORATION dba
Young's Wholesale Tel. 235-0470(3/
27)Th228340

03 INSTRUCTOR DIVING-Sal-
ary: \$900.00 per month
Contact: GREECE 1965 INCORP. Tel.
233-3483(3/27)Th228335

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00 per
month
01 SALES MANAGER-Sal-
ary: \$1,675.00 per month
Contact: WESTERN SALES TRADING
COMPANY Tel. 234-6031(3/
27)Th228336

06 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL OFFICE CLERK-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING COR-
PORATION Tel. 234-8379(3/
27)Th228333

02 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05
per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Sal-
ary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO.,
INC. dba Saco Security Services/
Saco Service Plus/Quality Builders Tel.
234-8379(3/27)Th228334

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary:
\$1,200.00-1,500.00 per month
Contact: PANTRAC TRADING CORP.
dba Dunhill Store Tel. 234-0550(3/
27)Th228370

01 PURCHASING CLERK-Salary:
\$3.05-4.17 per hour
02 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.17
per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA COR-
PORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Tel. 234-
6412(3/27)Th64886

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$4.50 per hour plus
\$200.00 housing allowance
01 F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-
5.00 per hour plus \$200.00 housing al-
lowance
Contact: SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE,
INC. Tel. 234-8230(3/27)Th64880

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$650.00 per
month
Contact: COMET CORPORATION dba
99c Wholesale Store Tel. 235-4862(3/
27)Th228361

02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
02 MASON-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: JAMES P. REYES, JR. dba Jim
Boy Construction Tel. 235-7093(3/
27)Th228360

02 WAITRESS, NIGHTCLUB-Salary:
\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: SHORES OF SAIPAN, INC.
dba Club Dera Tel. 235-3935(3/
27)Th228359

01 ELECTRICIAN (MAINTENANCE)-
Salary: \$700.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: S.T.R. CO., LTD. Tel. 235-
3935(3/27)Th228358

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:
\$1,500.00 per month
Contact: DIVING TOUR CENTER
SAIPAN CORP. Tel. 228357(3/
27)Th228357

01 RESERVATION CLERK-Salary:
\$800.00-1,100.00 per month
01 SUPERVISOR, TRAVEL AGENT-
Salary: \$1,000.00-3,350.00 per month
Bilingual in Japanese language.
Contact: R & C TOURS SAIPAN, INC.
Tel. 235-3935(3/27)Th228356

01 LAUNDRY MACHINE, MECHANIC-
Salary: \$9.63 per hour
Contact: HYUNG KI MIN dba HK Lau-
dry Service Tel. 234-2342(3/
27)Th228363

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER, BAR-Sal-
ary: \$3.50-4.88 per hour
01 CHEF DE CUISINE-Salary:
\$1,500.00-3,570.00 per month
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:
\$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 CLEANER/HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:
\$3.05-3.55 per hour

03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 DRESS MAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55
per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.50-4.23
per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per
hour

01 HEADWAITER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55
per hour
03 HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary: \$3.05-
3.57 per hour
01 RESTAURANT MANAGER-Salary:
\$3.50-5.00 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE PLUMBER-Salary:
\$3.15-3.55 per hour
01 DORMITORY SUPERVISOR-Salary:
\$4.50-5.63 per hour

02 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary:
\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary:
\$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC.
Tel. 322-3311(4/3)Th64999

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE-Salary:
\$3.25 per hour
02 STEVEDORE 2-Salary: \$3.05-3.25
per hour
01 WINCH OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.15-
3.35 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COM-<

SPORTS



1997 Senior League

Braves trip D-9ers, 8-6

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE TANAPAG Braves repulsed the San Roque D-9ers, 8-6, last Tuesday night for a rousing start in the 1997 Senior League at the Francisco M. Palacios Ball Field.

The Braves got off to an early lead in the top of the opening inning with Chris and JV Pangelinan drawing the team's first two runs of the season for

a 2-0 lead.

In the changeover, the Braves solid defense forced the D-9ers to waste three potential runs to keep the two run lead.

In the second, it was the Braves' turn to bite the dust as the D-9ers held them scoreless.

The D-9ers, however, appeared to be headed for another scoreless inning after its first two batters, Robert

Salas and Dwight Quitano struck out on their turn at bat. But with one out to go before the changeover, the D-9ers suddenly came alive notching five consecutive runs, including a homer by Robert Bansil, as the San Roque team grab the driver's seat, 5-2, for a three run lead.

JV Pangelinan reached the homeplate for the second time while Kevin Kapileo added another as the

Braves cut the D-9ers lead into a single run, 5-4 on top of the third before committing their third out of the inning.

Behind by a lone run, the Braves coaching staff sent Kapileo into the mound relieving Hans Fua.

The move proved to be turning point of the game as Kapileo fanned the first seven batters he faced while his team racked four runs in the next

inning to grab back the lead for good, 8-5.

With Kapileo on the forefront of the Braves' defense, the D-9ers only managed to score a run the rest of the way as the team lost their opening game of the season.

Kapileo took the win after he struck out 10 batters while giving up one hit and one base on ball in four innings.

Continued on page 23

Organizing Committee eyes 13 events

Micro Games set in August 1998

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

AT LEAST 13 events are being eyed in the Micronesian Games Calendar Event slated to be held in Koror, Palau on August 1-9 next year.

Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association president Bill Sakovich said that after a meeting by the 1998 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee (MGOC) "the 1998 MGOC finally announced that the games will push through next year in preparation for the South Pacific Games in American Samoa in 1999."

Prior to the meeting there were some proposals to postpone the Micro Games for another year due to lack of funding, and unavailability of facilities.

"I think one of the main reasons why the 1998 MGOC consented was the fact that the main



Bill Sakovich

reason for the Micro Games is to serve as a tune-up event for the bigger South Pacific Games. To postpone it for another year will defeat its main purpose," Sakovich explained.

The Organizing Committee, led by chairman Billy G. Kuartei, Republic of Palau's Minister of Education, is proposing at least 13 sports in next year's games.

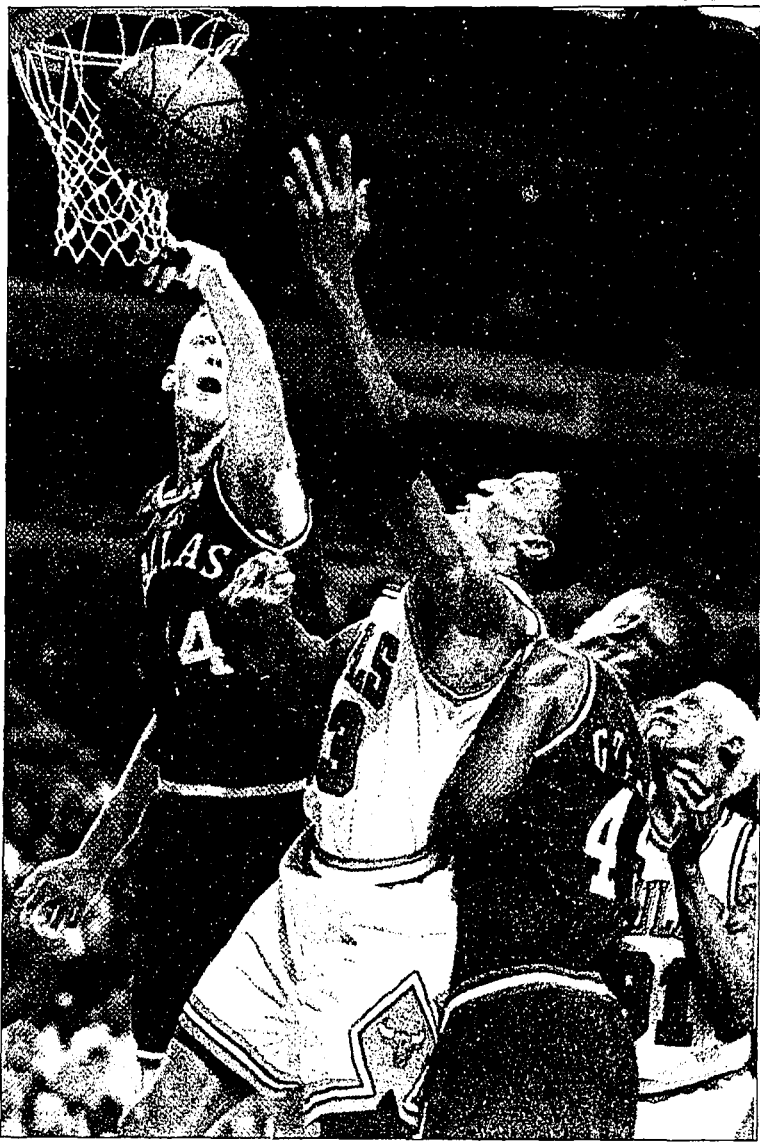
These include athletics, baseball, softball (fastpitch and slowpitch), basketball, volleyball, canoe racing, lawn tennis, table tennis, weightlifting, swimming, wrestling, underwater fishing and the Micronesian all around event.

"We are looking forward of sending entries to all 13 events," the NMASA president added.

Sakovich likewise revealed that the MGOC is also in the process of construction of new facilities, along with refurbishments of existing facilities for the quadrennial event.

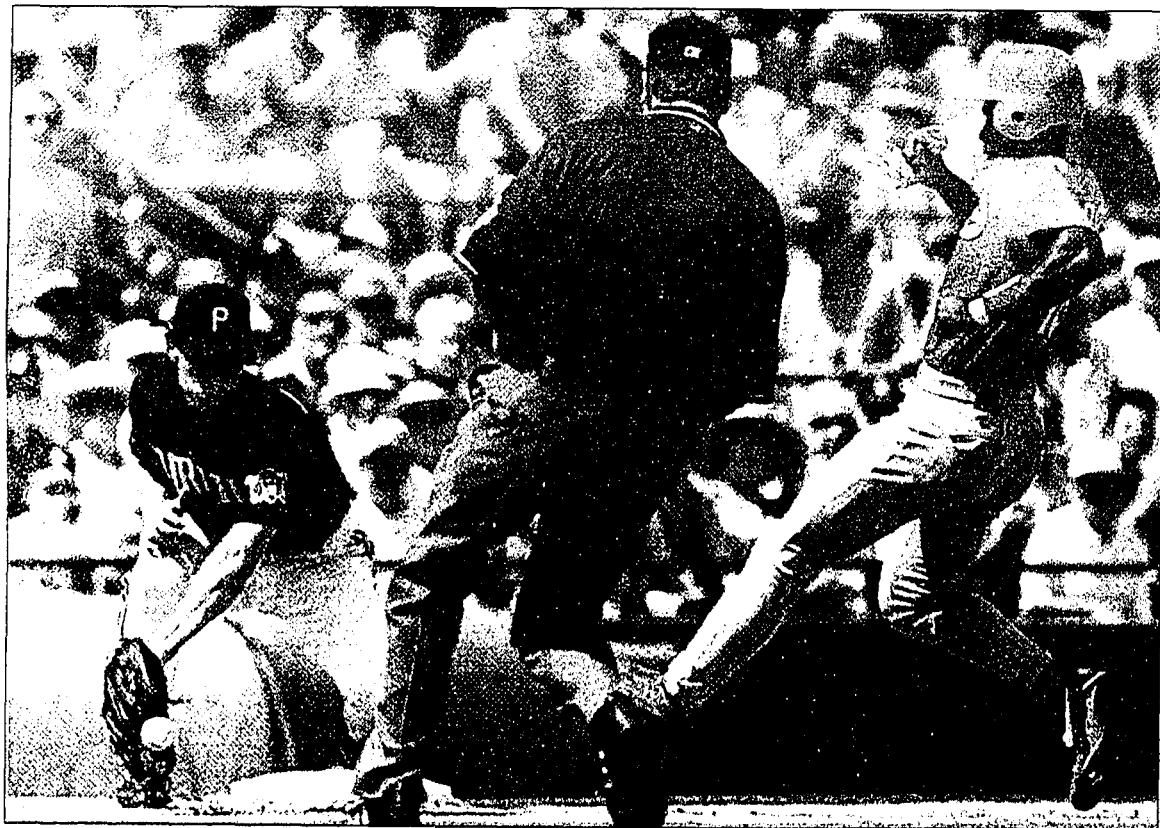
As of the moment, Palau has a track and field facility in Palau Community College, a baseball and softball fields in Airai, a semi-enclosed basketball court, tennis courts in Airai for the athletics, baseball, softball, tennis, basketball, volleyball

Continued on page 23



Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Bradley, left, blocks the shot of Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen (33) as Bulls' Dennis Rodman, right, and Mavericks' A.C. Green battle for position in the first quarter in Chicago, Tuesday, March 25, 1997. (see story on page 23)

AP Photo



Cincinnati Reds Reggie Sanders closes in on third base during a steal attempt as Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman Joe Randa tries to handle the throw in the third inning Monday in Bradenton, Fla. Sanders was safe on the steal.

(AP Photo)

1997 Merit Challenge Darts Tournament

Barcinas wins 1st leg

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

LYDIA Barcinas bested 21 other darters to win the 1st leg of the 1997 Merit Challenge Tournament held recently at Captain's Bar.

Barcinas beat Cesar Mendoza in the finals to win the top prize, gift certificate and 566 points, including 100 bonus points for shooting five points above her average.

For his second place finish, Mendoza received a cash prize, gift certificate and 468 points, including bonus points for shooting above his average.

Jess Omadto checked in third and was credited with 293 points.

The 1997 Merit Challenge Tournament is a 501 with handicap darts competitions and it is held every two weeks.

"Because of its handicap format, the upcoming darters have good chances of winning against the more seasoned players in the one-on-

Continued on page 16

Marianas Variety News & Views

Marianas Variety News & Views Since 1972

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Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

News & Views

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Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 25 Years

50¢

Tenorio assails CUC

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he may have to fire the members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors for "incompetence."

"It's very clear that CUC cannot handle its responsibilities," Tenorio said in a media conference, citing CUC's unresolved problems with its power generators.

CUC doesn't have enough parts for its generators, he said, and if a major power outage occurs he will "remove" all the CUC board members, "replace" them and

Says he may fire members of CUC Board for 'incompetence'



Froilan C. Tenorio

declare a state of emergency.

Six of the seven CUC directors are Tenorio's appointees--Board Chairman Benjamin A. Sablan (appointed 1996, term expires 2000), Juan N. dela Cruz (1995-Apr. 1998), Rosario M. Elameto (1994-Apr. 1999), Jose S. Rios (1994-May 1997), Carmen H. Salas (1994-1998), and Carlos A. Shoda, (1994-Apr. 1997).

Laura I. Manglona, who represents Rota, was appointed in Jan. 1994 by outgoing governor Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero. Her term expires in 1999.

Shortly after assuming office in 1994, Tenorio fired "for a cause" three Guerrero appointees in the CUC board.

'Trouble'

"We're in trouble here if one of the generators should go out," Tenorio said, "and we may have long periods of blackouts."

He said he was told that CUC still doesn't have parts for the generators needing repair.

"They ordered the parts three months ago, and they have not yet received it. They're (now) taking parts from old generators to keep

the operational ones moving."

He said CUC's continuing problems with its power division is one of the reasons why his executive order on CUC's reorganization should not be rejected by the House of Representatives.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente has said that the House is now "ready" to vote against the E.O., but Tenorio said the speaker "better know what he's doing."

"Because if anything goes wrong with the power (situation) I'm going to blame him," he said.

CUC spokesperson Pamela A. Mathis yesterday said CUC is not

Continued on page 46

DNA testing on Hillblom tissue ordered by judge

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has ordered DNA testing of Larry Hillblom's tissue samples held by Davies Medical Center in California to determine the paternity of the late millionaire's alleged children.

In his order issued Wednesday, Bellas said the DNA testing protocol which the court has adopted shall apply only to Hillblom's specimen at Davies.

Court documents showed that the first part of the specimen contains small samples of tissue purportedly removed from Hillblom's face and embedded in a paraffin wax block.

The second part of the specimen is a microscope slide containing four thin sections of tissue allegedly sliced from the representative samples contained in the paraffin block.

Bellas said all other recovered Hillblom specimens currently in the custody of Mr. Barnett of FSA shall not be subject to any analysis or testing pending further court's order.

The other specimens include hair, potential blood, saliva, and semen stains, collected from several structures apparently used by Hillblom in Half Moon Bay, California.

Continued on page 46



PSS Commissioner William Torres (left), DPW acting Secretary Martin Manglona and technical service director Andrew Smith (right) meet at the DPW office to discuss the awarding of contract for classroom project to Demapan Engineering.

Photo by MC. Munar

DOI approves funds for classrooms

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT OF Interior has given the go-ahead to the Public School System's emergency classroom project, paving

the way for the Department of Public Works to approve the proposed awarding of contract to Demapan Engineering, Inc.

DOI earlier withheld the CIP money for the construction of 60 emergency classrooms, following a move by Marianas Pacific, the second-placed bidder, protesting the result of the bidding conducted by the public works department in October last year.

Thomas Bussanich, OIA's fiscal program specialist, told acting Public Works Sec. Martin Manglona that the OIA's decision to withhold the money was "rooted in our regard for prudent management of federal funds."

The Interior Department's decision to approve the release of money, however, hardly appeased Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

"If we were talking about sewer lines I can understand why (the

federal government) would hold the money back. But we're talking about emergency classrooms," Tenorio said in an interview with reporters.

The presence of Micronesian students in the CNMI, Tenorio said, contributes to the problem of classroom shortage.

The CNMI is mandated by the Compact of Free Association to accommodate Micronesians in public schools and health center.

"These people should make up their minds. Either they give us money... or get Micronesians out of the Northern Marianas," the governor said.

The emergency classrooms project costs \$3.8 million which will be shared by the federal and local governments.

DOI will shoulder \$2.28 million, which accounts for 60 per-

Continued on page 47

Tenorio complains: OPA has 'too much authority'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio has this "advice" for Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte--run for governor.

In a media conference yesterday, Tenorio said he "has had enough" of a situation in which needed government projects are delayed "just because someone complained to the public auditor."

"This idea that anybody (who has a complaint), whether legitimate or not, should hold something like an emergency classroom project is ridiculous," he said.

Tenorio was referring to the \$3.8 million emergency class-



Leo L. LaMotte

room project awarded to Demapan Engineering.

A losing bidder complained to the Office of Public Auditor, resulting in the suspension.

Continued on page 46

Weather Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

39 die in mass suicide

By DANA CALVO
RANCHO SANTA FE, California (AP) — The bodies of 39 young men, all dressed in dark pants and tennis shoes, were found inside a multimillion-dollar mansion in authorities called a mass suicide.

tween the ages of 18 and 24, were found lying prone with their hands at their sides Wednesday. There were no signs of trauma, said San Diego County Sheriff's Cmdr. Alan Fulmer.

Deputies were called to the scene of the palatial home about 3:15 p.m. A deputy entered the

home through a side door and found the first bodies.

Investigators believe it's a mass suicide "due to the number people involved, no signs of struggle, no signs of trauma," sheriff's Lt. Gerald Lipscomb said.

The cause of death has not

been determined, although deputies noticed a pungent odor, he said. Two deputies were sent to the hospital for blood tests, Lipscomb said.

The rented hilltop mansion is owned by a man named Sam Koutchessahani, who rented the home in October to people from

out of state, Bill Strong, a next-door neighbor who has seen 5 to 10 people living there recently.

On Wednesday, the group had parked four vehicles, including a hotel courtesy van, a Ford Econoline van, another van and a Ryder truck outside the luxurious

Continued on page 22



San Diego Sheriff's Deputies talk in front of the driveway of a house in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. where Sheriff's Dept. officials reported 39 men were found dead Wednesday. AP Photo

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DOLI clears its backlog

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

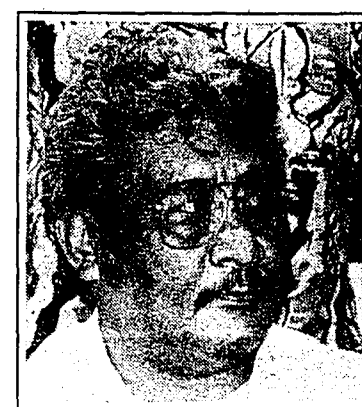
THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration yesterday claimed it has finally eliminated backlogs on the processing of entry permits for non-resident workers coming to the CNMI.

"There are no more backlogs. We are working right now to clear everything. Before the end of this month, we will be processing papers as they come," said DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan.

"We're not anymore receiving complaints like before," he added.

Processing and approval of employment documents at DOLI have

Sablan: We may be processing papers 'as they come'



Thomas O. Sablan

taken at least six months to be done.

Sablan said this was due to initial birthpains caused by the installation of the Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System which began in May last year, explained Sablan.

"The LIIDS is now in place," said Sablan.

A DOLI report showed that about 21,000 applications have been processed by its labor division through LIIDS since last year.

Close to 12,000 of these were from Filipino workers, 9,000 from Chinese workers and 983 Koreans.

Sablan said a LIIDS proto-type went on-line and took over as the only source of data entry for the Division of Labor on July 7, 1995.

By May 20, the Division of Immigration and the islands of Rota and Tinian turned over the issuance of the Entry Permit to LIIDS' Information Systems Unit.

It was also during this month

that the plastic Entry Permit card was produced with existing paper ones collected back and destroyed.

"Although it was an aggressive plan, we felt that all islands needed to uniformly support LIIDS," said Sablan.

"Now I suppose we're reaping what we sow... fast and better services," he added.

LIIDS has access to over 125,000 records including those retrieved from the old system which dates back to 1986.

Tudela will run as independent



Juan Borja Tudela

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

JUAN Borja Tudela, the Saipan mayoralty aspirant who failed to get the Democratic Party's official endorsement last year, is running as an independent in the coming electoral exercise.

In an interview, Tudela said he decided to run upon the insistence of his supporters.

He said supporters are now chipping-in resources to come up with about \$20,000 he may need to finance his campaign.

"I have made up my mind, I'm running," said Tudela.

If elected, he said he will pursue measures ensuring peace and order and deterring drug abuse.

"The crimes and violence are just too much, we have to do something about it," he said.

Tudela has earlier alleged the party's Central Executive Commit-

tee was manipulated by supporters of Public Works Secretary Edward DL Guerrero into endorsing the latter for the race last Dec. 12.

The meeting was supposedly called to re-organize the party. However, the CEC moved to suspend the deadline for the filing of the duo's respective letter of intent as well as the schedule for the primary.

Guerrero denied there was manipulation. He also exhorted Tudela to instead work with him.

Former Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan who, at the time, was the CEC Chairperson, said the move was made to enable the party to remain on schedule with the electoral exercise.

Sources at the Democratic Party said Tudela was being eyed to run for a House position instead.

"It's too late in the day now," Tudela replied.

Tudela has been into politics since 1972.

He has served two terms as Garapan Commissioner and another two terms at the House of Representatives.

His last stint in public office was in 1992 when he worked with the Board of Education.

He attempted to run in the 1993 Saipan mayoralty race but the party decided to instead endorse Luis Benevente, another aspirant. Benevente lost in that election.

Tudela said he is confident he will win the race.

BPL meeting

PURSUANT to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Board of Professional Licensing, hereby gives notice that the regular meet-

ing for the board will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. at the office of the Board of Professional Licensing, 2nd Floor of the Island Commercial Center Building, Gualo Rai.

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro has allowed C.D.C. Saipan and C.D.C. Japan to take the deposition of Sekisui House's president in Osaka, Japan.

Castro granted a motion filed by Richard Pierce, counsel for plaintiffs C.D.C., seeking the tes-

timony of Isao Okui, president and representative of Sekisui House, Ltd.

In his order issued Wednesday, Castro said it appears that Okui may have discoverable information over a pending legal battle between C.D.C. and Sekisui.

The judge appointed the Consul of the US in Osaka as commissioner to arrange the deposition

of Okui and other persons in a two-week period on April 14 to 25, 1997.

The court authorized and empowered the US Consul to administer the oath to the witness, take his deposition or see it taken before him, and reduce the examination to writing.

C.D.C. sued Sekisui in 1995 before the Superior Court 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 Junior High.

Court documents showed that in May 1988, C.D.C. entered into a planning commission agreement with Sekisui and Nikko Kikaku, to develop a hotel/condominium at Hopwood

area.

In 1990, Shigenori Hiraga, president of C.D.C., started demanding money from Sekisui citing the 1998 verbal agreement.

Hiraga, a convicted bribe-giver, loaned money to several politicians, including \$650,000 to Froilan Tenorio before the latter was elected governor.

Cing: Tenorio 'grabbing' undue credit on issue of Tinian casinos

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing yesterday said Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio is "ripping off credit" from those who "really helped" Tinian's new casino gambling industry.

Cing (D-Tinian) said his partymate is "taking credit where no credit is due," citing the Variety story that quoted the governor as saying that he (Tenorio) is "not sure" if his opponents in the forthcoming election are pro-casino and pro-gambling industries like him.

"In 1995, the governor was pushing for a CNMI-wide casino industry which would have killed Tinian's casino," Cing said.

"Now in the newspaper he is asking (Independent candidate Jesus C. Borja and Republican bet Pedro P. Tenorio) if they favor Tinian's casino."

Cing, who supports the Republican candidate, said he is "glad" the governor now supports Tinian's casinos, but added that if he has to thank anyone, it has to be to the senators and representatives who voted down Tenorio's CNMI-wide proposal.

"Like it or not, the industry is coming to Tinian," he said.

"The governor has apparently decided that 'if he can't beat them, he better join them,' by taking credit for the casinos."

"But the people of Tinian are very smart nowadays, and they won't be fooled."

Cing said his rift with the governor, whom he supported in the 1989 and 1993 gubernatorial election, started when Tenorio proposed a CNMI-wide casino industry.

"So I do give the governor credit



David M. Cing

for just one thing," he said, "and that is for bringing this subject up again."

In earlier interviews, Cing said he will "see to it" that in the November election, his partymate finishes last on Tinian.

Judge Castro allows deposition of Sekisui president

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

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FORUM

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EDITORIAL

Don't rush CUC split

IN A MOST decisive, confident manner, Governor Tenorio has set out to overhaul the entire operation of the Commonwealth Utility Corporation.

By separating power from water and wastewater operations, Tenorio hopes that the community can see a better and more dependable utility system.

There is logic in the premise that having distinct power and water agencies can mean better services, as each one can devote more time, energy and resources to a more specialized field of service.

Separate utility agencies may indeed be the way to go and proof of that is the fact that power and water services in most progressive countries are almost always delivered by separate entities.

But the question is, will there really be a more effective delivery of these services to the public if the split takes place at this moment when CUC is just about to come out from the doldrums? Or will this overhaul only lead to confusion and maybe more problems than the current setup poses?

One must remember that it took a lot of effort and rebuilding for CUC to be able to get up on its feet and manage its cash flow properly. While such streamlining was taking place, the consuming public had to weather the hardship of having to deal with a utility firm that is just starting to improve on its services.

As CUC is about to go past its infancy stage, now comes a new proposed setup that could mean starting all over again and a new and possibly painful transition stage.

While no one can argue that the Tenorio revamp offers some good prospects for the consumer, like for example, lowered power rates, it should be noted that a self-sustaining water operation remains in doubt.

And if water remains a problem, the whole thing becomes suspect as it means the consumer again has to go through the same growing pains as when CUC started.

It should be noted that the island of Saipan has yet to see the day when the entire populace can enjoy 24-hours of water flowing into their homes, or when one can drink water on tap.

Although a water emergency task force has had a promising start in laying the foundation of an adequate water infrastructure, the revamp could push the progress back several years, to the formative years.

The separation means power may no longer be there to nurse the losses that may be incurred by water and sewer operations and so government should do the nursing itself.

Where will the money come from if that's the case?

Maybe, it is not yet the right time to consider this reorganization, although eventually, separating power from water and sewer, will be the right route to take.

The situation could be a lot different if a reliable water and sewer system is already in place and water service can sustain itself. It would have been a lot easier for such a revamp to produce the desired results.

But with the water and sewer foundation still half-baked, it may be hard to believe in the urgency of Gov. Tenorio's proposal even if we may all agree with its intent.

Why not allow CUC, with continued help from the government, first lay the foundation of a reliable water system, then take it from there—maybe even privatize operations.

But the bottomline is, a more deliberate approach should be taken especially when it comes to services as important as water and sewer. Caution, after all, will not hurt.

Shelve this proposal for a year or two, time enough to fully assess the situation. Otherwise, we will be merely paying lip service to the oft-heard phrase—the public's interest should always come first.



On this Holy Friday in Paradise

By: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

THIS is Holy Friday in paradise. The predominantly Catholic faithfuls will parade to their parish church to attend religious rituals of the Passion of Christ—His death and resurrection—meditating upon the Father Almighty giving up his only son to save mankind from sin. I usually spend this day in the late afternoon reading the Holy Bible and reflecting upon my own human frailties seeking personal reconciliation with Him.

If anything, I get a certain sobriety at the notion of man's fallibility especially the nurturing of hypocrisy in the daily exercise of the politics of his religion. It breeds suspicion, if not, contempt. It is as amusing as it is equally condemnatory. I often muse how could a person enter and exit his own tiny world of hypocrisy and still come out smelling like a rose. Is it imbedded in the local character or is this quite universally true to men in most every culture or better yet, is it a matter of man's nature that we have learned to suppress via the imposition of a certain set of societal standards.

For instance, a certain person boasts of his relationship with the religious hierarchy in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and Agaña. He even framed their pictures and hangs them behind his desk. He occasionally goes to church and receives holy communion. Throughout the week, he'd visit his mistress he brought in from some distant shore at a hotel. He even had her hired at a certain office. After his nightly affair with his mistress, he'd return home to join his family in a blessed house. The next day he goes to church, receives the holy ghost and repeats the same church routine with his mistress braving every opportunity.

He walks around with head up high, but his rubbery knees quickly buckles at the instant thought of his mistress. He's out of focus and can't tell apples from oranges though he thinks he does. A flimsy character, he even preaches against gambling but he's into it quite heavily. This is just as good a day for him to meditate and reflect upon the importance of the family unit. Most importantly, he must seek reconciliation with his Creator because this Easter Sunday if walks up the altar to receive the holy ghost and dashes out of church to meet his mistress, it will only reflect his human frailties though he chooses to stay in the lower animal kingdom. Pray and pray hard because you're walking right into the abyss of a deathly cliff.

A time for personal reflection

This is the most appropriate time in the course of the year to reflect upon what we've taught in catechism. If you're not sure what you've learned, try reciting the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary" and think through the importance of the message in these prayers. You have to understand it so that in turn, you have something concrete to share with your siblings.

It is a good day to pray together with your family even the youngest toddler who doesn't have the faintest idea what prayers are all about. We claim that the toddler

won't understand what he or she's seeing when you gather around for a prayer. But he or she has seen and eventually learn in catechism will echo and re-echo in him or her all throughout his lifetime. Unbelievable or amazing, but it's true in that this toddler learns the basics of character formation between, believe it or not, age one through ten.

Kids, individually or collectively must be taught spiritual development. This teaching is itself a permanent foundation where it sets the future character of young people. If you teach a kid kindness and respect, he or she will develop a sense of concern for others and respects his or her peers. Down the stretch, he or she isn't easily swayed or dragged into negative activities. He or she learns to weigh situational settings with maturity and isn't easily excited into plunging into undesirable undertakings.

You are the model in his or her life. You've gone through life's experiences well in advance before this person was conceived. Therefore, you have an inkling of the prescriptions of the dos and don'ts of real life situations. And this is that crucial period where your wisdom is direly needed as the kid himself or herself struggles to understand why things are done the way they are. You're the torch of traditional light who must generously share your time with your children.

National media practices racist coverage

The most celebrated criminal case of this century is OJ Simpson's trial in the murder of his wife and friend. He's the focus of attention of the national media since day one. In the same breath, the media hardly covers the arrest and subsequent events of the Oklahoma bomber, McVeigh.

It goes to confirm the assertion that the US is one country that maintains apartheid—one nation: separate but unequal; two societies, one white and one black. McVeigh killed more than a hundred people and injured hundreds others. Yet the American media zeroed-in on wealthy and successful blacks like Simpson and other Asian Americans.

Meanwhile, CNN recently ran a story about Japanese Americans who were forced into encampment right before the war. Many of these people lost their properties when they had to live in camps under suspicion that they may collaborate with the enemy, Japan. I mean they came to the free world in search of the same goals that white Anglo Saxons—descendants of people from the old country in Europe—came for through Ellis Island. The glaring irony is their subsequent drafting into the US Armed Forces. It doesn't make sense, does it?

I'm sure their goal revolves around greener pastures and windows of opportunity for their children just like the Irish, French, German, Scottish, Britons, Russians, and others did at the turn of the century. This is fundamentally troubling in the sense that there seems to be an expression of fear among white Anglo Saxons that white-control of the destiny of the country is slipping slowly into the hands of non-whites. Be that as it may, Happy Easter to one and all!



Where are the grownups?

"We're adults."
"Adults? That's terrible."
"Yes, it's terrible."

—dialogue from the movie "Last Tango in Paris"

WE'RE RUNNING out of grownups, and experts say it is this "scarcity" that is behind most of the planet's socio-cultural problems.

Grownups, says Boston Globe's John Powers, are the sensible folks in their 30s who knew what to wear and how to behave. They are those who acted their age, and they not only know what to do, they know *what* not to do.

Grownups are sensible, discreet and responsible. They have no need for recreational drugs, and they don't get in touch with their inner child, a concept they consider ludicrous.

Powers say we have a lot of people in their 30s but not many grownups.

"They wear starter jackets and Reebok to church. They microwave Chinese leftovers for breakfast, watch 'Real Sex 13' on cable, and use the f-word in front of the kids."

Grownups, he adds, used to dress like grownups. They're patient and prudent, and they felt shame and obligation.

For Powers, a good example of a grownup is lawyer Atticus Finch, the lead character of Harper Lee's Pulitzer-winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Atticus never thought twice about defending a black man in a small-town Alabama around the time that Martin Luther King was probably still a baby.

"If I didn't," Atticus tells his kids, "I couldn't hold up my head in town."

If he weren't a grownup, Atticus would have "wrangled himself a spot on O.J. Simpson's defense team. Then he would have sold his story to the National Enquirer ('OJ Was Guilty As Cain'), hyped it on 'Larry King Live,' then dumped the kids in day care and jetted off with a (bimbo) to Antigua wearing a sharkskin swimsuit."

Sibling society

Poet and author Robert Bly calls present-day society "the sibling society," in which impulse is given its way and where children, half-adults, have children of their own, and everyone is losing the ability to mature.

So what happened?

Gail Sheey, in the Utne Reader, blames it on a "revolution" in our life cycle.

Puberty arrives earlier by several years than it did at the turn of the century, she says, but adolescence is now prolonged until the end of the 20s, true adulthood doesn't begin until 30, and most of the baby boomers (those born after World War II) do not feel fully "grown up" until they are into their 40s, and even then they resist.

Which causes problems—e.g., an increase in domestic violence, drug abuse, crime, divorces, STDs, indifference to one's society.

In our sibling society, notes Bly, the culture is fundamentally without any adults—no fathers, no mothers, no grandpas, no grandmas, no ancestors.

Few adults remain publicly visible as models, and adults have become "invisible," the very idea of an adult has fallen into confusion. Much value is given to a state of half-adulthood and discipline is thrown away.

Parents regress to become more like children, and the children, through what amounts to abandonment, are forced to become adults too soon, without making it.

The teaching in our sibling society, Bly says, is that no one is superior to anyone else, and high culture should be destroyed.

What the young really need—stability, presence, attention, advice, good psychic food, unpolluted stories—are exactly what the sibling society can't give them.

Result: "the deepening rage of the unparented," in which the thinking is horizontal, and directed toward things near and immediate.

Moreover, because a democratic society doesn't exist without highly-informed citizens capable of thinking well, Bly says a society in which 40 percent of public school students cannot make change for a dollar is not a democracy.

Bly says television is no big help, calling it the thalidomide of the 90s. Thalidomide is the sedative and hypnotic drug withdrawn from sale because of its association with fetal abnormalities.

American children, he says, now spend 1/3 of their waking hours out of school watching TV which, as a recent study shows, takes less skill and concentration than eating a meal.

Not surprising then that the National Assessment of Educational Progress says that 95 percent of high school graduates *could not* make their way through college-level reading materials.

Vertical thinking

Bly recommends a return to vertical thinking, which has to do with longing for things more important than warehouse sale goods, and which looks upward toward one's ancestors, angels, gods.

It has to do with the understanding that the world belongs primarily

Continued on page 44

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recycle, recycle, recycle!

Dear Editor:
FINALLY they are here! They say the incinerators should be fully operational before the end of this year, so you know what that means? We need to get used to the idea of separating our trash and recycling what the incinerators will not take. The incinerators will not take aluminum. We must start thinking NOW about what we can do as a community to get ready for this huge change. Aluminum cans and aluminum packaging such as foil is a great place to start. It is estimated that your average family goes through 10 aluminum cans per day. That is an average of over three thousand cans per family, per year. The C.N.M.I. is known to have the greatest consumption of beer per capita. Well, we all know that beer cans are made of aluminum. Did you know that the Spam containers are a high quality aluminum? Can you imagine how much space we could save in the dumps if we recycle those cans and containers?

Many people here in the C.N.M.I. are not aware that we have recycling resources on Saipan. We have FOUR recycling companies that will give you cash back, by simply bringing in your aluminum. These companies are M.S. Villagomez in As Perdido; Luen Tai Enterprises in San Antonio behind Halina's Kitchen; Cruz Sanitation in San Vicente; and Tanapag recycling behind Tanapag Elementary School. They do NOT require you to crush the cans OR rinse them beforehand. I have discovered that when people think of recycling, they often think of the big picture...they see it as a huge problem with an unrealistic goal to solve it and they conclude that anything that they do would not even make a dent in the amount of trash. But just think for a minute: What if only five businesses on Middle Road saved their aluminum cans; that could be a significant amount of trash!

So if you think that you could not possibly make a dent in the problem, you are wrong. Every little bit helps, and it begins to help when people make the extra effort. I've come up with a few suggestions that could work in your homes or businesses. First, keep in mind that this is a change in routine and lifestyle, so don't get discouraged the first few weeks. It does not require a conscious effort to make changes but before you know it, recycling actually becomes second nature. It's like riding a bike or driving a stick shift!

1. Set an extra trash can somewhere in your house or workplace, create an office memo of a flyer for your refrigerator at home and make it a rule to put your aluminum cans and foil in that separate trash can. Take turns taking the cans to the various recycling companies. Put the money in a "can fund" and use it for employee or family birthdays, or for more soda and snacks.

2. Hold each other accountable by having a contest to see who can save the most cans. This would probably work best at a workplace or school. Measure the cans by grocery bags. Either the manager or another employee can keep track on a piece of paper, and the person with the most cans that trip gets a percentage of the money to keep for themselves. This might create more trips to the recycling place, but...that would be great improvement!

This idea came from a friend (thanks Jimmy): If you have a business that distributes or sells beverages in aluminum cans, create an incentive for the customers to bring their empty cans back to you. In return, they will get either cash back or another product from your company.

Then, you as a business could recycle the cans OR send the empty cans back in the empty containers

the full cans came in and have YOUR distributors recycle them. This idea requires organization and extra effort, but is extremely realistic.

To recognize some organizations that are being environmentally responsible: Facey Farms, Saipan International School, Hot 98 FM, Pacific Islands Club, William S. Reyes Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, San Vicente Elementary School, Saipan Sunset Cruise. Apologies go to those not mentioned, if you are recycling and are being environmentally responsible, thank you and keep it up. ALL of you are making a difference!

I would like to commend the Division of Environmental Quality, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the environmentally responsible people for the organization of Environmental Awareness Week. The "essay contest", "the recycling contest", and the "islandwide clean-up" are wonderful ways to motivate people to recycle and keep our islands clean and beautiful. That is exactly what we need! We need incentives to recycle, after all, it does take extra effort, extra time and extra thinking, but we all know that anything important in life's worth the extra work. Right?

I am not an environment specialist; I am a student and an employee of a private company and I am very concerned with the lack of recycling that is going on in the C.N.M.I. The demand for recycling is a reality as our natural resources are being replaced by our day to day waste. The more we use, the more we need to recycle! While going through the phone book and randomly calling different businesses, I found many businesses are NOT recycling. We must start taking responsibility.

CARRI GAULT

Setting facts straight about RT&T

Dear Editor:
THIS refers to your article of February 21 ("CPA Sued for Violation of Open Government Act"). In that article there were incorrect allegations made in regards to Rota Terminal and Transfer Company (RT&T). As officers of RT&T, please allow us to give our side of the picture.

Rota Terminal and Transfer Company was incorporated in 1986 by over thirty local residents of Rota who are not members of the same family. The company bid and won the contract to operate stevedoring and handling services at the recently completed dock and terminal facilities at West Harbor Rota. RT&T has provided commendable service ever since. For this reason CPA elected to extend the current contract. It is important to note that this company is the longest surviving

corporation which is owned by local residents. This proves that individuals working together setting aside their political differences can make a difference.

Intelligent individuals especially those whose offices are placed under public trust should not distort the facts. While Rota Terminal and Transfer Company does in fact have the exclusive franchise to operate stevedoring and handling services at the Rota Port, it is not fair to blame it for the "high shipping costs that are passed on to Rota consumers." Shipping costs of, say for example, rice are composed of several elements such as freight forwarders fees, shipping company freight charges, port charges from other ports, port charges of CPA and stevedoring and handling charges of RT&T, to name a few.

So as we can see, the shipping cost of

rice associated with RT&T involves only the stevedoring and handling charges in Rota which amount to approximately 50 cents per 50 pound bag. Incidentally, the stevedoring and handling rates charged by RT&T had been in effect since 1986. There had been no increase in RT&T's rates in spite of increased costs of doing business.

It is news to us that there is "widespread" dissatisfaction with RT&T's pricing, services and policies. We live in Rota daily but not once has anyone confronted us expressing dissatisfaction. Perhaps, the "dissatisfied" clan constitutes the widespread crowd.

NICOLAS A. SONGSONG

President

JUSTIN S. MANGLOSA

Chief Operating Officer

Presenting the new HSAMP officers

Dear Editor:
THE Historical Society of the American Memorial Park is pleased to announce its officers and coordinators for 1997. They are: President—John W. Walker; Vice-President—Nicholas Cruz; Treasurer—David K. Benavente; Secretary—John M. Romisher; Museum Coordinator—Crystal Walker; Scholarship Coordinator—Edward C. Camacho; Historian—Joe Schinker; and Special Projects Coordinator—Lydia Camacho-Romisher.

Honorary members of the HSAMP are Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams, Lt. Gen. William K. Jones,

USMC (Ret.) Guy Gabaldon, Joseph Garafalo, Hap Halloran, Ken Appleby, Capt. Mario R. Borja, USAF (Ret.) Jim Kirby, Florence Kirby, and Scott Schick, USMC (Dec.).

Officers of the HSAMP are inviting interested veterans and family members to consider donating items to the WWII Museum for display purposes. The HSAMP is a non-profit organization established to promote the development of American Memorial Park and operate the World War II Museum. Donations made to the HSAMP are tax deductible. Museum volunteers donate their

time to operate the WWII Museum. Operating hours of the WWII Museum are from 9:00 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting on April 2. The World War II Museum is open for viewing during other times by asking the National Park Service (NPS) for assistance. The NPS staff has keys to the WWII Museum. Staff members have expressed their willingness to open the WWII Museum for visitors when their schedule permits.

JOHN M. ROMISHER,
Ph.D. HSAMP Secretary

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Widow of slain grocer: 'I want to be here, close to his spirit'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

MI Young Park, 30, wished she had died with her husband who was gunned down by Shawn Appleby during a robbery at Chalan Market in San Antonio last Nov. 13.

Park and her seven-year-old daughter Min Kyo Suh were left behind after the slaying of Korean businessman Byung Ok Suh inside their store.

Since that tragic incident, Park and Min's lives have never been the same again.

Suh's untimely death has made her life meaningless, Park told a Probation Officer who wanted to find out how she and her daughter are coping with the situation.

The only reason she and her daughter choose to stay on Saipan was because Suh was buried here.

"I want to be close to his spirit," Park, in tears, told the Probation Officer through an interpreter.

Park had been married to Suh for seven years. She said Suh was her "life partner" as defined in their custom.

Their daughter, Min, would come home looking depressed

and scared. Children at school often told the girl about the killing of her father.

Park expressed concern for her and her daughter's safety as she tried to continue operating the same business.

Suh arrived on Saipan in May 1996. He then operated the Chalan Market. A month later, Park and her daughter followed on tourist visas.

On the day of the robbery, her husband had secured a resident immigration status for his family.

However, after Suh's death, Park was told that in the absence of the principle applicant (husband), their wife and daughter's status has been nullified and voided.

In order to establish the same status, she will have to re-apply for a long term business entry permit and pay the security fee of \$100,000.

Park indicated she has been working hard in order to pay the security fee and avoid foreclosure of her business.

The store exists with a new name. And so with Park and her daughter. With Suh's "spirit close to them" they have to live here.

Santa Lourdes Grotto an ideal place for Good Friday retreat

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TODAY, Good Friday, some people just want to be in a place or a spot conducive to prayer and meditation other than the church or perhaps the home.

Mount Tapochao has through the years become a popular place for this purpose among Catholics, including Chamorros and Filipinos.

But there's another place that has not received much exposure but is slowly getting more known through word of mouth.

The Borja clan has been maintaining a grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes which is located past Capitol Hill if one drives southward. The place is just known as Santa Lourdes.

According to Kinai Borja, who owns the land where the grotto and shrine is situated, the place has become popular among Filipino Catholics who come in droves on Good Friday.

The shrine has, however, become a tourist attraction. It is open for tourists 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. For island residents, who are understood to be Marian devotees, the shrine is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Borjas, in an effort to maintain the sanctity of the place, have not allowed visitors to bring foods and drinks, and asked them to maintain silence.

The shrine has benches where



SANTA LOURDES GROTTO. Beckoning

people can sit under the shade of tall trees. People who have petitions can also light candles. Others offer flowers to the Lady's image which is enshrined in a natural rock formation.

In 1993, Kinai met an accident and since then has felt some sort of bodily "numbness and tightness." But she said that whenever she cleans the shrine's grounds, the numbness vanishes and when she finishes with the task, the feeling returns.

Kinai also says that if she fails to clean the shrine, "I don't feel well. So even if I got a flu, I just clean..."

Kinai's mother, Maria, used to do the chore, but when she died in 1992, Kinai took it upon herself to continue her mother's task.

Kinai's father, Manuel Benbal, who died in 1995, saw it fit to pass on the ownership of the land to Kinai, who trusts that "Sta. Lourdes will help me out" in her ailment so she could do her duty to Our Lady.

Lujan stays in Hillblom case

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE SUPREME Court has allowed lawyer David Lujan to continue representing Kaelani Kinney in the paternity lawsuit involving the Hillblom estate "so long as he behaves with civility."

The high court, at the same

time, denied Lujan's motion for the nullification of all orders it had issued related to the Hillblom case.

It also reiterated an earlier decision upholding the right of the Bank of Saipan to defend the estate against paternity claims using estate funds.

The court said its "goal" is to "expedite the paternity action and continue with this case."

"In an attempt to expedite this case and to prevent injury to his client, we are allowing him (Lujan) to continue," the high court said in an order issued Wednesday.

However, upon completion of the Hillblom case, the court said, Lujan "will not be admitted as an attorney before the courts of the CNMI unless he passes the CNMI Bar."

Hillblom is representing Kinney, mother of Junior Larry Hillblom, an alleged son of the late multimillionaire Larry Lee Hillblom.

Last January, Lujan filed an emergency motion to disqualify Justices Pedro Atalig and Ramon Villagomez from all proceedings, and to withdraw all Supreme Court orders related to the Hillblom estate.

Raising conflicts of interest issue, Lujan claimed Atalig had



David Lujan

an illegitimate child of his own, and Villagomez had a brother who was a member of BOS board of directors.

He had also asked that Chief Justice Marty Taylor step out of the panel for "allowing" the "disabilities" to take place in the bench.

The Supreme Court justices later discovered that the Guam-based lawyer didn't take the

CNMI bar.

Irked by the lawyer's allegations, the high court, had said it would allow Lujan to continue representing Kinney only if he passed the CNMI Bar. This order was issued weeks after Lujan's filing of the motion.

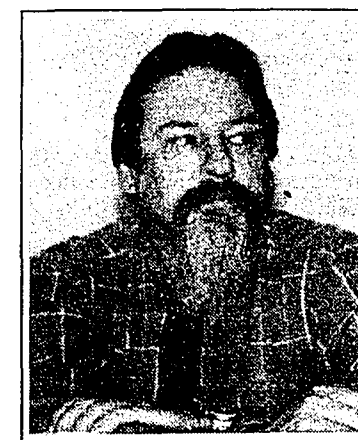
"Mr. Lujan's unfounded accusations and innuendos against Justice Villagomez's and Justice Atalig's character shows a general lack of civility and disrespect for the court," the Supreme Court said in Wednesday's order.

The court described Lujan's statements as "inaccurate, misleading and without evidential or factual foundations."

The court said its "goal" is to "expedite the paternity action and continue with this case."

The Supreme Court also reiterated the right of the Bank of Saipan to defend the estate against the claims of the alleged out-of-wedlock children using estate funds.

PSS gets \$225,000 grant



Don A. Farrell

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System has received \$225,000 technical assistance grant from the Department of Interior, PSS said yesterday.

The \$225,000 will be used for the PSS after-school program, according to a press release from PSS.

PSS federal program coordinator Tim Thornburgh said last year DOPI gave PSS \$396,000 for the program. This amount, Thornburgh said, was part of the Compact money.

Board of Education chairman Don A. Farrell thanked Office of Insular Director Allen Stayman, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and the Legislature for their support.

"Farrell also noted the key role that Gov. Tenorio played in securing a succession of grants that support their after school programs and provided pay differential to the teachers who provide these additional services at each school."

The school program offers "mentoring tutorials, enrichment, role modeling and counseling to students wishing to improve their learning skills," PSS said.

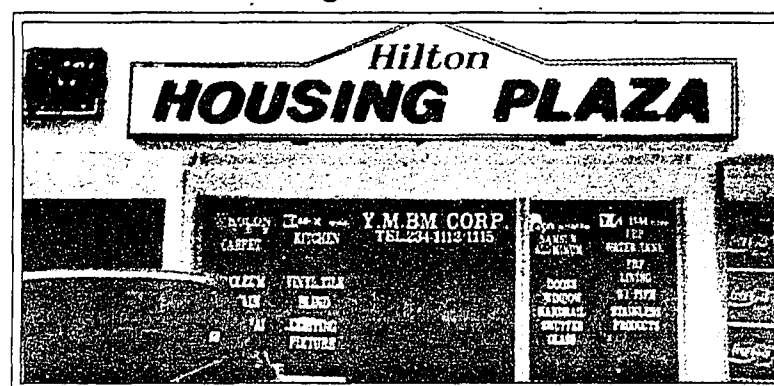
After school programs that cover first through third grade students are focused on implementing early reading intervention programs that utilize phonetic-based instruction to help students improve their reading skills.

The public schools offer a full range of intramural and interschool sports as well as instruction in sports such as swimming, soccer, football, cross country and pingpong, as integral component of after school and Saturday school activities."

"(C)lasses offered during intercessions have proven to be a god-send as they provide students who have failed a course with classes that enable the student to learn the requisite skills and pass the course," the press release quoted Farrell as saying.

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AG opposes Tenorio deposition

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has opposed a request to take Gov. Froilan Tenorio's deposition involving a lawsuit over land exchange against the Division of Public Lands.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Thomas

E. Clifford said the deposition of a high government official is only allowed where the testimony is both relevant and essential to the noticing party's case.

In this case, Clifford stated in the Public Lands' motion for protection, Tenorio's testimony is both irrelevant and of no conse-

quence to plaintiff's case.

Ricardo C. Rasa and Teresita R. Rasa filed a lawsuit last year against the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Public Lands demanding exchange for their land taken by the government.

The Rasas asked the Superior

Court to compel Tenorio for deposition regarding, among other things, the governor's alleged promises for land exchange.

Clifford said even if the court determines that a governor's deposition is somehow relevant his testimony should not be taken until after the motion for summary judgment is heard and decided.

Then, Clifford pointed out, if the governor's testimony is necessary at that time, it could be obtained in a less intrusive manner like in a deposition on written questions.

"Even if the governor is compelled to testify in a deposition then he should not be compelled to testify at trial," said the government lawyer.

"This is a simple case and will be tried to the bench. There is nothing to be gained by forcing the highest official in the Executive Branch to testify both at a deposition and at trial," he said.

Clifford said the governor's testimony and his promises, if any, are irrelevant to whether plaintiffs are entitled to an exchange.

He said plaintiffs are entitled to an exchange only if there is a public purpose for the exchange.

"This is a meritless lawsuit, motivated by greed and unsupported by any legal basis," the lawyer said.

He said the Rasas received a five-hectare agricultural homestead virtually for free and never complained about the price or the quality of the land.

Twelve years later, Clifford said, the Rasas saw a chance to exchange the 1.5 hectares of their homestead for 10 hectares of prime public land nearby.

"The Rasas won't let it go, they

demand their exchange, they demand the land they want, regardless of how illegal it is and regardless of the resulting injury to all other NMI people," Clifford said.

Court documents showed that as part of the Talafofo road widening project, 391 sq. meters of plaintiffs' agricultural homestead which they received the deed to in 1980, were taken.

An additional 14,485 sq. meters were then identified by Department of Public Works as being required due to risk of collapse of the steep slope plus unsuitability for farming.

Both tracts were certified by former Gov. Guerrero for exchange. Memoranda Of Understanding were executed allowing entry and survey and maps were prepared identifying the lots that plaintiffs seek in exchange. No further steps were taken.

Between 1992-1993, Clifford added, if became clear that while the 391 sq. meters were in fact needed and taken as part of the road widening, there was no reason for the acquisition of the additional 14,485 sq. meters.

Calling on young men turning 26

YOUNG men who will turn 26 in 1997 will be reaching an important milestone, according to the Selective Service System.

Beginning on January 1, 1997, men who were required to register with Selective Service in 1989 will be turning 26 and will no longer be eligible for induction should a draft be reinstituted. Selective Service does not have the authority to accept late registrations after a man reaches his 26th birthday.

Selective Service State Director Joseph C. Reyes warned that, with few exceptions, a man who fails to register before turning 26 will permanently forfeit his eligibility for certain benefits, such as federal student aid, job training, and most federal employment, in addition to facing possible prosecution as a felon.

Some states and other U.S. territories/jurisdictions also require registration for student aid, entrance to colleges and universities, state employment, and permission to practice law.

Reyes points out that men age 18 through 25 who have not yet registered can avoid the risk of prosecution and loss of benefits by registering promptly at any local office. Failure to register is a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000, up to five years in prison, or both.

Over 13 million men age 18 through 25 are currently registered with Selective Service. Of those, 1,081 are from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

April declared NMC month

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

"NMC is the place to be!"

This is Northern Marianas College's comeon for its college month celebration which kicks off on April 5 with a college fair and a fun run.

Yesterday Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio signed a proclamation declaring April as Northern Marianas College Month, following US President Clinton's designation of April as National Community College Month.

Tenorio noted that since its founding 16 years ago, the NMC had registered some 10,800 students in its certificate and degree courses.

Of those enrollees, about 700 had graduated with certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees either offered or coordinated by the college.

Also, the proclamation noted, 1,100 people had enrolled in adult basic education classes, 5,000 had participated

in community service courses, and over 1,000 had been served yearly by the Land Grant Research and Extension Programs.

"Northern Marianas College contributes significantly to the protection and preservation of our cultural heritage and traditional values of our people, and enhances community appreciation of the value of having a post-secondary institution in our Commonwealth," Tenorio said in his proclamation.

The college fair will be held at the Civic Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fun run, which is at 6:30 a.m., will start from the NMC campus in As Terlaje and end at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The college will have an open house on April 9-11, 15, 21, and 23 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Another activity will be a series of

educational forum tackling the "crises in our community." On April 9, the topic is drugs; April 16, solid waste dump; April 23, violence; and April 30, the family. Venue is Joeten-Kiyu Library, at 6:30 p.m.

Other activities the NMC has lined up:

•Fund-raising dinner for the Busi-

ness and Tourism Learning Center, on April 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., at Claret Restaurant, Dai-Ichi Hotel;

•Professional Development Days, on April 24 and 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Gilligan's, Hyatt Regency;

•Charter Day, on April 26 from

7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., at NMC's South Field;

•OSHA workshop on electrical safety, on April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at NMC Bldg. V, Room 110; and

•Beautification and Recognition Day, on May 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Obyan Beach.

MARCH 28-30, 1997 ONLY!!!

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都 Miyako

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For dinner, Kili Cafe & Terrace offers a terrific Easter Sunday Dinner Buffet that includes a carving station, while enjoying live music provided by "The Spirals" Quartet. Only \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. From 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

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For reservations or inquiries, please call 234-1234 ext. 26

Gov. slams feds, legislators

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday lashed out at Insular Affairs Director Allan Stayman for "interfering" in CNMI affairs, and "reminded" the House of Representatives that "it's a big mistake" to reject his proposal to reorganize the Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp.

Tenorio said his plan to split CUC into two separate agencies is an internal matter.

"(Stayman) has no business interfering."

"What we're trying to do is to make CUC efficient and self sustaining, and I don't want the federal govern-

ment to tell us how to manage our own affairs," he said.

Stayman, in a March 24 letter to the governor, said the E.O. may be in conflict with the partnership agreement on CUC signed in March 1995 by Tenorio and the Interior Department, and may lead to the withholding of federal funds.

Tenorio, however, said the federal government can "keep their money."

"(It's) typical of a Democratic administration in Washington, D.C. (that) they don't want anything (that will) make the government more efficient," the governor, who is a Democrat himself, said.

He said during the drafting of the E.O., "we made sure that there would be no conflict with the partnership agreement," which he said did not prohibit the reorganization of CUC.

"We're just separating (the power division) from the water and sewer division, because power is subsidizing it."

"Again, I want to make it very clear that it's not fair that there are people who don't have sewer and are not connected to sewer lines, (but are in effect) subsidizing those who have sewers."

"There are those who have no 24 hr-water and (who have to) hire honeywagons to drain their sewer tanks."

"Now why do these people continue to pay 11 cents and now maybe 15 cents so CUC can pay employees working in the water and sewer division?"

"I don't think it's fair."

He said CUC's power division is making an annual profit of \$8 to \$9

million, which he said could be better used to improve the power generators and reduce power rates.

Tenorio again "reminded" the House of Representatives that "if they reject my E.O. then they better be able to reduce power rates."

He added that it was a "dumb idea" for the Senate to reject the E.O.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente has said that the House is "ready" to vote against the E.O., but Tenorio said the speaker "better know what he's doing, because if anything goes wrong with (the power situation) I'm going to blame him." (See related story in this issue)

In order to go into effect, an executive order has to be approved by at least one of the two houses of the Legislature, which can only "kill" the E.O. if both houses vote for rejection.

CCAC invites artists

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) is seeking interested artists, craftspeople and musical/dance performers to represent the Northern Marianas in the upcoming Guam Micronesia Island Fair (GMIF) at the Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park, Ypao Beach in Tumon, from May 22-25.

According to a news release, the CCAC Office will be selecting 20 individuals (3 visual/contemporary artists, 3 crafts makers, 2 seafarer/canoe navigator and 12 performers) on a first serve basis by submitting

your letter of interest and specify in what way can you best represent the CNMI in this festival.

The GMIF Committee will accommodate 20 delegates including hotel, ground transportation, and meals during the indicated dates.

Artists who will be submitting letters of interest should also indicate that they are willing to pay for the round trip air fare.

Deadline for submission is on Thursday, April 3, 1997. For more information, please call the CCAC Office at 322-9982/83.

DOLI may station 3 men in HK office

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration is proposing that at least three operatives be sent to help man the CNMI's Hong Kong Liaison Office in anticipation of an influx of workers coming to the Commonwealth following the former British Colony's reversion to China in July.

"My recommendation to the governor was to send one each from Saipan, Tinian and Rota," said DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan in an

interview.

He said the office is expected to be operational by May.

"The sooner (the office opens) the better for us," he said.

Hong Kong's reversion to China is seen to flood the Pacific Rim with excess labor both from the mainland communist state and the colony itself.

This, according to a ranking DOLI official, could spell a "monstrous" problem for the CNMI government who is still grappling with a labor and immigration problem

caused by the illegal entry of foreign workers.

There already are an estimated 5,000 illegally employed and over-staying foreign workers in the Commonwealth. The figure is feared to multiply three-folds by next year once the reversion takes full swing.

DOLI only has a total of 15 operatives tasked to hunt for overstaying and illegally employed foreign workers, inspect factory sites and workers' barracks and pursue appropriate cases against the violators.

Public hearing slated

THE CNMI Legislature will be holding a joint public hearing on Tinian, at 9:00 a.m., on April 11, in the Mayor's conference room, on the 2nd Floor of the GBC Building, to hear comments from the public regarding the proposed lease of 450 hectares of public land located within

the Military Buy-Back Area on Tinian, including the beach front and sea cliff frontage areas south of West Field, to the Hu's International Investment Co. Inc.

All members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing and offer their comments about the proposed lease.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. and FIRST LADY GRACE TENORIO
INVITE ALL CHILDREN AGES TODDLER TO 12 YEARS OLD* TO THE

Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt

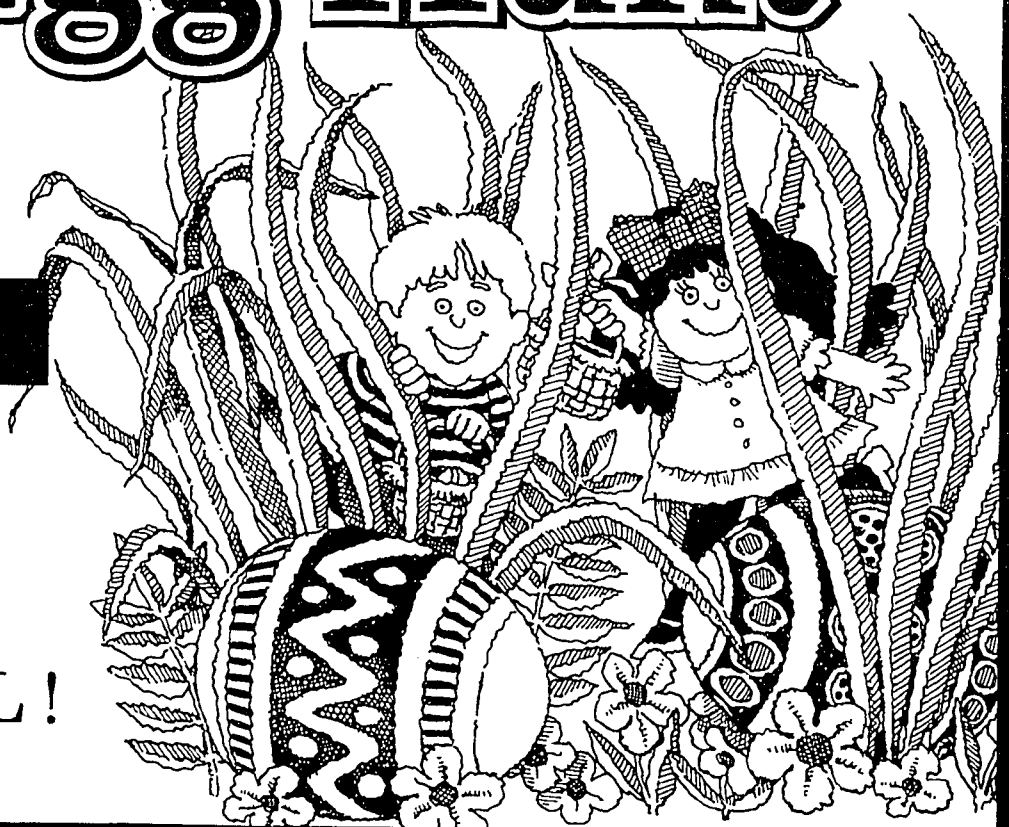
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1997
Garapan Central Park & Sugar King Park
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

MANY, MANY GREAT PRIZES

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY
HAMBURGLAR MAN
ENJOY THE PLAYGROUND

*Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Bring your basket.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!



ALPHEX MARKET

STOCK SALE

SALE

March 28
to April 4

ITEMS	REG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
Always 22 Pantliners	1.09	.99¢
Charmin Tissue 12 rolls	7.09	5.95
Luvs Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9.95	7.95
Pampers Size 2 34 cts	12.95	9.99
Pampers Newborn 28	10.95	8.95
Wash A-Bye Baby 120ct	3.95	2.95
Bounce 25Use	2.89	2.60
Bounce 40Use	3.49	3.15
Downy Liquid 40	7.25	6.50
Downy Liquid 60	8.65	7.75
Downy Liquid 64	6.59	5.95
Downy Liquid Refill 20	2.99	2.55
Downy Liquid Refill 40	6.99	5.99
Gain 10Load 19oz	2.85	2.55
Gain 18 Load 35 oz	3.79	3.45
Gain Liquid 50oz	5.29	4.50
Gain Liquid 100 oz	10.25	9.25
Tide 10 22oz	3.85	3.49
Tide 19 39 oz	5.99	5.40
Tide 42 92 oz	12.95	11.75
Olay Bar Soap 4.7oz	1.49	1.35
Camay Bath Soap	1.45	1.29
Coast Bath	1.09	.99¢
Zest Bath Soap99¢	.80¢
Safeguard (U.S.) 3pcs	2.99	2.69
Head & Shoulder Shampoo . 15oz	5.99	5.40
Secret Deodorant Spray 40z	4.95	3.99
Secret Underarm 1.7oz	4.95	3.99

Pringles
Regular Price \$2.15
Sale Price **1.89**

Pantene Shampoo 13 oz
Regular Price \$5.45
Sale Price **3.99**

Pampers Size 4 24
Regular Price \$12.95
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Charmin Tissue 24 rolls
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Regular Price \$24.95
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The CNMI economy:**10 years of revenue growth**

By William H. Stewart,
Economist
For the Variety

It was ten years ago that the Commonwealth's economic "boom" started. Several indicators of the Commonwealth's phenomenal growth over this period can be observed from the increase in locally generated government revenues.

Business gross revenue tax collections have increased from \$19.3 million in 1986 to \$67 million in 1996 for an average annual increase of 16 percent.

Revenues collected from the wage and salary tax have jumped from \$7.4 million in '86 to \$53.9 million in '96 for an average annual increase of 40 percent. Impressive growth by any measure.

Government income from the import and export tax averaged 18.7 percent and 20 percent respectively. Revenue generated from the hotel tax has averaged an annual rate of growth of 31.5 percent.

On the expenditure side, in 1986 revenues required for government commitments were a mere \$40.5 million. Ten years later, by 1996, they had increased five times to \$216.8 million with the average annual growth rate of 19.2 percent.

Expenditures have also increased three and one half times

from \$59.3 million in 1986 to \$209.8 million by 1996 for an average annual increase of 13 percent. It should be kept in mind that the Commonwealth, unlike Guam, has three principal islands which requires a tremendous duplication of services, three airports, three medical facilities, three public safety operations, etc.

These services can't be consolidated and thus the high cost of government operations.

This extraordinary growth in government revenues was a result of two factors: an increase in taxes in 1995 but more importantly the striking performance of the private sector and the reported business gross revenue (BGR).

In reviewing the most recent data available, the reported BGR was nine times larger in 1995 than in 1985. In 1985 the BGR totaled \$244.4 million and increased to \$2.26 billion (est.) by 1995 for an average annual increase over the period of 21 percent.

In terms of wages and salaries paid, these jumped from a total of \$77.5 million in 1985 to \$464.8

million in 1995 a six fold increase for an annual average over the period of 20 percent.

Why must we recycle?

THERE is a simple solution to the so-called Puerto Rico Dump crisis: recycling.

This solution has been in existence but was never taken seriously.

Recycling is simply taking a used item and remaking into a new, useful product instead of discarding it as waste.

Take aluminum for example. It has been around for as long as the earth has. Eventually we humans came along, discovered it and learned to convert it into storage containers that hold many products in our homes. Today, aluminum is used for packaging beverages, food items, kitchenwares, engine parts, and even construction supplies. Beverage cans alone

account for the largest single use of aluminum.

Unfortunately, many cans end up at the Puerto Rico dump as waste.

When then discovered that we can recycle aluminium.

We can take the beverage cans and convert them into new, reusable containers. Did you know that, according to the U.S. Can Manufacturing Institute, recycling takes 95% less energy than making new metal from bauxite, and ore from which aluminium is made.

That is an impressive 95% savings in energy consumption, a reduction in volume of garbage going to landfills and a good way for people to earn extra money while keeping the roadsides clean.

The benefits from recycling as mention above needs no explanation.

Our current waste management problems at Puerto Rico dump has become a weekly episode in the media.

This is another reason why we should recycle to reduce the volume of garbage going there. We owe it to the welfare of our children and ourselves.

Marianas have limited space for additional landfills.

The incinerator that the government plan to use produce poisonous gases released in the air we breathe.

While incinerators reduce the volume of waste by burning garbage, the ashes, and end product, still end up going back into the land fill.

Why not keep the natural beauty of our island instead of turning another area into another landfill.

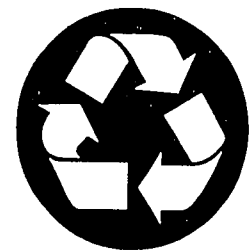
Everyone can join to make recycling work.

Cruz Sanitation Services introduces its recycling campaign "RECYCLE TODAY CNMI" — promoting the beauty of our islands.

The campaign will kick off on April 1, 1997. Everyone is invited to join by bringing in their aluminium cans to C.S.S. office in San Vicente.

For every 25 lbs. of aluminium purchased, participants will receive a raffle ticket.

Raffle draw will be held on the 4th of July in conjunction with the Liberation Day festivities at the American Memorial Park.

**RECYCLE**

William H. Stewart

**Rejoice
with the entire
family and start your
day with our**

**Easter
Sunday Brunch**

Join on our **EASTER EGG HUNTING FUN** and win wonderful prizes! There will be **GAMES & EGG HUNTING** which will start at exactly 12:00 noon by the Poolside. So bring your kids along for fun and have a very exciting day.

ADULTS: \$22.00**KIDS: \$11.00**

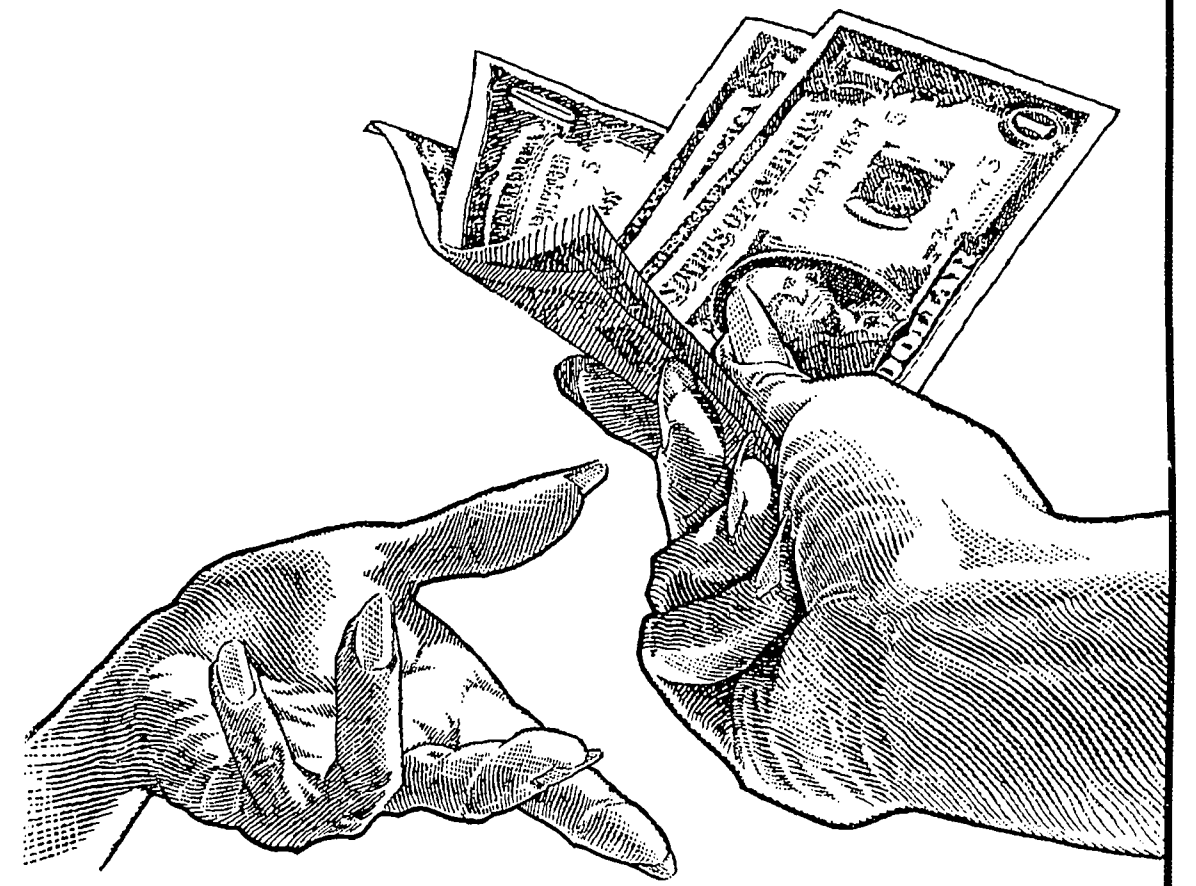
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SAIPAN**



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March 30th 1997 from 11:00am-2:00pm

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Rota Branch: P.O. Box 1176, Rota, MP 96951
• Tel. No. 532-BANK Fax: 532-7267

1997 CNMI VOLUNTEER WOMEN'S AWARD CEREMONY

In celebration of the Ninth International Women's Day, the Governor and First Lady Froilan C. Tenorio sponsored an Award Ceremony in recognition of Women Volunteers, March 19, 1997 at the Diamond Hall Ballroom, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eighteen (18) volunteer groups were represented at the ceremony. There were approximately 130 women volunteers at the celebration.

The purpose of the event was to recognize and support the CNMI Women Volunteers' for their untiring commitment and dedication in providing various humanitarian/social services to the community by unselfishly and endlessly contributing their valuable time and demonstrating interest for the welfare and well-being of the people of the CNMI.



CHC Volunteers Association



First Lady toss to cheer the hardworking women volunteer after her brief remarks, while the Governor smiles



A big smile of the mistress of ceremony Ms. Chialang Palacios "The oldest community volunteer"



DYS Women Volunteers



NMI American Red Cross Volunteers



Korean Women's Association of Saipan



Immanuel United Methodist



Karidat Volunteers



Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Religious Educators and Saint Michael's Center



Victim Hotline Volunteers



Breast Feeding Volunteer Assistance Group



Marianas Baha'i Community



Women's Affairs Received Resolution from the House of Representatives



Korean Women Drum Talem Show



Local Macarena Dance. They all look at each other how to being the Macarena. Susan Schwarz show the first step.



Sister Brigid Perez leading the farewell song

On behalf of Governor Tenorio and First Lady Grace and the Women's Affairs Office, we wish to thank everyone who attended the award ceremony. Other groups of volunteer who did not submit their names to the Women's Affairs Office, were also remembered at the ceremony.

South Pacific News Roundup

Bougainvilleans celebrate Chan decision to step down

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The secessionists on Bougainville and their supporters in Australia have been celebrating the decision by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan to stand down pending the outcome of the judicial inquiry into the Sandline mercenary contract.

The Sydney-based representative of the breakaway Bougainville Interim Government, Moses Havini, said today that Bougainvilleans joined the people of PNG in welcoming Wednesday's announcement by Sir

Julius.

"Chan's departure has come too late. He should have resigned in February when the whole mercenary deal was revealed," Havini said. He told Pacnews that the prospects for peace talks on Bougainville now looked much more positive.

"The BRA and the interim government could NOT negotiate with Chan. We did NOT trust him at all. We regard him as a cheat and liar," he said. Havini says the secessionists would want a format similar to that arranged

for the Cairns talks in December last year.

Preparatory discussions with the PNG government could take place outside PNG but the main meeting would have to be held on Bougainville Island. Asked about the PNG soldiers being held prisoner by the BRA, Havini said they are safe and well.

He said he is awaiting a response from secessionist leader Francis Ona to requests from Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer that the prisoners be released.

Fiji extends its ban on turtle kills

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji government has extended the ban on killing of turtles.

The current ban ends next Monday, March 31, but has now been extended to the year 2000.

A government statement says the extension will allow the Fisheries Ministry to monitor all issues pertaining to the conservation and preservation of turtles, Radio Fiji reported.

The ban, however, does not prohibit the harvesting of turtles for cultural purposes.

Landowners against logging agreement

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Landowners of East Fataleka on Malaita are seeking a high court ruling to nullify a logging agreement with overseas company, Maving Brothers.

They say the company has breached the logging agreement it signed with them in 1992, when it left the area two years ago without notifying them, SIBC reported.

The landowners say they want the court to nullify the logging agreement, and accus-

ing the company of failing to provide certain amenities catered for in the agreement such as a clinic, a school and water supplies for the villages.

This is despite Maving Brothers having made 14 shipments of logs during its operation in East Fataleka.

The landowners say if the company wants to resume its operation in their area, a new agreement has to be negotiated with the view of increasing royalty payment.

Solomons to join high-level mission

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands is being included in the itinerary of an international high level fact-finding mission to visit Bougainville later this year.

The visit to be made jointly by representatives of the African, Pacific and Caribbean group with their European Union counterparts was initially planned for Bougainville only, SIBC reported.

But as Solomon Islands Ambassador in Brussels, Robert Sisilo confirms, Solomon Islands had been in-

cluded following a request he made to the 24th session of the ACP-EU joint assembly last week. The visit to be made later this year on a date yet to be decided, will now include the Shortlands and Choiseul.

Sisilo says the purpose of the visit is to enable representatives of the ACP-EU grouping to see firsthand the situation that has been created on Bougainville by the nine-year old rebellion and the extent to which the spillover effects of the crisis had affected Solomon Islands.

Fiji farmers seeking third cane payment

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji National Farmers Union claims farmers will NOT receive their third cane payment as earlier promised.

The payment is seven-dollars-and-two cents Fijian about (US \$5) a tonne for the 1996 season, Radio Fiji reported.

Union Secretary Mahendra Chaudary told Radio Fiji that he's been informed by farmers that the payment will be made by the banks April the first - which is next Tuesday.

Under the Sugar Master Award, the payment must be made before March 31, and

Chaudary has requested the Agriculture Minister to direct the Fiji Sugar Corporation to make the payments yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Sugar Corporation says it is not practical to make the cane payment any earlier than April 1.

It says it is finalising payment for 23,000 farmers before giving them to the banks who also require time to process the funds.

The Corporation says a recent change to regulations of the award says payment shall be made as soon as practicable, and not before March 31 as the Union claims.

SAIPAN UNITY LIONS CLUB

Presents

"CONCERT FOR A CAUSE"

On March 30, 1997 (Saturday) From 8:00 - 10:00 P.M.
at the Pacific Castle



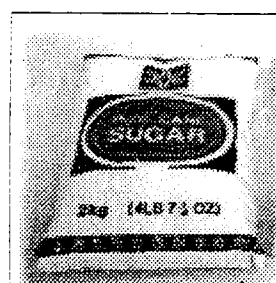
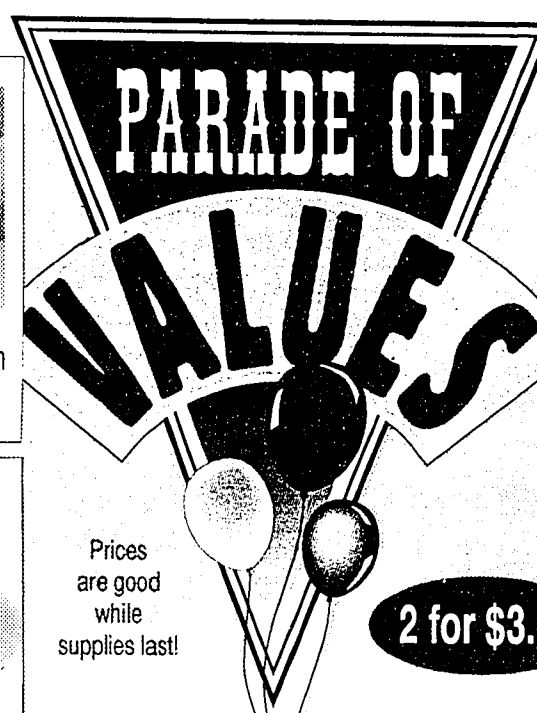
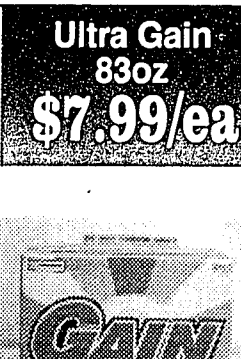
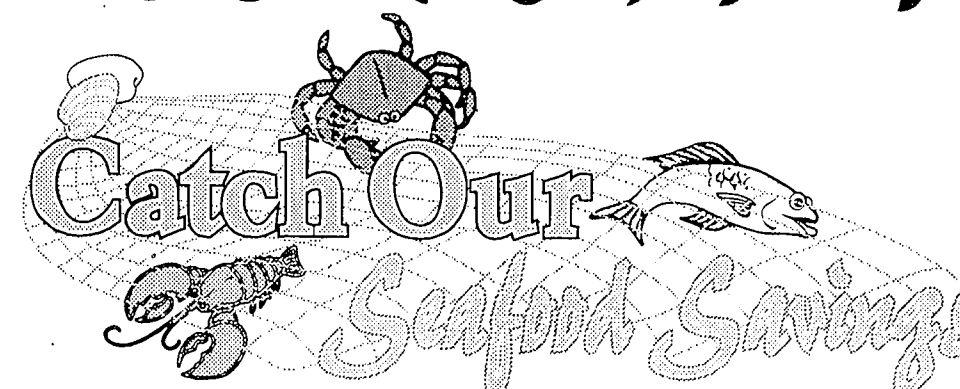
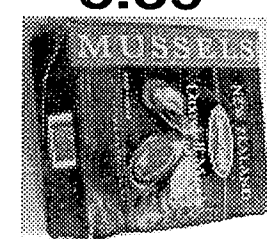
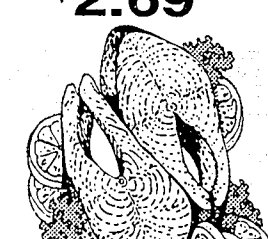
Featuring
The Big Beats Band
The last minute Band
Super unleaded Band
Hot Emotions Band
Sam Joyner &
Surprise Performers



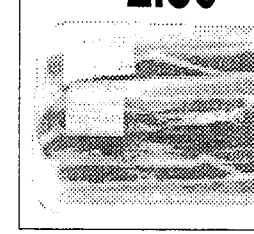
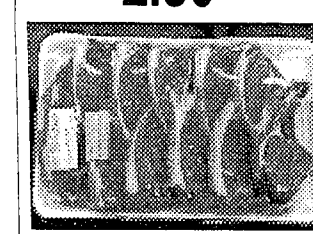
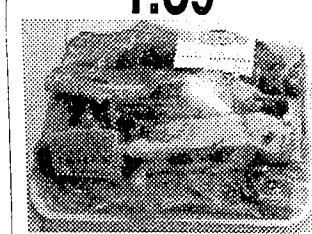
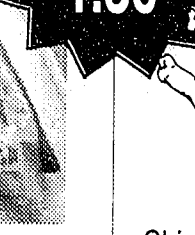
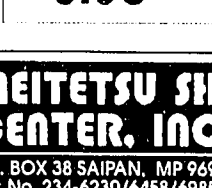
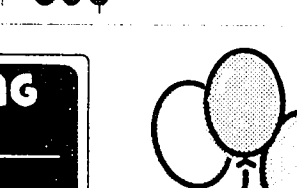
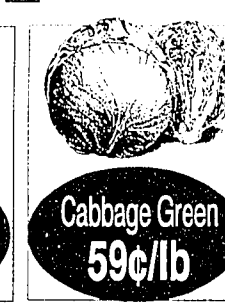
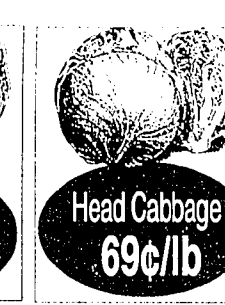
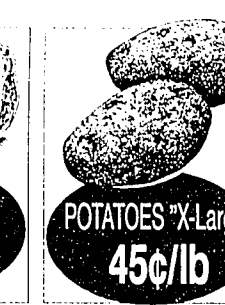
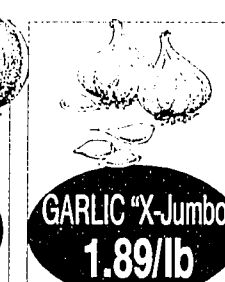
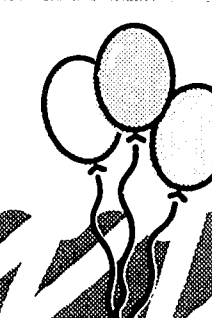
Proceeds of the show will be for the benefit of the Children's Development Assistance Center and CNMI Youth Center of Music

\$15.00 Entrance Fee with One Free drink and a variety of chasers

Tickets are available at the door entrance.

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Pepsi/7-Up/Mountain Dew\$10.99/cs
Lite Beer Can\$17.99/cs
Bud Family Can\$17.99/csWe are giving away raffle tickets giving you a
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Steak Bone-in
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\$1.39/lb**CHICKEN**Chicken
Drumstick 3#/bag
\$3.98/eaChicken
Legs 2.5lb/bag
\$3.49/eaChicken
Liver 1lb/cup
\$1.59/eaChicken
Wings 2.5/bag
\$3.98/eaChicken
Stewing Chicken Reg.
89¢/lb**PRODUCE**Carrots Cello Bag
59¢/lbCabbage Green
59¢/lbHead Cabbage
69¢/lbPOTATOES "X-Large"
45¢/lbOnions "med."
49¢/lbGARLIC "X-Jumbo"
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MESSAGE



Easter, a time of great hope, a time of renewal! It is the time when we sing our praises to God and give joy-filled thanks.

I hope that this Easter, as we watch the sun rise over our islands, we remember that the joy and promise of the day is the product of ultimate sacrifice.

The message of Easter and the period that precedes the actual day is one that we would do well to carry in our hearts and actions throughout the year. How might our lives and the well-being of the community change for the better if we were to remember that nothing of great value is gained without sacrifice?

Let us sing our Hallelujahs this holiday with a renewed commitment to living the message of Easter.

Froilan C. Tenorio
FROILAN C. TENORIO

PNG seeks new premier

By GEOFF SPENCER
PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - The Cabinet met Thursday to select a caretaker prime minister and government to replace Sir Julius Chan, who resigned under intense public pressure over the hiring of foreign mercenaries to quash an island rebellion.

Lands Minister Sir Albert Kipalan, who served as acting prime minister when Chan traveled overseas, appeared to be a likely prospect.

But he is not expected to hold the position for long because he lacks his own power base.

Opposition parties were pushing for the appointment of Foreign Minister Kilroy Genia as caretaker prime minister.

Chan quit Wednesday so a

caretaker government could preside prior to national elections set for June 14, though there are many demands to hold the balloting earlier.

He also stepped down so an independent judicial inquiry can look into a U.S. \$36 million contract awarded to British mercenary firm Sandline International.

Chan said he resigned to preserve peace and order after the nine-day political crisis led to riots and looting and confrontations with soldiers.

Mutinous soldiers and thousands of protesters blocked Parliament House Tuesday night through Wednesday prior to his

resignation, refusing to let lawmakers leave.

His finance minister, Chris Haiveta, and Defense Minister Mathias Ijape also agreed

to step down.

Chan's government had hired Sandline, which also subcontracted South African mercenaries from Executive Outcomes, to quash a 9-year-old rebellion on the island of Bougainville. About 1,000 people have died since the

rebellion began in 1988 as an environmental protest, then escalated into a guerrilla war to secede from Papua New Guinea, off Australia's northeast tip.

When details of the mercenary contract leaked out, the country's soldiers revolted, angry that the

government was spending US\$36 million on the foreign fighters when they were underpaid and poorly equipped.

Civilians joined them, protesting what they saw as government mismanagement and corruption.

American Samoa enforces new law on cigarette sales

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)—The American Samoa government has introduced a new law which prohibits the sale of cigarettes to under 18 years old, and store owners are being warned to obey the law.

Pacnews Pagopago says the law which went into effect on January 1, requires all businesses which sell cigarettes to obtain special licenses from the Department of Health.

The law also requires only those 18 years and older sell cigarettes over the counter.

The Public Health Division has authorized 12 people to enforce the cigarette law and they have been visiting villages throughout the territory to check on whether store owners are adhering to the regulations.

A first offense carries a US \$100 fine and a ten-day suspension of the cigarettes licence.

Faleomavaega: 'Change in name none of our business'

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—American Samoan congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin says it's none of American Samoa's business what Western Samoa wants to be called.

He was commenting on the proposed name change for Western Samoa.

A proposed constitutional amendment recently introduced in the Western Samoan parliament by Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana would change the country's name to Samoa.

Faleomavaega says Western Samoa is a foreign nation and can be called whatever it

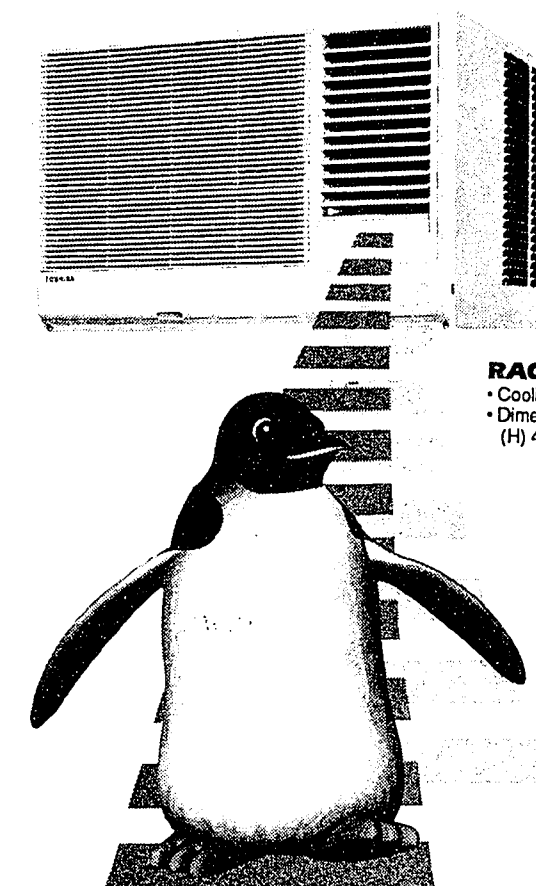
wants.

The congressman says he shares Governor Tauese Sunia's view that call Western Samoa, Samoa, does not make any difference to the cultural ties between Western Samoa and American Samoa.

Tauese says if American Samoa, wants to change its name he does not expect Western Samoa to have any say in the matter.

Western Samoa's opposition leader, Tuiatua Tamasese Efi, had suggested in parliament that renaming the country to Samoa, may cause offense in American Samoa.

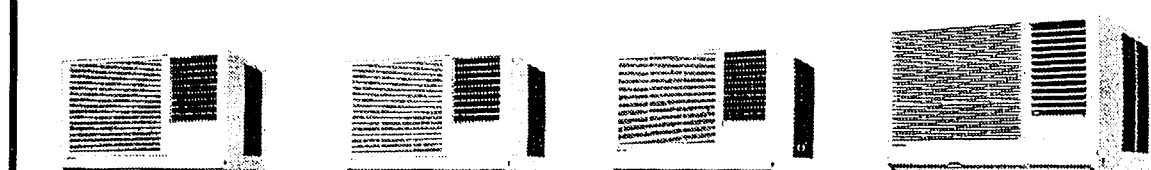
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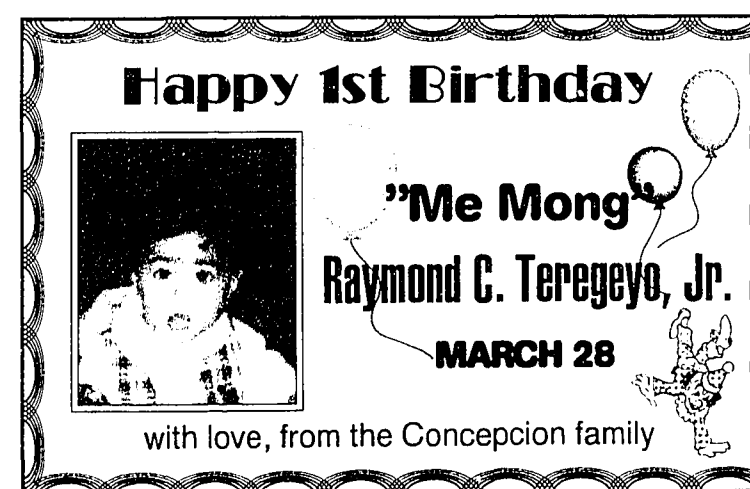
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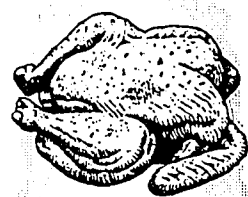
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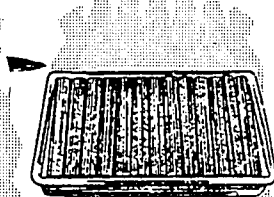
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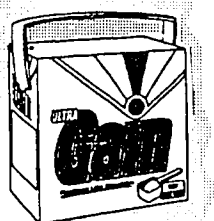
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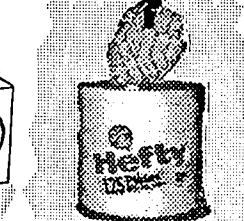
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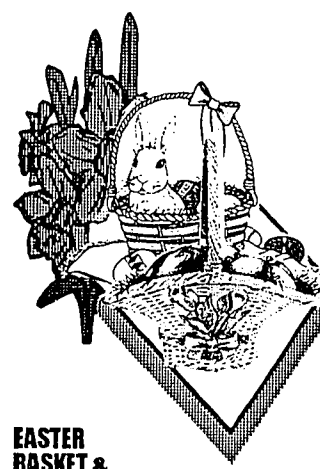
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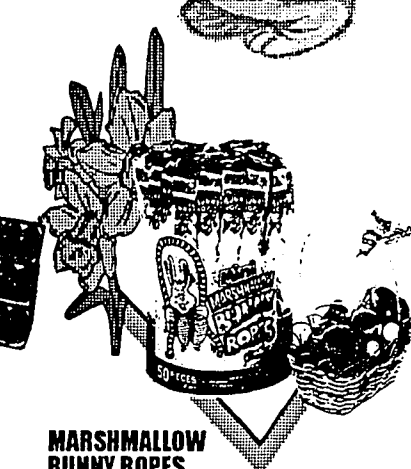
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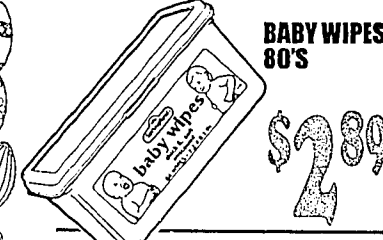
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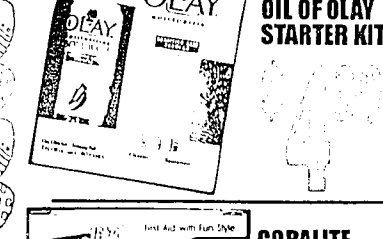
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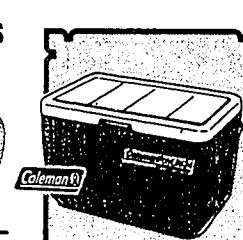
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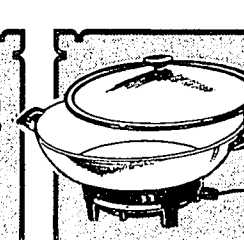
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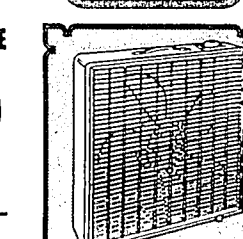
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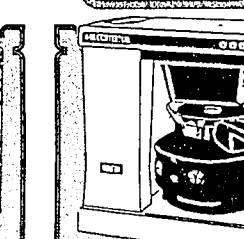
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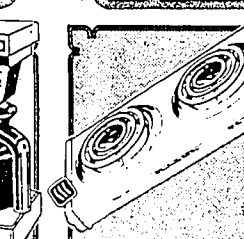
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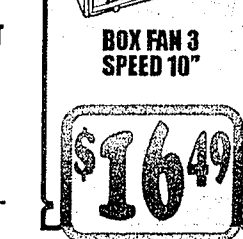
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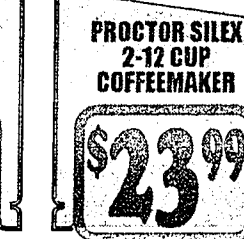
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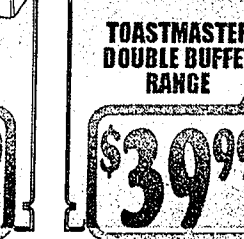
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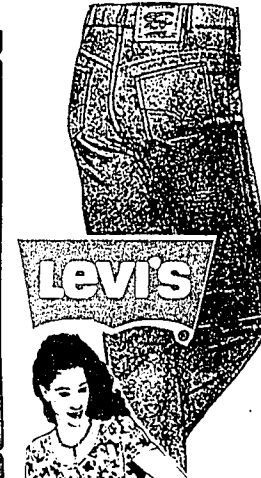
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Hollywood movie review

Eastwood in 'Absolute Power'

Lucette Bentley
From Hollywood
for the Variety

"ABSOLUTE POWER" is the story of Luther Whitney (Clint Eastwood), a technician, craftsman and master thief who is close to retirement after years in prison and chooses a last high profile target in order to end his career. He is among the very best at what he does because he is well versed in the art of deception and disguises, a master cat burglar.

Walter Sullivan (E.G. Marshall), one of the richest men in Washington D.C., if not the entire country, was planning a short business trip to the Bahamas with his wife Christy (Melora Hardin). Sullivan was scheduled to be out of town for a week when Luther made his move.

The timing seemed perfect when Luther entered Sullivan's Virginia estate and made his way past the electronic alarms into the mansion's very large hidden vault.

The cash, jewelry and certificates seemed to make his effort well worth-

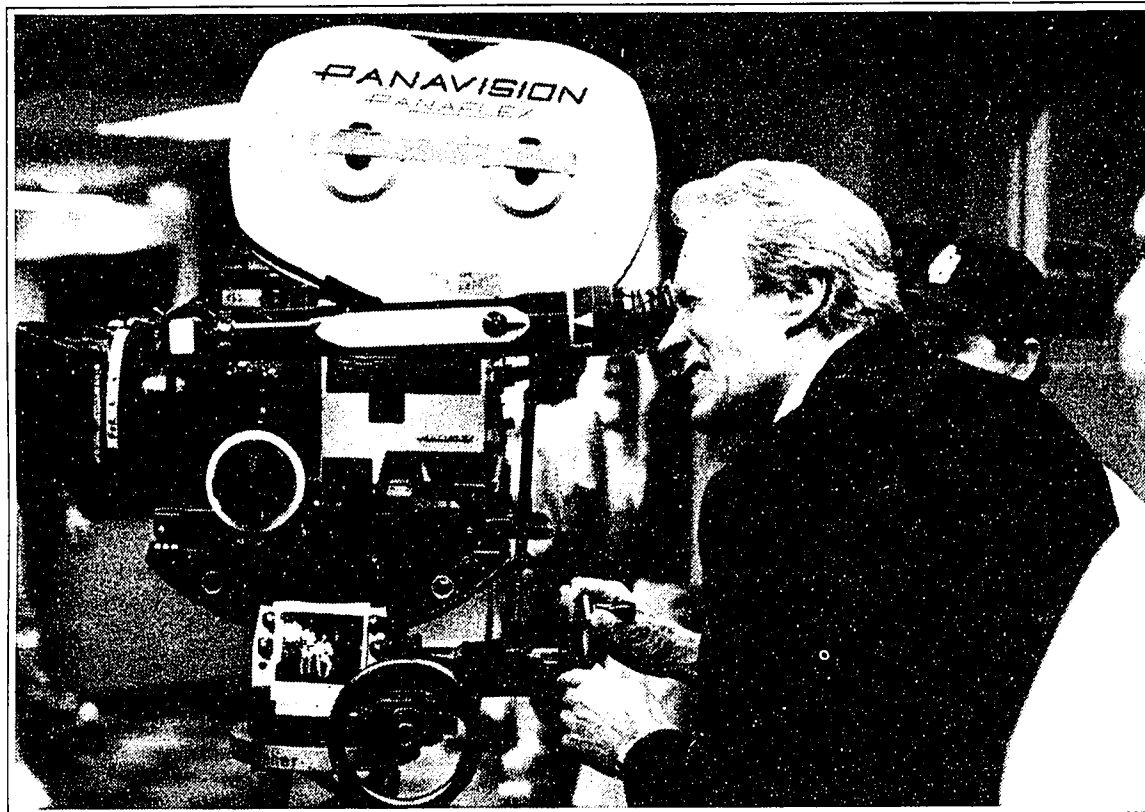
while.

Luther was not prepared, however, for Christy to have remained behind, nor had he expected the vault to be an office with a one-way mirrored view into the bedroom. Least of all had Luther anticipated that Christy would be having an affair with Alan Richmond (Gene Hackman), Sullivan's protegee and the current President of the United States.

When Christy and Richmond entered the bedroom, Luther observed a tangled series of events which soon affected the entire nation. He witnessed a bizarre murder, which involved Christy Sullivan, the President and Secret Service agents Bill Burton (Scott Glenn) and Tim Collin (Dennis Haysbert), as well as the President's Chief of Staff, Gloria Russell (Judy Davis). Almost immediately, a cover-up was put in place with Luther implicated by the perpetrators.

Trapped behind the mirror in the vault room, Whitney sees things he

Continued on page 23



Director/star Clint Eastwood on the set of "Absolute Power", a new film from Castle Rock Entertainment.

39...

Continued from page 2

estate.

Strong, whose home is about 100 feet (30 meters) away, said he never saw children or pets, and never spoke to the tenants.

KNBC-TV reported that a real estate agent said the home had been on the market for quite some

time and that they were having trouble selling it. The agent complained that every time they tried to show the house, a religious cult was having a meeting there.

There was no indication whether the deaths were related to Saturday's fiery mass suicide in Quebec of five members of the Order of the Solar Temple, a doomsday cult that believes sui-

cide transports them to a new life on a planet called Sirius. Over the past three years, murder-suicides by Temple followers have resulted in 74 deaths in Europe and Canada.

Koutchessahani has an unlisted number and his lawyer didn't immediately return a phone call.

A glance inside the rambling, cream-colored mansion with a

red-tiled roof showed a full pantry, expensive furniture and a southwestern motif. The estate, lined with palm trees, also has a swimming pool and a tennis court.

Rancho Santa Fe is an exclusive community in northern San Diego County noted for its gated estates, polo fields and million-dollar homes. It's been described as the Beverly Hills of San Diego.

"It sounds pretty damn bizarre," said John Moores, owner of professional baseball's San Diego Padres who described the community as "incredibly quiet."

"The reason we bought there is it's very, very peaceful. I'm unaware of any place like it in anywhere in America. Every once in a while I can hear a neighbor," he said.

Eastwood ...

Continued from page 22

shouldn't that place his life in peril.

Homicide detective Seth Frank (Ed Harris) is assigned to the case and he quickly discovers that only a uniquely qualified thief could have entered the premises.

The list of suspects is very short and Luther Whitney is at the top.

At first Luther decides to run but soon realizes that the White House conspirators are tracking him. Aware that they have been seen, the murderers want Luther dead. His options are limited and he will not be the only one in danger, so he decides to stay and fight the White House.

Luther's primary concern involves the risk to his estranged daughter, Kate (Laura Linney). A county prosecutor, Kate is well aware of her father's past, and her bright future seems to have been contingent on keeping their lives separate.

Unfortunately, she will soon be drawn into the case when she is visited by an enterprising homicide detective, two Secret Service agents and the master thief himself.

This unexpected turn of events leads Luther into a deadly game of cat and

mouse, not only with the police, but with the perpetrators themselves, all of whom are tied to the White House.

"I was sent the script by the production team of Castle Rock," Eastwood explains, "and I liked it immediately. It was written by William Goldman, who is one of the best screenwriters around, and adapted from the best selling novel by David Baldacci."

"My character, Luther Whitney, is a guy who is trying to pull the loose ends of his life together," Eastwood continues.

"Luther has his code," says Eastwood, "and in his way he is a moral person. He has principles."

Luther's relationship with his daughter is a pivotal element in the film. This part of the script was appealing to me because it gave his character another dimension quite apart from his craft."

"Another reason why I was attracted to the script is that I think audiences are getting tired of one-dimensional characters," Eastwood observes, "and it makes a film more interesting to see different sides of the people involved."

Eastwood's interest in three-dimensional characters has never been more apparent than in his recent work.

Continued on page 25



Clint Eastwood is sophisticated, solitary master thief Luther Whitney in "Absolute Power".



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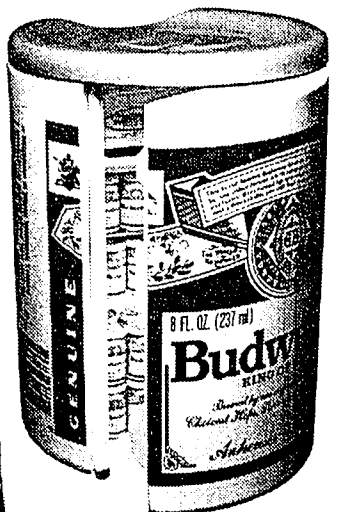
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Gingrich meets future HK ruler

HONG KONG (AP) - U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Thursday had breakfast with Hong Kong's future leader, who sought to give him a more upbeat view of the British colony's future under Chinese rule.

"We are just trying to get the Americans to have a more balanced view about Hong Kong," said legislator Paul Cheng, a Tung supporter who attended the breakfast with Gingrich and his bipartisan congressional delegation.

"The Hong Kong situation is a very unique experiment and I think people should not prejudice China and Hong Kong until after July 1," the handover date, Cheng told reporters.

Tung's camp is worried that the West is getting the wrong picture about Hong Kong because of Chinese moves to dis-

band the elected legislature and roll back some of Hong Kong's civil liberties laws.

Tung is anxious to persuade the West that Hong Kong will remain free and democratic, as China has promised, and this concern was reflected in his decision to interrupt talks in China and fly back to meet Gingrich.

Gingrich, on his first big foray into the complexities of Hong Kong and China, spent 90 minutes with the shipping tycoon-turned-political leader at his retreat overlooking the South China Sea.

Neither side spoke to reporters and Gingrich went on to see the outgoing British governor, Chris Patten, at his official residence.

Gingrich arrived Wednesday from South Korea and will go on to China, Japan and Taiwan.



U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, left, shares a light moment with Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's future leader, following a breakfast meeting in Hong Kong Thursday. Tung, who will head Hong Kong's government from July when the British territory reverts to China, tried to give Gingrich an upbeat view of Hong Kong's future under China. AP Photo

US expels Belarus diplomat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States ordered the expulsion of a Belarus diplomat Wednesday to retaliate for that former Soviet republic's ouster of an American diplomat.

First Secretary and consul Vladimir Gramyka was given 24 hours to leave the United States, State Department spokesman John Dinger said.

On Sunday, Belarus police detained Serge Alexandrov, first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, during an anti-government march by 10,000 people. The Belarus government ordered Alexandrov home after accusing him of being a CIA agent who helped organize the rally.

Dinger called Alexandrov's expulsion "unwarranted and unjustified." The State Department said the first secretary was performing "routine duties" at the march.

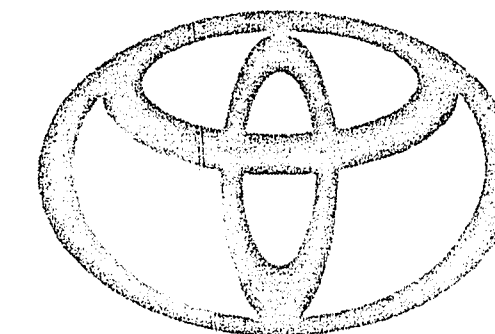
While Gramyka was ordered to be out of the country by Thursday, his family was given additional time to leave. Dinger said Gramyka was given just one day to leave because that was the same time frame allotted to Alexandrov.

On Tuesday, the administration announced that U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Yalowitz was being recalled for consultations to discuss the rapid deterioration in relations between the two countries.

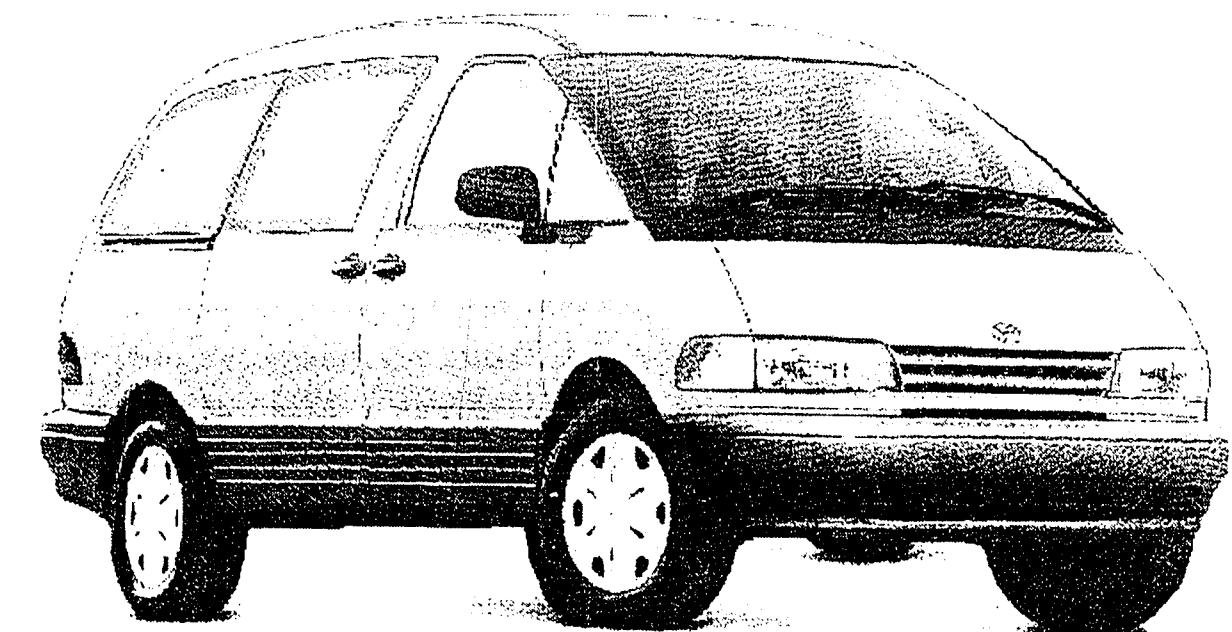
The detention and expulsion of Alexandrov was the latest of a series of incidents in which Americans in Belarus have been harassed. Last week, the State Department suspended \$40 million in aid to Belarus, citing what it said were persistent human rights violations.

"We remain deeply concerned by the accelerating slide toward authoritarianism in Belarus," Dinger said. "We're also troubled by our downturn in our bilateral relations with Belarus."

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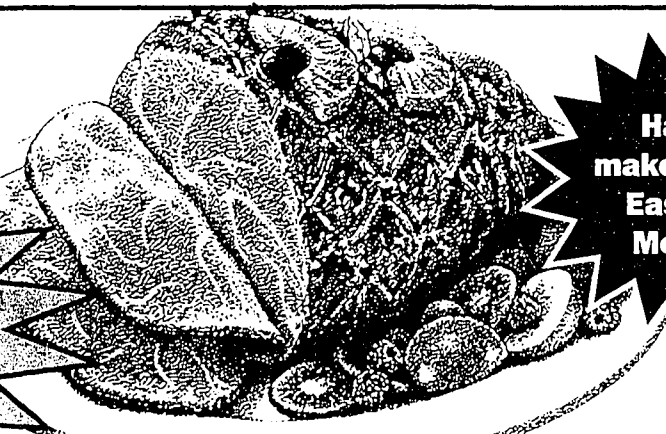
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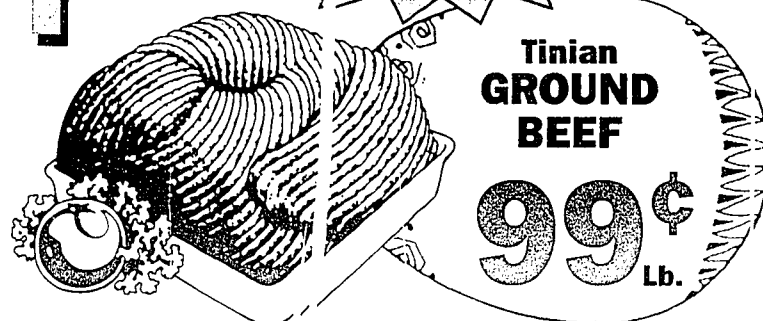
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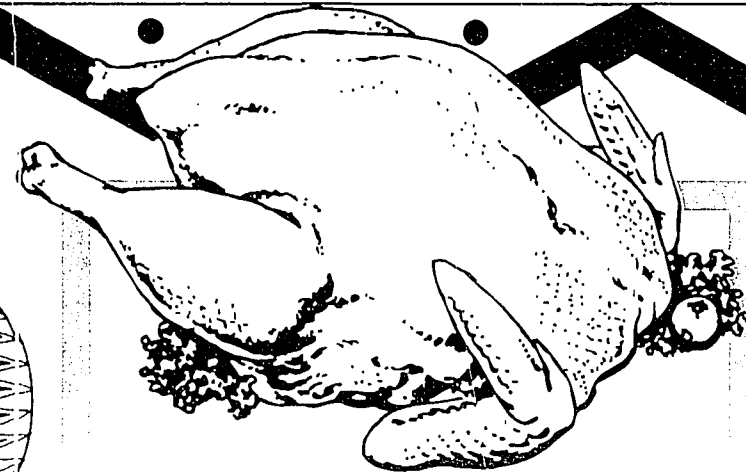
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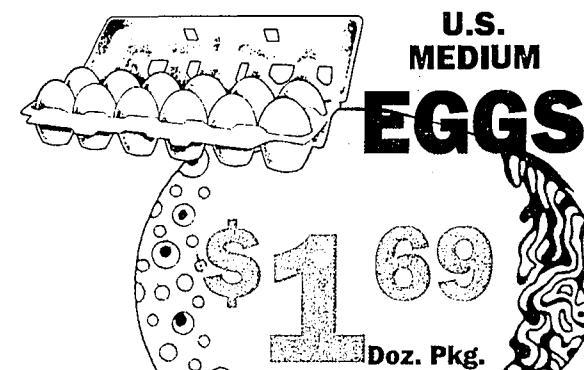
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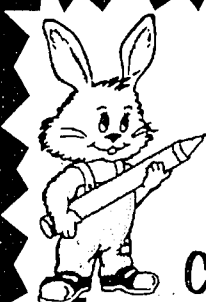
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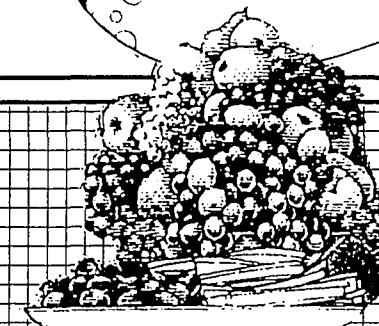
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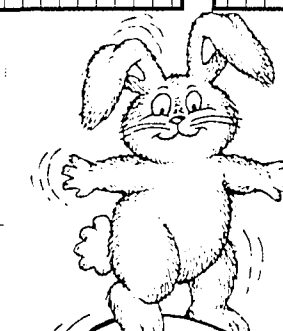
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The Venerable Maha Ghosananda, sitting under an umbrella, offers a prayer to about 400 peace marchers at a pagoda in Battambang province, Cambodia. Cambodia's supreme monk will lead peace marchers on a pilgrimage through a former Khmer Rouge territory littered with mines. AP Photo

Japan girl to get new heart in US

By ERIC TALMADGE

TOKYO (AP)—An 8-year-old girl awaiting a heart transplant will be flown to the United States this weekend because Japan's strict laws make transplants virtually impossible here.

The case has received nationwide attention in Japan, and opponents of transplantation laws are using it to renew their calls for an easing of the regulations that force those in need to seek donors overseas.

Miyuki Monobe was born with a large hole in her heart and a narrow aorta — which supplies blood to the body and brain. She is currently being treated at the National Children's Hospital in Tokyo.

She has been in and out of hospitals all her life, and has undergone four heart operations. Her doctor, cardiologist Hidemi Todo, says he can't do much more for her.

"We can't do transplants here for political reasons," Todo said Wednesday. "But we have a patient who will not survive unless she can get a new heart."

Todo said he contacted the University of California at Los Angeles and was told that because of the girl's poor health she would be given priority for a transplant there. He plans to fly Miyuki to Los Angeles on Saturday.

"If she is lucky, she will find a donor in a couple of days," he said.

Miyuki's story has generated an outpouring of sympathy. Over the past two weeks, her family has received more than \$560,000 in donations from across the country — almost enough to pay for the \$600,000 operation.

Only one heart transplant has ever been performed in Japan, and that was 30 years ago. And al-

though 15,000 people are on a waiting list, only about 800 kidney transplants, most from living donors, are performed here each year, compared with 10,000 in the United States.

Transplants are not formally banned. But brain death is not legally accepted in Japan, and that makes it very difficult to find transplantable organs.

Under current laws, death is only recognized after the patient's heart stops beating. Once the heart has stopped, it deteriorates rapidly and becomes unsuitable for transplantation.

Behind the government's policy is a strong undercurrent of religious or merely superstitious sentiment against "defiling" the body of a recently deceased person.

Attitudes appear to be changing, however.

Some 4,000 doctors are publicly calling for a revision of Japan's policies, and Parliament is mulling a clearer legal definition of brain death.

Funds mess won't affect US-Asian ties, says Kantor

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Former U.S. trade negotiator Mickey Kantor said Wednesday that the campaign financing scandal engulfing the Clinton administration would have no impact on U.S. relations with Asia.

Kantor, who preached the doctrine of a competitive, global economy as trade representative and commerce secretary in Clinton's first term, called the scandal "a domestic political issue."

The Democratic Party and Clinton's White House have come under intense criticism for accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars in allegedly illegal campaign contributions linked to Asian businesses, raising questions over whether U.S. policy was affected.

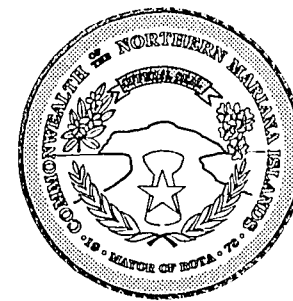
The scandal recently broadened amid reports that the Chinese government had attempted to funnel money to six U.S. congressmen.

Kantor, who has returned to private legal practice since Clinton's reelection last November, told reporters that the impact of the affair on U.S.-Asian relations would be "virtually none."

"Our interests with Asia are too strong and important and critical," Kantor said. "There will be little impact on our relations with this part of the world."

Kantor blamed "a wave of media hysteria" for exacerbating the scandal.

Kantor was one of several paid speakers to the Fortune Global Forum, a gathering of about 140 executives from major global companies paying \$3,500 each to attend.



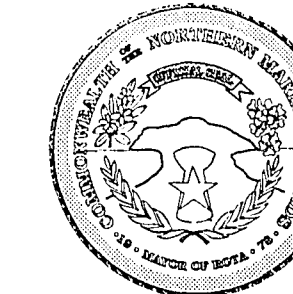
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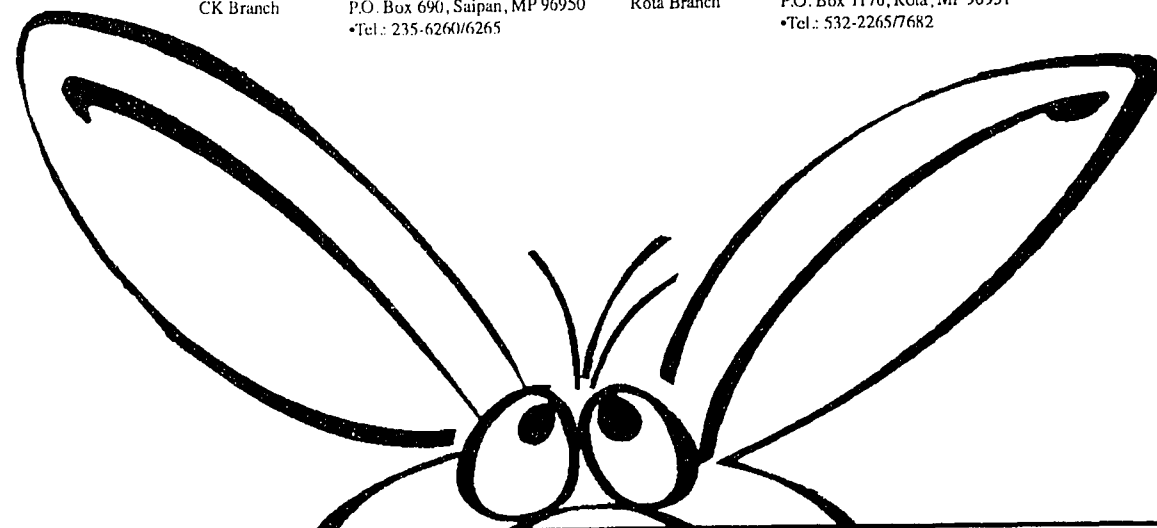
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Romania seeks to join NATO

LONDON (AP) — After 50 years in exile, King Michael of Romania began a new job for his newly democratic country Wednesday, campaigning for Romania to be among the first former Soviet bloc nations invited to join NATO.

The king said its inclusion is a necessity for European stability.

"The choice is ... between having a NATO which meets Europe's current security problems or an alliance that remains frozen in the days of the Cold War and which ultimately is consigned to the dustbin of history," he said.

Three weeks ago, Romania gave Michael his first official welcome to his homeland since 1947, when communists forced him to abdicate. President Emil Constantinescu, whose November election marked a break with Romania's communist past, restored Michael's citizenship and asked him to help the country join NATO and the European Union.

NATO is expected to issue invita-

tions to new members at a summit in early July in Spain. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are leading candidates to join the 16-nation Western alliance.

The 75-year-old former monarch chose The Royal United Services Institute for Defense Studies and a 150-strong, high-powered audience of British diplomats and defense officials for his first speech on NATO enlargement.

He reminded the audience that Romania is the second-largest country in Central Europe, after Poland. He added its admission could contribute "a great deal" to the stability of the turbulent Balkans.

Michael said it was important that Romania be among the first invited into NATO because subsequent enlargements were far from certain.

Michael plans to take his campaign to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Spain and France, Romanian Embassy spokesman Dragoș-Viorel Tigau said.



Defense Secretary William Cohen escorts Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic into the Pentagon Monday after hosting an armed forces Honor Cordon for the president. Earlier, the president met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and will meet with President Clinton Wednesday. AP Photo

Palestinians burn US flag

By NICOLAS B. TATRO
RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinians threw stones and burned

American flags in the streets of the West Bank on Wednesday, rejecting a new U.S. attempt to salvage the disintegrating Mideast peace process.

President Clinton sent envoy Dennis Ross to try to stop the rioting and bloodshed that started after Israel broke ground for construction of a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

But Palestinians have grown suspicious of America's motives in peacemaking, because it blocked U.N. Security Council censure of the housing project.

Supporters of Yasser Arafat led protests here and in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, hurling stones and bottles at Israeli soldiers. Soldiers responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 20 Palestinians.

Israel demanded Ross tell Arafat to rein in the violence — both the daily rioting in the West Bank and terror attacks, such as a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli women at a Tel Aviv cafe on Friday.

"Terrorists will always have a grievance, (but) terrorism cannot exist in a vacuum, it needs a sponsoring government," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a conference on terrorism. "They have chosen to use terrorism as a weapon of political coercion."

Israel also offered an incentive to the Palestinians, with Netanyahu aide David Bar-Ilan suggesting in an interview with The Associated Press that Israel might ease its closure of the West Bank if Palestinian security officials resume cooperative efforts to block terror attacks on Israelis. Israel imposed the closure, which keeps tens of thousands of workers from jobs in Israel, after the bombing.

The gap between Israelis and Palestinians appeared far more difficult to bridge than the last time Ross visited the region, when he brokered Israel's military withdrawal in January from most of the West Bank town of Hebron.

"The tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis have reached a very, very serious level," said Edward G. Abington, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem and unofficial

ambassador to Arafat's self-rule government.

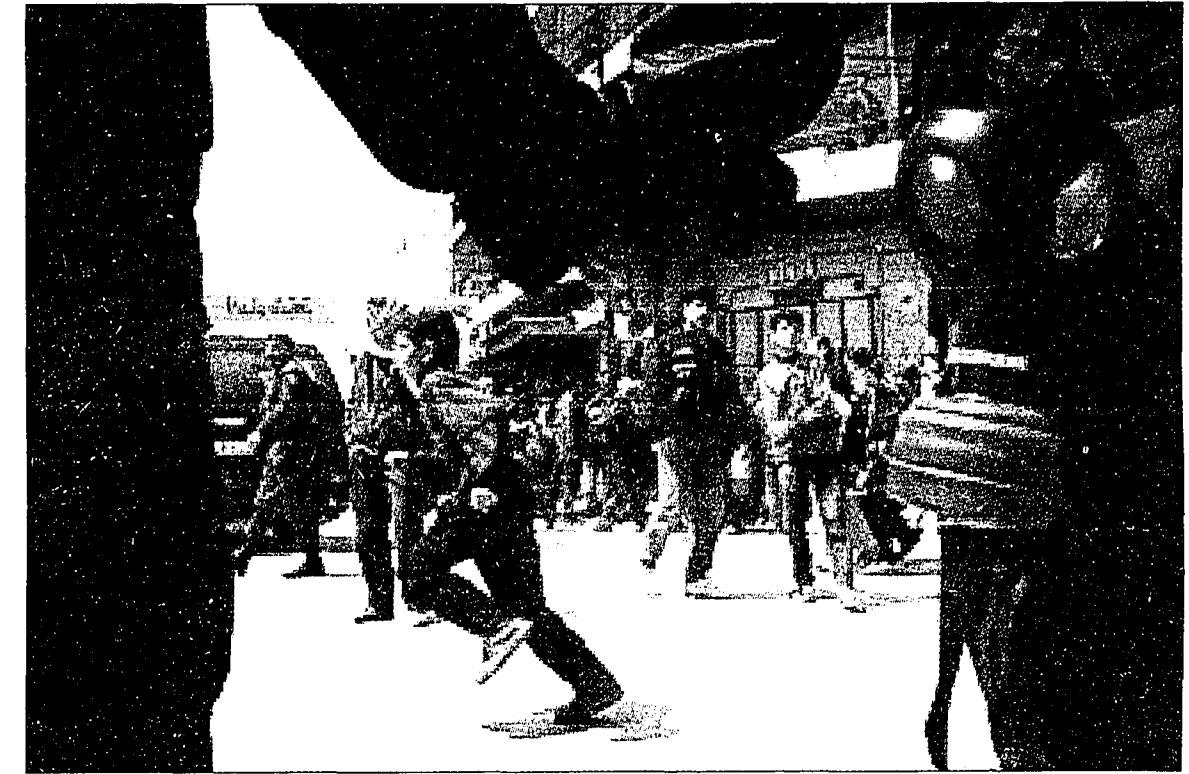
In an AP interview, Abington said President Clinton dispatched Ross because communication between the Israelis and Palestinians was faltering and the "level of trust has gone down."

Ross was due to meet with Arafat late Wednesday in Rabat, Morocco, and then go on to Israel. Arafat and foreign ministers from 13 Islamic nations were to meet Thursday in Rabat on the disputed status of Jerusalem.

Palestinians demanded that Ross extract a promise from Netanyahu that Israel would halt the building of Jewish settlements on Arab land. Palestinians are most outraged over the building in east Jerusalem, which they want as a future capital.

Some in the Palestinian legislative council demanded that their leaders shun Ross and his mediation efforts.

"Any envoy to be sent should be boycotted as long as settlements continue," said Abdel Fatah Hmeil, a member of Arafat's Fatah faction from Ramallah.



A young Palestinian boy runs past a cordon of Palestinian police carrying gas masks and barring the way across the road in Hebron, following earlier clashes between youths and Israeli soldiers Tuesday. Israeli troops continue to enforce a blanket closure on the West bank and Gaza Strip, barring Palestinians from entering Israel. AP Photo

Used Cars Sale

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CARS			
U95-239	1990 BUICK LESABRE	ABC-475	6995
U95-164	1989 OLDS CIERA	AAW-960	3995
U96-094	1990 CADILLAC FLTWD. BRGHM	AAV-892	6995
consigned	1985 CADILLAC DEVILLE	ABB-322	5995
U96-074	1985 MR2	AAK-368	1495
U96-188	1992 CAMRY XLE	AAW-774	9495
U96-265	1991 CAMRY WAGON	TAXI-355	8495
U96-160	1991 CAMRY	AAN-848	3995
U96-245	1991 CAMRY	AAZ-201	5995
U97-021	1989 CAMRY	AAH-591	3995
U96-254	1992 CAMRY	AAH-591	9495
U97-069	1991 CELICA ST.	AAV-926	9995
U97-044	1993 COROLLA	ABA-133	8995
U97-037	1991 STANZA	AAN-709	5495
C96-009	1990 STANZA	AAS-531	3995
U96-239	1990 240 SX	AAO-977	5495
U97-061	1991 MAZDA 626	AAT-728	4995
TRUCKS			
U97-062	1995 T100 4X4 CAB	ABD-368	17895
U97-027	1994 4X4 EX-CAB	ABM-702	10495
U97-065	1991 4X4 EX-CAB V6	AAT-710	8995
C97-001	1994 4X4 EX-CAB	ABD-563	13995
U97-046	1991 4X2	ABO-172	4995
U97-022	1992 MAZDA 4X2	ABJ-142	4995
U97-063	1991 MAZDA 4X2	AAU-643	4995
SPORTS UTILITY			
U97-060	1991 4-RUNNER	AAV-618	13995
U97-048	1993 4-RUNNER	ABM-972	12495
U97-241	1990 4-RUNNER	AAS-441	9495
U97-050	1989 PATHFINDER	AAS-291	7995
U96-119	1991 PATHFINDER	ABB-991	7995
U96-120	1992 ISUZU TROOPER	AAV-690	10995
U97-056	1995 RODEO	ABD-523	14495

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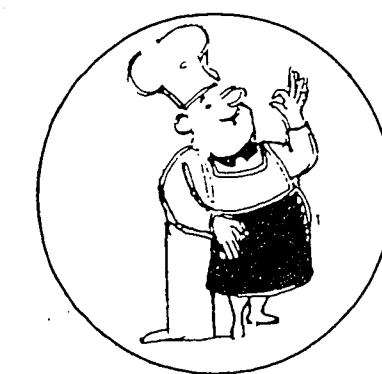
Quake rocks Middle East

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — An earthquake jolted three Middle Eastern countries Wednesday, sending frightened residents into the streets in Lebanon and swaying apartment buildings in neighboring Israel. No injuries were reported.

Several aftershocks rocked Lebanon during the day, including a moderate one in the afternoon that caused some damage.

The magnitude-5.1 earthquake, which was also felt in Syria, was the strongest to hit Lebanon in 41 years.

It was centered 14 miles south of the Lebanese capital of Beirut, and struck early in the morning when many people were asleep.



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Two women take part in the Holy Week celebrations in the Basilica de San Francisco in the city of Lima, Wednesday. President Alberto Fujimori said Peruvians are hoping this Easter week will bring the release of the 72 hostages held in the Japanese Ambassador's residence. AP Photo

Report: Peru rebels are at odds on how to negotiate

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Rebels holding 72 captives inside the Japanese ambassador's residence are divided over how to negotiate an end to the hostage crisis, a newspaper reported.

Two middle-ranking Tupac Amaru guerrillas oppose their leader's reported decision to cede ground on their key demand - freedom for hundreds of jailed comrades, the opposition daily La Republica said, citing anti-terrorism police.

Other rebels with less political training are tired and simply want a quick end to the standoff, which began Dec. 17 when at least 15 rebels seized the elegant compound during a cocktail party.

Peruvian police who surround the building are believed to have set up electronic eavesdropping equipment in a nearby house in Lima's upscale residential neighborhood of San Isidro.

Meanwhile, the Kyodo news agency in Tokyo reported Wednesday that the rebels had informed mediators that they were ready to go to Cuba for political asylum. The agency cited sources close to the commission.

Also Wednesday, President

Alberto Fujimori repeated his vow to pacify the country.

"Terrorists must not be free," he said. "Those who must be free are the citizens who work for Peru."

He promised to "completely pacify the country and not allow terrorism to return in any form."

Fujimori had promised to wipe out Peru's guerrilla groups by the end of his first term in July 1995.

A deal is reportedly in the works in which the leftist guerrillas would free the hostages in exchange for asylum in Cuba, a multimillion dollar payoff and the early release of some, but not all, jailed comrades.

According to La Republica, rebel leader Nestor Cerpa will meet Monday with the chief government negotiator, Domingo Palermo, to discuss the plan, according to La Republica. The newspaper cited unidentified diplomatic sources.

It would be the first face-to-face meeting between the two men since March 12, when talks stalled over the guerrilla demand that at least 300 jailed rebels be freed.

Cerpa's second-in-command, Roli Rojas Fernandez, has also been involved in the negotiations, which are held in a house across the street from the compound. A Red Cross



Alberto Fujimori

car with tinted windows ferries the rebels to and from the residence.

Police say the third and fourth commanders in the guerrilla hierarchy inside the compound oppose any flexibility on the demand for freedom for all their comrades.

But police also say some rebels from the central jungle who have joined the Tupac Amaru group since 1994 are worn out by the grueling siege at the ambassador's residence. Teen-agers with little ideological conviction, they were seduced into becoming guerrillas by the prospect of adventure.

Other rebels reportedly participated in the raid because they were promised a big payoff.

Demobilization in Guatemala

By ALFONSO ANZUETO

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) - Leftist rebels who agreed to lay down their arms under a peace agreement with the government have all reached demobilization camps, a U.N. military observer confirmed.

Spanish Gen. Jose Rodriguez, commander of the United Nations' demobilization operation, told a news conference Wednesday that 2,959 former rebels had gathered in the eight camps by Saturday - two days before a U.N. deadline.

"The demobilization of the guerrillas has been successfully completed," Rodriguez said.

Officials said the effort to reintegrate the former rebels into civilian life has moved smoothly, a sign that members of the Guatemala National Revolutionary Unity are anxious to put the 36-year civil war behind them.

The eight camps around Guatemala - in northern tropical forests, pine-covered highlands and the southern coastal plain - are intended as way stations, and the rebels are supposed to leave them, unarmed, by early May. Most of the rebels spend their days in school - for many of the Mayan Indians, it is their first chance to study. They receive

free food and medical care from the government.

Guatemala estimates it will cost at least \$ 2.3 billion over three years to retrain the former rebels and find them jobs. The peace agreement also calls for the military to be significantly downsized, and those soldiers will have to be reintegrated as well.

Rodriguez said members of 23 rebel columns had calmly and willingly entered the camps under accords their leaders and government officials signed on Dec. 29, officially ending Central America's last and longest-running war. About 140,000 people, most of them Mayan Indian civilians, died in the conflict.

Of the 2,959 people now in the camps, 2,350 are men and 395 women. The remaining 214 are children under 13 whose parents are former combatants.

Rodriguez said that no decision had been made about what to do with rebel weapons turned in thus far. He said they could either be destroyed or turned over to Guatemalan security forces.

The rebels themselves recently destroyed some of their explosives, under U.N. supervision.

Florida parents force sisters to live in 'cage'

SARASOTA, Florida (AP)

Two sisters were forced to sleep under a makeshift cage, fastened to their beds at night with a crude alarm system of brick and string, investigators said after arresting their parents.

One of the girls, who were aged 10 and 13, said they had been forced to sleep in cages for three years.

The parents, Susan and Keith Ludwig, also punished their daughters by making them perform calisthenics or run around the house barefoot, and flogging them with leather straps, rubber hoses or wooden sticks if they did not perform fast enough, investigators said Tuesday.

"If they needed to use the bathroom, they had to wake Keith up or just hold it all night," an investigator wrote. "For another punishment, the girls are told that they cannot talk for long periods of time."

A tip to a child-abuse hotline led authorities to the home in Myakka City, 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of Tampa, on Monday, where investigators said they found the girls with severe bruises on their backs and buttocks.

The parents were jailed in lieu of \$50,000 bond, charged with two felony counts of aggravated child abuse.

The girls were placed in foster care.

US state force feeds teenager staging hunger strike

By ANTHONY JEWELL

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A high school student jailed for his role in an anti-fur protest pledged Wednesday to continue his hunger strike despite a decision by officials to force feed him.

Tony Wong has lost 21 pounds (9.5 kilograms) dur-

ing his monthlong hunger strike. The state said his life was in danger and began force feeding him Wednesday.

"The hunger strike is the right choice that I've made," Tony said. "I've been locked up for fighting for the animals. As long as I'm on the hunger strike, they are going

to have to force feed me."

The 16-year-old honors student was arrested for trespassing Nov. 29 during an anti-fur protest outside an Indianapolis mall. It was his second arrest, and a judge sentenced him to two months in a juvenile facility outside Indianapolis for violating his probation.

Since his sentencing on Feb. 24, Tony refused to eat solid food and would take only liquids. His weight dropped from 131 pounds (60 kilograms) to 110 pounds (50 kilograms), state officials said Wednesday.

"Our concern is for his health, and we will do everything we can

to maintain his good health," corrections spokeswoman Pam Pattison said.

Tony's lawyer, Stephen Laudig, said there is no way to prevent the state from the force feedings.

The boy's father, Ricardo Wong, didn't criticize the decision.

Russia gears for strike

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian police and federal forces insist they will be able to keep order and prevent violence if, as expected, millions of workers seeking back pay walk off their jobs Thursday.

Union officials predict as many as 17 million Russians will join the nationwide one-day strike over wages that many workers haven't received for three, four, even six months.

President Boris Yeltsin has expressed sympathy for the strik-

ers' plight, which most blame on the economic policies of his government.

The government has sanctioned Thursday's protest marches. While the Interior Ministry is deploying 16,000 police officers in Moscow alone, its officials have expressed confidence there will be no violence.

The Federation of Independent Russian Unions, which is sponsoring the strike, also is

deploying its own members to maintain order.

The government, which has trouble collecting taxes, is billions of dollars behind in wages and pensions.

It is locked in a standoff with local governments and busi-

nesses, who are withholding taxes in protest. The government says it can't pay wages until they pay taxes, and they say they can't pay taxes until the government pays wages. Strikes have become common in recent months, affect-

ing 5,360 plants in February alone, according to the Interfax news agency.

This week, the government came forward with \$263 million to pay defense workers, or less than half of what is owed.

UN Yugoslavia envoy resigns

GENEVA (AP) - The U.N. envoy for missing persons in the former Yugoslavia resigned Wednesday, saying he hadn't received enough support in his attempts to account for the 20,000 people still missing after the Bosnian war.

Manfred Nowak told the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which created his position in 1994, that his work had been hampered by inadequate international support for excavating suspected mass graves.

"The international community should take the lead by organizing such exhumations," he told the commission.

"In view of the fact that most of the missing persons have most probably been killed (there is an) urgent need for excavating mass graves and exhuming and identifying the mortal remains."

Nowak said he had requested \$6 million for forensic examinations of graves, but that donor countries had contributed just \$300,000.

The peacekeeping force in Bosnia refused to provide security for his work, and the NATO-led force that replaced it - while more eager to provide security - has been unable to help in other ways, he said.

Nowak also complained of a lack of coordination among international agencies.

Nowak said some 20,000 people - mostly Muslim men - were still missing in Bosnia. Another 5,000 people are missing in Croatia, he said.

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Explosions rock England

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 97-005

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Food Service Management Companies for the operation (preparation, delivery, serving, and clean up at school cafeterias) of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program at Rota, Tinian, and Saipan schools for school year 1997-98.

The proposal must address the essential requirements to furnish breakfast and lunch to students attending certain schools on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A copy of the RFP package and additional information are available and may be picked up at the Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours except holidays. For more information, all interested party may contact Mr. Jess Sanchez, Food Services Administrator or Ms. Tina Pham, PSS Nutritionist of the Food Services Program at telephone numbers 664-3709/06/18. All proposals must be sealed and facemasked "RFP97-005: Food Services Privatization" and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., April 28, 1997.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 09, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan.

All questions pertaining to this RFP must be submitted in writing Attn: Tina Pham, FNS Nutritionist, Food Service Program, 4th floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 4:00 p.m., April 07, 1997. Written questions may be faxed to (670) 664-3717. Written response to all questions will be issued out during the Pre-Bid Conference.

A non refundable fee of \$25.00 U.S. Dollars must be attached to the proposal prior to proposal submission. The twenty five dollars may be a certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable by the Public School System and made payable to the Public School System's Treasurer. The bidder is required to submit a copy of his business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple awards or to reject any and all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/ WILLIAM S. TORRES
Commissioner of Education

/s/ LOUISE CONCEPCION
Procurement & Supply Officer

By RON KAMPEAS

LONDON (AP) — Twin explosions tore through a major rail artery Wednesday, sparking fears of IRA violence before Britain's general election and raising the Northern Ireland conflict to a top campaign issue.

While no casualties were reported, the early morning explosions in Wilmslow, a town in northern England, tore up track and damaged signaling equipment at a major junction on Britain's western north-south rail artery.

The blasts occurred hours after a telephone warning from a man claiming to represent the Irish Republican Army, and a day after Scotland Yard warned of possible IRA attacks in the runup to the May 1 vote.

In dueling statements late Wednesday, Labor and Conservative party leaders broke a longstanding commitment to stand united when it came to Northern Ireland, sniping at each others' policies on dealing with IRA violence.

The explosions 160 miles north of London seemed pinpointed to cause maximum economic damage, recalling previous IRA attacks in London's business district, and to spoil travel for the Easter holiday weekend.

"Tomorrow is the busiest day of the year for us," said David Maller, a spokesman for Great North Eastern Railway.

The most recent bomb attack by

the IRA was on Oct. 7 1996, when two car bombs detonated inside British army's headquarters in Northern Ireland, killing one soldier and injuring 40 other people, civilians and soldiers.

The last IRA bombing in England was on June 15, when a 3,000-pound bomb injured 200 people and damaged 300 shops in Manchester.

Wednesday's blasts came hours after an elderly woman and a hospital received warning calls from a man using a recognized IRA codeword — although the IRA made no immediate claim of responsibility.

At Doncaster, 60 miles east of Wilmslow, a bomb warning closed the station until early afternoon, disrupting traffic along the main north-south rail artery, until police blew up a suspect package.

The explosions in Wilmslow and the bomb scare in Doncaster raised fears the IRA was planning a series of attacks in England ahead of the elections.

Prime Minister John Major called the explosions an "insult to democracy" and opposition Labor Party leader Tony Blair said he shared with Major "an iron determination to stand up to outrages of this kind."

But their deputies hurled blame each other late Wednesday.

Blair's deputy, John Prescott, said Major had wrecked the Northern Ireland peace process by striking deals with Northern Ireland's Protestant legislators, whose par-

liamentary support Major needed to bolster his tiny majority.

Irish nationalists have accused Major of bowing to Protestant pressure in insisting the Catholic-based IRA disarm before its political ally, Sinn Fein, can join constitutional talks.

Meanwhile, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said Blair was soft on terrorism because Labor opposes legislation allowing terrorist suspects to be detained without trial.

Blair was furious. "This issue is too serious to become a political football," he said in a statement.

The IRA, in an Easter message in the Irish weekly An Phoblacht, its mouthpiece, said it was determined to end British rule in Northern Ireland, and singled out Major for attack.

"He has presided over a government that has demonstrated repeatedly an active pursuit of a (Protestant) unionist and loyalist agenda," it said.

The most recent bomb attack by the IRA was on Oct. 7 1996, when two car bombs detonated inside British army's headquarters in Northern Ireland, killing one soldier and injuring 40 other people, civilians and soldiers.

The last IRA bombing in England was on June 15, when a 3,000-pound bomb injured 200 people and damaged 300 shops in Manchester.

Albanian premier appeals for safe passage of aid shipments

By PATRICK QUINN

TIRANA, Albania (AP) - Premier Bashkim Fino pleaded with Albanians to lay down their arms and give safe passage to European aid shipments to help stave off famine.

European Union ministers have agreed to provide an initial \$ 2.3 million in food and other relief - but only if Albania safeguards the aid workers and shipments, Fino said in an address carried on state television.

"We must organize to restore order and calm to our towns, because without guarantees, this aid can't reach its destination," Fino said Wednesday.

An EU civilian and military delegation, meanwhile, headed to Albania to offer guidance in ending a month-old insurgency that has killed more than 160 people and sent nearly 12,000 Albanians fleeing to Italy.

Italy has set up a naval blockade to keep more Albanian vessels from reaching Italian ports, and is sending back what it calls undesirable among the refugees. Military flights carried 189 people back Wednesday.

President Sali Berisha and his Democratic Party reluctantly agreed this month to set up a caretaker government under Fino, a member of the opposition Socialist Party, after turmoil over failed high-risk investment schemes in January turned into armed insurrection.

The United Nations warned

Wednesday that Albania faces food shortages after weeks of anarchy in which mobs looted state warehouses and disrupted commerce. Food supplies were already uncertain after a poor 1996 harvest, and the rioting threatens to interrupt harvesting and planting this year, the Rome-based U.N. food agency said.

Although EU ministers assured Fino that Albania will receive humanitarian aid and help in reorganizing its police and armed forces, they rejected sending a peacekeeping force to help quell the uprising.

Fino said individual EU members might guard the shipments of food they send, but told him they would not try to restore order.

Some aid has already arrived from France, Greece and Italy. The Red Cross also plans to practice a large-scale delivery with a 12-ton shipment across the Greek border on Thursday.

In Vienna, Austria, the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe met all day Wednesday to decide what assistance it could back what it calls undesirable among the refugees.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said any military intervention in Albania would probably involve about 5,000 soldiers, 2,000 of them Italian.

The foreign forces would work to protect food deliveries and safeguard foreigners there, rather than try to disarm combatants, Dini said.

Fino suggested that foreign troops could establish beachheads at Durres and Vlora, Albania's two main ports, to "make the situation in the ports normal and to attend to humanitarian aid until it reaches its destination."

Fino ordered his ministers to provide the EU with assessments of damage from looting and vandalism at state and private enterprises. Preliminary Agriculture Ministry figures show that 70,000 tons of Albania's 90,000-ton grain reserves were stolen.

Restoring order will be difficult. Armed insurgents still control the south of the country, while gangs of vigilantes run much of the capital and the north.

In the southern port city of Saranda, a sniper shot and seriously wounded an Australian free-lance reporter. She was in stable condition at a hospital on the Greek island of Corfu.

In the north, masked highwaymen held up a bus just outside the capital of Tirana on Wednesday, robbing the passengers at gunpoint. Sporadic automatic weapons fire and explosions can be heard most nights in Tirana, where tanks manned by men in jogging suits regularly patrol the streets.

Young men in civilian clothes, nearly all supporters of Berisha's party, received weapons from police armories and patrol the capital. Many are thought to be members of the secret police.

PLO likens Netanyahu to Hitler

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A top PLO official compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler on Wednesday and said the United States had become an "unfair peace sponsor."

"Netanyahu resembles Hitler in his arrogant, vainglorious and rigid behavior," said Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political bureau. "He refuses to ... follow the peaceful means to solve the Middle East peace process."

Kaddoumi has been a critic of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, but has retained his political post at the Palestine Liberation Organization offices in Tunisia.



Benjamin Netanyahu

His comments came amid mounting tension in the region

that followed Israel's decision to build a Jewish neighborhood in historically Arab east Jerusalem. Stone-throwing protests have broken out on the West Bank for the past week.

"What the Palestinian people are doing is in self-defense and because the peace process has begun to shatter due to Israel's

actions and (settlement) policies," said Kaddoumi, who spoke to reporters at the Cairo airport before leaving to Morocco to attend a meeting Thursday.

Kaddoumi also said the United States had lost its role as an honest broker when it twice vetoed a Security Council resolution calling on Israel to stop building the settlement.

"That was an encouraging factor to Israel so that it could continue with its aggressive actions," he said. "This shows clearly that the United States is an unfair peace sponsor."

The meeting in Rabat, Morocco, will draw representatives of 15 Arab and Muslim states for talks on Jerusalem.

Israel: Iran is a threat to Europe

HERZLIYA, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday said that Iran was trying to develop ballistic missiles in order to strike not only at Israel but at Western nations.

Netanyahu also charged that "Iran is acquiring ballistic missiles with the help of Russian technology."

"Iran is developing ballistic missiles first to reach Israel, then Europe, then with a range of 10,000 kilometers (6,000 miles) which includes the eastern seaboard of the U.S.," Netanyahu told a conference on terrorism in the Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya.

"It is the duty of every nation to stop this proliferation," he said. Bernd Schmidbauer, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's intelligence adviser, said the danger that terrorists will acquire nuclear weapons and use them against civilians is greater than ever.

"The danger of a Western city being destroyed by such weapons is greater than during the Cold War," he said. "The world must ensure that terrorists 'cannot get their hands on weapons of mass destruction.'"

David Kimche, a former top official of the Mossad intelligence agency, backed Schmidbauer's call for closer international cooperation in the fight against terrorists.

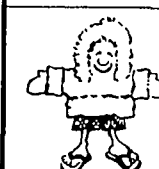
"Terrorism does not recognize international boundaries, and therefore it should be dealt with on a multinational basis," said Kimche.

Last month, the Los Angeles Times reported that Moscow had supplied Iran with nuclear and missile technology that could speed up the Islamic Republic's nuclear program. Russian intelligence and arms export officials denied the alleged deal.

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US Secretary of State's call:

'Don't ease up on Iraq'

By GEORGE GEDDA
WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling for continued international resolve against Iraq, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Wednesday that Baghdad retains 7,500 nuclear experts and the technical documents needed to make nuclear weapons.

"Containment has worked, but — despite Iraq's present weakness — the future threat has not been erased," Albright said.

For the United States to soften its policies before Iraq's behavior and intentions change would "allow the scorpion that bit us once to bite us again," she said.

Albright spoke to a gathering at Georgetown University, where she spent many years as a professor.

The Clinton administration generally has shied away from discussing the post-Saddam Hussein



Madeleine Albright

era but Albright acknowledged that the United States would be prepared to "enter rapidly" into a dialogue with a successor regime.

"Clearly," she said, "a change in Iraq's government could lead to a change in U.S. policy."

Under the terms of the Gulf

War cease-fire, Iraq is barred from developing or maintaining nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as long-range missiles.

Albright said that while Iraq's chemical and biological weapons production facilities have been destroyed, there is no convincing evidence that all the weapons themselves have been demolished.

Beyond that, she said Iraq "retains more than 7,500 nuclear scientists and technicians as well as the technical documents related to the production of nuclear weapons."

She also said Iraq has been caught trying to smuggle in missile guidance instruments and that it is "highly likely that Iraq retains an operational Scud missile force," probably with chemical and biological weapons to go with it.

Borrowing a phrase from former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Albright said this is not the time "to go wobbly on Iraq."

She reaffirmed her disagreement with nations that suggest Iraq need do no more than eliminate weapons of mass destruction to qualify for a lifting of punitive U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Before the United States would agree to such a change, "Iraq must prove its peaceful intentions," she said. The U.N. sanctions were imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Albright also outlined in some detail U.S. conditions for opening a dialogue with "a successor regime" in Iraq.

"First, because we are firmly committed to Iraq's territorial integrity, we would want to verify that the new Iraq would be independent, unified and free from undue external influence, for ex-

ample, from Iran," she said.

"Second, we would require improvements in behavior. Is there cooperation with UNSCOM (the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq) and compliance with U.N. resolutions? Is there respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities? Is there a convincing repudiation of terrorism? Are its military ambitions limited to those of reasonable defense?"

"If our concerns were addressed satisfactorily, Iraq would no longer threaten regional security. Its isolation could end."

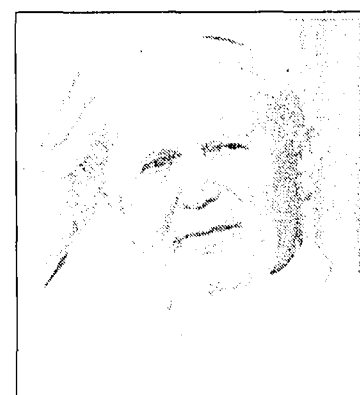
At that point, she said, the United States would seek ways to ease Iraq's re-integration by discussing a whole range of economic and security matters.

"Iraq could begin to reclaim its potential as a nation rich in resources and blessed by a talented and resourceful people," she said. "And Iraq could become a pillar of peace and stability in the region."

French designer to dress up Pope

PARIS (AP) — He's used his whimsical flair to clothe Elton John and Farrah Fawcett. Now French couturier Jean-Charles Castelbajac will design the ceremonial robes of Pope John Paul II.

De Castelbajac was selected by the archdiocese of Paris to design the robes of the pope, cardinals, bishops



Pope John Paul II

and 5,000 priests scheduled to take part in World Youth Day in the French capital on Aug. 18-24.

"This is a great honor for our fashion house," Castelbajac's spokesman Marc Boisseuil said Wednesday. "The concept is deliberately simple and sober and it will add a stunning note to the ceremonies."

De Castelbajac, best-known for his graceful animal designs, is no newcomer to religious fashion. In 1985, he was tapped to design the ecclesiastical clothing for the France's Abbey of Epau.

According to sketches published in the daily Le Monde, the pope will wear a wide-sleeved white silk robe. De Castelbajac's signature rainbow stripes of green, blue, red and orange will appear at the waist.

Cardinals, bishops and priests will be dressed in matching robes, each one in a different color depending on rank and title.

De Castelbajac will receive no fee. The French conglomerate Les Chargeurs said it will donate fabric for the robes.

A force in the fashion world since 1968, de Castelbajac has also dressed Rod Stewart, Lauren Bacall, Grace Jones and Vanessa Paradis.

Suicide bombings probed

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Authorities are investigating possible links between two Shiite Muslim

extremists and the 1983 twin suicide bombings of U.S. and French military bases in Beirut that killed

nearly 300 servicemen.

It was the first major legal action taken by authorities in the case and it appeared aimed at assuaging U.S. anger that Lebanon officials have made no progress in solving the country's most notorious bombings.

Riad Tali, a military magistrate, said Tuesday he had ordered police to investigate the backgrounds of Hassan Ezzedine and Ali Atwi. But he did not specifically name the men as suspects, nor did he say which group they belonged to at the time of the blasts.

The Justice Ministry denied that any decision had been made in the case, the state-run National News Agency reported Wednesday. In recent months, government officials have contradicted each other on security-related issues.

Ezzedine and Atwi were believed to have been senior security officials of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in the 1980s. They are at large, and no arrests have been made in connection with the bomb-

ings. The public disclaimer of knowledge of the two men's backgrounds was apparently aimed at avoiding a confrontation with Hezbollah, which is leading a guerrilla war to end Israeli occupation of a border enclave in southern Lebanon.

On Oct. 23, 1983, almost simultaneously, two suicide bombers rammed two trucks packed with explosives into the French military headquarters and U.S. Marine barracks at Beirut airport, several kilometers (miles) apart.

A total of 241 U.S. servicemen — 240 Marines and one Navy sailor — as well as 58 French paratroopers were killed.

A pro-Iranian Shiite group, Islamic Jihad, claimed responsibility for the two attacks that marked the beginning of the end of Western attempts to end Lebanon's civil war. Several months later, the Multinational Peacekeeping Force of U.S., French, British and Italian troops left Lebanon.

Islamic Jihad is believed to be

linked to Hezbollah, or Party of God, although Hezbollah officials have denied that.

Islamic Jihad also took responsibility for the 1983 suicide bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and another suicide bombing at a replacement U.S. Embassy in 1984 in the hilltop suburb of Aukar. Nearly 80 people were killed in those attacks.

Ezzedine was named in a 1985 arrest warrant for the hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut, in which one U.S. Navy diver was killed.

The lack of legal proceedings over the years has been a sore point in Lebanon's relation with the United States, which still forbids its citizens from traveling to Lebanon. The ban was imposed in 1987 following kidnappings of U.S. citizens.

The government, seeking to shed the country's lawless image during the 1975-90 civil war, has since 1994 been acting to deal with criminals that date back to the long conflict.

French group protests detention of journalists

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The French-based watchdog group Reporters Sans Frontiers protested Wednesday to Sierra Leone's president over the continued detention of three local journalists.

The journalists, who are charged with spying, are on the fifth day of a hunger strike in Freetown's Pademba Road maximum security prison. They have repeatedly been refused bail.

In a letter to President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) urged Sierra Leone's leader "to do everything in your power to secure the immediate and unconditional release" of Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Charles Roberts and Girbil Koroma, publisher, acting editor and general editor respectively of Expo Times newspaper.

The men were arrested March 19 after Expo Times published allegations by Koroma that Nigeria's arrest of rebel leader Foday Sankoh in early March on weapons charges was a ploy to have him removed as leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which had bitterly opposed Kabbah.

The RUF announced his ouster March 15, saying he had thwarted attempts to end Sierra Leone's civil war.

Formal charges against the journalists are that in January and March this year, they obtained secret military information which might be useful to Sierra Leone's enemies. They will appear in court for the third time on April 1.

Reporters Sans Frontiers, which seeks to safeguard journalists' rights, pointed out that the manifesto of Kabbah's ruling Sierra Leone People's Party states that it will work for "a vibrant press."

"RSF also reminds you that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights considers that detention, as a punishment for peaceful expression of an opinion, is one of the most reprehensible ways to enjoin silence" and is therefore a "grave violation of human rights," the letter continued.

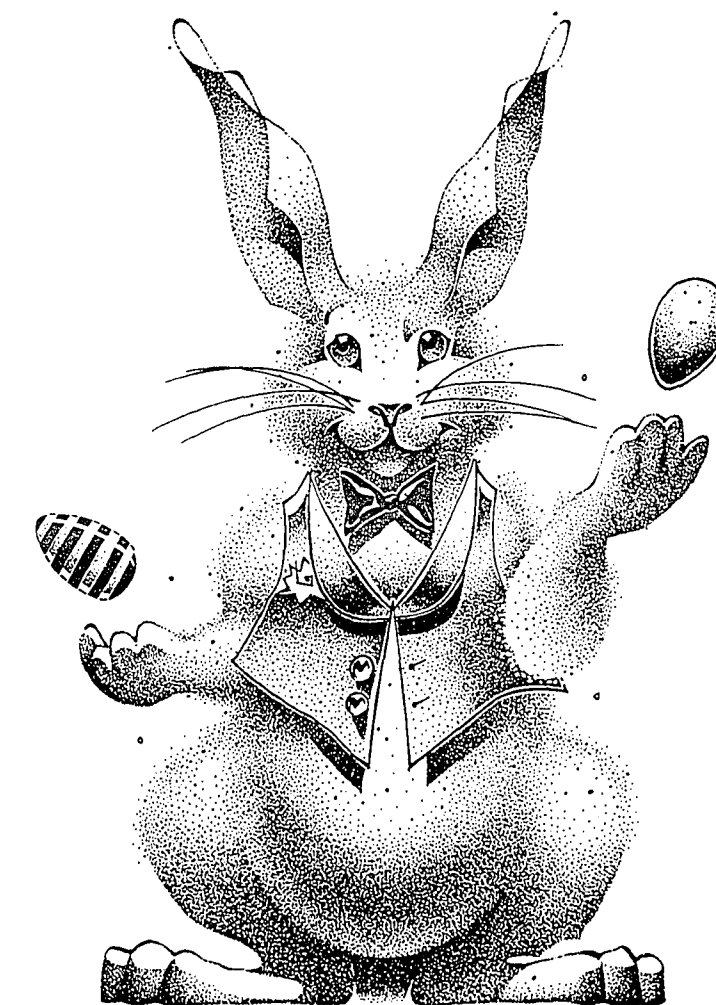
It added that Sierra Leone has



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IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: All adjacent property owners of lots H-177 NEW-1, H-177 NEW-2, H-177 NEW-R2, H-177 "B" (REM), H-175-5 and H-175-6.
FROM: East-West Rental Center of Saipan on behalf of IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER.
REGARDING: Notification of proposed IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER.

Dear neighbors:

East-West Rental, the developers of IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER are pleased to notify you that they have submitted an application to the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) for permits to commence construction of a Family Golf Center along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road between Ike's Market and the entrance road to CMS Quarry in Dandan area of Saipan. Specifically, the project will be located on lot numbers H-177 NEW-1, H-177 NEW-2, H-177 NEW-R2, H-177 "B" (REM), H-175-5 and a portion of H-175-6.

In general, the project consists of the following main features:

1. A fully automated two tiered driving range with low level ground lighting for night operation that can accommodate 50 golfers. The range will include target greens, sand traps and a man-made lake. The range portion will be surrounded by an automatic net that will prevent balls from exiting the site;
2. A green for putting and chipping practice;
3. A 9 hole putting course;
4. An 18 hole miniature golf course;
5. A 6000 square foot building that will include a golf pro shop, clubhouse/snack bar, restrooms and administrative offices;
6. A parking lot with at least 50 spaces to accommodate guests;
7. Several ponds with waterfalls connected by a meandering stream, and extensive landscaping.

A public hearing was held for this project on Tuesday March 11, 1997. The project is within CRMO standards for Shoreline, Height, and Sideyard Setbacks as stated in the CRMO Rules and Regulations (sections 9D(11) and (iii)). In addition, the project is in compliance with the CRMO Regulations regarding parking and lot densities (section 9D (iv)).

As a property owner of lands adjacent to the site of the proposed IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER, you are entitled to review the details of the project at the CRMO offices in the Morgan Building located in the village of Susupe, on the island of Saipan.

We believe this project, aimed toward the local market, will be a tremendous asset to the Dandan area, and offer island residents a low cost family outing alternative.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you enjoy IRONWOODS FAMILY GOLF CENTER!

Sincerely,

/s/ MIKE SCHADECK
General Manager, East West Rental Center

Africa discusses Zaire war

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

LOME, Togo (AP)—African leaders called for a cease-fire and negotiations to end the rebellion sweeping Zaire, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan again made a plea for peace.

Neither Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko nor rebel leader Laurent Kabila joined the 15 heads of state

who gathered in this West African capital to discuss the Zairian crisis. Both sent delegations.

Officials said the two sides did not meet directly because Kabila was holding out for a later meeting, probably in South Africa. Instead, delegates from each camp conferred separately with African leaders - but made no attempt at peace talks, the

leader of the rebel negotiation said. "We are not negotiating," Bizima Karaha told reporters when he emerged from the summit.

Government negotiators did not comment publicly Wednesday.

Therebels have been fighting since September to topple Mobutu's 31-year dictatorship, accusing him of abusing Zaire's vast mineral resources

to enrich himself while ordinary Zairians' grow poorer.

Kabila has refused to consider a cease-fire until after, or in conjunction with, talks with Mobutu. With momentum in the war on their side, the rebels have little incentive to stop fighting.

Annan called anew Wednesday for at least a temporary cease-fire in the region around Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city, which fell into rebel hands a week ago.

Kabila's rebel forces are reported to be less than 60 miles from Lubumbashi, the country's second-largest city.

"It's necessary for everyone to renounce violence and get to the negotiation table," Annan said. "The fighting must stop and dialogue must begin."

The U.S. and France also have called for a cease-fire and talks. Officials with the Organization of African Unity, which organized the summit, said they hope it would somehow lead to talks between Mobutu and Kabila.

"The most urgent need is the cessation of hostilities...to put an end to the suffering of the people of Zaire," said OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim.

The OAU has no power and can only make recommendations to its member states. Even so, the meeting of top African leaders was seen as an important show of solidarity for Zaire.

"Africa needs to make its own decisions in order to achieve a lasting solution to the crisis in Zaire," said Kenya's president, Daniel arap Moi.

In Zaire's capital of Kinshasa, Mobutu has suggested that Parliament form a seven-member team to negotiate with rebels who now control one-third of Zaire.

An official in Mobutu's Popular Revolutionary Movement also said the ruling party was prepared to accept a power-sharing agreement with the rebels. But Kabila already has rejected that possibility.

Mobutu, 66, returned to Zaire on Friday after months of seeking treatment in Europe for prostate cancer.

Belarus leader invokes Stalin

By MARINA BABKINA

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — President Alexander Lukashenko tightened control over this former Soviet republic Wednesday, saying people have asked him to take on dictatorial powers similar to those of Josef Stalin.

"People are saying: Mr. President, give us a dictatorship. Give us Stalin's times," Lukashenko said in a television broadcast with regional administrators and state farm directors.

It may work at home, but Lukashenko's increasing authoritarianism has triggered protests from abroad.

Belarus' relations with the United States have deteriorated, with Washington ordering a Belarusian diplomat out of the country Wednesday in retaliation for Belarus' expulsion of an American diplomat earlier this week.

First Secretary and consul Vladimir Gramyka was given 24 hours to leave the United States, State Department spokesman John Dinger said in Washington. Earlier Wednesday, Belarus recalled its own ambassador-designate.

"This is a parallel process connected to the American decision to summon the U.S. ambassador for consultations," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Igor Poluyan.

Lukashenko, who is trying to forge a union with Russia, announced the revival of the Soviet tradition of "subbotniks" — unpaid mandatory labor on weekends, mostly in street clean-up.

He called for the first subbotnik on April 22, the birthday of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin.

Lashing out at unspecified domestic and foreign enemies who he claims are eager to undermine the Belarus economy, Lukashenko justified his new measures by the need

for productive spring field work.

"I'm putting myself and my entire government into a state of emergency" for the spring season, Lukashenko announced.

The presidential helicopter, he said, "will hang over your heads in the air almost every day" for surprise trips meant to increase work discipline. He said special envoys will report to prosecutors those farmers and administrators who do not properly fulfill their duties.

"The questions related to the reports of my representatives will be decided by law enforcement bodies within one week," Lukashenko said. "The verdicts will be the harshest possible."

Lukashenko, a former Soviet farm director, rules this nation of 10.5 million people in the Soviet manner he openly admires. Having little tolerance for dissent, he has closed newspapers, responded to demonstrations with mass arrests and taken steps to curb the media and political opposition.

This has made him widely popular among most Belarusians, who are facing economic hardships and are nostalgic for the Soviet past. He gained nearly unlimited powers in a referendum last year.

Russia, which usually supports Lukashenko, expressed "deep concern" this week about curbs on the Russian news media.

Interfax quoted Russia's hard-line CIS affairs minister, Aman Tuleyev, as saying the turmoil in Belarus was "a planned provocation aimed at foiling the establishment of a full-fledged union of our countries."

Lukashenko accused two leaders of the main nationalist opposition group, the Belarusian Popular Front, of organizing "anti-Belarusian centers" in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Lincoln unveils new Towncar

By TERRIL YUE JONES

NEW YORK (AP) - Seeking to attract younger buyers, Ford's Lincoln-Mercury division has unveiled the 1998 Lincoln Town Car, a sleeker, more powerful version of the popular luxury sedan.

The new Town Car is shorter and sports wraparound headlights and rounded corners, giving a more contemporary look to the automaker's best-selling luxury car and the flagship of North America's limousine fleets.

The redesigned sedan unveiled Wednesday at the New York International Automobile Show.

David Lewis, an automotive historian at the University of Michigan Business School, said Lincoln officials have to contend with the luxury car's image.

"They have the stamp of an old fogey," Lewis said.

"Middle-aged people who have one in their driveway have to de-

fend their purchase," he said. "Having a Cadillac or Lincoln was a statement: you've become somebody. But with younger people, they have to overhaul the image."

The Town Car, one of the few remaining rear-wheel drive sedans, is the top-selling Lincoln, ahead of the Continental and Mark VIII. It accounts for 80 percent of the world's limousine fleets.

The average age of Town Car buyers is 67, and their numbers are dwindling, Lincoln officials acknowledge.

They thus hope to tap into the much larger ranks of drivers who are entering their 50s.

This consumer group has seen the Town Car as "too big, as my grandfather's car," said Joseph Philippi, senior automotive analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York.

"To a guy who's in his 50s,

driving this car has not sent the youthful, vibrant message he wanted to send," Philippi said. The 1998 Town Car represents a "transition" toward younger buyers, he said.

Cadillac is reaching out similarly with its new Catera, a German-made entry-level luxury sedan intended to woo younger buyers.

The 1998 Town Car is 80 percent new, said Jim O'Connor, gen-

eral manager of the Lincoln-Mercury division. It retains its prominent grill, though it is rounded instead of squared off.

Engineers boosted the V8 engine's power from 190 horsepower to 220 horsepower, and upgraded the chassis, suspension and brakes, O'Connor said.

"It's four words: ride, room, comfort and luxury," O'Connor said. "We wanted to be sure that the essence of the Lincoln brand

stayed with the new Town Car."

Ford also hopes to build sales to individuals while continuing to reduce fleet sales, he said. Five years ago, more than 50 percent of Town Cars went to rental and limousine use, but in 1996 that was down to 28 percent to 30 percent.

Sales of Town Cars were at production capacity of 135,000 in the mid-1980s, but fell to around 93,000 in 1996.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

CUC ITB 97-0017

March 7, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is inviting qualified individuals or firms to bid surveyed items. Generally, the surveyed items consists of the following types of items:

- 1) Office/living room furniture
- 2) Office/dining room chairs
- 3) Beds (box springs, mattresses and frames)
- 4) Electric typewriters
- 5) Facsimile Machine
- 6) Line conditioners
- 7) Computer monitors and screens
- 8) Stretcher
- 9) Electric time clocks
- 10) Emergency lights
- 11) Electric Calculators
- 12) Vehicles (Saipan, Tinian and Rota)
- 13) Cellular Phones w/ charger and batteries
- 14) VHF Portable Radios w/ charger and batteries

Specifications and Bid Forms for the above may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) before bid closing date and time. The items may also be inspected during normal working hours at the new CUC Warehouse Building in front of the Power Generation Building at Lower Base.

All inquiries may be directed to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Manager for Materials Management Division at phone number 322-4033 extension 16 or fax numbers 322-6582

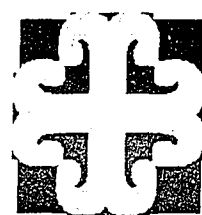
All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked CUC-IFB 97-0017 and submitted to the Special Advisor for Procurement & Supply at CUC in Lower Base, Saipan, before 3:00 p.m., local time, on April 7, 1997. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately after closing in the CUC conference room.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defect 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

Cursillos In Christianity

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa



2ND ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER

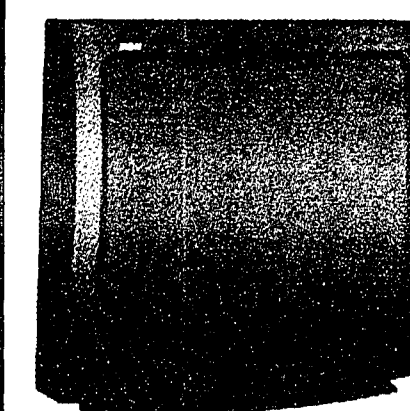
*An evening at Hotel Nikko Saipan,
Theatre Hall
Including Musical/Variety Show*

Friday, April 4, 1997.

Event Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Single \$25.00 Couple \$35.00

To buy ticket(s) or for more information, please call the coordinator,
Brother Manny T. Villaga at 256-2701



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Application may be picked up at the Saipan Service Center located in Chalan Laulau (white, two-story building North of McDonald's Restaurant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note, there has been a change in the price of Waterpark Passes at the Pacific Islands Club. Effective April 1st, 1997, Waterpark Prices are as follows:

Children under 18 years old \$15.00
Adults 18 and over \$12.00
Children 3 and under are Free

All children must be accompanied by an adult chaperone 18 and over. Adults receive a \$3 price discount from the \$15 price of children.



DFS Saipan is looking for a qualified individuals who meet the following qualification to fill the position of

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- Good telephone etiquette skills; and good inter-personal skills
- Perform office related task, photocopying and faxing

Interested applicants are welcome to complete an application at the Human Resources Office, 2nd Floor, Downtown Store in Garapan between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Employment by DFS is contingent upon the successful completion of a drug screening test.

Federal Law requires presentation of proof of citizenship and eligibility to work in the U.S. for all new employees. Please provide a copy of your CNMI Driver's License; Police Clearance and proof of CNMI residency. We comply with this requirement on a non-discriminatory basis.

DFS SAIPAN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Lawmakers want state execution mode to stay

By JACKIE HALLIFAX
TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) -

Florida lawmakers showed little interest in changing the state's method of execution, even though flames shot from an inmate's mask during his electrocution.

Gov. Lawton Chiles said Wednesday he would consider

switching to another method of execution, possibly injection, and Attorney General Bob Butterworth proposed a law making injection an option.

But legislators opposed giving up the electric chair, saying switching to another method such as injection would just delay ex-

ecutions and not be fit punishment.

"A painless death is not punishment," said Locke Burt, the state Senate's Republican Majority Leader. "I think it's important that there is a deterrent and a punishment element."

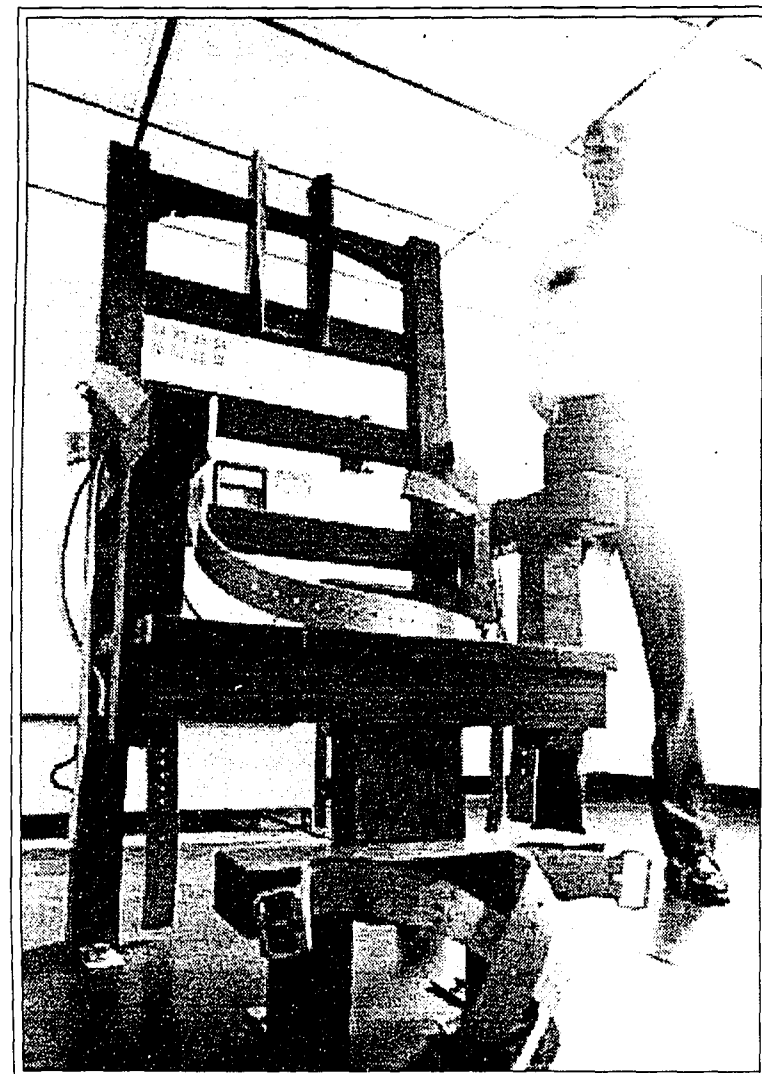
The Vatican called Tuesday's electrocution of Pedro Medina "barbaric" after flames shot from the right side of his black mask. Witnesses later said they were nauseated by the sight and smell of burning flesh.

The problem probably came from a synthetic sponge in the helmet, officials said.

Medina was executed for the 1982 murder of Dorothy James, a teacher who befriended the Cuban immigrant after he arrived in the United States in 1980.

"That witness was stabbed 10 times, a rag stuffed in her mouth and left to die. We often forget the victims," said Senate President Toni Jennings.

Burt said switching from electrocution to injection, which is used by 34 of the 38 states with capital punishment, would just slow down executions.



A guard at Florida State Prison is a ghostly figure against the window light striking Florida's electric chair "Old Sparky" in this file photo in Tallahassee, Fla. Pedro Medina was executed in a fiery electrocution last Tuesday in the same chair.

AP Photo

Agreement reached to end Colombian prison standoff

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) - Inmates promised to surrender two pavilions at a maximum-security prison on Thursday after the government fired the warden and agreed to improve food, medical treatment and visitation.

"It's really serious. It's a national disgrace," Fernando Castro Caicedo, the national ombudsman, told reporters of conditions at Bogota's La Modelo prison after a nine-point agreement was reached Wednesday evening, apparently ending the more than 36-hour revolt.

The estimated 1,800 inmates, about one-third of the prison's population, took over the two wings Monday night, demanding an end to overcrowding as well as better food and visitation. Scores crowded pavilion roofs and unfurled banners praising Colombia's three main rebel movements, to which many belong.

After the Wednesday agreement, they began cleaning up the pavilions, which they had littered with debris torn from prison walls.

Castro said the government agreed to improve conditions for the prisoners, "some of whom are treated worse than animals." Under the agreement, a panel will convene on April 11 to review the cases of those inmates awaiting trial.

Just 500 of La Modelo's 4,500 inmates have been convicted of crimes. The rest are awaiting trial in a prison built for 1,800 inmates.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: CLERK III, TINIAN BRANCH

NATURE OF WORK: This position is located in the NMI Retirement Fund branch office of Tinian. The incumbent shall assist the Chief in carrying out and enforcing the laws of the Retirement Fund, including the Member Home Loan Program, Group Health and Life Insurance program, and the Workers' Compensation Commission. The position is funded through the Workers' Compensation appropriations.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Incumbent performs filing, typing, answering phones, picking up pouch mail and other office work; assists in accepting and completing applications for retirement, member home loan, and health and life insurance to ensure that all forms are in order before sending them to the Saipan office; assists in distributing pension checks, notices and other information to members of the Fund and/or workers' compensation claimants; assists in making certain that employers are complying with workers' compensation requirements, such as the filing of certificate of compliance, notice of injury, and so forth; and performs other related duties as assigned by the Chief, Tinian Branch, NMIRF.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school (or GED certificate), plus at least three years experience as a clerk. A copy of the diploma or certificate and police clearance must be attached to the application. The ability to communicate well is preferred.

Interested persons may visit the NMI Retirement Fund office on Tinian for applications and details of the position. Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, March 31, 1997, to Mr. Edward H. Manglona, Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund, 1st Floor, Nauru Building, P.O. Box 1247, Saipan, MP 96950.

THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

UN: Diplomat ticketing illegal

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Diplomatic immunity may get in the way of a New York City plan to crack down on diplomats who don't pay their parking tickets, the United Nations said Wednesday.

A U.N. legal office report said the plan to confiscate diplomatic license plates from towed vehicles and from diplomats who don't pay parking tickets on time may violate international law and agreements on diplomatic immunity.

"Measures aimed at depriving a diplomatic agent of the right to drive by withdrawal of license plates, registration and other pertinent legal documents ... are in contravention" of agreements the United States accepted when New

York was chosen U.N. headquarters, the report said.

Diplomats are in general immune from prosecution by courts of the countries where they are posted.

However, countries can waive immunity in cases of serious crimes, as the government of Georgia did for a top diplomat in Washington who has been charged in a car crash that killed a teen-aged girl.

New York City and its large diplomatic community have long had uneasy relations over parking. The city says it has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in parking fines run up by foreign missions claiming diplomatic immunity.

But many foreign diplomats, especially those from the former

Soviet Union, have accused Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of waging a campaign against them to win points with city voters, some of whom believe special parking privileges for diplomats are unfair.

Tension over parking increased last year after two diplomats from

former Soviet states accused police of roughing them up after they parked in front of a fire hydrant. Police claimed the diplomats were drunk and unruly.

The U.N. report welcomed some of the new city guidelines, especially Giuliani's promises to set up a complaint "hot line," set

aside designated parking places for diplomats and provide foreign legations with a monthly report on unpaid tickets.

The U.N. report will be discussed Thursday by a committee that handles relations with the U.S. government. The new guidelines take effect Tuesday.

Rabin widow endorses Labor Party official

JERUSALEM (AP) — Yitzhak Rabin's widow endorsed popular former military chief Ehud Barak on Wednesday as the best candidate to follow her slain husband in leading the opposition Labor Party.

Barak is the front-runner in Labor's leadership primary, scheduled for June; his main rival is peace maven Yossi Beilin.

"I see in Barak a continuation of Yitzhak's path," Leah Rabin told Israel TV. "Yitzhak ... had a very warm and supportive relationship with him. From my knowledge of Barak I think he is the man capable of bringing

the Labor Party to victory."

Israel's next general election is scheduled for 2000, but could come sooner if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's disparate coalition falls apart.

Barak has tried to associate himself with the memory of Rabin, another former military chief who won 1992 elections by appealing to centrist voters. He went on to sign peace accords with the PLO, and was assassinated by an ultranationalist Jew in 1995.

"I see myself as a student of Rabin with the same world outlook on security and a direct political style," Barak said Wednesday.

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Monday	Burrito Supreme	\$6.75
Tuesday	Taco's	\$6.75
Wednesday	Enchiladas	\$6.75
Thursday	Fajita's	\$8.00
Friday	Gambas (Shrimp)	\$8.50
or a Healthy Taco Salad		\$5.75

Burrito Supreme, Taco's and Enchiladas served with Mexican Rice and Refried Beans. Includes ice tea with free refills.

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New theory on Last Supper

By KARIN LAUB
JERUSALEM (AP) - Jesus and his disciples shared the Last Supper on a Tuesday, three days before the crucifixion, not the night before, and the hosts were followers of a radical Jewish sect, the Essenes.

They dined Roman-style, reclining on low couches and, for lack of silverware, dipped their bread into communal dishes set on small round tables, rather than the banquet table envisioned by Leonardo da Vinci.

Such theories, presented in a new book and other recent research, challenge traditional beliefs about an event that has evolved into a central Christian ritual, the Holy Communion.

Last year, the Israeli government restored a Crusader chapel and one-time mosque that some believe is built on the site of the original Last Supper. Since then it has become a major attraction for Christian pilgrims.

In the days leading up to Easter, tour groups crowded into the dark chamber

Scholar: It happened on a Tuesday not Thursday

with graceful Gothic arches and Islamic verses carved.

The New Testament provides little detail on the Last Supper, saying only that it took place in a guest room inside walled Jerusalem around the time of the Jewish Passover holiday.

According to Christian tradition, Jesus gathered his disciples for a farewell meal in the city on a Thursday evening, then walked to the Mount of Olives. There, in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was arrested by authorities tipped off by Judas. The crucifixion took place Friday morning, just hours later.

Bargil Pixner, a Benedictine monk and Bible scholar at the Dormition Abbey on Jerusalem's Mount Zion, tells a different story in a new book, "With Jesus in Jerusalem," based in part on archaeological excavations on Mount Zion in Pixner believes the Last Supper took place on Tuesday evening

and was given by the Essenes - Jewish purists who rebelled against what they perceived as the corruption of the Temple priests. Jesus' trial lasted from Wednesday to Friday, he says.

The Essenes, authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls, mostly lived in small rural communities, including their center at Qumran in the Judean Desert. But He excavated the remains of the Essenes Gate, one of the entrances to the walled city. Later, he examined ritual baths nearby, which he said were too big for individual families and must have belonged to a larger community, probably the Essenes.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke say the Last Supper coincided with the start of Passover. But John says the meal was held before the holiday.

Pixner said he believes Jesus celebrated that Passover according to the Essenes' fixed 364-day solar calendar, rather than the Temple's newer lunar one. The Essene Passover always began on a Tuesday night, while the Temple Passover would have started at sundown Friday that year, he argues.

Jesus chose to go with the Essenes' calendar for the Passover meal because he knew he would not be alive by the start of the Temple Passover, Pixner says.

Other Bible scholars dispute Pixner's theories.

Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a researcher at Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, says the Essenes were poor and couldn't have afforded to live on tony

Mount Zion.

Scholar Stephen Pfann says the Essenes' Passover and the Temple Passover never fell in the same week. He also says Jerusalem's gates were named after what lay outside, not inside the city walls.

As for the Last Supper, scholars say, the actual meal looked quite different from the Leonardo da Vinci painting — Jesus sitting on a chair at the center of a large rectangular table with disciples on either side.

Jesus and the disciples were probably lounging on low couches, around small round tables, as was customary at the time, Murphy O'Connor and Pfann say.

Murphy O'Connor argues the Last Supper room wasn't even on Mount Zion but rather in a poorer quarter of the city, closer to the Temple.



Gilberto Landino works on a paper-mache "Judas" figure in his shop in Mexico City Tuesday. The Judas figures are burned every year on the Saturday after Good Friday as part of Holy Week celebrations in Mexico. AP Photo

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

DEAN H. BUSH

This is to inform all clients and friends of Mr. Dean Bush, Vice President of PML, better known as "DOCTOR", of South San Francisco, Ca., was called to his eternal rest on March 24, 1997 at the age of 75.

Predeceased by his WIFE: Betty Bush. Survived by his SON: Bill Bush, DAUGHTER: Deana Deal, and GRAND DAUGHTER: Jessica Deal

There will be a Masonic Service in San Francisco with the family. Your condolences can be sent through letters and cards to his daughter, Deana Deal, at 1077 Courtland, Milpitas, CA 95035.

We will all miss the "DOCTOR". Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family, may he rest in peace.



Program student cries rape

By BRIGITTE GREENBERG
NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) - A college senior has filed a \$3 million federal lawsuit claiming she was raped by her host while participating in a study abroad program in Japan.

Erika Eisenberg, 23, of New

Milford, filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court against Earlham College, a college in Richmond, Indiana. Ms. Eisenberg spent her junior year in Tokyo at Waseda University as part of a foreign study program administered by Earlham.

Ms. Eisenberg said she was sexu-

ally harassed over a period of months by Shoji Shino, 58, and raped on April 8, 1996. She and her attorneys said they have filed criminal charges against Shino in Tokyo and that the case remains under investigation.

A woman who answered the phone at Shino's home in Tokyo refused to identify herself, but said he would have no comment on the case. The woman referred calls to Shino's attorney, who was not in his office.

Also named in the lawsuit are Waseda University and the Great Lakes Colleges Association/Associated Colleges of the Midwest, a consortium of small, midwestern liberal arts colleges that sends students abroad under the same exchange program.

The lawsuit claims Ms. Eisenberg was subjected to a pattern of verbal and physical sexual harassment and sexual abuse and that her civil rights were violated.

Ms. Eisenberg alleges she was raped after falling asleep on the host family's couch. When she

awoke, her host father was raping her.

"I pushed him off of me. It took me some time to even figure out what was going on," Ms. Eisenberg said in a telephone interview from her Indiana apartment. "I was shaking."

After the rape, the woman said she hid in the bathroom all night and then left early the next morning. Ms. Eisenberg was placed in a youth hostel and eventually placed with another host family.

She said she wanted her story publicized to make sure other students are not put in a similar situation.

Shino constantly bragged about his sexual prowess, described sex tours he made to Thailand and other Asian countries and showed pictures of himself with women other than his wife, describing them as prostitutes, Eisenberg claims in her lawsuit.

Ms. Eisenberg said program officials responded to her complaints by suggesting that she alter her clothing and demeanor.

Earlham College spokesman Peter Smith acknowledged that Eisenberg spoke with program administrators. They offered to move her to another host family, but she indicated she wanted to stay where she was, he said.

Ms. Eisenberg refused to seek medical attention or call police, Smith said.

Earlham attorneys have filed a suit arguing that she signed a waiver before traveling abroad that exempts the school from liability.

In a deposition, a fellow student said Shino also harassed her while she visited Eisenberg, constantly touching her in a way that made her feel uncomfortable.

Ms. Eisenberg has since returned to Earlham, where she is scheduled to graduate in May with a degree in Japanese studies.

Ms. Eisenberg is seeking \$3 million in general damages, punitive damages, medical costs, travel expenses and attorneys' fees. She is also seeking to block federal funding to Earlham and the association.

Investigators say girl was molested

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — One of two young sisters kidnapped in Michigan by their former baby sitter was molested as many as three times during the five-day ordeal, a detective testified Wednesday.

The 6-year-old girl said Ronald Stafford molested her in a Daytona Beach hotel room after the abduction Friday from the sisters' Galesburg, Mich., home, Daytona Beach Detective John Adazzio testified at a bail hearing.

Stafford, 21, was arrested along with his 17-year-old brother Lee and Ricky Geer, 19, on federal kidnapping charges Tuesday after a nationwide search.

Ronald Stafford, the girls' former baby sitter, has a juvenile record for sexual assault. Their father, Jesse Hainer, said he had known Stafford for more than a year but later told him to stay away from his daughters.

"I think it was revenge," Hainer said Wednesday. "When I figured out what kind of person he was, his background, I didn't want him around here."

A medical examination of the 6-year-old showed no evidence of penetration, Adazzio said. Her 9-year-old sister told investigators she was not molested, and she refused a doctor's examination, Adazzio said.

FBI agent James Dougal testified that Geer said Ronald Stafford had fondled the breasts of one or both girls and had taken one to the woods for an hour.

Ronald Stafford said that Geer and his brother pinched the girls in the buttocks and grabbed the girls' legs, Dougal testified.

The girls' grandfather, Robert Hainer, said he was "sick" over the charges.

"I want them to spend the rest of their lives in prison. I know that's a heck of a lot to say about an 18- or 19-year-old," he said.

Ronald Stafford said the three men planned the sisters' abduction for two weeks because they thought the girls' father was mistreating them, Dougal testified.

A federal magistrate denied bail Wednesday to Ronald Stafford and Geer. Lee Stafford's records were sealed because he is a juvenile.

The girls were abducted Friday as they got off a school bus.

Vacationing college students saw pictures of the children on television hours after they had dinner Monday with three men and two girls. The students called authorities.

Police rescued the girls Tuesday morning at a Daytona Beach gift shop and returned them by plane to Kalamazoo, Mich.

"I'm free!" the 6-year-old girl said

Message of Appreciation

We the Family of the late

GLENN DALEY BUTTERIS



Wish to express our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude to thank our many relatives, friends, and business associates for sharing with us your utmost support, love, prayers and many expressions of sympathy and condolences during our time of sorrow.

A heartfelt thank you for joining us at the nightly rosary, viewing, mass celebration and burial. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will always be remembered by us.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
May God Bless you all.

Victorina (Vicky) Cabrera Butteris

Darrin Joplin Cabrera Butteris -Devon Jordan Guerrero of Garapan, Saipan;
Mark & Susan Kay McCoy of Redwood City, California;
John Edward & Kim Butteris-Paul, Drew, Esai, and Daley of Apache Oklahoma;
Jerry Lee & Julie Butteris-Kelli and Andy of San Diego, California;
Jean Butteris of Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

Cabrera's Funeral Service
Saipan, MP 96950

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Whispering Palms School will be accepting applications for a faculty position. Please call for more information.

Please contact either Marion or Tom Weindl
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THE
BANK OF SAIPAN
will have its

ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

on Saturday, March 29, 1997
10:00 A.M. at the Pacific Gardenia
Conference Room

Shareholders or proxies should register
on the above date with the Secretary
before the meeting starts

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Tuesday, April 1, 1997. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission's Office, Capitol Hills, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission's Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. New Business
 1. Consideration of Motion to Dismiss Employee Appeal
- IV. Old Business
- V. Adjournment

/s/ EUGENE A. SANTOS
Chairman
Civil Service Commission

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS Department of Lands and Natural Resources VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: HOMESTEAD ADMINISTRATOR
LOCATION: DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS, SAIPAN

INTRODUCTION: This position is within the immediate supervision of the Director. The incumbent is required to be generally familiar with the policies and regulations pertaining to all types of homesteading program.

DUTIES: Act as the principal administrator for all homestead programs, including the agricultural homestead waiver's program. Review all CNMI laws, rules and regulations pertaining to all types of homesteading program.

SALARY: Beginning salary will depend upon qualification and experience; from \$27,800 to 45,000 per annum.

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from a recognized college or university with a degree in public administration, business administration or a related field and four years of experience in responsible office management or staff work.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SUBMIT COMPLETED
APPLICATION BY APRIL 14, 1997 TO:
Division of Public Lands, DLNR, P.O. Box 10007
Capitol Hill Main Office, Saipan, MP 96950

WHO claims pap test 'unreliable'

GENEVA (AP) — Pap tests to detect cervical cancer are missing trouble signs up to 30 percent of the time, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

Improvements in performing and interpreting the tests could greatly reduce deaths among the half-million women who develop cervical cancer each year, the U.N. health agency said. As it is, more than half those women die, WHO said.

"The time has come to improve strategies for cervical cancer screening," said Mark Tschekovski, director of noncommunicable diseases at WHO.

American physician George Panicolaou developed the test, in

which medical workers scrape cells from the cervix — the neck of the uterus — for examination. When cancerous or potentially cancerous cells are found early, treatment is almost always effective.

The majority of cervical cancer deaths are in developing countries where lack of money makes mass screening impossible.

But in some countries, the pap test has reduced cervical cancer deaths by up to 70 percent since it was introduced in 1943, WHO said.

When done and read correctly, the test detects up to 95 percent of potentially hazardous cell changes, the agency said.

But mistakes in performing and

interpreting the test mean the exam is providing false negative results from 10 to 30 percent of the time, WHO said. False negatives wrongly indicate that the woman has no problem.

WHO and the European Organization on Genital Infection and Neoplasia recommend standardization of analysis techniques, better staff training, and automation of screening systems where possible.

"In order for screening programs to be cost-effective, they should cover most of the female population at risk and be initiated only when their quality at all levels, including sampling and interpretation of results, has been ensured," Tschekovski said.

Warning of blood brain disease

By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
GENEVA (AP) — Scientists investigating mad cow disease recommended Wednesday that blood banks guard against accepting any blood that might pose a risk of a similar brain-wasting ailment in humans.

The scientists, meeting at the World Health Organization, stressed there is no proof that the human version of mad cow disease can be transmitted through blood transfusions, but said the possible hazard required that precautions be taken.

British doctors have said a new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease apparently was linked to consumption of products from cattle infected with mad cow disease.

"There is at present no proof that

CJD, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, can be transmitted by blood transfusion from a person that is ill to a person who is not," said David Heymann, director of communicable disease control at WHO.

But, he added, there is always a risk of transmission of any disease from one person to another through blood. Therefore, he said, blood should not be taken from anyone with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or anyone at risk of developing it.

There is currently no test that would indicate a person was developing the disease, a process that can take years.

Heymann said the panel of 50 experts from 15 countries, who have been meeting in Geneva since Monday, decided to recommend that in general no person ill with any disease

be allowed to give blood.

They also said blood should not be given by people treated with human growth hormone or people who have been surgically treated with brain tissue called "duramater."

Members of families with forms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease developed genetically should also not give blood, Heymann said.

The British scientists said cattle were believed to have developed mad cow disease from eating feed containing the remains of similarly infected sheep, a practice that has since been halted.

Dr. Robert Will of Britain, who attended the meeting, said 16 people have died in Britain and one has died in France of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Where ... Continued from page 5

to the dead, and we can only rent it from them for a little while.

An adult is one whose thinking is vertical, and hence he or she is not governed by the demands for immediate pleasure, comfort and excitement.

Bly says an adult's attitude toward life is exactly opposite to the attitude of commercials—"You're longing for skin that doesn't have wrinkles in it, that's very, very, very important." The adult says "No, I've got wrinkles, so what?"

The hope, therefore, "lies in our longing to be adults, and the longing for the young ones, if they know what an honorable adulthood is, to become adults as well."

If adults, Bly says, take an interest in younger ones by helping them find a mentor, by bringing them along to adult activities, by giving attention to young ones who aren't in our family at all, "then our own feeling of being adult will be augmented, and adulthood might again appear to be a dependable state for many young ones."

Adulthood for adults is not cool? Only if you're hopelessly frivolous.

New immigration law said confusing

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration attempted Wednesday to clear up confusion over a new immigration law amid reports of illegal immigrants rushing to marriage and unfounded fears of mass deportations.

Key provisions of the immigration law signed last year by President Clinton go into effect Tuesday.

"The law is indeed very complex and does very fundamentally change the manner in which we do business," Immigration and Naturalization Service Deputy Commissioner Chris Sale told reporters Wednesday.

But she added, "The law does not change our enforcement priorities."

Those priorities have long been the apprehension and removal of illegal aliens who commit serious crimes in the United States — not the student who overstays a visa or the farm worker who entered without authorization.

The INS each year removes fewer than 100,000 of the 5 million people living here without authorization.

"We have no intention of having

mass sweeps," said INS Deputy General Counsel Paul Virtue.

Nonetheless, the anxiety among immigrants since Congress rewrote national immigration policy has hit new levels with key provisions taking effect April 1. Hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants also are facing the cutoff of welfare benefits this August or September from separate welfare revisions.

"The law does not mean that immigrants must file for a change in status or get married before April 1," Sale stressed Wednesday.

Long lines were reported last week outside INS offices in New York and Dallas, with throngs queuing overnight to legalize their status — many having recently married a U.S. citizen.

Marriage to an American doesn't automatically result in a government work permit, or green card, Virtue noted. "There is no reason for somebody to go out and get married, certainly no reason for somebody to commit marriage fraud, which we're concerned about,"

he said.

In Texas, California and elsewhere, illegal aliens have attempted to turn themselves in to INS officials in the mistaken belief that doing so before Tuesday will result in preferential treatment.

Taking effect Tuesday are provisions:

— Making it easier to deport illegal aliens unless they can meet a new, stricter standard: that their removal would result in "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" to a close relative who is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Other changes also will serve to expedite deportation and removal procedures.

— Giving INS officers authority to refuse entry to travelers presenting themselves at airports or other ports of entry with invalid or fraudulent documents unless a credible fear of persecution or asylum claim is made. The rights of federal courts to review deportation and exclusion decisions are sharply reduced.

Barring aliens seeking to re-enter the country after living here without authorization.

Clinton wants whole China story

By RON FOURNIER

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the FBI telling him little, President Clinton expressed concern Wednesday that he doesn't know more about China's alleged efforts to sway American elections. "I don't know what the facts are," he said.

Still, the president was careful to say he understands why Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI director

Louis Freeh limited his knowledge of an FBI inquiry that could touch Clinton administration officials. He expressed confidence in both of them.

Freeh and Reno "have dual obligations to share with the White House and with the State Department ... information we need to protect and advance national security, and to preserve the integ-

ity of criminal investigations," Clinton said. "I'm confident that what has been done and will continue to be done in this case."

It is an awkward situation for the White House and the FBI: Clinton needs to know about anything that impacts the delicate U.S.-China relationship, but the FBI is prohibited from disclosing most details of an investigation in progress.

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NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

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

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff
vs.
AUGUSTIN M. TAGABUEL and
MARGARITA S. TAGABUEL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-907

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice of the auction sale of the following described property:

1. **45' Fishing Boat**
Vessel Name: KATSU MARU No. 1
Registered Number: ON2-0570
Place of Registry: Okinawa
Builder: Nitta Zosen, Ibusuki City, Kagoshima, Japan
Year Built: 1979
Hull Type/Material: Sampan/Fibre Reinforced Plastic
Length/Beam/Draft: 12.30/2.82/1.18 meters
Net Displacement: 11.21 Metric Tons
Machinery/Propulsion: One 400 hp Yanmar, 6 cylinder diesel engine, Model 6KES-HT, mounted inboard, and driving a single 3 bladed propeller
Recently appraised value: \$110,300
2. **Mazda B2600 Pick-Up Truck**
Make/Model: Mazda 4x4 CP Pick Up Truck
Year Built: 1993
3. **Other fishing related items, accessories, and equipment**

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the Department of Public Safety Office, Susupe, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, April 3, 1997, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

SECTION ONE INSPECTION PROPERTY

The property described above is presently located at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai or at the Seaport, Lower Base, where it may be viewed and inspected between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. (8:00 a.m.) and four o'clock p.m. (4:00 p.m.) each weekday before the sale. All inspections of any property must be coordinated with Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, CDA Loan Manager. Failure to inspect any property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

SECTION TWO WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS

All property listed for sale in this announcement will be sold "AS IS" without any warranty or covenant on the part of the auctioneer or CDA as to quality, character, condition, size, weight, or kind, or that such property is condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended. No claim for any allowance on any of the grounds will be considered after the property is struck off to a bidder by auctioneer.

Neither auctioneer nor CDA may give any warranty, express or implied, as to quality or description of the property listed for sale in this announcement. Neither auctioneer nor CDA shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement or for any faulty description thereof, in any catalogue, advertisement, or other medium employed for announcing this sale. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account of the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement, or the faulty description thereof.

SECTION THREE CONDUCT OF AUCTION SALE

- A. **Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- B. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - (1) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - (2) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - (3) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

C. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall be not binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to the Chief of Police of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP 96950; or to F. Matthew Smith, Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950. Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256. CDA may bid at the auction sale.

D. **Disputes.** Auctioneer may resubmit any property listed in this announcement if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

SECTION FOUR ENFORCEMENT OF AUCTION SALE

- A. **Deposit/Payment.** CDA shall collect, and buyers shall pay, a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to CDA within ten (10) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check, otherwise CDA will retain the deposit and resell the property.
- B. **Memorandum of Sale.** Auctioneer shall require, and all buyers must sign, a memorandum of sale immediately after sale of any property is consummated.
- C. **Removal or Storage of Property.** Buyers shall have ten (10) days after payment of the purchase price to remove the property purchased from the place of sale. Buyers shall bear the entire risk of loss during storage prior to such removal as provided. After ten (10) days, buyers shall be liable for all expenses of storage of any property that was purchased but which has not been removed.

SECTION FIVE CHANGE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1997.

/s/ JOSE M. CASTRO
Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP97-0101
FOR: COMMUNICATION SERVICE ANALYZER
OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICE ANALYZER. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).
/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0100
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997 TIME: 2:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0099
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP97-0098
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION
OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997
TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0097
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP97-0095
FOR: CLEANING SERVICES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR CLEANING SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Experts fear spread of Hepatitis C virus

By PAUL RECER
BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Hepatitis C, a usually-silent, blood-borne disease, will kill about 24,000 Americans annually within 20 years and current treatments are not effective for most patients, a panel of experts said Wednesday.

A committee sponsored by the National Institutes of Health reported that about 4 million Americans are infected with hepatitis C, spread mostly through needle-sharing by drug users, and that about 20 percent of them will develop cirrhosis of the liver, an often fatal disorder.

"There is a large reservoir of patients with chronic (hepatitis C) disease who will become ill, require liver transplants or die," said Dr. D.W. Powell of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Powell was chairman of a panel of experts selected by the NIH to evaluate the current understanding, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C.

In their report, the 12 committee members said that treatment of the disease with current drugs has been "disappointing" because only about 20 percent of patients with chronic disease have been cured.

"The therapy has been effective for some, but the rate of complete clearance (cure) is quite small," said Powell.

For most people, hepatitis C is benign, with few symptoms or signs of illness for many years.

A good portion of people don't

know they are infected," said Powell. About 15 percent of patients throw off the disease without medical help. The rest, however, develop a chronic, simmering infection that never goes away. The health of most of these patients is never seriously affected, although they all are carriers who can give the virus to others.

The principal drugs used are all based on interferon, an immune system protein produced by the body to fight viral infections.

Treatment with these drugs requires injections three times a week for six months to a year. The committee found that the longer treatment period produces better results. Coincidentally, the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday extended approval to use one of the hepatitis C drugs for up to two years.

Antiviral drugs, used in combination with interferon, are now being tested and at least one, ribavirin, "has shown promise," the committee said.

Hepatitis C is spread most commonly by needle sharing among intravenous drug users. It can also be spread through blood transfusions, but this has become very uncommon — about 1 case per 10,000 transfusions — as the result of a blood test that detects the disease in blood donors.

Powell said sexual relations with many partners is also a risk factor since the virus can be present in both blood and body fluids.

For about a fifth of the chronic patients, 10 to 20 years of hepatitis C infection leads to cirrhosis, a disorder that scars the liver. A small percentage of these cirrhosis patients eventually have liver failure and can die without an organ transplant, said Powell.

The committee estimated that about 8,000 Americans are dying annually now from hepatitis C and that this number will triple over the next 20 years. Chronic infection by the virus is now the leading reason for liver transplants.

There are an estimated 30,000 new cases of the disease annually, the report said, but the rate of new disease is declining.

The committee said that due to the poor success with current therapies, treatment should be limited to hepatitis C patients who have signs of progressive cirrhosis. Such patients will have elevated levels of an enzyme, called ALT, that is secreted by dying liver cells. They will also test positive for the presence of the virus and show signs of severe disease in liver biopsy tests.

Patients younger than 18 or older than 60 should not be treated, the committee said. Nor should patients with a history of major depression, a severely depressed white blood cell or platelet count, evidence of autoimmune disease, such as diabetes.

maintenance of its power generators, but "if you look no further than Guam," the CNMI has the better "power situation."

The last time the CUC announced power outages was last Dec. 16, for the areas covered by power lines Feeders 1 and 3.

The outages were caused by the relocations of some power poles.

However, in Nov. of last year, CUC's Unit 3 engine broke down, causing brownouts and power "rationing."

The court will be the client of Dr. Blake, the Coding Phlebotomist, and the selected PCR and RFLP laboratories.

Each party shall bear its own expenses for compensating the experts for time spent in depositions and for its costs in witnessing or recording any aspect of the DNA extraction and testing, said the judge.

Each side, he added, shall bear 50 percent of the total costs of all DNA testing, including the services rendered by Dr. Blake.

Bellas said no party or any person affiliated with a party will contact Blake, the laboratories or the Coding Phlebotomist regarding the examination other than the observation of the noticed testing provided for in the protocol.

The DNA typing results from the laboratories shall be reported to the court as soon as testing is completed, he said.

Only three petitioners—Kaelani Kinney, David Moncrieff, and Mercedes Feliciano—filed formal heirship claims for three kids against Hillblom's estate in the lower court.

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DOI . . .

Continued from page 1

cent of the total cost, and the local government, \$1.5 million or 40 percent. The matching local funding was provided under Public Law 10-38.

The Office of the Public Auditor, which is investigating the complaint of Marianas Pacific, is expected to release the report in two weeks.

"If the contract is awarded and costs are incurred before the Public Auditor makes his findings, there is some risk that some of the costs incurred ultimately may not be allowable under federal regulations," Bussanich said in a March 26 letter to Manglona said.

However, Bussanich added, "OIA respects the CNMI's right to use its procurement law and regulations to govern its actions. It is clear that the action you wish to take is part of the CNMI's regulations and is a permissible management decision of the CNMI."

Bussanich recommended that DPW wait until the bid protest is completed. However, he said if DPW opted to award the contract immediately, "I will approve the project under the terms of the FY grant to the CNMI and release drawdowns as required."

Bussanich, however, reminded Manglona that OIA "will carefully consider the final recommendation of the public auditor if any matters related to federal regulations or allowable costs are raised."

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said the DOI's decision will not jeopardize his office's investigation but "various things could happen."

LaMotte refused to discuss the complaints lodged by Marianas Pacific, saying "we're not allowed to discuss these things in public until the final report is finished."

Manglona said he is confident OPA would not find any violation of procurement regulations in the awarding of the contract.

PSS Commissioner William Torres met yesterday with public works officials to discuss the project, and was told that construction will begin by the end of April or "as soon as the materials come in."

Manglona said the classrooms, which will be built throughout the CNMI, will be done in 90 days.

Andrew Smith, DPW's technical service director, said the classrooms will be made of ready-for-assemble prefabricated materials.

TO ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:



SERVICE & PARTS DEPARTMENTS

will be closed for inventory on the following dates:

Tuesday, April 1, 1997
Wednesday, April 2, 1997 (up to 12:00 noon).

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12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 2nd.
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0085
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0094
FOR: LEASE OF A VEHICLE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0096
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE
OPENING DATE: APRIL 4, 1997 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK-UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

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Local hire only. Applications available at the Personnel Department. Telephone 234-3252 / 3 Monday-Saturday 8:00AM-6:00PM

Coming soon! KEICO MOTORS - SAIPAN

distributors of

Chrysler Jeep Dodge

is now hiring for the following positions...

**General Sales Manager Sales Manager
Sales Executives Office Manager
Parts Manager Stock Clerk
Service Manager Mechanics
Lot Attendants Detailers**

We offer excellent salary and benefits and the chance to become part of a dynamic and growing company. Qualified applicants will demonstrate a desire to work hard and to have fun doing so! To apply, pickup an application form at Thrifty Car Rental (Airport Road) and return it no later than April 2, 1997. No phone calls please.

FOR SALE

NEW

KING AIR INDUSTRIAL AIR CURTAIN

Call 234-6139 or 234-6809

Ask for Annie

ANNOUNCEMENT

SAIPAN LOCAL LAW NO. 9-8 PROHIBITS THE OPERATION OF UNLICENSED COCKPIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF WAGERING. THE LAW PROVIDES PENALTY TO ANY PERSON OR INDIVIDUALS, WHO VIOLATE THIS PROVISION OF THE LAW.

/s/ JESUS S. DELEON GUERRERO
Mayor of Saipan

Complains . . .

Continued from page 1

last October of the federal funded-project by the Interior Department.

Despite some reservations, however, Interior on Wednesday gave the "go signal" for the construction of the classrooms. (See related story in this issue.)

Asked if he regrets appointing LaMotte as public auditor, Tenorio laughed and said "I don't think the problem is with him personally."

He said the "problem" is in the statutes which "gave OPA too much authority in running this government."

"I think we should take a second look at the statutes."

LaMotte declined to make a comment on Tenorio's "advice," but said that his own "advice" on the classroom project was a "friendly" one with "no force of authority."

Appointed in 1994 and confirmed in early 1995, LaMotte's term ends in May 2001.

Under the law, the public auditor is appointed by the governor subject to the confirmation of both the House and the Senate.

Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1

expecting any major power outages.

"We're doing maintenance, we've ordered the engine parts and when they arrive we'll have more than enough power," she said.

Mathis said CUC's power customers are "fairly satisfied."

At the same time, she said CUC acknowledges the problems in the

DNA . . .

Continued from page 1

Hair and stains of unknown origin were also recovered from the late businessman's residence on Saipan as well as toothbrush, debris from a vacuum cleaner, several q-tips, and other things.

In addition, Bellas said, potential blood stains of uncertain origin were recovered from an airplane crash site on Tinian.

The judge said the court shall select from the submitted list a laboratory to perform PCR and RFLP testing.

Bellas requested that Davies release the specimen to Dr. Blake, pursuant to the protocol, and directed the involved parties in the test to take all necessary steps to secure transfer as soon as possible.

Happy 1st Birthday

Josie Ann Santos

From mom dad & sisters

Marianas Variety

Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

06 TEACHER-Salary: \$295.58 bi-weekly
03 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$295.58 bi-weekly
Contact: GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY dba Grace Christian Academy (4/4)F65022

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$1,500.00-3,500 per month
Contact: NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN CO., LTD. Tel. 234-5050(4/4)F65023

01 EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (Tinian)-Salary: \$6.77-10.42 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (4/4)F65030

01 HEAD WAITER-Salary: \$3.50-4.17 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach Tel. 234-6413(4/4)F65043

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: Y & B CORPORATION dba Kim's Center Tel. 433-3030(4/4)F228510

01 STORE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
Contact: P & Y CORPORATION dba Happy Market I Tel. 234-1717(4/4)F228512

01 PHYSICAL THERAPIST-Salary: \$3.10 per hour
Contact: MILAGROS V. HERNANDEZ dba 3MS Christ Enterprises Tel. 235-6876(4/4)F228513

01 AUTO A/C TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TORRES REFRIGERATION, INC. Tel. 234-6098(4/4)F228514

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSEPH T. TORRES dba Courtney's Plaza Tel. 235-1662(4/4)F228515

01 FREIGHT FORWARDING AGENT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: DOLPHIN PACIFIC (SAIPAN), INC. (4/4)F228516

06 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: JUAN Q. IGISAIAR dba J&E Enterprises Tel. 235-3215(4/4)F228519

01 ARCHITECT-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
Contact: HUGH HARGROVE dba Landmark Limited Tel. 235-1257 (4/4)F228520

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: MIRAGE CORPORATION TEL. 233-4137(4/4)F228521

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS SANSHO CORP. dba Coconut-Tel Rest. Tel. 664-2265(4/4)F228523

01 MANAGER, OFFICE-Salary: \$700.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: JESUS S. BARCINAS dba JB Professional Agency Tel. 233-6349(3/27)F228534

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HOON CORPORATION dba Lion Tours Tel. 288-8844(3/28)F228398

02 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
02 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: HOON CORPORATION dba Lion Tours Tel. 288-8844(3/28)F228376

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.00-3.50 per hour
01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
06 MUSICIAN-Salary: \$800.00-900.00 per month
03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: K.S.L. CORPORATION dba Royal Taga Beach Rest. Tel. 234-5704(3/28)F228377

05 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
05 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AL & R CORPORATION dba Roppongi Night Club Tel. 233-7070(3/28)F228378

01 PAINT MIXER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: IHA PAINTS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228379

06 LANDSCAPE GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: LANDSCAPERS MICRONESIA CORP. Tel. 234-1194(3/28)F228380

02 DIVING INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$600.00 per month
Contact: BLUE HORIZON ENT., INC. dba MSE Diving Tel. 234-7871(3/28)F228383

10 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PALACE CORPORATION Tel. 234-2677(3/28)F228384

02 MASSEUR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIRAGE CORPORATION Tel. 233-4137(3/28)F228385

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: EQUITABLE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. Tel. 235-5452(3/28)F228386

30 SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TAGA INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT & MANPOWER TEL. 233-8242(3/28)F228387

01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN ALUMINUM & GLASS COMPANY Tel. 233-2410(3/28)F228388

04 AUTO BODY BUILDER(REPAIR)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN SAI-YUE IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION LTD. Tel. 288-8866(3/28)F228390

01 PROPERTY MANAGER-Salary: \$1,500.00-1,800.00 per month
Contact: MAC HOMES (SAIPAN) CO., LTD. Tel. 234-9100(3/28)F228391

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.75 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 233-7814(3/28)F228393

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 233-7814(3/28)F228394

01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION dba Choi's Tour Tel. 235-0405(3/28)F228395

04 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SE JIN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/28)F228396

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS SANSHO CORP. dba Coconut-Tel Rest. Tel. 664-2265(4/4)F228523

01 HOUSEWORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 STOCK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HAN NAM CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228244

02 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE EAGLE CORPORATION dba Philippine Eagle Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-0928(3/21)F228245

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$9.80 per hour
Contact: HANA SAIPAN, INC. dba Hana Restaurant Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228246

01 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: SE JIN CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(3/21)F228247

01 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 WAITRESS(NG)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ACTIVE CORPORATION dba Blue Lagoon Nightclub Tel. 234-0405(3/21)F228248

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$800.00-1,500.00 per month
01 ASSISTANT CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$800.00-1,500.00 per month
Contact: STRINGSTONE ENTERPRISES INC. dba Bistrot Tel. 233-0640(3/21)F228251

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: JESSIE A. & MARIA C. ARIZALA dba Systems Services Co. Tel. 234-5334(3/21)F228253

04 DIVE MASTER (RECREATIONAL)-Salary: \$1,250.00 per month
Contact: ALL AMERICAN DIVERS, INC. Tel. 233-7056(3/21)F228252

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
02 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba LaoLao Bay Golf Resort Tel. 256-8888(3/28)F64898

01 AUDIT MANAGER-Salary: \$28.85 per hour
Contact: DELOITTE & TOUCHE Tel. 322-7337(3/28)F64907

01 SWIMMING POOL SERVICER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311 Ext. 2020(3/28)F64910

02 LABORER, CEMENT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
01 LABORER, CEMENT-Salary: \$4.25 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA CEMENT CO., INC. Tel. 322-3333(3/28)F64912

01 SALES PERSON-Salary: \$3.05-6.00 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601 Ext 112(3/28)F64920

01 RETAIL STORE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: INTER GLOBAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-4213(3/28)F64924

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: IGNACIO P. AGBANLOG dba Agbanlog Ent. Inc. Tel. 235-5737(3/28)F228373

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: STERLING DEV. CO., INC. dba Help Supply Services Tel. 235-5737(3/28)F228374

02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROSVIECAR CORPORATION dba Rose Beauty and Barbershop Tel. 234-7858(3/28)F228375

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.

01 NIGHT AUDITOR-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: SUWASO CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club Tel. 234-7000(4/11)F65128

01 TRANSLATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: L.L.A. CORP. Tel. 233-5858(4/11)F228584

01 SUPERVISOR, MERCHANDISER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 MAINTENANCE, MECHANIC-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 (PACKER) HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 PRESSER, HAND-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
50 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 CUTTER, HAND-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: COMMONWEALTH GARMENT MFG. INC. Tel. 234-3481(4/11)F228586

02 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 (PACKER) HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 PRESSER, HAND-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
50 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 CUTTER, HAND-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
01 RESIDENCE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Contact: MIRAGE (SAIPAN) CO., LTD. Tel. 234-3841(4/11)F228587

04 TOUR COORDINATOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Contact: POST TOUR SERVICE CORPORATION Tel. 235-0405(4/11)F228588

01 CAMERAMAN-Salary: \$600.00 per month
Contact: PRO-PHOTO CORP. (4/11)F228590

02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
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02 FACTORY MANAGER-Salary: \$5.00-7.00 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS GARMENT MFG. INC. Tel. 234-5821(4/11)F228591

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Contact: PRO-PHOTO CORP. (4/11)F228590

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JORETH TRADERS INC. Tel. 234-5000(4/11)F228593

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MANAGER-Salary: \$3.10 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC VENTURES, INCORPORATED Tel. 288-2009(4/11)F228594

01 ACETYLENE PLANT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN INDUSTRIAL CO. INC. Tel. 234-7415(4/11)F228595

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: C & R PROPERTIES, INC. Tel. 234-5844(4/11)F228598

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MATHEW MANZANARES dba Allyson's Beauty Salon Tel. 234-7018(4/11)F228599

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: EQUITABLE INSURANCE CO., INC. Tel. 235-0488(4/11)F228600

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
Contact: HAYDEN L. VILLEGAS dba A & H Enterprises Tel. 234-0454(4/11)F228601

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: GLORIA P. SANTOS Tel. 235-6273(4/11)F228606

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MANUEL R. & GLORIA L. MESA dba M&G Ent. Tel. 288-1780(3/28)F228603

02 PHOTOGRAPHER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CAMERAMAN (Video and Camera)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DARL CORPORATION dba Hafadai Production Tel. 235-0405(4/10)F228653

WANTED
All American Divers
Needs a SALES PERSON
who dives: would like to dive, or just
earn money-Japanese Speaking
Tel. 233-7056 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
LOCAL HIRE ONLY

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HOUSEWORKER
with experience. Please call tel.
233-2350 after 4:00 p.m.

A-One Shoes
Needs Part Time
Sales Clerk
after 3:00 P.M.

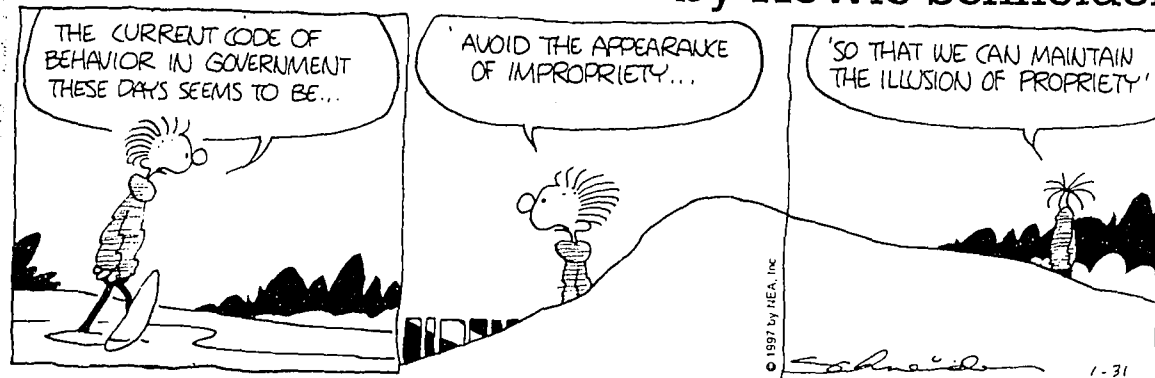
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Prime Location Infront of
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Owner's Leaving Off-Island
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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are always interested in the meaning of life. You will be driven repeatedly toward new places and into new endeavors by your own curiosity and the urge to discover as much as you can about your own life and the lives of those who share this planet with you. Your seriousness in this way is a standard Aries trait, and there is little you can do about it; it will pop up again and again, leading you by the nose until you uncover the answers you are really looking for. Fortunately, you also know how to have fun, and you are better equipped than most to indulge in whimsy.

You are likely to come into your own rather late in life, but this should surprise no one. Discovery leads, learning, and learning to success; it is a process which you are sure to embrace and a road you will follow throughout your lifetime. The result, for you, is the process!

Also born on this date are: Dirk Bogarde and Ken Howard, actors; Reba McEntire, singer; Dianne Wiest, actress.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be

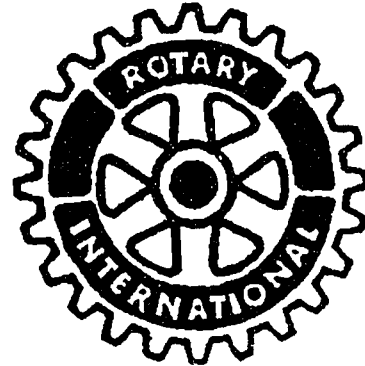
your daily guide.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You are in the mood to increase your involvement in the affairs of another

GOODWILL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the

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Saturday

March 29, 1997

Tea off time 12:00 noon

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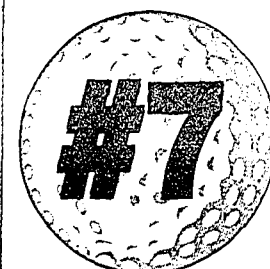
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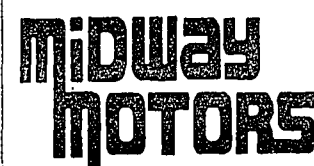
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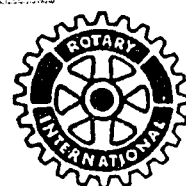
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 The Perfect Setting

Flame Tree Foundation fundraiser 2nd Annual Horseshoes tourney set

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE FLAME Tree Foundation is set to hold its 2nd Annual Horseshoe Tournament on April 5 at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque.

The annual horseshoe tournament aims to raise funds for the Foundation and for the players to have fun.

Flame Tree Foundation (FTF) president Mike Majors said that "horseshoes is a great game because it is very easy to learn. It's a lot like bowling in the beach and can be played by people of all ages and abilities. Anyone can become a good horseshoes player. And "

The game is also ideally suited for CNMI because of abundance of beautiful beaches in the island. Sean Frink of FTF added that "the sport could become very popular in Saipan because it is a good barbecue sport."

In the tournament, points are given to the teams depending of the way the horseshoe, thrown from a distance of 50 feet, lands on or near a stick.

Tournament format calls for a double round elimina-

tion with each team composed of two persons and is open for both men and women.

Dwight Engler and Larry Wells won the inaugural tournament last year that drew a total of more than 25 teams and raised more than \$3,000 for the Foundation.

In this year's edition, the Foundation is anticipating the participation of at least 50 teams to compete for the top prize of \$500. The first runner-up team will receive \$250 while third placer will get \$100.

The Foundation encourages all interested teams to register as soon as possible. Because of the tournament's format, a maximum of 64 teams can be accommodated.

Tournament fee is pegged at \$50 per team inclusive of T-shirts, food and drinks. Entry forms are now available at Rudolph's Restaurant.

Flame Tree Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing youth athletics in the Commonwealth. For more information, please call 256-4604.

In the second game, Lloyd Hartman and Junior Rengull combined for 27 points in leading the UMDA Aces past the Solid Builders Sunrises, 82-74, after falling by eight after the first half.

Hartman scored a game high 30 points while Rengull had 19 as the Aces overcame Ric Alegre's season low 10 markers.

Jerome Jerome and Oscar Masga pumped identical 15 points but their efforts were not enough from saving the Sunrises from elimination.

64...

Continued from page 52

in 1916, +0 = 1 -5.

During his rivalry with Lasker, when the two were not in speaking terms, Tarrasch made his famous remark that "There are only two chess players in the world, and the other is Lasker."

Tarrasch's games were razor sharp, says British GM Ray Keene, and were excellent examples of his writings, in particular, his belief in mobility for his pieces, even at the expense of an isolated pawn—see, the Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit, for example.

Tarrasch, says former world champ Max Euwe, liked to deprive his opponent of all good moves, and referred to his own methods as the "stalemate style."

As founder of the Classical School of Chess, he would later clash on chess theory against the hypermoderns led by the equally witty Latvian chess great Aron Nimzovich.

In the following game annotated by Euwe, Tarrasch shows why Bobby Fischer considers him one of the 10 greatest players in history:

Game of the week.
 Ruy Lopez
 S. Tarrasch-W. Steinitz
 Nuremberg, 1896
 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-QB3 3. B-N5 P-B3

Tarrasch said this move is not nearly

bad as it seems—his own firm conviction was that KB3 should be reserved for the KN.

4. 0-0 N-K2 5. P-Q4 N-N3 6. P-QR3

To install the KB on the QR2-KN8 diagonal, and to safeguard it from exchange. When playing White, Tarrasch considered the KB—the "attacking bishop," he said—the strongest of his minor pieces.

6...B-K2 7. B-QB4 P-Q3 8. P-R3 Depriving the black QB of its best square.

8...B-Q2 9. N-B3 Q-B1 10. K-R2 The bishop sacrifice at White's KR2 would certainly not have given a sufficient attack, yet Tarrasch prevents it, for he is of a more practical mind that Steinitz—in a defensive position it is easy to make a slip.

10...N-Q1 11. N-Q5 To provoke P-QB3 which in this position would be a slight weakening.

11...B-B1 Typical Steinitz; he gives away nothing at all, preferring to accept the greatest difficulty over his own development. 11...N-K3 would have involved less trouble.

12. B-K3 N-K3 13. N-N1 P-B3 Not good, but a decent move for Black is already difficult to find.

14. N-QB3 B-K2 15. KN-K2 Q-B2 16. P-Q5

16. P-B4? would lead to a pawn loss. 16...N-Q1 17. N-N3 N-B2 18. N-B5 White's position is now overhelm-

ing.

18...B-KB1 19. Q-R5! In the matter of fancy for combinative possibilities, Tarrasch was no better than Steinitz. The text move is good and sound, but his fine maneuvering would have been better rewarded by 19. P-P1.

19...P-B4 20. B-QN5 B-B2 21. N-B3 Q-N3 22. B-N5

If 22...P-QR3, then 23. N-B3 QxP 24. N-QR4! Q-N4 25. QxQ+ PxQ 26. N-B3 R-R4 27. KR-QN1 with a decisive positional advantage.

23. Q-B4 P-QR3 24. N-B3 Q-Q1 25. P-KN3 P-KN3 26. N-KR4 White could have won a pawn here without danger by 26. P-xN P-xN 27. KPxP. But Tarrasch generally refrained from any sort of liquidation as long as he could see chances of tying his opponent up still further.

26...N-R4 27. P-QN4 P-QN4 28. Q-K2 B-K2 29. N-N2 N-N2 30. QR-N1 0-0 31. P-QR4 BPxP 32. RxP Q-B2 33. B-Q2 PxP 34. R(1)-QN1 B-Q1 35. RxP P-QR4 36. Q-N5 P-B4 37. R-B4 Q-K2 38. B-K3! Q-K1 39. Q-N7 B-B3 40. B-R7 N-N4 41. N-N5 N-B2

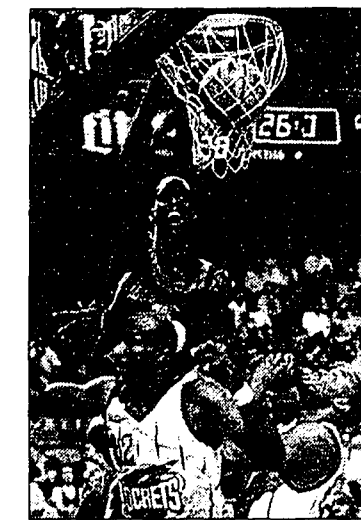
A blunder in a hopeless position.

42. N-B7 RxB 43. QxR? Under time pressure White overlooks 43. NxQ! which would win a whole rook.

43...Q-Q2 44. QxP Quicker was 44. R-N7.

National Basketball Association

Heat burns Kings, 101-88



Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett (21) dunks the ball over Houston Rockets' Clyde Drexler (22) and Othella Harrington during the first quarter in Houston.

MIAMI (AP) - Alonzo Mourning made a successful return to the Miami Heat's starting lineup Wednesday night, scoring 26 points as the Heat posted their seventh straight victory, 101-88 over the Sacramento Kings.

Tim Hardaway also scored 26 for

Miami. Mitch Richmond paced Sacramento with 32, while Billy Owens added 17. The Kings have lost 10 of their last 11 and seven in a row on the road.

Mourning was in the starting lineup for the first time since Feb. 21, when he tore a tendon in his right foot. He missed 13 games before scoring 21 points in 33 minutes as a reserve in Miami's 113-108 win Sunday over the Timberwolves in Minnesota.

The Heat had a 9-4 record while Mourning was out.

Nets 123, Sixers 105

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jim Jackson tied his season-high with 28 points and Tony Massenburg matched his career-high with 26 for New Jersey. The 123 points tied the Nets' season high.

Hours before the game, U.S. National Basketball Association commissioner David Stern fined Nets coach John Calipari \$25,000 for calling newspaper sports writer Dan Garcia of the "Mexican idiot." The comment after a practice last week was preceded by an expletive.

The fine was the largest ever against an NBA coach, and it marked the first time the league punished non-game related speech.

The rest of the Japanese team include Sinichiro Sano, Shugo Shimada, Jian Yun Ma and Masae Zamma of the Mainichi News, Japan's second largest newspaper with a daily circulation of three million copies. They were accompanied by Tomohiko Ikeda, president of Tokyo Port Bowl and several other Japanese officials.

Manacop...

Continued from page 52

sponsored by Tokyo Port Bowl, Urawa Kokusai Bowling Club, the CNMI Junior Bowlers Association and the Saipan Bowling Center.

A's gun...

Continued from page 52

18-2 win against the previously unbeaten MVR Ol'Aces team last week while the Lions are still smarting from a one run loss against the Garapan Pirates. A win will definitely help the Kagman team to remain in contention.

In the first game, the St. Jude Hustlers will go up against MVR Ol'Aces while the Kautz Glass Tigers tangle with Garapan Pirates.

The Pirates are eyeing to even their slate to 2-2 after a 0-2 start at the

expense of the Ol'Aces.

The Ol'Aces, however, are no push-over and the team is expected to avenge their lopsided loss last week against the rejuvenated St. Jude team. The two teams tangle at 9 a.m.

The second game also promises to be another exciting encounter as the Tigers and the Pirates go for their second win of the season at each other's expense. The Tigers and the Pirates meet at 11 a.m.

Both teams are coming off to morale boosting wins in their previous assignments after opening the season with back-to-back setbacks.

44...N-N4 45. Q-R4 Q-B2 46. R-N7 PxP 47. Q-R7 B-K2 48. R-B3!

White is not to be caught. After 48. N-K6? N(2)xN Black would win.

48...N-B6+ 49. RxN! PxR 50. N-K3 Q-B3 51. N-K6 NxN 52. RxB (1-0)

After any move of the knight, White will win by 53. N-N4.

Puzzler. Congratulations to Golden "R" Roy C. Campos, Sala Crystal's Noel, and Aqua Resort Club's Joy for getting the correct solution to last week's puzzle: 1. Qf1! and mate follows.

Thanks to the rest who joined in the fun.

For this week, try this: White to play and mate in three. Answers should be sent to "64" c/o

Calipari said after the game he would not contest the fine.

Jerry Stackhouse had 20 to pace the Sixers.

Bullets 105, Celtics 92

In Landover, Maryland, reserve Tracy Murray scored a season-high 24 points and Rod Strickland had a season-high 17 assists as the Bullets inched closer to a playoff berth.

Chris Webber scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the Bullets, who now trail idle, eighth-place Cleveland by 2 1/2 games in the Eastern Conference.

Sportsbits

ICBL's 2nd Tournament
 The Inter Commercial Basketball League is eyeing to hold its second tournament of the year tentatively set on May 17 at the CMS Basketball Court.

All interested teams are requested to contact ICBL president Abner Venus at 234-5911 or Archie Del Rosario of CMS at 234-6136 for more details and submission of line-ups.

Entry fee is pegged at \$900 per team.

Active Chess

The CNMI Chess Association will hold an Active Chess Tournament this coming Sunday, March 30 at Pinoy Special Restaurant.

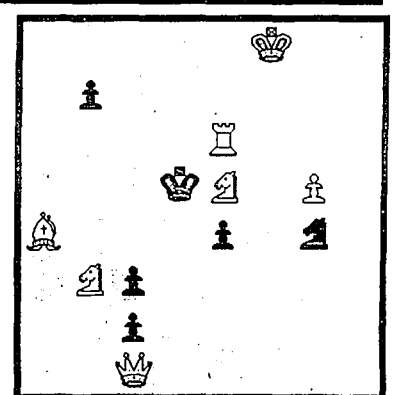
Entry fee will be \$6. For more information, please contact Ely G. Buenaventura at 234-6070 or Vic Brana at 234-6010.

RGA April Qualifier

The Refalawash Golf Association will hold its April Ace Qualifying Tournament tomorrow, Saturday, March 29 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course.

The qualifying round will be open to the first 20 golfers on a first-come, first-served basis. Tee off time is set at 6:30 a.m. but golfers are requested to be at the greens not later than 6 a.m.

For more information, please contact RGA president Tony Rogolifoi or Joe Lizama at 234-1001 or 234-1002. (EAC)



The Marianas Variety, P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed through 234-9271.

You can also send your solution via e-mail; our address is <younis@miccnni.com>

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP97-0102
 FOR: DRUM VIBRATORY ROLLER
 OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 1997
 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR DRUM VIBRATORY ROLLER. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

(S) EDWARD B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

SPORTS



Brothers, Sunrisers eliminated

GCS, Aces prevail

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

GET COVERED Surf and defending champions UMDA Aces lived to fight another day as they eliminated separate rivals last Wednesday night in the semifinal playoffs of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' 1997 Men's

Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Playmaker Gus Palacios and Edsel Mendoza exploded for 18 and 17 points in the final half as Get Covered Surf rallied from a seven point half-time deficit to eliminate the highly-favored MGD Brothers, 101-97 in the opener.

Defending champions UMDA Aces bounced back into contention after humbling the Solid Builders Sunrisers, 82-74 in the nightcap.

With Jess Dela Cruz pumping in 11 points and the rest of the Brothers team scoring two points or more, MGD took the first half, 50-53.

The second half, however, was a

different story for the Get Covered Surf Five.

After being held to a measly six points in the first twenty minutes of the ballgame, Palacios presided a big Get Covered Surf comeback along with Robert Quitugua, Mendoza and Jerry Benavente.

Playing inspired basketball and

with their big men asserting their might beneath the boards, Palacios along with Quitugua, Mendoza and Benavente scored all but two of GCS' 58 second half.

GCS proved to be the better team as they went on to the stripes in nailing the win to boot out the MGD team

Continued on page 51

11th Annual CNMI-Japan Friendship games

Manacop wins Jr. Bowl tilt

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

SIMON Manacop rolled a three-game series of 529 pins yesterday to win the 11th Annual CNMI-Japan Junior Bowlers Friendship Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Manacop had games of 193, 171 and 165 to post an 89 pin advantage against teammate James Sablan. Sablan rolled 165, 131 and 146 for a three-game series of 442 or five pins ahead of Kazuya Sehina of the visiting Japanese team.

Sehina racked 107, 184 and 146 to emerged as the top Japanese scorer in the annual tournament between the two junior bowlers associations.

Mae Borja was the highest placed female junior bowler after rolling a total of 411 pins on games of 142, 127 and 142.

Brandon of the host team came in next with a 409 total (124, 149 and 136) while Takahide Seto checked in fifth with a 399 pin aggregate.

The CNMI Junior Bowling Team was divided into two as three teams, including the six man Japanese squad, competed in this year's friendship games.

Tournament format called for a three-game series roll off with the best scorer emerging as the winner.

The tournament is a yearly event between the CNMI and Japan Junior Bowling Associations and was

Continued on page 51



Kurikuri Saipan '91. Members of a visiting Japanese Junior Bowling Team led by Tomohiko Ikeda (1st from left, front row) pose with officials of the CNMI Junior Bowlers Association moments after the 11th Annual CNMI-Japan Junior Bowlers Friendship Tournament was held at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

• Zaldy Dandan

Another active chess event on Sunday

DUE TO "insistent public demand," the CNMI Chess Association will hold another active chess tournament Sunday, March 30th, at Pinoy Special along Beach road.

I can't think of a better way to spend Easter Sunday than mating Kings, wooden ones, on chess boards, I mean.

For more info, call CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura Jr. at 234-6070 or CCA officer Vic Braña at 234-6010.

Virtuoso. Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch (1862-1934) was Wilhelm Steinitz's leading disciple, and the first of the great virtuosi—the masters who sought only for the perfect application of Steinitzian principles.

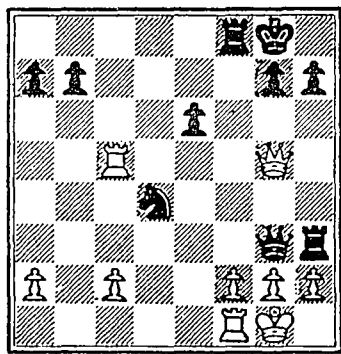
He was the leading chess authority of the day, his writings dogmatic but full of wit and charm, says "The Chess Encyclopedia."

A German-Jewish medical doctor, Tarrasch was in the world top 5 during 1890 to 1914.

A world title match was arranged between him and Steinitz in 1890/91, but Tarrasch did not accept, citing his medical obligations. He also turned down a challenge from a young upstart named Emanuel Lasker. Had Tarrasch accepted these challenges he could have been Steinitz's successor as world champ and not Lasker.

However, with Lasker at the helm of world chess, Tarrasch was never able to boot him out of it, losing to the champion in 1908, +3=5-8, and again

Continued on page 51



A's gun for 4th straight victory

Team Standings	W	L
National Division		
San Vicente A's	3	0
MVR Ol' Aces	2	1
Garapan Pirates	1	2
KG Tigers	1	2
Kagman Lions	1	2
SJ Hustlers	1	2

American Division		
San Roque D-9ers	3	0
Dandan Jets	3	0
SA Cardinals	3	1
Tanapag Falcons	2	1
CK Little Padres	0	3
Kagman Braves	1	3
YCO/BK YSS	0	4

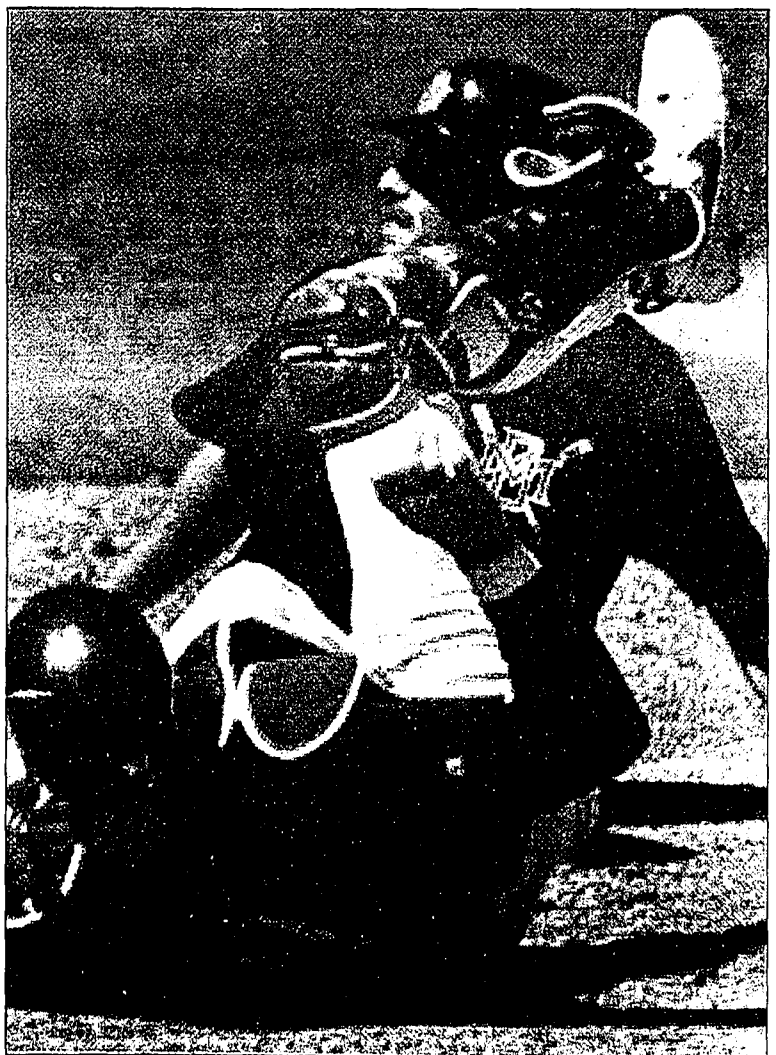
By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE SAN Vicente Athletics gun for their fourth straight win as they go up against the Kagman Lions this coming Sunday, March 30 as the 1997 Little League resumes play at the San Vicente Elem. School Ball Park.

The A's, currently on top the National Division with their unblemished 3-0 win loss slate, are the favorites to prevail in their 1 p.m. encounter against the Lions.

The A's are coming off to a big

Continued on page 51



Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Matt Mieske, right, is tagged out at home by Oakland Athletics catcher Dave Valle (10) during the second inning of their spring training game in Phoenix.

AP Photo

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10. Winners consent, without receiving additional compensation, to the use of their names, photographs and/or likenesses for advertising and/or trade purposes of Pacific Trading Company, Ltd. and their agents.
11. All prizes must be claimed by May 30, 1997.





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Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

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Monday • March 31, 1997

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Tenorio consults Guerrero on CUC



Ramon S. Guerrero

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio is asking advice on matters involving the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from the man he once blamed for the utility company's problems.

Tenorio, in a media conference Thursday, said he has been

consulting with CUC's former executive director Ramon S. Guerrero "because if anybody knows CUC it should be Ray (Guerrero)."

Asked if he would give Guerrero a managerial position in CUC, or appoint him as board member, Tenorio said "not at this time."

"At this time," he said, "I haven't considered anything."

"I'm not hiring him," the governor added, "but the fact is that nobody knows more about CUC than he does."

"I don't see why I shouldn't seek his advice or at least listen to what he has to say about how we can make CUC more efficient," Tenorio said.

As CUC's controversial executive director from 1990 to 1994, Guerrero clashed with the Legislature on a number of

Continued on page 20

CUC can't lower its power rates

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

DESPITE its exemption from the fuel tax, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can not reduce its power rates.

CUC spokesperson Pamela A. Mathis on Thursday said the law that exempted the utility company from paying the fuel tax also "told" CUC what to do with the money it saved.

The law, she said, specified that the savings will be used to buy new parts for CUC's power plants.

"It's unfortunate that the ones who wrote the law (may have forgotten) this provision," Mathis said, referring to Senate President Jesus R. Sablan's saying that the fuel-tax exempt CUC can reduce its power rates.

Sablan on Tuesday said CUC can reduce its power rates even without going through a reorganization.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's has said it is "okay" for the Legislature to reject his E.O. seeking to split CUC into two separate agencies, "as long as they find a way to reduce power rates."

The Senate rejected the E.O. last March 12, and Speaker Diego T. Benavente has said that the House is "ready" for a similar action.

Sablan, in an interview, said there is already a new law exempting CUC from the liquid fuel tax.

He said the exemption will give CUC close to \$4 million a year, "so now if they still raise their rates then they're doing so for no

other reason."

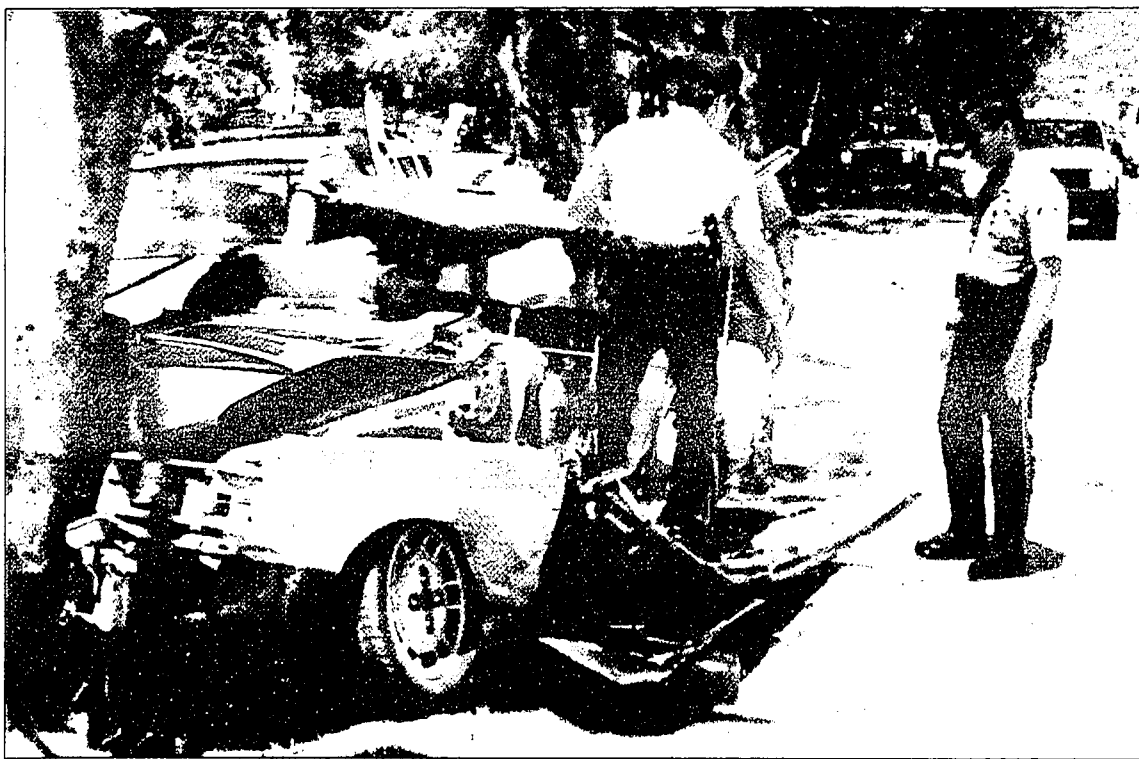
He added that CUC should have "necessary funds" from the exemption, which should lead to reduced power rates.

Sablan said that if CUC hikes its rates, "then they probably don't need the tax exemption, and maybe we should review this, take away the exemption and look for another agency that needs a tax relief."

A government-contracted study has proposed a 35.8 percent increase in CUC's power rates, but Governor Tenorio said last week that he will oppose any plans to hike power rates.

Tenorio, at the same time, said if the House votes against the E.O., he would submit a bill for a reduction of power rates.

Continued on page 20



GOOD FRIDAY ACCIDENT. Police officers inspect the wreckage of a car that crashed into a flame tree along Beach Road near Diamond Hotel in Garapan. The driver of the car was injured and taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

JAL starts direct Osaka flights on Wednesday

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Japan Airlines will start five-times-weekly direct flights from Osaka to Saipan on Wednesday as a result of increasing passenger volume originating from Osaka's Kansai International Airport, Japan's first 24-hour airport.

When the ultramodern Kansai airport opened in September 1994, Osaka—the second largest city in the western part of Japan—became that country's new international gateway.

The Osaka-Saipan-Osaka flights are only one of the additional regular international flights that are being constantly added to justify Osaka's new-earned reputation.

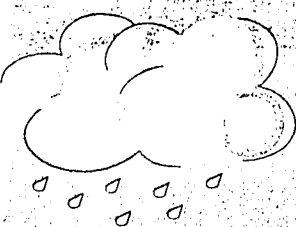
The visitors from the Kinki prefecture itself, which comprises Osaka, Kobe, Shiga, Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, Hyogo, and Mie have increased through the years.

The Osaka-Saipan-Osaka flights will run daily except Tuesday and Friday. During these two days, the flights to Saipan will be via Guam.

Until tomorrow, the daily arrivals on Saipan from Osaka make a stopover in Guam.

Continued on page 20

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Torres questions motive behind grounding of ferries

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

WHAT was the real motive behind the grounding last month of the two ferry boats that plied the Saipan and Tinian route?

The Tinian Shipping Co., Inc., owner and operator of Saipan Express and Tinian Express, said it was to "stabilize" the ships' movements to minimize, if not totally prevent, rampant seasickness among its passengers.

Now Rep. Stanley T. Torres suspects something "fishy," say-

ing the grounding was done to find an excuse to lay off their 15 crew members.

In a letter sent to Paul Tai, general manager of Tinian Shipping, Torres said the layoffs were "certainly questionable" and "raise(d) suspicions."

"Your excuse that this (layoff) was done for company restructuring and boat restabilization does not ring true," he said.

"If this mass firing was done in order to replace local employees with outside labor, I will see to it

that your business will close," he added.

Torres told Tai he was monitoring "your situation very closely."

The two catamarans stopped operations last Feb. 4, two weeks after their inauguration.

Officials of Tinian Shipping, however, had said that the crewmen would be called back to their former jobs once the ferries start to operate again.

In an earlier interview in February, the company's operations

Continued on page 20



Stanley T. Torres

Libya defies UN sanctions again

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A Libyan plane ferried 105 Muslim pilgrims to this Red Sea port city, breaking a U.N. ban on air travel.

Saudi authorities allowed the plane to land Friday and the pilgrims to disembark. The kingdom's policy is to allow all planes with Muslim pilgrims on board to land, an official at King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jiddah said Saturday.

The official spoke on condition of customary anonymity.

Similar flights will take place in the next few weeks to transport Libyans for the hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca, said a Libyan Embassy official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. The hajj begins around April 8.

Muslims are required to

make the hajj once in a lifetime if they can afford it.

This marks the third year in a row that Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi has defied the U.N. ban by sending a plane to ferry Libyans to the annual pilgrimage.

The sanctions were imposed in 1992 in an attempt to force the surrender of two Libyan suspects wanted in connection with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The sanctions limit diplomatic contacts, ban arms sales, and prohibit air traffic in and out of Libya.

In 1994, Gadhafi sent a camel caravan to Saudi Arabia via Egypt to publicize the problems his people were having in organizing travel to Mecca.

Mubarak warns Israel of danger



Hosni Mubarak

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Israel will be "playing with fire" if it continues building on disputed land in east Jerusalem, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday.

Relations between Egypt and Israel have deteriorated following Israel's decision to go ahead with the construction of 6,500 homes in the Har Homa neighborhood that Pal-

estinites call Abu Ghneim.

"What is happening in Jerusalem, the building in Abu Ghneim, is like playing with fire," Mubarak told a meeting of his ruling National Party.

"It will also leave the door wide open to all kinds of religious fundamentalism, be it Jews, Muslims or Christians," the Middle East News Agency quoted Mubarak as saying. "Tensions and violence will not cease until the construction in east Jerusalem stops. ... There is no other solution."

Mubarak also warned that "terrorism and violence are more dangerous than war, because terrorism knows no limits ... Its effects will not touch only Israel, but all the countries that support peace."

A Palestinian blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe on March 21, killing himself and three Israeli women.

In an interview with Israeli television broadcast Saturday, Mubarak

said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to negotiate a final settlement with the Palestinians in six months is not practical.

"The interim agreement took years and years," he told Channel 2. "I can't believe that they will be able to finish in six months."

Mubarak said the Palestinians cannot embark on the final status negotiations while Israel continues with the housing project on the captured Arab land.

"How could they go straight to this when you are still building at Jabal Abu-Ghneim?" he asked. "Jabal Abu-Ghneim is a very sensitive issue to all Muslims, not only the Arabs."

The Palestinians hope to establish their capital in east Jerusalem, and view the housing project as a move to cut off Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem from the West Bank.

Israel insists that the city must remain united under Israeli sovereignty.

US senators mull aid to North Korea

TOKYO (AP) — North Korean officials have hinted that additional food aid to their flood-ravaged nation might be a precondition to participating in proposed peace talks with South Korea, five U.S. senators said after a visit to the communist country.

The officials also suggested the military was growing irritated over the government's problems in delivering the aid it's received.

North Korean officials said additional food aid would be a "gesture of good will," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. But all the senators said they took that to mean it would be a precondition to peace talks.

The United States has given or committed to a total of \$16 million in food aid since last year and South Korea has pledged \$9 million. But the World Food Program says much more is needed.

Disastrous flooding in the last two years has accelerated a long, chronic decline in North Korea's food supply, leaving almost its entire population of 24 million hungry.

Taiwan on Friday sent 2,000 tons of rice to North Korea, its first batch of food aid to the country, the China Times newspaper reported Saturday.

The senators, speaking to reporters at a U.S. Air Force base outside Tokyo after a two-day visit to North Korea, said the North Korean military was in a state of readiness, with camouflage cars and trucks everywhere.

"They were quite open in saying that if they are unable to get food ... they are not sure how the military would respond," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The two Koreas still are technically at war because no peace treaty was signed at the end of the 1950-53 conflict. The proposed talks also would involve the United States and China.

Welcome awaits canoe team

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

CAROLINIANS on Saipan are readying themselves to welcome 10 voyagers who will

sail by canoe from Satawal in Yap to Saipan sometime next month.

Nine of the voyagers are from Saipan. They will be led

by master navigator Mao Pailugh (from Satawal), from whom the nine men will learn the rudiments of canoe sailing.

Jesus Elamito, executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs, called a public meeting held Wednesday night to prepare for the arrival of the voyagers, who left Saipan last March 19.

Elamito said standing committees were formed like program planning, entertainment, publicity, hospitality, and food and drinks.

As of Tuesday, according to Elamito, they were not sure whether the group had reached



Jesus Elamito

Satawal.

"Maybe they're still in Woleai (an atoll in Yap) be-

cause there is a death in the family (of Mao). ... That could delay them," Elamito told the Variety.

Elamito said they were trying to communicate with the group through the Peacesat satellite but that they had not been successful in getting access to the ham radio operator on Yap.

The voyage is a project of the recently formed CNMI Canoe Federation for the purpose of reviving or promoting the tradition of canoe navigation and canoe building.

The route traces the voyage made in the late 18th century by Carolinian Chief Aghurubw and his men.

Compliance to ADA is good for business, says NMPASI counsel

COMPLIANCE to the Americans with Disabilities Act could be a good marketing strategy for businesses, according to William C. Campbell, legal counsel for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

"It makes a good sense from a marketing point of view because there's going to be more and more people with disabilities. If business owners will make their establishments accessible, they open their doors to consumers who need such accommodation," Campbell said, speaking at Thursday's edition of Jon Anderson Live.

There are 49 million persons with disabilities in the United States, Campbell said.

In the CNMI alone, there are about 3,000 to 4,000 people with disabilities excluding the ones who are "embarrassed to go out in public."

The number continues to rise, Campbell said. "The planet is aging and there are only three possible outcomes in life: you die too young, or you live too long or get too old, or you become disabled," Campbell said.

Many businesses spend big money on advertisements, but Campbell said, "it won't do good if people with disabilities can't get into their restaurants and stores."

"For example, if a rich lady in wheelchair wants to buy a diamond, is she going to go to the store if the door is too narrow for her wheelchair? Surely, she will go the store where she can easily roll into," Campbell said.

At least two callers raised concern about the use of parking space for people with disabilities by unqualified persons.

To which Campbell replied: "That is a matter for DPS to enforce the parking requirement. NMPASI is not a police force, nor does it have authority to write tickets for this."

He said NMPASI is only assigned to monitor business owners' compliance with the parking space requirement.

"It is the job of of DPS to keep the unqualified people out," he said. "I intend to take up this matter with the DPS commissioner this week."

NMPASI cannot just walk in and bust businesses for non-compliance with the law, Campbell said.

It can only step in if it receives a complaint from someone who has actually been denied access to goods and services because of their disabilities," Campbell explained. (MCM)



TREK TO MT. TAPOCHAO. Jacinta Martin, left, carries her three-year-old toddler, Ese, on her shoulder as devout Catholics joined Friday's "trek" to Mt. Tapochao.

Judge Bellas issues guidelines on Hillblom testing

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has issued the procedures on how to conduct DNA testing of Larry Hillblom's tissue in determining the paternity of the late multimillionaire's alleged children.

Bellas said in his order that all blood samples to be provided under the DNA protocol shall be drawn by an independent licensed phlebotomist or a physician using kits provided by the PCR laboratory.

Bellas said whole blood samples shall be obtained from each claimant and his or her mother by a phlebotomist in the presence of witnesses designated by each side.

The estate Executor and Hillblom's Charitable Trust, if they desire, the judge said, shall be responsible for providing control mother-child pair(s) who are willing to and do provide blood samples to the phlebotomist.

Such control pairs shall be selected and available for blood donation no later than April 18, 1997, he said.

The phlebotomist shall label each

sample with the identity of the donor and the date the blood was drawn.

Each claimant mother-child pair and each control mother-child pair shall be fingerprinted and photographed at the draw site.

Bellas said the phlebotomist shall draw the blood from each donor in three tubes, send two of the tubes of such sample, along with fingerprint and photograph information, to another independent licensed phlebotomist or physician or a forensic laboratory.

"For each child donor, the amount of blood per tube shall be at least one cc; for each adult donor, the amount of blood per tube shall be at least two cc," he said.

The claimant mother-child and control mother-child samples sent to the coding phlebotomist shall be coded in pairs so as to keep the source of each sample confidential.

The coding phlebotomist, Bellas said, shall disclose the coding key to the court and shall not disclose it until ordered.

If directed in writing to do so, the coding phlebotomist shall forward one batch of the coded blood samples

for each claimant mother-child pair and control mother-child pair to the PCR Laboratory and one batch to the RFLP Laboratory.

Hillblom's tissue (DMC-69755) shall be released by Davies Medical Center to Dr. Blake, the coding phlebotomist, upon five days notice to Davies provided by the executor.

Upon the release in front of the party/side representative present, Bellas said, Blake shall place the paraffin wax block and microscope slide in a sterile, see-through container and then seal the container with a breakable seal.

"Either side may videotape or otherwise photograph the release. Upon returning to his laboratory, Blake shall break the seal on the container and remove the paraffin block and microscope slide and begin the extraction process," the judge said.

Bellas said the executor's notice and the extraction process shall be completed on or before April 18, 1997.

Blake shall to the extent possible extract DNA from approximately one-third of DMC-69755, using procedures standard to his laboratory as

well as procedures appropriate.

Bellas pointed out that Blake shall disclose to the court and to the parties whether the extraction resulted in detectable DNA and the amount, molecular weight, and quality extracted.

Upon court's direction, the judge said, Blake shall transfer to the PCR Laboratory the extracted DNA and the extraction blank, along with his report, for PCR testing.

The RFLP testing of the extracted DNA material from DMC-69755 and the mother-child samples shall be undertaken only after notice to all parties at least 15 days prior to the initiation of the Laboratory's testing regimen, Bellas said.

All RFLP testing, however, the judge stated, shall be completed within 45 days of the laboratory's receipt of extracted DNA from Blake, regardless of whether designated witnesses are unavailable to view the testing process.

"Each laboratory that undertakes any extraction or testing of any material shall retain and keep strictly confidential all protocols, notes, results, reports, databases and other materi-



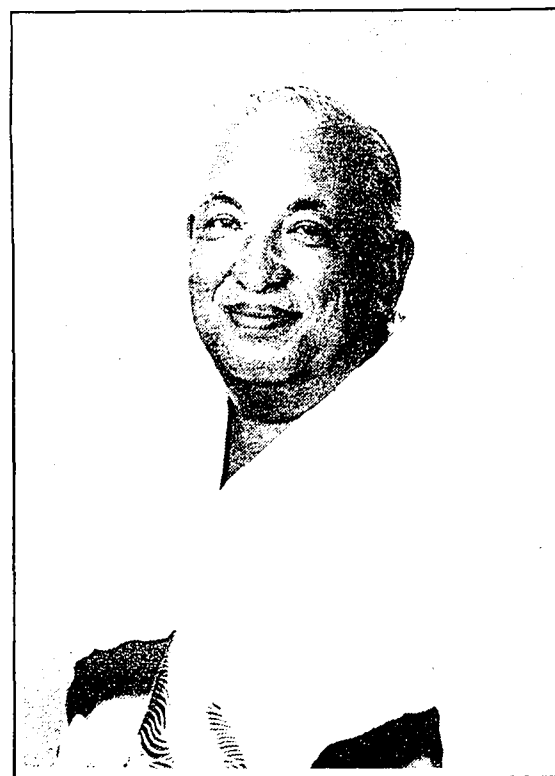
Timothy Bellas

als related to the running of the tests, matching analyses and or probability calculations and shall provide such materials to all parties..." Bellas said.

Each laboratory, he added, shall agree that the personnel involved in the extraction, testing, and matching analysis be made available for deposition upon at least 15 days notice and after the court has authorized disclosure of the results to the parties.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

SIGI TUDELA for MAYOR '97



My Dear Voters of Saipan:

My family and I are very much indebted to the people of Kobler, San Antonio, Dandan, San Vicente, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Oleai, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laulau, Gualo Rai, Garapan, China-Town, Paganville, Upper-MIHA, Lower MIHA, Navy Hill, Lower Navy Hill, Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Tanapag, San Roque, As Matuis, Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman and Papago for their tremendous support and endorsement of petitions as an Independent Candidate for Mayor this coming election. Also, your words of encouragement and personal advise have re-affirmed my interest for seeking the Mayorship and will reign over it with dignity, respect and full commitment to honor and protect the people's mandates.

Given your support and confidence henceforth, we could all assure ourselves that victory will be ours this coming election, November 1997.

Sigi with Tudela for Mayor.

Respectfully yours,

JUAN BORJA TUDELA

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

Paralyzed journalist writes a book

By: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

THE stroke that paralyzed him must have been premature. He was incapable of speech or movement. But death had the courtesy to wait until French Journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby finished his last assignment—publication of his book—of living with locked-in syndrome, a state of virtually total paralysis that leaves him, in his words, "like a mind in a jar". The title of his book: *The Bubble and the Buttery*.

A Time Magazine account says Bauby, a career journalist had his fast-paced life come to an abrupt end at the end of 1995 with a stroke that left him paralyzed. He was dependent on the hospital staff and machinery for all his bodily functions. His brain remained unscathed and soon discovered that the only muscle still under his control was his left eyelid.

Bauby would send a series of blinks to let his nurses know that he was "alive and well inside his immobile frame". They responded by reciting a special alphabet to him with the understanding that Bauby would blink at letters he wanted written down. Repeating the process resulted in words, sentences and entire discussions.

Last year, Bauby blinked out a letter to some sixty friends and associates to reassure them that his state was not vegetative. Encouraged by friends to use the method to write a book, he accepted, composed and edited his prose before dawn, dictated entire sections of the book from memory, letter by letter, to an editor's staff.

The result of his efforts to deny the locked-in syndrome total victory was a remarkable 137-page account of the tedium, trials and travails—and sometimes even joys—of his condition. He'd moan of his fruitless physical rehabilitation sessions saying "I would be the happiest man in the world if I could just swallow the saliva that permanently invades my mouth".

Before his stroke, Bauby signed a contract to update a certain literary work about a protagonist who communicates by blinking. He laments that the "gods of literature and neurology decided otherwise". Adding a twist, he said "To reverse the decrees of fate, I now have in mind a story whose main character is a runner instead of a paralytic...."

"The book is not, of course, all playful ruminations". The paralytic author writes movingly of the suffering and depression his condition induced. "He describes painful bedsores, and flies walking with impunity across his face. Most agonizing are the moments when he realizes that his loved ones will never feel his affection again".

Bauby described the unbearable feeling on Father's Day when his son sat calmly by his side just inches away from his face and "doesn't have the simple right to touch his thick hair...to hold tight his warm little body...Suddenly, that fact begins killing me". But his spirit triumphed by denying his locked-in syndrome total victory.

The paralytic author died as he lived: with dignity, on his own terms and in accord with his own words. "Is there a key out in the cosmos that can unlock my bubbler?", he asked at the end of his book. "A currency valuable enough to buy my freedom? I have to look elsewhere, I'm going there". And he did, contently. I felt for him in the sense that he never allowed his vegetative condition to turn him into a permanent prisoner, in his words, "like a mind in a jar". He triumphed even against death.

Imagine being a paralytic

I've seen those who were permanently reduced from their normal health to vegetative condition. Perhaps their soul is about the only thing that speak inaudibly to friends and loved-ones who stay with them all day and night from day once attending to their needs. For those who are half paralyzed, I often hear the words "thanks for your help" or "for visiting". Even in their condition, they still utter words of appreciation out of concern for others. It isn't their real self anymore than acquaintances who are in their last ride out in a coffin. And we pray with heavy heart that they snap right back to normalcy.

Then there are the cancer patients who received the official word that they have only so much time before they become statistics. I often ponder what goes through their minds as they struggle to make it to another break of dawn and the joy of seeing the first breath of sunlight in the eastern skies. I heard a dying friend relate to his beloved mother, "Mom it's a beautiful day, let's pray for another". His mom looked forward to another break of dawn, but his son didn't open his eyes the greet another day with morning prayers. It was difficult trying to swallow the lump in my throat as I braved the occasion trying to pacify my friend's mom in deep pain and sorrow.

Like Bauby, I don't think I can stand the notion of not being able to massage my son's thick hair and his growing warm physique. And I couldn't agree more that that notion alone will trigger my final hour. I can't imagine such state of health and all the concomitant discomfort that comes with it and the hardship we would have imposed on loved ones who have their own jobs and families to contend with. But then fate has its own strange ways and there's no such thing as an intermission. Rarely. When it comes, it comes like that well seasoned and slick thief who comes in the wee hours of the morning for your prized possessions when you're sound asleep.

Imagine being a paralytic dictating words, whole paragraphs for discussion using the last muscle that was spared by a stroke, your eyelid. It borders on the impossibility, isn't it?



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mexico's drug-fighting charade continues

MEXICO CITY—Like clockwork each year, Mexican authorities put on a show for American onlookers that is reminiscent of this country's famed jumping-bean demonstrations: A lot of action, a lot of noise—and not much else.

This is that time of the year when the Clinton administration supposedly has been agonizing over whether to give Mexico a counternarcotics seal of approval called "certification," which allows more dollars and official goodwill to flow Mexico's way.

In the months prior to this "inspection," top officials in Mexico work hard to get in performance mode. Even President Ernesto Zedillo gets involved, declaring in a podium-pounding way that stopping drug criminals is his No. 1 priority—once again.

Usually, officials will round up a drug lieutenant or two as signs that they're making progress in fighting drugs. The latest exercise complete with public and private promises to U.S. officials to beef up its drug enforcement, worked as intended when the Clinton administration recertified Mexico as an ally in the drug war on Feb. 28.

What makes it almost tragically amusing is that this time one of the Mexicans' prize jumping beans—alleged money launderer Humberto Garcia Abrego—wasn't bagged well enough, and simply walked away from his police captors just hours before the recertification was announced. Abrego's absence wasn't known in Washington at the time, though it most likely would not have made a difference in the decision to recertify.

There was a time when U.S. narcotics officials would have been more excited about these arrests. But they signal only Mexico's willingness to keep hammering the same crippled cartel, while letting the stronger drug lords run free.

The escaped Humberto is the brother of the notorious Juan Garcia Abrego, who at one time was the most wanted international fugitive on the FBI's top-10 list. Officials at the Drug Enforcement Administration and other agencies for years considered this chief of the "Gulf Cartel" to be their most significant target.

Time and again, American officials pressured their Mexican counterparts to bring

Juan Garcia Abrego into custody. Yet he remained on the lam for years which can only be explained by collusion at the highest levels of politics and law enforcement.

When he was finally arrested in January 1996, it was at yet another politically suspicious moment—when the Clinton administration was going through its annual "certification" ritual and Mexican President Zedillo needed a big capture to boost his image.

But the arrest came at a time when Garcia Abrego's drug empire had seriously eroded, and his primary protectors were out of office. "Every administration has its favorite trafficker," explains one American expert on Mexican corruption. "Garcia Abrego was the favorite of the last administration."

Indeed, a highly confidential DEA report shown to our associate Dale Van Atta charges that "Juan Garcia Abrego has been identified as a figure in the 'narco-political' problems of Mexico (because) he has been identified as receiving protection from the highest ranks of a former Mexican President's Carlos Salinas de Gortari administration."

One former high-level Mexican counternarcotics official told us that while he was on Garcia Abrego's trail during the Salinas administration, he was constantly thwarted by lack of cooperation.

On one occasion, when this official had pinpointed Garcia Abrego's location, he personally asked President Salinas for army assistance. The president turned down the request, explaining that he couldn't spare the air support, and Garcia Abrego escaped again.

How is it possible that the former president of America's southern neighbor might have been in the pocket, wittingly or unwittingly, of a drug lord? The answer is simple: money. Stacks of it so large coming from the United States in the form of drug profits that the cash actually weighs more than the cocaine that goes north. There is more money available in drug profits than all other traditional sources of Mexican political corruption, including oil profits.

Court testimony in the United States by defectors from Garcia Abrego's drug operation has established that the drug kingpin spent at least \$20 million a month in bribes to officials at all levels of government.

Expansion of CHC planned



Isamu J. Abraham

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
DEPARTMENT of Public Health Services Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham has sought for the renovation and expansion of the Commonwealth Health Center.

Abraham said time will come that CHC will no longer be able to

physically cope with the patient load as the resident and tourist population in the CNMI continues to explode.

The CHC's current structure, Abraham stated, is reaching the limits of its design.

Discussing the hospital's future, the DPHS secretary said, the immediate needs are renovation of the emergency room and the expansion of the dialysis unit.

He underscored the need for the future the expansion of the present facility, building a separate outpatient or ambulatory care clinic, and developing satellite clinics.

Abraham said in his CHC 2,000 report that some of the administrative offices located in the hospital should be moved elsewhere so that more spaces on the ground floor can

be utilized for patient services.

Headed that the existing structure must be renovated while private medicine be encouraged.

The new services needed, Abraham said, include cardiology, angiography, arthroscopic surgery, laparoscopic surgery, doppler

ultrasonography and nuclear medicine such as lung scan, bone scan and thallium stress testing.

The secretary earlier stated that in 10 years CHC has grown from designed to provide primary health care to a local population of 35,000 to

one which provides a vast range of primary and specialty care.

He said CHC provides health care services not only to the local population which has grown to 60,000 and to numerous tourists, but also to other Micronesians.

BOE to tap US financier for new Saipan school

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Education plans to tap a California-based company to finance the construction of a proposed new high school for Saipan.

At the board meeting last week, BOE chairman Don A. Farrell told members that the California Financial Services has offered to underwrite expenses for the high school project which costs \$8.2 million.

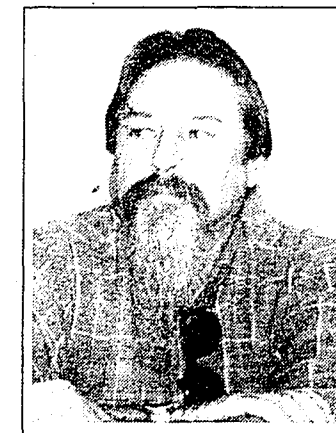
Under the setup, the California Financial would build the project, and the CNMI government, through the Public School System and the Department of Public Works, will pay back the company over a certain number of years.

Farrell said PSS can choose between two payment modes which the company has proposed—a 5.6 percent annual interest rate for a 10-year payment period, or 6.4 percent for a 20-year period.

This is the same setup used by PSS on the purchase of 14 new school buses that cost \$10 million.

The Thomas Built Buses delivered the school buses last year, and PSS used federal money as collateral for the loan.

"We need to seek the approval of the Legislature and the governor if this setup is going to be done," Farrell said.



Don A. Farrell

PSS Commissioner William Torres suggested that the board set a deadline for deciding on whether it should accept the California company's offer.

The new high school is proposed to be built in Koblerville.

The PSS Seven Year CIP Plan has noted the need for the CNMI to build more classrooms and school buildings as the rate of student population will continue to grow by at least 2.4 percent annually over the next seven years.

Betty Hanson, a California-based facility specialist who prepared the plan, said PSS needs at least \$24 million to build two elementary schools, two junior high schools, a high school, and 43 classrooms.

Oleai school registration

OLEAI Elementary School SY 1997-98 registration for Kindergarten and 1st Grade will start on Monday, April 07, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration will continue until all class enrollment is filled.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Birth Certificate
2. School Entrance Health Immunization Certificate
3. Valid CNMI Entry Permit as applicable

BOG's Yigo branch moves

BANK of Guam announced that its Yigo Branch has been re-located to the Yigo Town Center on Marine Drive in Yigo effective yesterday.

This new and improved branch is home to 24 hours, 7 day-a-week walk-up and drive-thru ATM's and is open six days-a-week.

Banking hours are Monday thru Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday's 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For further information, please contact Anthony A. Leon Guerrero, President & Chief Executive Officer at 472-5271.

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DFS honors top employees

MARIAN Aldan-Pierce, President of DFS Saipan Limited has announced the selection of Flordeliza Castro and Daniel Quitugua as DFS Employees of the Month for February 1997.

An awards ceremony was conducted by John M. Romisher to honor the awardees, DFS said in a news release.

Rick Lemaich and Pauline Camacho assisted with the ceremony held in the Galleria Coffee Shop, Garapan.

Each recipient was awarded an Employee of the Month Certificate

and pin, and \$100 in cash. They become eligible for selection as 1997 Employees of the Year in their respective categories.

Flordeliza was selected from the Sales category and Daniel was selected from the Sales Support category.

She works in the DFS Shop at the Hafa Adai Hotel as a Sales Associate. She has been employed by DFS since July 25, 1989. She was recommended for her excellent cooperation, pleasant attitude, outstanding customer service, and exceptional product knowledge.

Flordeliza was recommended by

Store Manager Fely Abalos. Mike Troup is the overall Manager for DFS Hotel Shops.

Daniel has been employed as a bus driver in the DFS Sales and Marketing Department since March 23, 1996.

Daniel was recognized most for his cheerful attitude on the job, excellent customer service, and willingness to work additional time to help other staff members who need time off for personal and family problems. Daniel was recommended by Gus Tagabuel.



(From left) Rick Lemaich, Manabu Nishimoto, Fely Abalos, Flordeliza Castro, Mike Troup, Daniel Quitugua, Gus Tagabuel, Pauline Camacho, and John M. Romisher.

'Expired goods bill' to be reintroduced

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATE Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez said Thursday that he will re-introduce the bill that would require stores to separate expired goods from fresh ones.

Vetoed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio last March 19, Senate Bill 10-66 would also require stores to display notices for expired goods, and reduce by 50 percent the prices of expired goods.

Villagomez (R-Saipan) said he will consider the governor's objections to the bill when he makes a new draft for the same legislation.

Tenorio, in his veto message, said he "sympathizes" with the bill's purpose, but added that requiring stores to sell expired goods at a reduced price would be a "serious blow" and "too severe" to the private sector.

But Villagomez, who co-sponsored the bill with Senate Minority Leader Eusebio A. Hocog (D-Rota), said Thursday that the health hazards involved with expired goods should be a more serious concern.

He said there are products sold in the CNMI that are pulled out by suppliers when their expiry date nears, but not all suppliers are as "reputable."

Villagomez added that that an ex-

pired product doesn't mean it is "already bad," but "the expiry date is there to make sure consumers get fresh products."

"Right now," he said, "you're paying for the price of fresh products, so you should only get fresh products."

In his veto message, Tenorio called "very good" the bill's provision on prohibiting the marking of goods as "new" if they are past the expiration date.

He said he recognized that expired goods are "a problem and a nuisance," adding that he is willing to sign a revised version of the bill.

"Meanwhile, though, I cannot place this additional burden on our retailers," he said.

Tourists to lead Hong Kong influx— Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE INFLUX of people coming to the CNMI following Hong Kong's reversion to China will be led by investors and tourists, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan stressed.

"There are lots of rich people in Hong Kong. We're expecting them to come here... put up business."

"Of course there are poor people too. Well, there're poor people everywhere and maybe they'll be coming here too to work," said Sablan.

Mainland China's estimated 10 million-strong active labor force is expected to spill over Hong Kong and the rest of the Pacific Rim carrying with it workers that can be dislodged from the former British Colony once reversion takes full swing on July 1.

Ranking DOLI officials, on condition of anonymity, has expressed concern on "the headache this will give us in terms of keeping illegal aliens off Saipan."

There already are an estimated 5,000 overstaying and illegally employed foreign workers in the CNMI.

The official said this "could double... even triple in a year's time."

Sablan however dismissed this, vowing "we will be on top of the situation."

Factors expected to lure Hong Kong businessmen to the CNMI, he said, are the Commonwealth's "booming" tourism industry and the Tinian casinos.

He said his office is now preparing to send at least three men to a Hong Kong Liaison Office expected to be put up by May.

The office, he said, will "screen people coming in."

"It (Liaison Office) will cut time spent for people to come in," he said.

He said the entry of Hong Kong businessmen is seen to boost the Commonwealth's economic growth.

San Vicente school meet

SAN VICENTE Elementary School parents and guardians are invited to attend the monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria.

Agenda includes presentation from Grade 2, Academic presentation by two teachers, school finances, local and federal budget, site-based Young Authors Book Fair in the library, membership concerns.

Your presence and support is greatly appreciated.

Bangladeshis assured on bonds

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

LABOR and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan assured insurance bonds ordered released for the remaining displaced Bangladeshis will be issued to the latter "soon as possible."

"I have just talked with representatives from the insurance firms. We're doing all we can to help these Bangladeshis," said Sablan in an interview.

He failed to say exactly when the firms are expected to release

the \$1,500 and plane tickets.

At least four insurance firms have obligations to the Bangladeshis.

One of these, the Royal Crown Co., has already paid back 10 of the Bangladeshis.

The rest of the foreign workers, according to well-placed DOLI sources, "are getting restless waiting for their turn" to get the money from the three other firms.

These firms are the Goodwill Insurance, the Pacific Rim and the JTS.

Officials from these firms, said Sablan, have pledged to expedite the release of the money for the remaining workers in talks held over the weekend.

Dan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General assigned to DOLI has said he may consider asking the commerce department to revoke licenses of these companies should they fail to release the money on time.

Lynn Asper, DOLI Administrative Hearing Officer, has

ruled that the Bangladeshis be given the insurance money they will supposedly use to finance their stay while job hunting on Saipan until May 5.

They are also to be given a plane ticket.

The Bangladeshis, Asper also ruled, will be repatriated to Bangladesh should they fail to secure employment by the schedule deadline.

A group of Bangladeshis have warned they will stay beyond May 5 arguing that

their entry permits have yet to expire until Oct. 30 this year.

Gil San Nicolas, who heads DOLI's Compliance and Monitoring Section which investigated the case, however said the ruling on the issuance of the workers' security bond and a plane ticket has nullified the permit itself.

He said though that it is still up for Asper to decide whether or not to grant the Bangladeshis an extension should they fail to find job by May 5.

House panel to hear Tinian megaproject

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE Committee on Natural Resources is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed lease of 450-hectare property on Tinian where a \$300 million casino project is planned to be built.

The public hearing will be conducted on Tinian on April 11.

On April 13, committee members will meet with executives of Hu'S International Investments Co. Inc., the company which will build the Marianas Paradise Resort on a property in military buy-back area near the Tinian airport.

The CNMI government entered into a preliminary lease contract with Hu's last January.

The CNMI law provides that any lease involving at least 5 hectares of public land requires approval by the Legislature.

Committee chair Rep. Manuel Tenorio asked Hu's International to submit to the committee the project plan to include blueprints, schemat-



Manuel Tenorio

ics, and layouts.

"This will... assist the committee during the joint public hearing as no doubt a lot of questions and public concerns would be presented," Tenorio, in a March 26 letter to Hu's International.

The project consists of a 1,500-room twin tower hotel, entertainment, shopping centers, and commercial and recreational, and casino facilities, and a theme park.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-109 submitted by B.P. Reyes Consulting Services on behalf of Express Manufacturing Inc. for the change of use of an existing warehouse facility to a garment factory and the change of use of another existing warehouse to staff housing facility for the garment factory employees. The garment factory site is located in Puerto Rico, Saipan and the staff housing will be located in Sugar King, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 1997 at 6:30 pm at the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe. A second and final notice of this public hearing will be published at a later date.

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

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

MANUEL C. SABLAN
Director
Coastal Resources Management



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Man in 'ice' case gets 3 years



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UNITED States District Court Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced 27-year old Satoru Sasabe Friday to three years imprisonment and ordered deportation proceedings after the prison term.

Should Sasabe not be deported, the Court ordered four years special parole term, a news release from the U.S. Attorney said.

Sasabe was represented by Brien Nicholas and First Assistant United States Attorney David T. Wood appeared for the federal government.

The sentence was handed down for importation and possession of crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice".

In ordering the prison term, Munson told Sasabe that the "CNMI is a small and fragile society and 'ice' disrupts the community function in many ways."

"Three years is a lengthy time in prison for a young man," the Judge told the weeping defendant, "but you have a choice to either waste the time or use it to take advantage of prison improvement and educational programs, which will allow you to return to Japan and be a productive citizen."

On December 20, 1996, Sasabe was convicted by plea to a two-count information for importing more than 10 but less than 100 grams of "ice" into the CNMI on July 29, 1996 and possession of that "ice" with intent to distribute it. The case was sealed until today's sentencing.

He has been incarcerated on federal charges since August 20, 1996. He will be credited by law for time served since his federal arrest.

Sasabe told the Court prior to sentencing that he accepted the responsibility for his crime but wanted to return to his family in Japan after his imprisonment.

Attorney Nicholas advised the Court that Sasabe was without significant assets and the Court did not order a fine but required Sasabe to pay the \$200 fee for the Victims Rights Fund.

Laptops for INO agents soon

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

IMMIGRATION agents will be issued computer laptops equipped with a database on the most current listing of legitimately employed non-resident workers. This will help them weed out overstaying and illegally employed foreigners during random factory inspections.

In an interview, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan said the high-tech gadgets will be supplied by May.

"The laptops have been in the works for some time now. It forms part of our efforts to upgrade efficient productivity," said Sablan.

Computer laptops is a component of DOLI's Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System which has been in existence for nearly two years, according to a DOLI report.

The LIIDS databas collected 18 months of data which, Sablan said, has proved to be an "extremely" useful tool in assisting labor and immigration inspectors.

The LIIDS can generate:

* Employer records detailing employer, the number of workers employed and their respective permit status, and the firm's registration.

* Wage and hour reports where contract wage and rate that the employer commits to each employee is immediately made accessible.

cessible.

* Immediate Relative reports where associations are made between the primary sponsor which usually is a non-resident worker to the immediate relative. Upon

expiration of the permit, a report is furnished detailing all IRS linked to that worker.

* Full-color bitmap images for each application.

Other highlights of the

LIIDS include report on barred and deported foreigners; an automated arrival and departure system; document imaging system for record retrieval and archiving. The LIIDS has access to over

33,728 records that have been entered in its database.

"Equipped with this instrument, there's just no way an illegal alien can evade arrest during inspection," assured Sablan.

DPHS to hold health awareness event

DEPARTMENT of Public Health Services Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham has encouraged the public to participate the Health Awareness Month activities.

Abraham said local health and inter-departmental officials, non-governmental organizations and the private sectors are showcasing their many accomplishments in protecting the residents' health as part of this year's CNMI Health Awareness Month.

The theme of this first annual

event, which runs from April 7-30, is "An Investment in Your Future."

"This is a remarkable way to remind people of the important role the DPHS plays in protecting our health every single day," said Abraham in a press statement.

"Public Health assures that our water is clean, that our food is safe, that our homes are safe from health hazards, and that diseases are kept under control," he said.

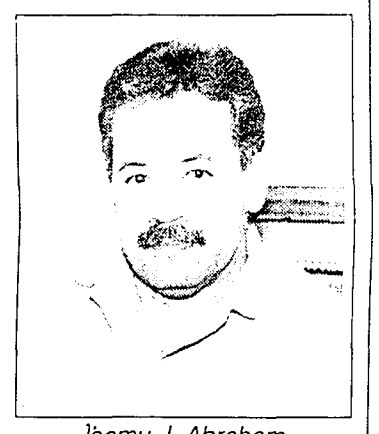
Without the community and public health's involvement, the secre-

tary said, "we would have nothing to celebrate, instead, we would be grieving about a lot of things."

He said the health awareness month is celebrated to recognize the contributions of public health and prevention services to CNMI's well-being.

"After all, a clean bill of health is one of life's most precious gifts; Public Health helps make that a reality," Abraham said.

Part of the activities is the CNMI Junior High School Health Fair at Hopwood on April 14-17. (FDT)



Isamu J. Abraham

PARENTS, NOT POLITICIANS, WILL MAKE EDUCATION WORK

I know what you're thinking. It's an election year, the season when every politician promises to make education "the top priority" if elected. This all-time favorite from the political bag of election year tricks generally involves proposals of even greater funding for the Public School System. Well, I also propose to increase the financial commitment to a quality education, but with a difference. I propose that parents, not politicians or professional bureaucrats, be given a vote on who should benefit from this increased educational funding.

One way or another, over the years, we have thrown a lot of money at PSS and the results are discouraging. On average, our kids score near the bottom on standard tests. The sanitary and structural condition of most of our public schools was a scandal many years before Public Health inspectors finally had to take the drastic step of threatening to close Marianas High School if it wasn't cleaned up. This is not a failure of individuals. Some of the best and brightest citizens of our Commonwealth work in the public schools but they are burdened with an inefficient organization and ineffective support. In consumer terms, the parents who are paying the bills are not getting the product promised to their children!

Those of you who could, have voted with your pocketbooks to



FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK
I MANEHAÑTE PARA HAMYO LEADERSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE

send your children to private schools. And in my opinion, we are well on our way to creating a culture of educational "haves" and "have-nots" at the expense of the kids. Ask yourself, will giving PSS a guaranteed \$40.0, \$50.0 even \$80.0 million minimum budget, as some advocate, guarantee better educational achievement or will it just guarantee a more expensive failure?

I am sure that by now you have heard of the "school voucher" and "school choice" programs that are being started on the U.S. mainland. The general notion is that parents are to be given a subsidy so that they can put their kids in whatever schools they want, public or private. One goal is to level the playing field, exposing many children to opportunities they would have never had, simply due to lack of money. Another goal, is to encourage and reward both public and private schools that perform better, as in most other areas of our lives the customers, in this case parents, will direct the cash to the schools they be-

lieve are doing the best job.

Interestingly, the Public School System will probably get by far the largest share of this money because it has the biggest facilities and resources presently available and as parents, all of us aware that there are some first rate teachers and schools in our public system that already draw students based on their high quality. Who says private schools are always the best? Not me. If the private schools want to compete for your voucher money, they'll have to invest in more facilities and learning resources. As parents, you'll be setting the agenda for all of our schools, rather than having to leave it to the politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen.

I have favored such a system for a long time and plan to introduce legislation to establish a "Parental Choice Voucher Program" in the CNMI. I view this as one of the most important measures that I have supported and I think that when you, as parents, find out what we can do for our kids

through such as program, you will agree with me. Imagine a program which requires school administrators to listen to and communicate with parents. Imagine a program where parents have a real financial voice in the education of their children. Imagine a program where children go to a school because they want to, not because they have to. To make this a reality, changes will then have to be made by all the schools in administration, facilities and staffing. Changes that make sense to each parent and that offer a real and immediate improvement in educational offerings. Changes that I believe will be in the best interest of all our children as determined by you, their parents. It should show us, real soon, who is or isn't doing the job.

I have discussed my ideas with top Congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. and found them enthusiastic and supportive. They agree with me that my approach, if it should become CNMI law, would make the Commonwealth a showcase for educational choice in the United States. But we don't need a plan that works in Wisconsin, New York or California. We need a plan that makes sense to you and our children. To do this, I need your help to shape and make the voucher/choice proposal part of our law.

Let me make one very important point. I intend to make a voucher/choice proposal as Governor, but I

believe in it as a parent and grandparent. However, I don't believe for a minute that this plan will go anywhere without broad community support. I've asked staffers and advisors to explain what can be done and to find out from you—the form that the final version that will be presented to the legislature should take.

Get ready for lots of scare from those who have been able to hold on to comfortable positions with little or no influence on the education of our children and no accountability to you. Get ready for claims that the proposal is intended to discriminate against some groups in favor of others. I ask that you inform yourself and participate in developing this community proposal and you will find such claims are not true.

There's no question that there is wide dissatisfaction in our community with how the schools run and the resulting quality of education received by our children. The question is, are you ready to do something about it?

Let's make this year different. Let's make 1997 the year we stop making the promises and start making the programs that can make the difference today, not tomorrow, in our children's educational opportunities.

Si yuus maase

Man nabbed for 'taking' candy bar, 'assaulting' storekeeper

THE police arrested a man who allegedly stole a candy bar and assaulted a woman at Shell Service Station in Gualo Rai Wednesday night.

Steve Ramon Anson, 28, of Chalan Laulau, was arrested for theft and assault and battery.

Initial investigation showed that Anson entered the Shell Station, took a candy bar and left without pay it.

A woman employee of Shell asked Anson to return the candy. The suspect instead pushed the woman and ran away.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office charged yesterday a woman who was caught stealing two shirts worth \$60 at Marianas Fashion last Feb. 26.

Atenita P. Romino was charged with theft.

Romino was summoned to appear in court on April 21.

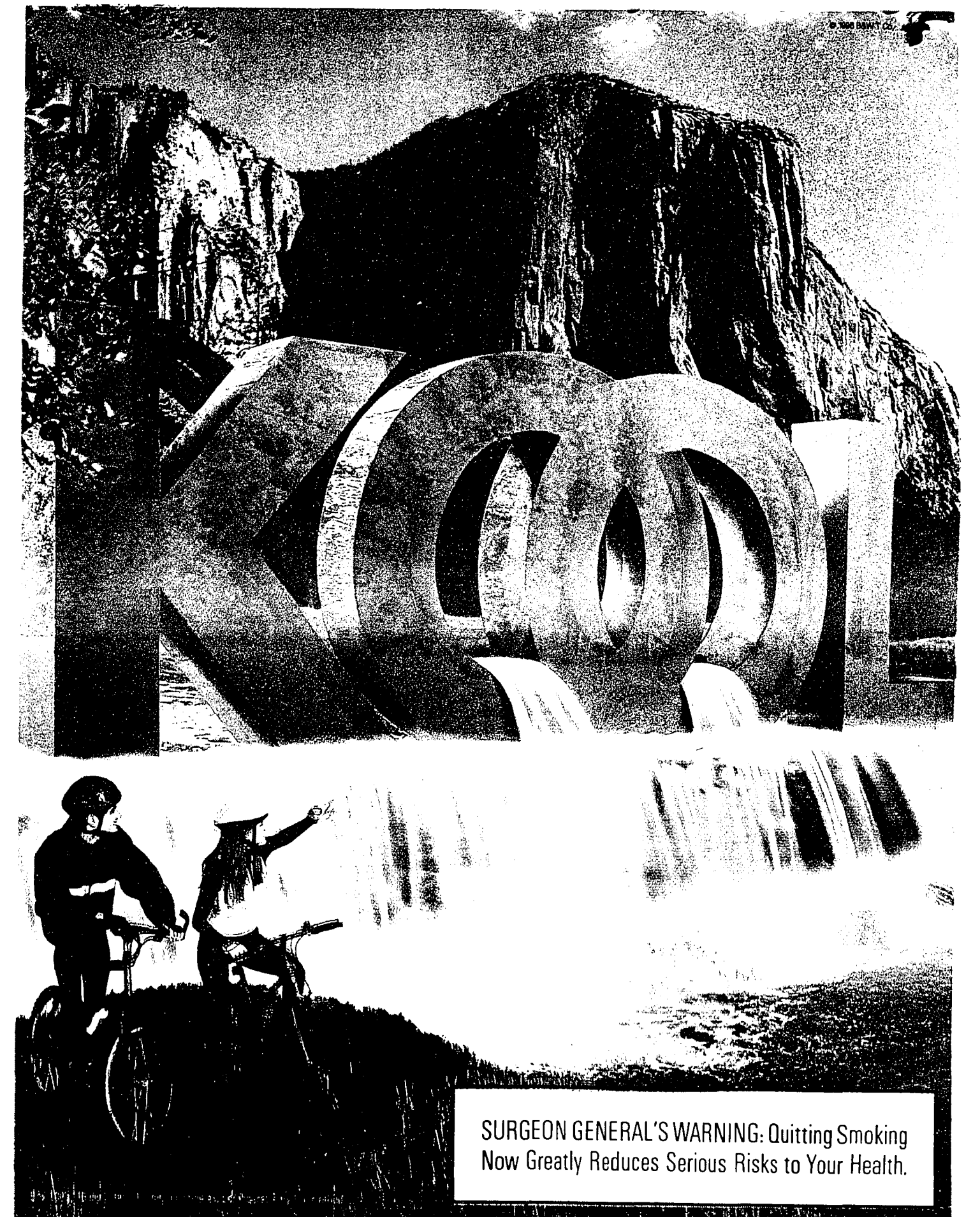
The AGO also charged yesterday a man with assault and battery for assaulting a woman on Tinian last Jan. 3.

David Kerley allegedly pushed and grabbed the victim, according to a complaint filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. Alan Lane.

Kerley was summoned to appear in court on April 11.

In another case, the government charged three persons from Rota with theft for allegedly stealing a bushcutter belonging to the 6th Rota Municipal Council.

The defendants—Steve B. Cabrera, Manuel M. Cabrera, and Noel Charlauros—were summoned to appear in court on April 4.—Ferdie de la Torre



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALEIN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDSCOMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiffvs.
AUGUSTIN M. TAGABUEL and
MARGARITA S. TAGABUEL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-907

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice of the auction sale of the following described property:

- 45' Fishing Boat**
Vessel Name: KATSU MARU No. 1
Registered Number: ON2-0570
Place of Registry: Okinawa
Builder: Nitta Zosen, Ibusuki City, Kagoshima, Japan
Year Built: 1979
Hull Type/Material: Sampan/Fibre Reinforced Plastic
Length/Beam/Draft: 12.30/2.82/1.18 meters
Net Displacement: 11.21 Metric Tons
Machinery/Propulsion: One 400 hp Yanmar, 6 cylinder diesel engine, Model 6KES-HT, mounted inboard, and driving a single 3 bladed propeller \$110,300
Recently appraised value:
- Mazda B2600 Pick-Up Truck**
Make/Model: Mazda 4x4 CP Pick Up Truck
Year Built: 1993

3. Other fishing related items, accessories, and equipment

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the Department of Public Safety Office, Susupe, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 1997, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

**SECTION ONE
INSPECTION PROPERTY**

The property described above is presently located at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai or at the Seaport, Lower Base, where it may be viewed and inspected between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. (8:00 a.m.) and four o'clock p.m. (4:00 p.m.) each weekday before the sale. All inspections of any property must be coordinated with Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, CDA Loan Manager. Failure to inspect any property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

**SECTION TWO
WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS**

All property listed for sale in this announcement will be sold "AS IS" without any warranty or covenant on the part of the auctioneer or CDA as to quality, character, condition, size, weight, or kind, or that such property is condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended. No claim for any allowance on any of the grounds will be considered after the property is struck off to a bidder by auctioneer.

Neither auctioneer nor CDA may give any warranty, express or implied, as to quality or description of the property listed for sale in this announcement. Neither auctioneer nor CDA shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement or for any faulty description thereof, in any catalogue, advertisement, or other medium employed for announcing this sale. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account of the quality of the property listed for sale in this announcement, or the faulty description thereof.

**SECTION THREE
CONDUCT OF AUCTION SALE**

- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any all bids.

- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall be not binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to the Chief of Police of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP 96950; or to F. Matthew Smith, Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950. Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256. CDA may bid at the auction sale.

- Disputes:** Auctioneer may resubmit any property listed in this announcement if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**SECTION FOUR
ENFORCEMENT OF AUCTION SALE**

- Deposit-Payment.** CDA shall collect, and buyers shall pay, a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to CDA within ten (10) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check, otherwise CDA will retain the deposit and resell the property.

- Memorandum of Sale.** Auctioneer shall require, and all buyers must sign, a memorandum of sale immediately after sale of any property is consummated.

- Removal or Storage of Property.** Buyers shall have ten (10) days after payment of the purchase price to remove the property purchased from the place of sale. Buyers shall bear the entire risk of loss during storage prior to such removal as provided. After ten (10) days, buyers shall be liable for all expenses of storage of any property that was purchased but which has not been removed.

**SECTION FIVE
CHANGE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1997.

/s/ JOSE M. CASTRO
Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety

Marshalls' SSA head abruptly terminated

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO - Joseph Lanwi, the administrator of the Marshall Islands Social Security Administration for 27 years, was terminated with one day notice by the board of directors this week. No reason for the abrupt ending of his employment was given by the board, which is chaired by government Health Minister Tom Kijner. Lanwi said that he had been expecting this action, but added that he did not want to make any comment about what was behind the sudden move.

The Marshall Islands Journal, however, strongly questioned the firing in an editorial in its Friday (March 28) edition this week. "The Social Security Administration has prospered greatly under the direction of Lanwi," commented the Journal, the Marshalls' only independent newspaper. "The fund is at its highest value

ever - more than \$26 million; benefits to retirees are up; early retirement programs exist; collections from employers are improving. So what's wrong?"

"It looks to us as though he was removed because he stood up last year for the fund when government officials were attempting to meddle with the fund, through political medical referrals, improper expenditures, and big bucks loans to government agencies. In light of the fact that status quo and stability is the self-proclaimed policy of the current administration (of new President Imata Kabua), the firing of Joe Lanwi by the board of directors confirms a) they didn't get the President's message; or b) the old adage that actions speak louder than words."

Lanwi's deputy, Bill Capelle, has been named as acting administrator of Social Security.

Lanwi, 56, first started with Social Security in July 1970, when it was under the administration of the U.S. Territory government. He said that after 27 years at the helm of Social Security, he was happy about bringing the fund to its present level of \$26 million - more than half of which had been through money invested in U.S. stocks and bonds.

In addition, "we pay the highest benefits of anywhere in Micronesia," he said. While Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia are still paying benefits at a rate close to that in the U.S. Territory days, Social Security in the Marshall Islands has significantly increased the benefits paid to retirees.

He also pointed out that Marshalls Social Security system stands out in the north Pacific for its early retirement program that allows retirees to collect benefits after 80 quarters of work (20 years).

Health of South Pacific women said to be 'worst' in the world

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The health of indigenous women in the South Pacific is among the worst of any group in the world, according to the Secretary of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), Doctor John Havard.

He was speaking at the end of a four-day workshop in Canberra which was attended by women and health professionals from Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Western Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand.

Doctor Havard said he was look-

ing forward to very positive outcomes from a new relationship forged at the workshop between the CMA and the indigenous women of the South Pacific.

He said discussions were still underway to determine the framework for the new relationship which he described as an exciting development that was long overdue.

Pacnews Canberra Bureau says the CMA is well placed as an international organization to lobby and pressure governments in the region to provide health services

and healthy environments for all their people.

Landowners in Solomons go back on statements

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Lawyers representing Guadalcanal landowners in a high court case against Ross Mining company in Solomon Islands have submitted an affidavit signed by landowner Isiah Ototo retracting previous statements.

In the affidavit Ototo stated that he was not aware nor understood the contents of the document he signed on March 17 to withdraw from the original High Court application, STBC reports.

Ototo also denied he was offered 40,000 Solomon dollars (\$US11,200) or a free trip to Australia. He says he now wants to continue his involvement as an applicant in the High Court case.

A & A Legal Services says to be part of the proceedings again, the High Court will have to accept an application from Ototo, which is expected to be submitted next week.

Three Fijians charged in HK

SUVA (Pacnews)—The fate of the three Fiji rugby players charged with indecently assaulting three women in Hong Kong is expected to be known today. Magistrate Amanda Chang Woodcock of the Eastern Magistrate Court, where the three men appeared, will announce her decision when the session re-convenes this morning, the Daily Post reports.

The three players, Save Lutumailagi, Meli Nakautau and Manoa Kasumayono, are part of the Guardforce Magicians team, who had travelled to Hong Kong to play in the Carlsberg International Tens tournament. Last night the three players were released on bail and their passports surrendered to the defense counsel Jeffrey Watson.

They will again appear in court this morning to face charges of sexually assaulting three young Chinese women.

Giheno is caretaker premier

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The Papua New Guinea cabinet has appointed John Giheno, the mines and petroleum minister, as acting prime minister.

Giheno believes Sir Julius Chan will resume the country's leadership within a few weeks. He is confident that Sir Julius will be cleared by the judicial inquiry into the government's

36-million US dollar contract with the mercenary firm, Sandline International.

Sir Julius stood down as prime minister on Wednesday pending the result of the inquiry in two weeks. His decision came after days of demonstrations in Port Moresby in which the military and public called for his resignation over the planned use of

mercenaries on Bougainville.

On Thursday night, John Giheno, a strong supporter of Sir Julius Chan, was named caretaker prime minister after hours of deliberation by cabinet. Giheno, has held portfolios, including foreign affairs. He is a devout Seventh Day Adventist with a reputation for decency.

Giheno says he has a good relation-

ship with the sacked military commander, Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, who sparked the crisis almost two weeks ago.

In other changes, Lands Minister Andrew Baing will take over as Deputy Prime Minister from Chris Haiveta, while Commerce Minister Nakikus Konga will take over Haiveta's role as finance minister. Haiveta and Defence Minister Mathias Ijape both joined Chan in

stepping down, pending the result of the judiciary.

Reports from Port Moresby say that Chan plans to contest the forthcoming general election in PNG and expects to be able to form a government. The election is due in June but could be brought forward a few weeks. Sir Julius Chan has also revealed that Australia threatened to withdraw all aid to PNG if foreign mercenaries were used on Bougainville.

Huge out-of-school youth population worries official

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

EBEYE, Marshall Islands - As many as half of all primary school age children are not in school on the overcrowded island of Ebeye, the bedroom community for Marshall Islanders who work at the U.S. Army's Kwajalein missile range.

Ebeye Island Mayor Wilmer Bolkeim is worried about the growing out of school population that is leading to alcohol abuse and other problems on the cramped island, and said he wants to do something about it. The lack of even minimally adequate classroom space to accommodate Ebeye's school age population is causing the high drop-out rate.

Ebeye has a population of about 12,000 who reside on less than 80 acres of land, giving it a population density rivaling Hong Kong and New York City. Sixty percent of the population is under 19 years of age, according to government statistics, but there is no public high school and there is space for just 2,800 primary school students on Ebeye, according to Bolkeim.

About 1,200 islanders living on Ebeye hold service and maintenance jobs at the Army base three miles away, where 3,000 American technicians operate some of the world's most high-tech equipment to develop anti-missile defense and offensive missile accuracy.

The Ebeye mayor flew to Majuro, the Marshall Islands capital, to lobby government officials for funding and

teachers to expand elementary classrooms space and to start Ebeye's first public high school. He said he was encouraged by his meetings with Ministry of Education officials.

"There are more children outside than in the elementary schools," Bolkeim said of Ebeye. The one public elementary school and several private schools have an enrollment of 2,800 students, he said.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Catholic Church, Assembly of God and the Protestant Church all operate schools, in addition to one other private school. Bolkeim recognized the large education role the private schools are playing for Ebeye. "They really help community," he said. "Without the church schools things would be a lot worse."

But even with the private elementary schools providing space for more than half of those enrolled on Ebeye, it's not enough to deal with Ebeye's large youth population. "We're trying to do something to help get the kids in school," he said.

"We want to build a new elementary school."

At the same time, Kwajalein Atoll Local Government is asking for \$150,000 from the national government to kick off high school classes with the beginning of the new school year in September. Bolkeim said the local government hasn't set its sights too high.

The important thing is to try and get classes started so kids who can't af-

ford to pay private school tuition or to travel to Majuro or Jaluit atolls, where the only two public high schools are located, can still get a high school education.

The large out-of-school youth population has little to do. While crime isn't a major concern on Ebeye, according to Bolkeim, there are numerous other problems resulting from so many kids being unable to attend school, chief among them being alcohol abuse by young children. "They've got nothing to do, so they just hang around," he said. "We know that some of these young people would be our future leaders but they can't go to school."

The annual conference, which

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Peru rebel: No solution near

By JAMES ANDERSON
LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's 3-month-old hostage standoff will continue as long as the government refuses to free imprisoned guerrillas, the leader of the leftist rebels holding 72 captives warned Saturday.

Tupac Amaru leader Nestor Cerpa also said he won't accept asylum in a third country while his comrades remain in prison, and denied reports that a resolution to the hostage crisis was within reach.

"The negotiations are not heading toward an agreement," Cerpa said in brief remarks broadcast by two-way radio from the Japanese ambassador's residence, where the rebels are held up with their hostages.

"We didn't come here to talk about asylum or trips abroad," he said. Cerpa's demand that rebel prisoners be released has stymied efforts to free the hostages, who were seized in a raid on the residence Dec. 17.

President Alberto Fujimori refuses to trade imprisoned rebels for the hostages, and the two sides have not held direct talks since March 12. Over the past week, however, Peruvian newspapers reported that mediators had crafted a plan in which the rebels would be offered a payoff and safe passage to Cuba, which has agreed to accept the rebels. The plan also would include the promise of early release for some, but not all, of more than 400 jailed Tupac Amaru rebels.

Talks between the rebels and the government were set to resume as early as Monday, and a key mediator, Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, visited the ambassador's residence late Saturday. Fujimori said as recently as Thursday that negotiations were about to enter a "final" stage.

But Cerpa warned Saturday that the two sides were far from agreement. "There will be no possibility of freeing anyone. There has to be a global solution" that addresses the issue of imprisoned rebels, he said.

The drawn-out crisis has had a negative effect on the country's opinion of Fujimori's work as president, down from 54.1 percent the first week of March, according to the poll by Imasen, a private firm.

Forty-eight percent of Peruvians surveyed said they approved of Fujimori's work as president, down from 54.1 percent the first week of March, according to the poll by Imasen, a private firm.

Nearly 57 percent approved the way Fujimori has managed the hostage crisis, down from 63 percent in early March. Forty-one percent blamed the rebels for the failure to resolve the standoff, while 32 percent blamed the government.

The poll of 400 people was conducted March 21-23. Imasen says its polls have a margin of error of from 3 to 5 percentage points.

While most residents overwhelmingly oppose any rebel prisoner releases, a majority said they favored improving prison conditions, another rebel demand.

But a committee inspecting prisons as part of the negotiating effort was barred from visiting a navy prison where top leaders of the Tupac Amaru and Maoist Shining Path rebel movements are held, a newspaper reported.

Navy officials said they had no orders to allow visitors to the prison in a Lima suburb, El Sol reported. Tupac Amaru leader Victor Polay Campos and Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman are imprisoned there.

The hostages, meanwhile, planned to celebrate Easter Mass on Sunday with a Jesuit priest who has voluntarily stayed with the captives.

Yeltsin tackles disputes

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin worked to smooth relations between a number of former Soviet republics on Saturday, holding a series of private meetings with their leaders in the Kremlin.

The discussions followed a summit Friday of the Commonwealth of

Independent States, an unruly alliance of 12 former Soviet republics.

At that meeting, CIS leaders pledged to deepen their economic ties but acknowledged they could do little to solve their bitter conflicts.

In one of these long-running disputes, Russia and Ukraine have been unable to reach agreement over ownership of the former Soviet Black Sea fleet.

At a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Yeltsin promised to visit Ukraine in late May or early June to advance the deadlocked fleet talks. He previously had refused to go to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, to sign a comprehensive friendship treaty until the Black Sea Fleet dispute was resolved.

Yeltsin also met with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, locked in a 9-year-old conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russian officials recently acknowledged that the military has been illegally supplying weapons to Armenia — a revelation that drew an angry reaction from Azerbaijan and that Armenia denied.

Yeltsin's press service didn't say whether he discussed the arms scandal with presidents Geidar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Levon Ter-Petrosian of Armenia. It said only that they discussed bilateral ties and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Georgia, another former Soviet republic in Transcaucasia, used Friday's CIS summit to persuade Russia to take a more active role in settling the conflict in the Georgian separatist province of Abkhazia.

Palestinians: No point in talks

By SAMAR ASSAD
RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Hardening their position, the Palestinians said Saturday there was no point in holding talks with Israel or considering U.S. peace initiatives until Israel stops building settlements on Arab land.

The announcement was made after a Palestinian Cabinet meeting and capped a day of West Bank riots in which one Palestinian was killed and another critically wounded by Israeli army gunfire.

The death was the first in 10 days of stone-throwing protests, and officials were concerned that it could trigger further violence on Sunday, when Palestinians were to mark Land Day, an annual day of protests against Israeli land confiscations.

About 1,000 people rallied Saturday evening outside the home of the dead Palestinian, a 20-year-old engineering student from the West Bank town of Beit Sahour. "Your blood will not be wasted, and the answer will be in Tel Aviv," some chanted, suggesting more bombings would follow last week's Tel Aviv suicide bombing.

Saturday's protests — including one in which demonstrators burned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in effigy — came a day after President Clinton's Mideast envoy, Dennis Ross, ended a two-day trip to try to rescue the faltering peace process.

Ross said negotiations could only move forward once calm was restored, an apparent criticism of Pales-

tinian leader Yasser Arafat. Ross did not publicly address Israel's construction of a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem, which Palestinians have denounced as a violation of the peace accords. Palestinians also claim that sector of Jerusalem as a future capital.

A senior PLO official on Saturday accused Ross of siding with Israel and trying to destroy the peace process.

"Let Ross go to hell, because he is a biased Zionist who wants, unfortunately, to implement plans that harm the peace process," Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political bureau, told reporters in Cairo, Egypt, where he was to attend a meeting of the Arab League's foreign ministers beginning Sunday.

Netanyahu has said he would only resume peace talks after Arafat systematically cracks down on Islamic militants and prevents violence against Israel. Israel has accused Arafat of orchestrating the recent riots, which were triggered by the construction of the Jerusalem neighborhood.

On Saturday evening, Arafat convened his Cabinet and the PLO Executive Committee in Gaza City to discuss a response to Netanyahu's demands and Ross' initiative.

In a statement after the meeting, Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said: "The Palestinian leadership feels it's not useful to hold any

meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli representatives as long as the policy of expansion of settlements, confiscation of land and violating the agreement is continuing," Abed Rabbo told reporters.

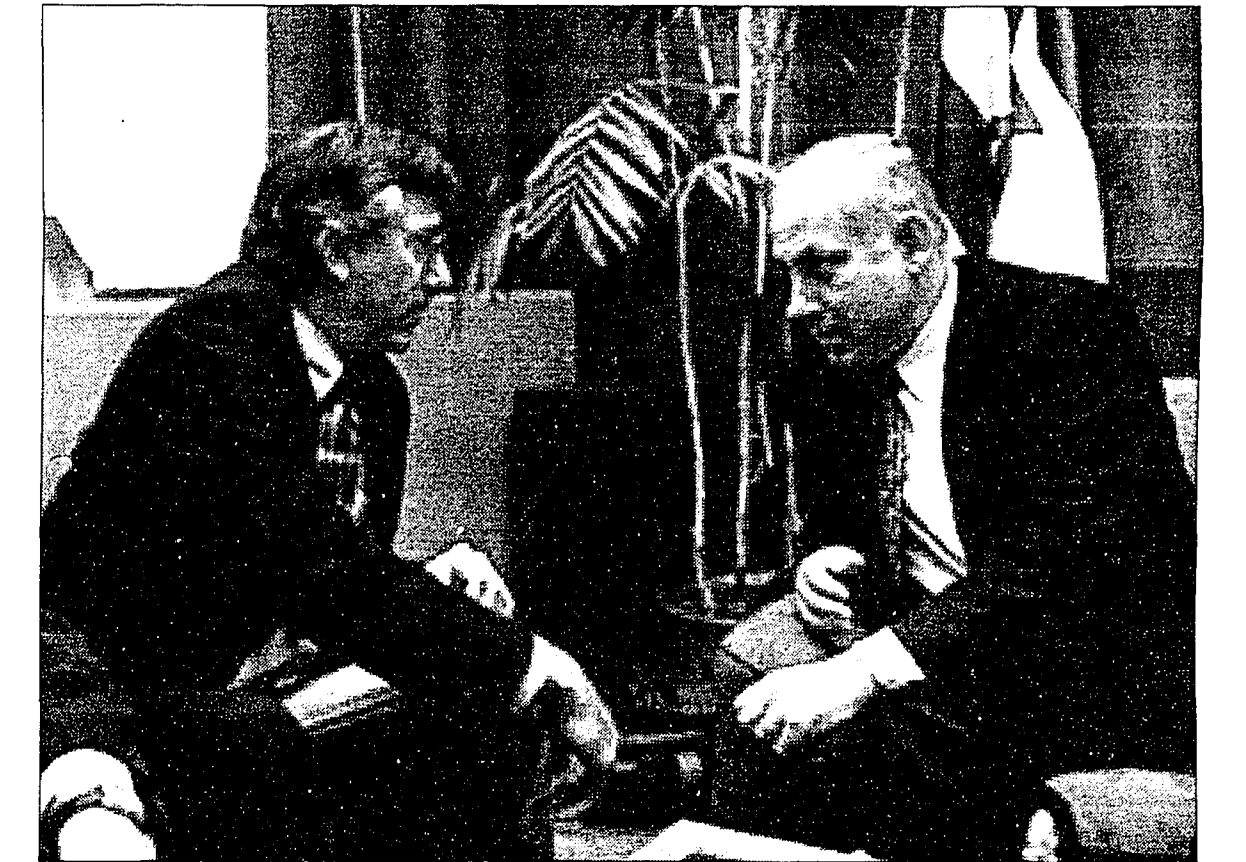
The Palestinians have never before said so clearly that there would be no talks unless settlement activity stops.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reportedly told a meeting of his ruling National Party on Saturday that Israeli construction in east Jerusalem will "leave the door wide open to all kinds of religious fundamentalism, be it Jews, Muslims or Christians."

"Tensions and violence will not cease until the construction in east

Jerusalem stops. ... There is no other solution," Mubarak said, according to Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

Israel army radio said Ross had proposed to Israel and the Palestinians that they set up an emergency team to restore confidence and prevent a future breakdown in communications.



U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross speaks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his office in Jerusalem Friday. Ross was on a two-day mission to salvage disintegrating peace efforts and prepare the ground for a broader U.S. initiative.

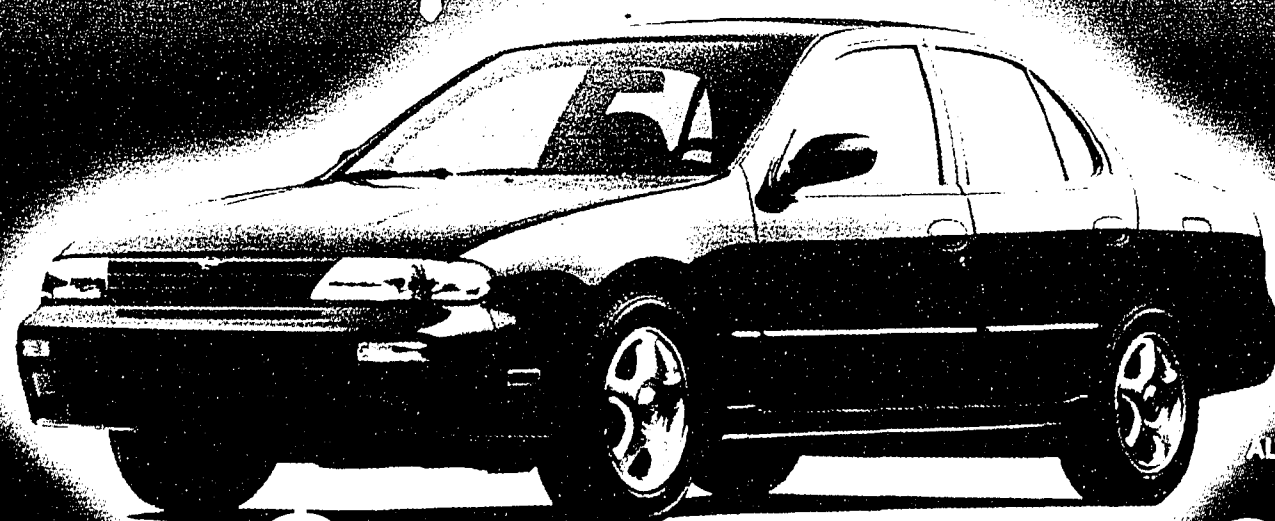
AP Photo

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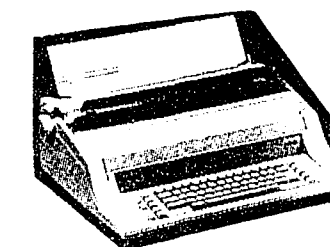


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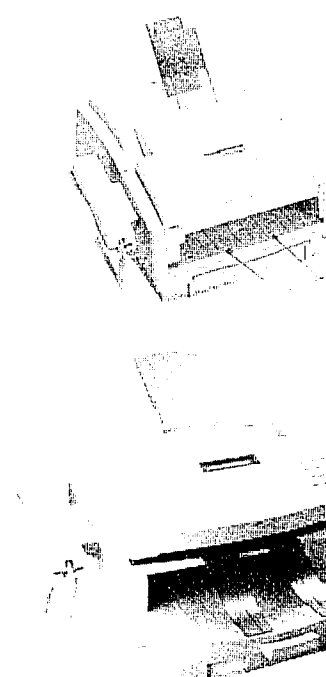


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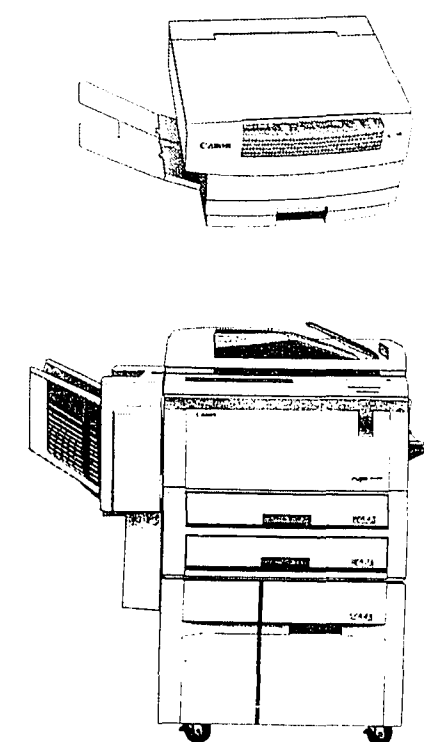
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Grenade blasts kill ten

By SOM SATTANA
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia
(AP) - At least 10 people were killed and 101 wounded - including Cambodia's leading opposition politician - in a grenade attack Sunday at a political demonstration. Cambodian officials said.

Leading politician, 24 others hurt in Cambodia political rally

Khmer Nation Party in a rally against the governing Cambodian People's Party outside the National Assembly.

The bloody attack throws uncertainty on the future of Cambodia's fragile democracy and follows predictions of rising political violence as parties maneuver for legislative elections scheduled for November 1998.

Rainsy was slightly injured in the leg from shrapnel. A bodyguard who threw himself on the political leader to shield him was ripped apart from the blasts and killed. Rainsy was driven to safety by aides.

Appearing at a news conference later, his clothes soaked in blood and the left lens of his glasses cracked, the outspoken Rainsy blamed the attack on police and army "terrorists" taking orders from the former communist CPP, led by his bitter enemy, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"Hun Sen... the bloody guy, he should be sentenced and arrested,"

said Rainsy. "This is a terrible setback for the democratic process in Cambodia. It bodes ill for the national elections."

Khieu Kanharith, the secretary of state for information, said that at least 10 people were killed and 101 wounded.

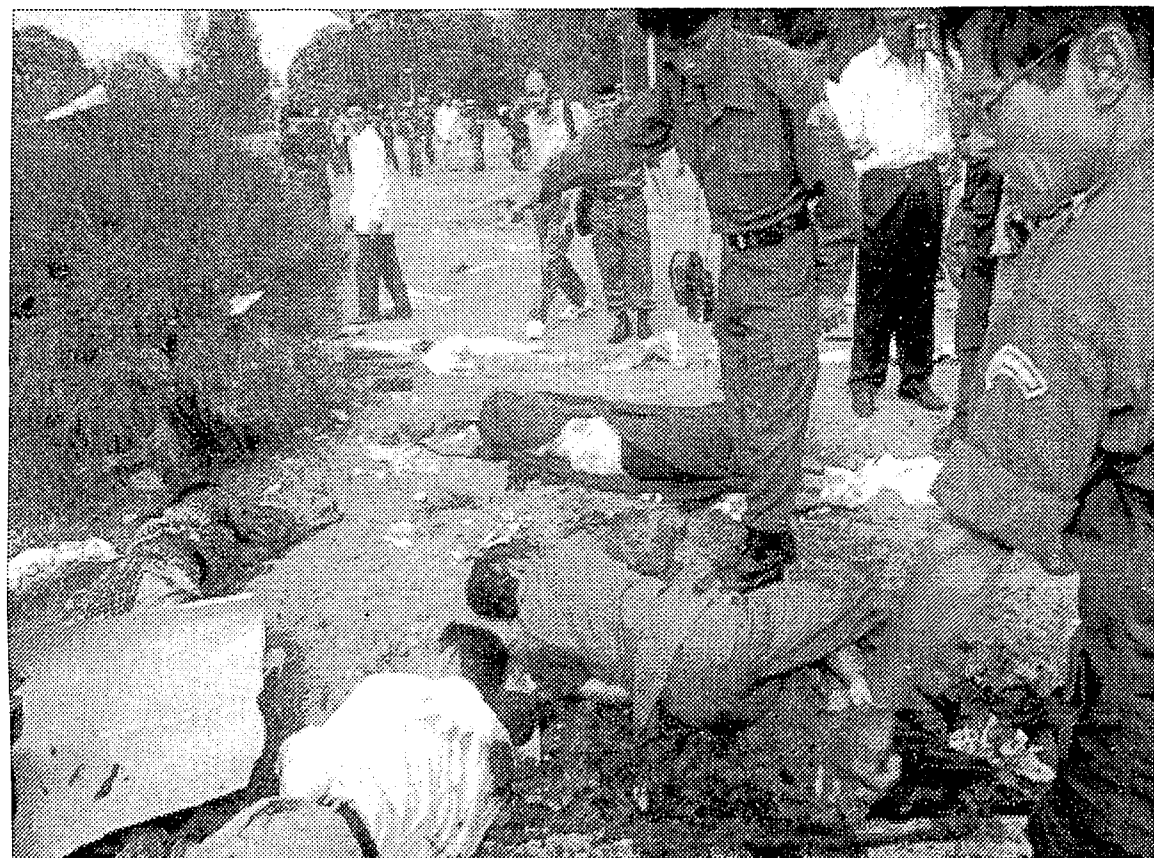
The injured included a U.S. citizen, Ron Abney, 55, of the International Republican Institute, a democracy advisory group. Abney, of Cochran, Georgia, was struck in the groin by shrapnel and was expected to be evacuated to Thailand for medical treatment. It was not immediately known if other foreigners were

hurt. Large numbers of military police were deployed in parts of the capital after the attack.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, a political ally of Rainsy, issued a statement condemning the attack and calling for a full investigation. He named no suspects.

"This is a totally unacceptable and barbaric act in our society," Ranariddh said.

Widespread violence has been predicted in the run-up to parliamentary elections next year pitting the CPP, Cambodia's most powerful party, against an alliance including Rainsy's party and the royalist FUNCINPEC.



Cambodian security police officers count the number of dead and wounded after three hand grenades exploded in a crowd of demonstrators in front of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh on Sunday. AP Photo

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

DEAN H. BUSH

This is to inform all clients and friends of Mr. Dean Bush, Vice President of PML, better known as "DOCTOR", of South San Francisco, Ca., was called to his eternal rest on March 24, 1997 at the age of 75.

Predeceased by his WIFE: Betty Bush. Survived by his SON: Bill Bush, DAUGHTER: Deana Deal, and GRAND DAUGHTER: Jessica Deal

There will be a Masonic Service in San Francisco with the family. Your condolences can be sent through letters and cards to his daughter, Deana Deal, at 1077 Courtland, Milpitas, CA 95035.

We will all miss the "DOCTOR". Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family, may he rest in peace.



Gore on his visit to China:

'Mission was accomplished'

By JOHN KING
WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. Vice President Al Gore returned from his most high-profile overseas trip with virtually nothing in terms of specific commitments from the Chinese.

But beyond any specific pledges or issues, Gore advisers said the paramount goal was to gain a better insight into China's leaders and develop a personal rapport with them. Gore claimed significant success on this front.

Heading home after his trying Asia journey, Gore said Saturday that talks in Beijing created critical "new momentum" in U.S.-China relations.

"I think the mission was accomplished," Gore said in Seoul, the final stop on a weeklong trip that included visits to Tokyo, three Chinese cities, the South Korean capital and the tense Demilitarized Zone separating the Korean peninsula.

The stops in Seoul and Tokyo were courtesy calls on solid U.S. allies, and marked Gore's first visit to South Korea in 21 years of government service. It also was his first time in China, the anchor of a trip designed to promote President Clinton's policy of engaging China on economic and security issues despite long-festering disputes about personal, political and religious freedoms.

"We made true progress in lending forward momentum to the relationship with China while making it clear that the issues where we disagree will be pursued," Gore told reporters before boarding Air Force II for a 15-hour journey home that included a refueling stop in Alaska. He arrived in Washington late Saturday night.

On the first day of the visit, China did sign lucrative business contracts with General Motors and Boeing, and the vice president's visit helped push these deals to fruition.

Gore said President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng listened respectfully when he brought up human rights and pledged to take unspecified new steps to make it easier for U.S. companies to gain access to Chinese markets.

Aides acknowledged the Chinese have given such assurances in the past but then dragged their feet. But their assessment was that China was eager to be viewed as a more reliable partner and would take tangible steps to improve its image by the time Jiang travels to Washington this fall to meet Clinton.

"It is obvious in the aftermath of the visit that the Chinese feel, as we do, that we have new momentum in the relationship," Gore said. "We feel it will allow us to make more progress in areas like human rights, trade and non-proliferation" of nuclear weapons.

In any event, the many faces and styles of Gore were on full display over the course of a week that offered the vice president a firsthand look at the myriad changes unfolding in China, from Jiang's steps out of the shadow of the late Deng Xiaoping to the stunning economic growth in

Shanghai.

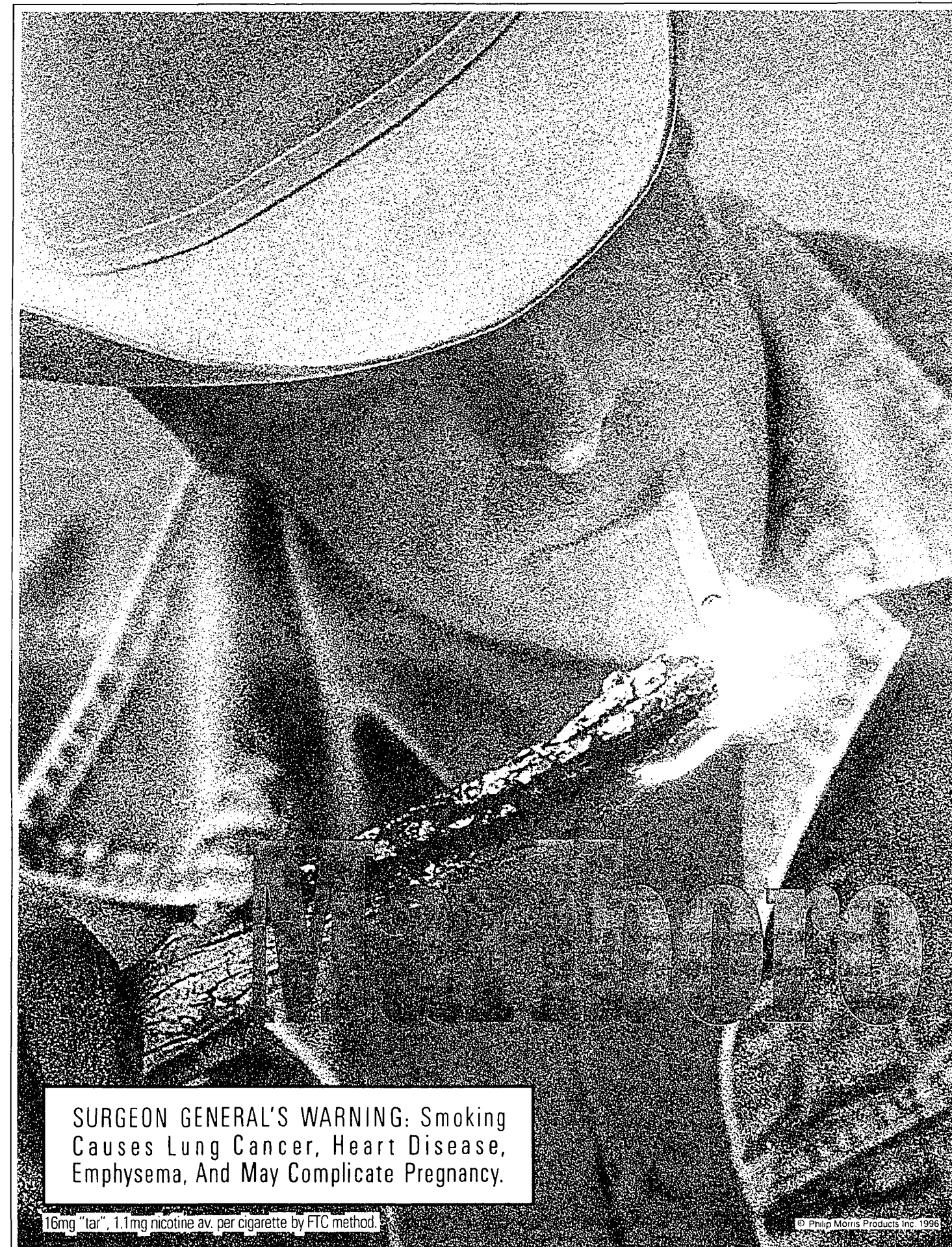
Over the week, Gore demonstrated himself to be a far more complicated figure than the cartoon caricature of a wooden vice president.

He made it known early in the trip that he believed China's leaders react more positively to private entreaties than public criticism. He stuck to this script, disappointing human rights groups and American business interests who wanted tougher public posturing.

Speaking privately to reporters traveling with him, Gore offered several animated assessments of China's political and economic environment - and its leaders. While he was sharp and probing in these sessions, Gore was the model of caution in his public remarks in China.



U.S. Vice President Al Gore reviews honor guards upon his arrival at Seoul Military Airbase Friday. AP Photo



ANNOUNCEMENT

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/s/ JESUS S. DELEON GUERRERO
Mayor of Saipan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note, there has been a change in the price of Waterpark Passes at the Pacific Islands Club. Effective April 1st, 1997, Waterpark Prices are as follows:

Children under 18 years old \$15.00

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Cult leader's son apologizes

By AMANDA COVARRUBIAS
SAN DIEGO (AP) - Private guards keep watch at a hilltop mansion. A son apologizes for a father he barely knew. Friends and relatives of cult members who killed themselves seem resigned to their loss.

"I am deeply hurt by the knowledge that people have now lost their lives in connection with my father," Mark Applewhite said in a statement Saturday. "My sympathy and prayers go out to all those who are suffering the loss of loved ones."

Applewhite, 40, is the son of Marshall Herff Applewhite, the Heaven's Gate cult leader who committed suicide Wednesday with 38

followers in an expensive mansion in Rancho Santa Fe.

"We're of mixed emotions," said Applewhite, who described himself as a born-again Christian "with the real ticket to heaven."

"My father is dead - that's painful. It's sort of like we've been through a grieving process and now we're seeking closure," he said.

Applewhite hadn't seen his father since he was 5, when his parents got divorced. It had been years, too, for the loved ones of many of his father's followers.

Investigator Bob Engel, who has been notifying families of the deaths, said most relatives were subdued.

"They seemed resigned to it," Engel said. "These families realize these people took their own lives of their own choosing."

Autopsies continued Saturday, with bodies stored in a refrigerated truck outside the coroner's office. Most families sent funeral homes to collect bodies rather than make the trip themselves.

"We got towels, we're crying so much," said Eartha Hill of Cincinnati, whose daughter-in-law, Yvonne McCurdy-Hill, was among the dead at the nine-room estate rented by the Heaven's Gate cult.

Twenty-one autopsies were finished and pathologists planned to work

through the weekend to finish the rest.

The family of cult member Erika Ernst went to the coroner's office in two campers. They refused to speak with reporters and were the only relatives to claim a body personally.

Another family, two women and a man, visited late in the afternoon and left without speaking to reporters.

The dead were found in their beds with purple shrouds over their faces.



FILE—Marshall Herff Applewhite, left, the cult leader who committed suicide with 38 others in a Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., mansion, is shown in Houston, Tex., in 1972 with his fellow preacher Bonnie Lu Trusdale. AP Photo/San Francisco Examiner and Houston Post Nettles.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that the CUC Human Resources System shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Lower Base, Saipan is looking for applicants for the following position:

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This announcement closes on April 09, 1997. Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, The CUC Rota or Tinian office. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police clearance and a copy of the high school diploma.

/s/TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

California mass suicide:

A case of 'UFO spirituality'

By DAVID FOSTER
RANCHO SANTA FE, California (AP) - Heaven's Gate followers thought a comet would whisk them to a higher plane, raising them Christlike to a safe and peaceful place. To prepare for transport, they killed themselves.

Crazy? So say cult-watchers who dismiss the mass suicide of 39 people as the product of "delusional beliefs."

But thoughts of death and resurrection are hardly confined to California cults, especially around the Easter holiday. The story of Jesus dying on the cross and rising from his tomb lies at the core of Christianity.

If this suicide cult's New Age trappings of UFO spirituality seemed bizarre, its frustrations with worldly woes and its dreams of a better life beyond were more familiar.

Heaven's Gate leader Marshall Applewhite called himself "The Present Representative" of the spirit that filled Christ 2,000 years ago.

"Our mission is exactly the same," he said on the group's Web site. He urged followers to leave behind their "mammalian humanism" on this troubled planet and join him on a UFO that he said was trailing the Hale-Bopp comet. Only then could they reach the next "Evolutionary Level," he said.

There are important distinctions between the original Easter story and this would-be tale of resurrection, say mainstream theologians.

Jesus braved the cross alone, dying to shoulder the sins of true believers, noted the Rev. Michael A.L. Eckelkamp, pastor at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church near Rancho Santa Fe.

While mainstream Christianity assumes an afterlife, it also considers the current life sacred. Eckelkamp said suicide is a supremely selfish act that ignores the grief of loved ones left behind.

"Our Lord is one who promotes life," he said. "He doesn't promote death."

Eckelkamp was not surprised that the cult found meaning in a glowing comet.

"The name Lucifer comes from a Latin word meaning light-bearer," he said. "Evil often seeks to take what is truth and work some subtle changes on it."

A few would blame Christianity itself for the route Applewhite and his followers followed. The Bible is filled with absurdities, said Ann Gaylor, president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, an atheist group based in Madison, Wisconsin.

"Talking bushes. Talking snakes. Jesus healing blindness with spit," Gaylor said. "If you're going to tell people that this is true, what's so strange about UFOs and hooking a ride on a comet?"

If it were only the likes of Eckelkamp and Gaylor debating, things would be relatively simple. But there is a vast sea of religious offerings available, now made all the more accessible by the Internet technology that gave Heaven's Gate a broader reach.

While commentators warned of "cybercults" recruiting followers on their Web sites, most failed to note

that the Vatican has a Website, too. A quick amble through cyberspace can get one proselytized by adherents of beliefs from Asatru to Zoroastrianism.

That diversity poses problems for those seeking answers to life's deep questions, said Paul Saffo, a trend-watcher at the Institute For The Future in Menlo Park, California.

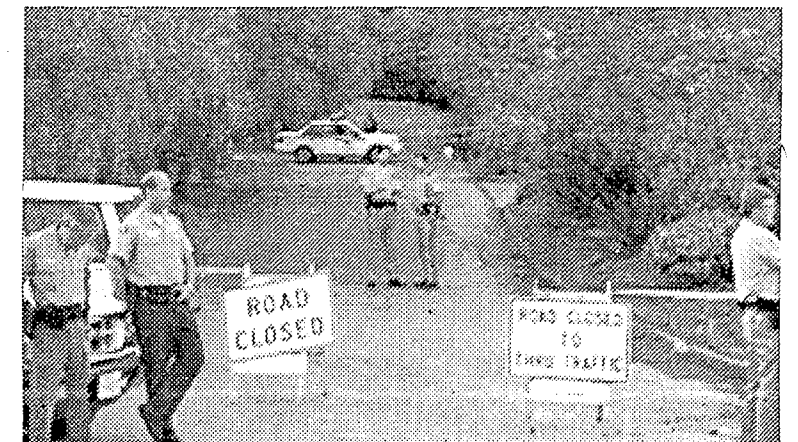
"People are picking and choosing from a cultural cafeteria line and assembling the elements into something that matches their deepest hopes and deepest fears," Saffo said. "The result can be wildly unpredictable."

What to believe? The question

plagues Alex Fleet, 23, who was befriended by members of Heaven's Gate. He works at a Rancho Santa Fe car wash where cult members regularly took their small fleet of cars and vans.

They liked Fleet. He had an open mind. They never persuaded him to join them - "They said I'd have to be celibate," Fleet explains - but he understands what drove his friends to make the ultimate leap of faith.

"This is a tough world, and they thought there was a much better place somewhere else," he said. "They might be right."



San Diego County Sheriff's deputies stand at the entrance of a road Friday which leads to a mansion where the bodies of 21 women and 18 men were found Wednesday in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. AP Photo

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Miyuki Monobe, on stretcher, is seen as the 8-year-old Japanese girl arrives at Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday. Miyuki, who was born with a large hole in her heart and a narrowing of her aorta, was flown to the United States for a heart transplant this weekend.

AP Photo

Japanese girl checks in at UCLA hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) - An 8-year-old girl Japanese girl whose country's strict laws make transplants virtually impossible has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital for a heart transplant evaluation.

Miyuki Monobe, of Shinagawa, Japan, was born with a large hole in her heart and a narrow aorta, which supplies blood to the body and brain. She's been in and out of hospitals all her life.

She was admitted to UCLA Medical Center in critical but stable condition, said pediatric heart and lung transplant nurse Caron Utley. She said Miyuki has been placed on the waiting list of the United Network of Organ Sharing.

"Basically it will be a waiting game for an organ," Utley said.

Miyuki will be evaluated Monday by UCLA's Dr. Juan Alejos, a pediatric cardiologist, and Dr.

Hillel Laks, chief of cardiothoracic surgery.

If she is found suitable for transplant, the wait could be "hours to months," depending on blood type, said Roxanne Moster, a UCLA spokeswoman.

Cardiologist Hidemi Todo, who has been treating Miyuki at the National Children's Hospital in Tokyo, has said she "will not survive unless she can get a new heart."

UCLA surgeons have performed more than 700 heart transplants.

Miyuki's case has received much attention in Japan, where sympathetic donors have provided more than \$560,000, to help pay for the operation.

There has only been one heart transplant performed in Japan - 30 years ago. There is no formal government ban, but in Japan, brain death is not legally accepted, making it very difficult to find transplantable organs.

Under current laws, death is only recognized after the patient's heart stops beating. Once the heart has stopped, it deteriorates rapidly and becomes unsuitable for transplantation.

The girl's case has sparked renewed calls for an easing of regulations that force patients to seek transplants overseas.

Two bodies found in train wreck

LYTTON, British Columbia (AP) - The bodies of two crew members have been retrieved from the charred wreckage of a freight train that derailed and fell into a 20-meter (65-foot)-deep sinkhole.

The remains of locomotive engineer Terry Gallis, 39, and conductor Don Fink, 45, both of Kamloops, were found late Friday, coroner Marie Heaster said Saturday.

Investigators from the railway, the Kamloops coroner's office and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police sifted through the debris after descending into the sinkhole, the result of a washout under the tracks of the Canadian National main line near this community about 175 kilometers (110 miles) northeast of Vancouver.

A mudslide is blamed for the derailment, which hurled two locomotives and eight freight cars into the 50-meter (165-foot) wide hole last Wednesday. The wreckage and chemical cargo caught fire, which kept searchers away from the scene until Friday.

Despite high-tech warning systems, the crew had no warning a massive washout had undercut the track.

Buckle-Up Saipan

Brooke Shields marks first season of sitcom

By BOB THOMAS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Brooke Shields is reaching the end of her first season in the successful sitcom "Suddenly Susan" hoping for another five years.

Ms. Shields has proved a talented comedian, although "Suddenly Susan" also benefited from the cushiest timeslot in television, sandwiched on Thursday night between "Seinfeld" and "ER," winners both.

Born with a rare beauty, Ms. Shields began modeling at age 2. She achieved notoriety in 1978 when she played a 12-year-old New Orleans prostitute in Louis Malle's "Pretty Baby." Then she caused a commotion in 1980's "The Blue Lagoon," in which she seemed to be swimming in the nude (she wasn't - a body double was used).

Hersubsequent filmshave been undistinguished, but she has earned a fortune from endorsements and TV commercials. And she's become a front-row regular at the international tennis tournaments where she cheers on fiance Andre Agassi.

1. Did you follow sports before you met Andre Agassi?

Ms. Shields: Not much at all. I was usually too busy working to turn on the television, and I had no great interest in sports, anyway. But that has changed.

2. What were your favorite sports as a player?

Ms. Shields: I wasn't really too involved in sports; I was more interested in dancing. But I did like to play soccer.

3. Do you ever look sloppy?

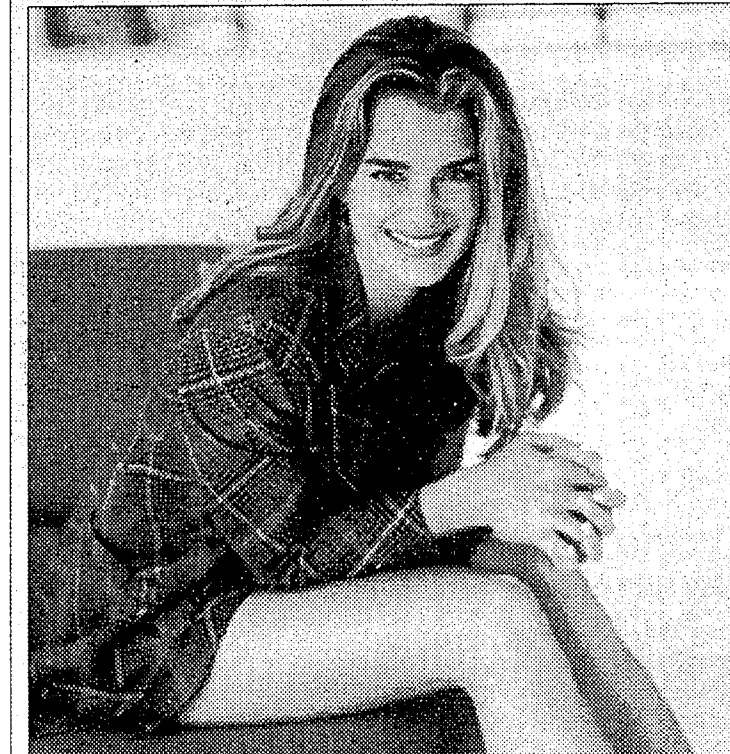
Ms. Shields: All the time. My favorite clothes are sweat suits. I like to hike and climb, and it's such a relief not to have to get all dressed up.

4. If you could change anything about your looks, what would it be?

Ms. Shields: I can't think of anything I would change. What I would like to change is the way people look at me.

5. If you could choose any place in the world for a honeymoon, where would that be?

Ms. Shields: Some place with privacy. But I doubt if that's attainable.



Brooke Shields has defied her detractors and scored a solid first season in her debut as a situation comedy actress in NBC's "Suddenly Susan."

AP File Photo

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At the movies:

Pitt, Ford in 'The Devil's Own'

By BOB THOMAS

THE TROUBLES," the endless conflict in North Ireland, have become a favored subject for filmmakers. And why not? The situation offers violence, intrigue, human drama, and more violence - explosions, automatic weapons, point-blank shootings.

"The Devil's Own" brings "The Troubles" to New York City with the same violent results.

The story begins in rural Ireland, where a man suspected of sympathizing with the Irish Republican Army is having supper with his wife and children. The door of the modest home flies open and two masked men enter. The father receives fatal shots in the chest, and the killers flee.

The father's son grows up to be Frankie McGuire (Brad Pitt), who seeks his revenge by slaying English soldiers in Belfast. When a bombing is anticipated by the anti-terrorist forces, Frankie is caught in an ambush. He escapes, but he realizes Belfast is too hot for him.

Frankie flees to New York, where he is assigned to acquire munitions for the IRA cause.

Here's where the scriptwriters spring their gimmick: A sympathetic judge arranges for Frankie to board with a New York cop and his family. Tom O'Meara (Harrison Ford) is a peace-loving officer who brings humanity to his work.

Frankie sets about his dangerous mission: to secure a large cache of Russian missiles and transport them to Ireland on a small boat. His activities bring violence to the police officer's home, and O'Meara begins to delve into the young man's life.

After a number of killings, the cop and the terrorist meet for the final shootout.

"The Devil's Own" is a tale you want to believe, because Ford and Pitt are such persuasive actors. But there are too many incongruities along the way, too many unanswered questions. (Is he going across the ocean alone on that boat?

Does he know navigation?)

Gossip reports that script troubles were rife during filming and the two stars did not get along. If true, the film reflects that. There is a slapdash atmosphere to the proceedings, as though the filmmakers relied on the usual movie tricks to pump up the action. What might have shed light on "The Troubles" becomes merely another exercise in violence.

Both Ford and Pitt do star turns with their usual skill, and support is added by Margaret Colin as O'Meara's wife, Ruben Blades as his faulty partner, and Treat Williams as a New York restaurateur and munitions dealer.

"The Devil's Own" is a Columbia Pictures release, directed by Alan J. Pakula and produced by Lawrence Gordon and Lawrence F. Colesberry. Kevin Jarre devised the story and wrote the script with David Aaron Cohen and Vincent Patrick. The film opened in the United States March 26.



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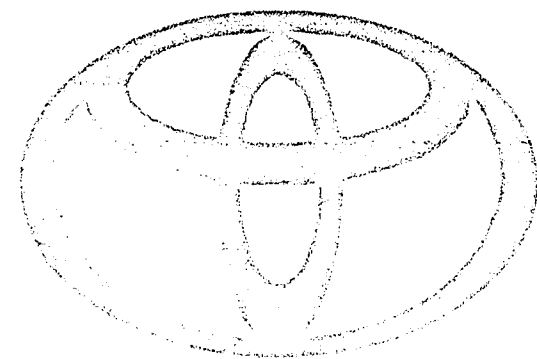
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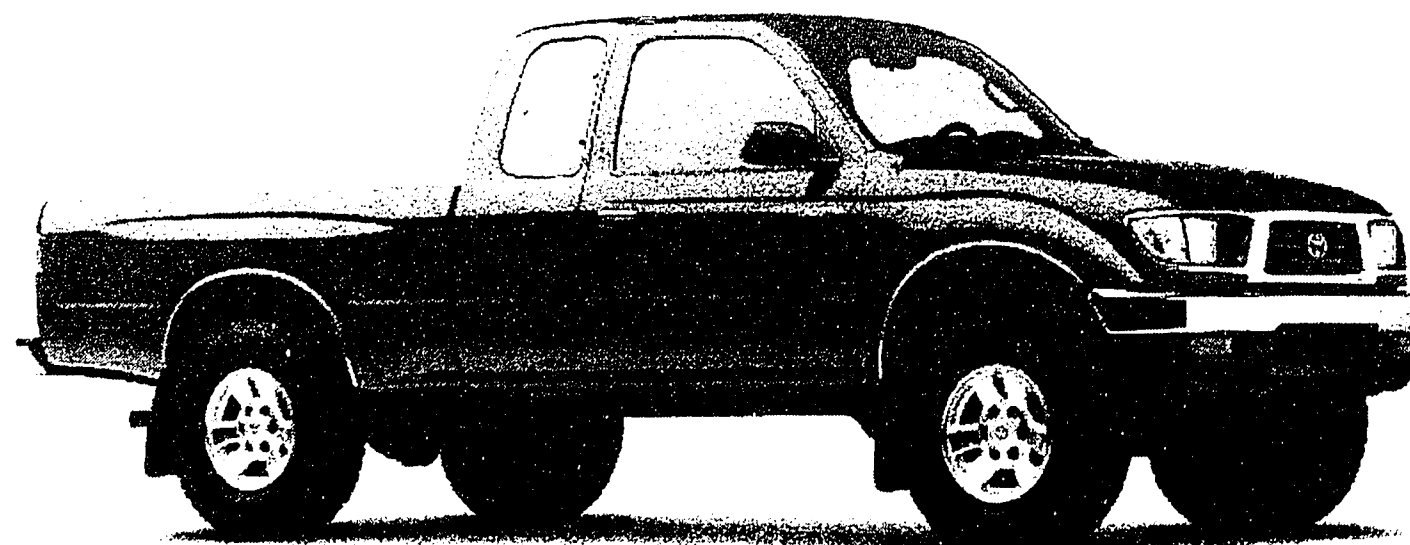


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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-116

DOLORES HOASHI LIZAMA, Plaintiff,

v.
KIM JU YEAN, JANG DOO YOUNG, ZHU XIAO CHUN, YANG YONG, XU YUN LU, YONG JIN KIM, WON JUNG JA, and HAK BIN KIM Defendants.**CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-116 SUMMONS**

TO: KIM JU YEAN, ZHU XIAO CHUN, YANG YONG, XU YUN LU, YONG JIN KIM, WON JUNG JA, and HAK BIN KIM

You are hereby summoned and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, within thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons in this newspaper, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

By order of the above Court.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Commonwealth Superior Court

Dated this 13th day of March, 1997

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-270

MARIA ELENA BAUTISTA, ADELAIDA DELA CRUZ, EDUARDO GRUPO, PLACIDO MANALO, ROBERT SAEVEDRA, ZENIDA ESPINOSA, ANTONIO PASQUAL, ARTHUR BISNAR, STEPHEN DOLINO, ALBERTO ABANTE, and MARITRESS JALIBAWA, Plaintiffs,

versus
JONAH D. VANDERGRIFFF dba LASCO MANPOWER SERVICES, Respondent.SUMMONS
TO DEFENDANT JONAH D. VANDERGRIFFF DBA LASCO MANPOWER SERVICES:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint of which is given you herewith, within (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, at Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon plaintiff's counsel, Atty. V.K. Savinay, P.O. Box 729 Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

By order of the above Court.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Superior Court
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

Dated this 10 day of March, 1997

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1078

GEORGE FLEMING dba FAS MOVING & STORAGE CO., Plaintiff,

vs.
TONY MARTOS, Defendant.**CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1078 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATIONS**

The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to Defendant Tony Martos:

You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty (20) days after final publication of this summons, to wit, on or before the 28th day of April, 1997, and defend the above-entitled action in the above-entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff, and serve a copy of your answer upon the plaintiff's attorney at:

Law Offices of Douglas F. Cushnie
San Jose Village
Lima's Bldg., 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 949
Saipan, MP 96950

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you according to the demand set forth in the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of the court.

Dated this 14th day of March, 1997.

JOVITA FLORES
Clerk of Court

BY: /s/ DEPUTY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1050

ROY S. REYES, Plaintiff,

vs.
JON YE CHOI KIM, SEONG SOO KIM, AKIYAMA YUKISHIEGI, Defendants.**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 you herewith, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to KENNETH L. GOVENDO, Attorney at Law whose address is P.O. Box 237, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT

Dated this 17 day of September, 1996.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court**RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

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Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1

issues, specifically on how CUC's finances are managed.

Guerrero, at one point, cut the power supply of the Legislature over a controversy involving salary increases for public servants.

Guerrero, who was former Gov. Larry Guerrero's top political

strategist, also got entangled in a dispute with the House when he refused to yield CUC documents subpoenaed by an oversight committee. He was charged with contempt but it was later on dismissed.

CUC's performance under his management was used as a campaign issue against then governor Guerrero by Tenorio, the Democratic Party's gubernatorial bet in the 1993 election.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

KWIKI HWAN LEE KIM, HELI JEONG KIM and KYU HONG KIM, Plaintiffs,

vs.
AKIYOSHI MATSUMOTO, PRO-DIVE SAIPAN, INC., THE TOKIO MARINE & FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD. and YOSHIYUKI NOHARA, Defendants.**CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1112**

ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

Upon consideration of the within-contained Motion, good cause appearing, it is hereby:

ORDERED, that the Summons and Complaint may be served upon Defendants, Akiyoshi Matsumoto and Yoshiyuki Nohara, in the above-captioned matter, as follows:

a) By posting a true and correct copies of the Summons, Complaint, and this Order in at least one conspicuous public place within the Municipality of Saipan.

b) By publication in the newspaper of local circulation a true and correct copies of the Summons, Complaint, or this Order.

Defendant shall have thirty (30) days from completion of the foregoing in which to appear or otherwise plead in the matter.

DATED this 21st day of March, 1997.

/s/ JUDGE OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT

Torres . . .

Continued from page 1

executive, Cap Fu, said a lot of passengers had complained of seasickness and that some of them would vomit during trips.

Each of the ferries had seats for 333 passengers.

JAL . . .

Continued from page 1

The number of visitors from the Kinki area is second to that of visitors coming from the Kanto area, which comprises Tokyo, Kawasaki, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gumma, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Yamaguchi.

The daily flights from Tokyo to Saipan are all direct.

Last month, visitors from the Kinki area numbered 5,065, which is an increase of 4 percent over the same month last year, which registered a total of 4,876.

In comparison the visitors from Kanto area decreased slightly from 19,741 in February last year to 19,719 last month.

Two other areas—Tokai (Nagoya) and Hokkaido (Sapporo)—registered increases in visitors, while seven prefectures, in addition to Kanto, registered decreases last month.

According to the schedule, the Wednesday and Saturday flights from Osaka will arrive in Saipan at 2:15 p.m.

On Mondays, the arrival is 1:15 p.m.; on Thursdays and Sundays, at 1:20 p.m.

The flights with Guam stop-over on Tuesdays and Fridays arrive here at 4:50 p.m.

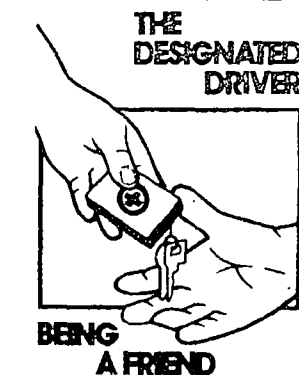
CUC . . .

Continued from page 1

He said his E.O., which proposes to split CUC into two new agencies, the Marianas Power Authority (NMPA) and the Northern Marianas Water Authority (NMWA), would lead to lower power rates.

CUC's sewer and water division is currently losing money, Tenorio added, and has to be subsidized by the power division, which is making money.

Benavente said Tuesday, however, that even if the E.O. could lead to reduced power rates, the people would then have to pay higher taxes to subsidize the water and sewer operations.

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01 SALES, SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
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01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00-5.00 per hour
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22-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-MONDAY- MARCH 31, 1997

EEK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you have an unusual way of going about your everyday business, in that you never approach it as routine. Everything you do, more often than not, is embraced as something special — and so, of course, it is. You enjoy getting in touch with those parts of yourself that are rarely displayed to the world around you, and in this way you are able to maximize results even when there are previous few rewards available to you. You know how to set and maintain the standard for your kind of work.

You have an unusual character, and a rather strange temperament as well, and it is not easy for others to anticipate your next move. There are some, in fact, who think you are simply weird and think it is easier to interact with others — and sometimes it is.

Also born on this date are: Herb Alpert, musician; Richard Chamberlain, Christopher Walken, actors; Al Gore, Jr., U.S. Vice President; Rhea Perlman, actress.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be

your daily guide.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Underlying tensions must not keep you from surging forward today. Separate domestic and professional concerns.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may not be able to perform up to par today, but you'll be a part of the game that is remembered in the long run.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may be turning from something that you can rely on in order to focus an inordinate amount of attention on something far more risky.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You will be far more in tune with yourself and those around you this week than expected. Your ability to make snap decisions will prove impressive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You can be quite different this week and still fit in when you choose to do so. You don't have to isolate yourself in order to maximize your gains.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your responsibilities are clear today, and you know better than anyone how to fulfill them. You are not about to let anyone down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Your unusual behavior today is likely to be wholly justified, but you may want to explain yourself as clearly as you can, on occasion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — The strategy you usually rely on may not be appropriate today. You are going to have to think on your feet and come up with something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You are going to have to work hard to keep jealousy at bay today. Someone has something you dearly want; it's time to get motivated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — That which proves most difficult during morning hours will probably pay off handsomely later in the day. Stick with it if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — How others respond to you today may take you by surprise, but you can ride this wave of popularity for quite some time if you choose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may not prove to be the dominant influence that you expect today, but you will have an impact before nightfall. Others may be surprised.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

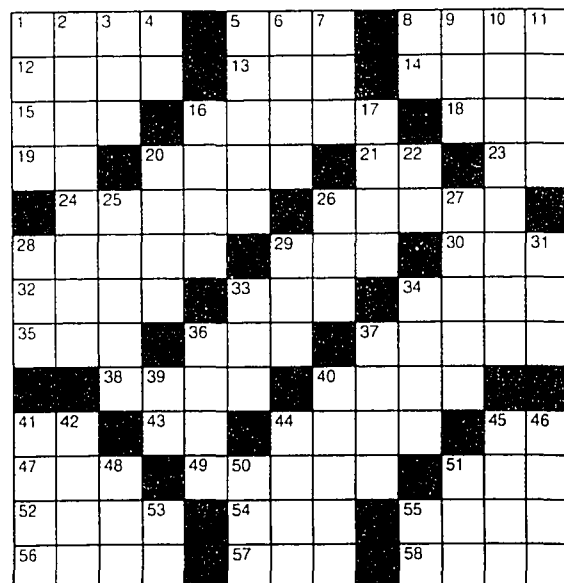
- Alphabets
- TV comedian (init.)
- Israeli dance
- Real-estate map
- Metric measure
- Combat between two people
- Lingus
- Ms. Papas
- Even score
- Tellurium symbol
- Mine passage
- Smallest St.
- State of the Wright Bros. National Memorial (abbr.)
- A Wayans
- Resided
- Outcome
- TV network
- Head honcho (abbr.)
- Emmets

DOWN

- Someone — for their money
- Quarry
- favor
- TV marine
- Someone — for their money
- Quarry
- favor
- TV marine

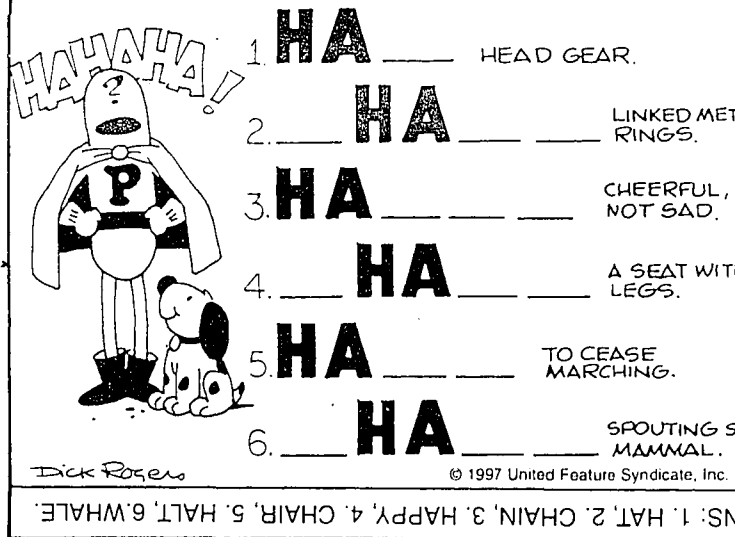
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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SO YOU THINK I LAUGH A LOT? WELL, I'LL GET THE LAST LAUGH WITH MY LAUGH TRAP. THERE'S A 'HA' IN EACH WORD OF THIS LAUGH-FILLED PUZZLE. TO FIND THE REST OF EACH WORD, USE THE DEFINITIONS AND FILL IN THE BLANKS.



National Basketball Association

Hawks win seventh in a row

ATLANTA (AP) — Christian Laettner had 24 points and 10 rebounds as Atlanta won its seventh straight, 88-74 over Sacramento on Saturday night.

Mookie Blaylock had 16 points, a season-high 12 rebounds, six assists and five steals for the Hawks. Dikembe Mutombo added 16 points and 15 rebounds, while Steve Smith had 23 points and seven assists.

Billy Owens scored 15 points for the Kings, who have lost four in a row. Sacramento star Mitch Richmond was held to 11 points on 3-of-15 shooting.

The Hawks moved within six percentage points of Detroit, which holds the No. 4 playoff position in the Eastern Conference. The Kings, who have lost eight straight on the road, dropped three

games behind the Los Angeles Clippers in the battle for the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Bullets 94, Mavericks 87
In Baltimore, Rod Strickland had 21 points and 13 assists as the Washington Bullets won their last game at Baltimore Arena.

Juwan Howard added 20 points, and Chris Webber had 17 points and 18 rebounds as the Bullets won their fourth straight to pull within a half game of idle Cleveland for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Mavericks have lost six in a row, one shy of their longest losing streak this season. Michael Finley led Dallas with 25 points.

Bulls 111 Nets 101

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 31 points and Michael Jordan had 21 points and 10 assists as the Chicago Bulls blew a 17-point lead before winning their seventh straight.

Jordan scored 13 points in the final quarter as the Bulls avenged their loss to the Nets earlier this month.

Jim Jackson scored a season-high 33 points for the Nets. Sam Cassell, who jawed with Jordan during the game, scored 29 but had only six in the second half.

Rockets 120, Nuggets 105

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 45 points, including 16 of 17 from the foul line, as Houston beat Denver. Houston built a 20-

point lead with 10:06 left, but Denver used a 20-7 run led by former Rocket Kenny Smith to cut the lead to 107-100 with 4:49 remaining. Smith scored nine points in the run and finished with 18.

But Olajuwon then scored six points as the Rockets increased their lead to 115-100 with 2:51 left. Olajuwon capped his performance in the closing seconds with a 3-pointer, only his fifth of the season.

LaPhonso Ellis led Denver with 24 points, and Antonio McDyess added 21.

Jazz 115, Spurs 102

In San Antonio, Karl Malone scored 33 points and the Utah Jazz made 44 free throws in winning their ninth straight.

Utah, which has the best record (54-17) in the Western Conference, went 14-1 in March. The Jazz were 44-of-58 from the foul line, setting a record for attempts by a Spurs opponent.

Bryon Russell added 18 points for Utah, and Malone had 12 rebounds.

Dominique Wilkins led the Spurs with 26 points, and moved into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list. He surpassed John Havlicek's 26,395 points.

NBA Basketball Standings Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	43	17	.713	—
New York	50	21	.704	1/2
Orlando	40	30	.571	10 1/2
Washington	36	35	.507	17 1/2
New Jersey	23	48	.324	30 1/2
Philadelphia	19	50	.275	33 1/2
Boston	13	59	.181	41

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	62	9	.873	—
Central Division				
Chicago	49	21	.701	—
Detroit	49	21	.701	—
Atlanta	50	22	.694	1/2
Charlotte	50	22	.694	1/2
Cleveland	36	34	.514	25 1/2
Indiana	34	36	.486	27 1/2
Milwaukee	29	42	.408	32 1/2
Toronto	25	47	.347	37 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	54	17	.761	—
Houston	46	22	.679	1/2
Minnesota	37	37	.500	10 1/2
Dallas	22	46	.324	31 1/2
Denver	19	51	.271	34 1/2
San Antonio	18	53	.254	36 1/2
Vancouver	12	52	.192	41 1/2

IBF Heavyweight title bout

Moorer decisions Bean



Detroit's Michael Moorer, right, connects with Chicago's Vaughn Bean in the second round of their IBF Heavyweight Championship fight Saturday in Las Vegas. Moorer won to retain his title. AP Photo

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Michael Moorer didn't do anything to please the crowd or his corner. About the only thing he did right Saturday night against Vaughn Bean was hang on to his IBF heavyweight title.

Moorer fought cautiously and defensively against an opponent who many thought shouldn't even have been in the ring, barely keeping his piece of the heavyweight title with a majority decision over Bean.

It was one of the least entertaining heavyweight title fights of recent years, and ended with boos from the crowd after 12 lethargic rounds at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Moorer made the fight much closer than it should have been, winning 116-113 on the scorecard of Bill Graham and 115-113 on the card of Jerry Roth. Judge Dave Moretti had it 114-114. The Associated Press had Moorer ahead 117-111.

"It was the style. I knew I won. I was the aggressor. I used my jab," Moorer said. "They say styles make fights. I did what I had to win. I knew I won."

Bean, a 5-1 underdog, didn't exactly take the fight to Moorer, but Moorer didn't take advantage of his opportunities when he had them. He never seemed to hurt the challenger and there were no knockdowns.

1997 Men's Islandwide Basketball League

Wheels, Ol'Aces dispute 1st finals' berth

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

The Toyota Wheels and surprising Lite Ol'Aces will dispute the first finals berth tonight in the featured game of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' 1997 Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

In the first game, defending champions, the UMDA Aces will go up against Get Covered Surf in another crucial encounter.

In their last outing, the Wheels rode on several 40-point leads in the final half to cushion a hot MGD streak from the three-point territory enroute to a 128-111 victory to remain undefeated in the playoffs.

The Ol'Aces, on the other hand, made the biggest ripple in the ongoing semifinals by nipping 1996 titlists, the UMDA Aces, last Wednesday.

Elias Ranganur played his best game

in the tournament leading the Ol'Aces over his former teammates. Ranganur proved unstoppable from both ends of the court racking 29 points aside from providing help defense all game long.

Edwin Bubos, Noel Remolano, Frank Iglesias, Felix Palacios and Dado Vistal are expected to lead the Wheels' offensive thrusts while David Chesley and Ed Cosino will man the boards for Tony Sablan's team.

George de Guzman, Luis Cepeda, Jess Pacheco and Danny Bieera can also be counted to provide quality minutes off the bench.

Tony Rogolifoi's team on the other hand, will lean on veterans Elias Ranganur, Winsor Peter, Peter Camacho, Jerry Ayuyu and Ryan Camacho as they try to sustain the momentum of their rousing upset win over UMDA.

Mike D'Eandra, Jim Hapkle, Elias Saratu, and Jeff Olopai can also fill in

the needed support for the Ol'Aces team.

In the first game, UMDA is expected to parade a complete line-up as they go up against the resurgent Get Covered Surf Five.

Playing Coach Steve Coleman will lean on Ric Alegre, Lloyd Hartman, Junior Rengull, Keith Gardner and Wayne Perry to keep the team's back-to-back title hopes alive. Waiting on the wings are Evan Gutierrez, Bob Lee, Joe Unatlan, Sean Frink, Mike Majors, and Mike Remsen.

High-flying Edsel Mendoza will be at the forefront of GCS' title drive along with Robert Quitugua, Gus Palacios, Jerry Benavente and John Acosta.

Coach Eric Atalg can also count on June Aaron, Tim Wesley, Felix Ayuyu, Jim Plunkert, Ray Roberto and George Masga to give his first stringers breathing spells.

Duenas ...

Continued from page 1

him to tie Duenas for the day's best mark.

Joe Wabol, Tony Taitano and Tony Rogolifoi shot the qualifying round's next best mark but Wabol bagged third place after beating the two in another tiebreaker.

Wabol amassed a gross 90 after having back-to-back 45s for the front and back nines and with his -17 handicap, finished the day two shots adrift of the winner.

Taitano, who has a -10 handicap, needed 42 shots in the front and a 41 in the back for an accumulated mark of 83.

Rogolifoi covered the 72-hole course with gross 86 on rounds of 44 and 42. A -13 handicap gave the RGA president a net 73.

In the tiebreaker, Wabol scored a 36.5 to edge Taitano by half a shot while Rogolifoi had a 37.5. Taitano settled for fourth while Rogolifoi wound up fifth.

Jess Wabol was sixth with a net 74 or three shots in front of Jess Lizama, Bill Kaipat and Henry Magofina. The three shot identical 77s.

Five golfers were bunched in joint 10th to 14th places.

Sid Taisacan, Leo Kani, Joe Camacho, Tino Olopai and Joe Matnas wound up with similar 78s.

Duenas made it a double victory by winning the closest to the pin award in hole number 3 while Jess Lizama won a similar award for hole number 14.

A total of 24 golfers competed for the April Qualifying Tournament.

(9-15) thrashed Buceat I and Surveying (9-5, 14-5), 3-1; and JCW Wholesale (9-15) and Budweiser (13-11) fought to a 2-2 draw.

In related event, Danny Robles currently occupies the top slot in the individual standings in the February Bowler of the Month with 637 pins.

Robert Talavera is second with 597 while Jim Fidelino is third after rolling 591 pins.

Virgilio Imperial and Val Marcelo are fourth and fifth with 577 and 572 pins respectively.

DATE BOOK

March 30, 1997

Today is the 89th day of 1997 and the 11th day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1842, ether was used as a surgical anesthetic for the first time.

On this day in 1964, "Jeopardy!" premiered on television.

On this day in 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot by an assailant in Washington, D.C.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Francisco Jose de Goya (1746-1828), artist; Paul Verlaine (1844-1896), poet; Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), artist; Frankie Laine (1913-), singer, is 84; John Astin (1930-), actor-director, is 67; Warren Beatty (1938-), actor-director, is 59; Eric Clapton (1945-), musician, is 52.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1981, Indiana defeated North Carolina 63-50 to win the NCAA basketball tournament.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The sleep of reason produces monsters." — Francisco Jose de Goya

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1938, a tornado destroyed a large brick farmhouse near Edwardsville, Ill.

SOURCE: 1997 Weather Guide Calendar, Aereca Publishing, Ltd.

TODAY'S MOON: Day before last quarter.

The state flower of North Carolina is the dogwood.

The state tree of Minnesota is the Norway pine.

The real-life Cyrano de Bergerac was a poet and science-fiction writer named after Thomas Jefferson.

Jeffersonia diphylia is a plant named after Thomas Jefferson.

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SPORTS



Dela Cruz's grand slam powers San Vicente to its 4th straight win

A's rout Lions, 24-0



On a roll—The San Vicente A's flash the victory sign after scoring their 4th straight win yesterday in the 1997 Little League at the San Vicente Elem. School Ball Park. With them are assistant coaches Rudy Aguon (1st from left) and John DL Guerrero. Not in photo is head coach Joe Sanchez. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

RAY DELA Cruz blasted a grand slam in the opening inning as the San Vicente A's routed the

Kagman Lions, 24-0, yesterday for their 4th straight win in the 1997 Little League at the San Vicente Elem. School Ball Park. In other results, MVR Ol'Aces

bounced back to the winning trail by hacking a two run win over St. Jude Hustlers, 12-10, in the first game while the Pirates tamed Kautz Glass Tigers, 16-9, as the

TEAM STANDINGS

National Division	W	L	American Division	W	L
San Vicente A's	4	0	San Roque D-9ers	3	0
MVR Ol'Aces	3	1	Dandan Jets	3	0
Garapan Pirates	2	2	SA Cardinals	3	1
KG Tigers	1	3	Tanapag Falcons	2	1
Kagman Lions	1	3	CK Little Padres	0	3
SJ Hustlers	1	3	Kagman Braves	1	3
			YCO/BK YSS	0	4

Garapan team leveled its win loss slate to 2-2.

A's 24, Lions 0

The Athletics streaked to their fourth consecutive victory after posting the lopsided win against the Lions.

Dela Cruz belted the ball towards the right side of the field with the bases loaded as the A's artillery pounded the Lions bullpen with one hit one after another. Dela Cruz likewise scored four runs while Frank Muna had three hits, four runs and drove-in four runs-batted-in (RBIs).

Jessie Aguon took the win after fanning six batters while issuing three hits and three base-on-balls

in leading the A's to an abbreviated match against the Lions.

The setback dropped the Lions to their second consecutive loss for an overall record of 1-3.

Ol'Aces 12, Hustlers 10

Nelson Simon took care of defense while Jess Wabol Jr. led the offense as MVR Ol'Aces took their third win in four starts at the expense of St. Jude Hustlers in the first game.

Simon, who entered the game in the bottom of the 2nd, struck out 10 St. Jude batters in four innings as the Hustlers went silent the rest of the way.

Wabol, on the other hand, blasted a two run over the park

Continued on page 23

Duenas tops RGA ace qualifier

REFALAWASCH GOLF ASSOCIATION APRIL QUALIFIER, CORAL OCEAN POINT

Player	G	H	N	Rank	Player	G	H	N	Rank
Ben Duenas	84	13	71	#1	Leo Kani	92	14	78	14th
Joe Lizama	79	8	71	#2	Merti Kani	103	24	79	15th
Joe Wabol	90	17	73	#3	John Lizama	100	20	80	16th
Tony Taitano	83	10	73	#4	Richard Macaranas	104	24	80	17th
Tony Rogolifo	86	13	73	#5	Sonny Flores	94	13	81	18th
Jess Wabol	76	2	74	6th	Joe Limes	100	18	82	19th
Jess Lizama	97	20	77	7th	Jess Castro	95	12	83	20th
Bill Kaipat	89	12	77	8th	Mei Sablan	101	12	89	21st
Henry Magofna	93	16	77	9th	Richard Bonga	113	24	89	22nd
Sid Taisacan	91	13	78	10th	Tom Saures	106	14	92	23rd
Joe Camacho	82	4	78	11th	John Tagabuel	12	-	-	24th
Joe Mafnas	95	17	78	12th	Closest to Pin #3 Ben Duenas				
Timo Oupai	93	15	78	13th	Closest to Pin #14 Jess Lizama				

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

BEN DUENAS nipped Joe Lizama in the tie-breaker last

Saturday to emerge as the top qualifier in the Refalawasch Golf Association's April Ace Qualifying Tournament held at Coral

Ocean Point Golf Course.

Duenas and Lizama shot identical 71s but the former edged the latter, 33.5-35, in the tiebreaker to set the mark to beat in the RGA's April Ace Tournament.

Duenas toured the front nine with a 40 then scored a 44 on the back for a gross 84. His -13 handicap gave him the net score.

Lizama matched Duenas' mark by racking rounds of 39 and 40 for a for a gross 79. Lizama's -8 handicap enabled

Continued on page 23

17th PBA season

V&L reclaims solo lead

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

V&L ENTERPRISES routed JH Enterprises, 4-0, last Saturday to grab the solo lead after six weeks of the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser's 17th season at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Erstwhile co-leader Fun and Games dropped to second after being held to a 2-2 draw by Bud Ice in lanes 11 and 12 action.

V&L rolled games of 923; 1,005 and 990 in slamming JH Entp. which could only manage games of 820, 952 and 898 pins. V&L completed the win with its three game series of 2,918 pins against JHE's 2,670.

With the victories, V&L hiked its win loss slate to 18.5-5.5 while JHE dropped to 11-13.

Bud Ice rode on its opening two games to offset a poor showing in the third game to score a 2-2 draw

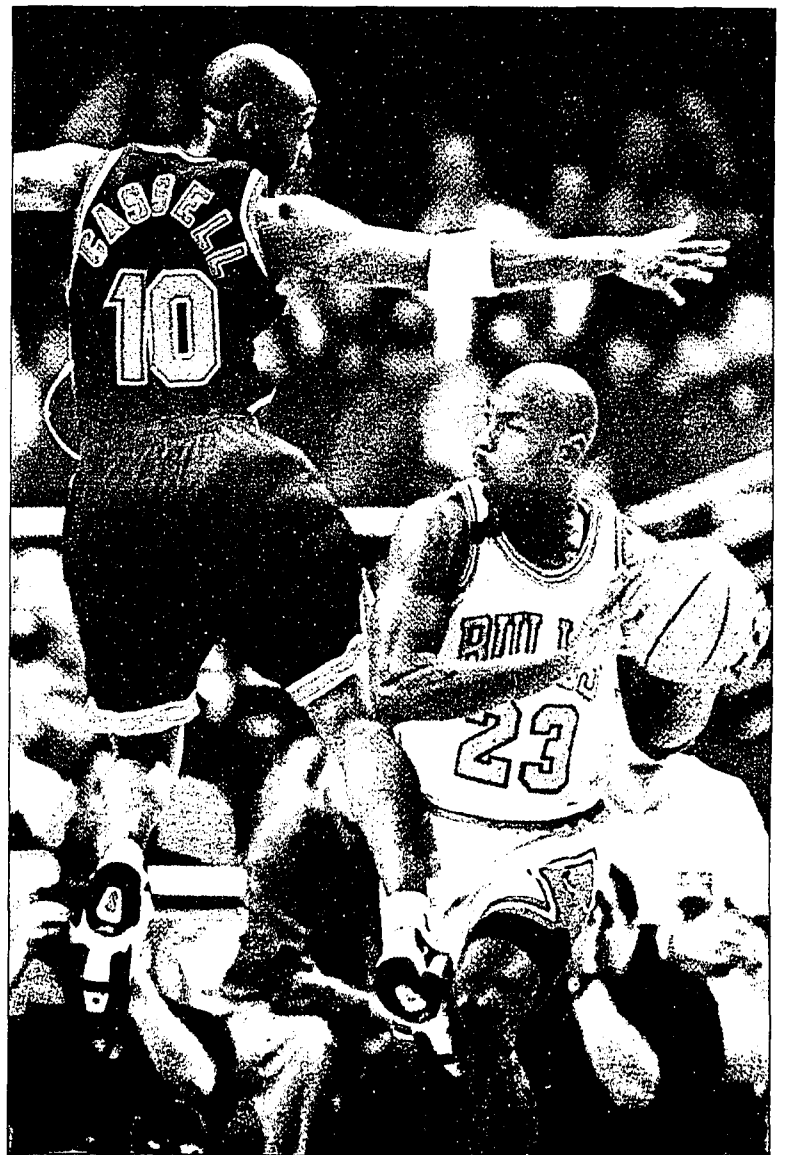
against Fun and Games.

Bud Ice rolled 890 and 964 to cushion a 782 in the third for a three-game series of 2,808 pins. Fun and Games racked 868, 930 and 1,010 for a three game series of 2,808 pins.

The draw propelled Bud Ice to third overall with a 16-8 record or just half a win behind Fun and Games.

RP Taxi & Co. jumped from

Continued on page 23



New Jersey Nets guard Sam Cassell leaps to defend Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan during the first quarter on Saturday in Chicago.

AP Photo

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Tuesday • April 1, 1997

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DeLay defends CNMI

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE THIRD-highest ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives in a privilege speech praised Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's free market policies, and warned that imposing the federal minimum wage on the CNMI would only destroy its economy.

In a speech delivered during a March 19 House session, Major-

US House leader lobbies vs federal wage takeover

ity Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas, 22nd District) said Tenorio has "embarked on a bold course to promote economic and political liberty" in the CNMI, and has been "a true champion of freedom" in the Western Pacific.

DeLay cited Tenorio's policies of privatization, "fiscal restraint" and low taxes, and noted that dur-

ing the governor's recent visit to Washington, D.C., "(he) did not come... looking for...handouts....(but) came to promote his market reforms."

"Governor Tenorio deserves our support," DeLay said.

He added, however, that Tenorio's efforts have also been criticized "by some who believe

that Washington knows better how to create jobs for the people than the people of the CNMI themselves."

DeLay named Rep. George Miller (D-California) as one of those "who believe that Washington should impose the federal minimum wage on the people of the CNMI."

Miller has filed a bill that would federalize CNMI's minimum wage rate, but DeLay said its passage would only "kill jobs, growth and opportunity."

"Most members of Congress," he added, "recognize that a higher minimum wage would result in a withdrawal of industry from the islands and widespread unemployment."

DeLay said that instead of imposing "red tapes and mandates" on the CNMI, Congress should look to the islands as "a model of reform."

"Washington should acknowl-



Tom DeLay

edge that...Tenorio's policies are on the right track.

"Let's not nip job creation and economic reform in the bud with ill-conceived Washington-knows-best legislations.

"It's time that we recognize and respect the impressive progress that this group of American citizens halfway around the world has achieved."

Continued on page 15



HARVEST IS GOOD. NMC Aquaculturist Mark J. Brotman and Lucy of Research and Extension, prepare the latest harvest of lettuce yesterday before the vegetables were hauled off to a local hotel, which purchased some 70 lbs. of it. The plants are grown through a method known as hydroponics. Photo by Rick Alberto

Tinian Shipping recalls laid-off staff

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TINIAN Shipping Co. yesterday denied the allegation of mass firing of 15 crewmembers, even as it has called back to work some 10 of them.

Rep. Stanley Torres had earlier

raised the suspicion that the reason the two ferries that ply between Saipan and Tinian were grounded was to replace its local employees.

"If this mass firing was done in order to replace local employees with outside labor, I will see to it

that your business will close," Torres wrote Tinian Shipping General Manager Paul Tai last week.

Asked to comment on Torres' allegation, Tai said, "He (Torres) mentioned about mass firing--this

Continued on page 15

BOE will terminate job contracts for 2 projects

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Education wants to terminate the contracts of two companies undertaking two major projects of the Public School System.

At the board meeting last week, education officials expressed frustration on the continued delay in the completion of Tinian High School, and the Marianas High School Gym being undertaken by Guerrero Brothers Inc. and R&B Company, respectively.

Last November Guerrero Brothers, complaining about lack of funds, suspended work on the remaining 20 percent of the job at Tinian High School and has since not resumed operations.

Its workers complained about nonpayment of wages.

Lyle Bicknel, PSS facility specialist, said PSS and the Department of Public Works have prepared a joint resolution seeking

Continued on page 16

Resident workers sue after being replaced by alien workers

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SEVEN resident workers who were allegedly "terminated" and replaced with alien workers filed yesterday a lawsuit demanding damages against their employer.

The resident workers sued L&W Amusement Corp. on allegations of unpaid wages, wrongful termination, and violation of Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act of 1995.

The plaintiffs--Gertrudes F.

Jimeno, Helen H. Deleon Guerrero, Encarnacion Maminta, Juanito C. Montano, Merlita C. Montano, Salvacion Ordenez, and Betty L. Castillo--sought a total of \$25,000 in damages and wages.

According to the suit filed in the Superior Court, the plaintiffs were paid an hourly wage and were employed by L&W in positions which were not exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Minimum Wage Hour Act.

Lawyer John F. Cool, counsel

for the plaintiffs, said in the complaint that L&W required his clients to work, without compensation, about 15 minutes or more each day.

Cool said the defendant required the plaintiffs to work hours for which the plaintiffs were not compensated at their respective hourly salary rates at an overtime wage rate.

On May 30, 1996, Cool stated, L&W terminated the plaintiffs' employment, after which the company then allegedly hired non-

resident workers.

At the time of the termination, the defendant had in its employ both resident and non-resident workers.

Cool contended that the statute states that resident workers shall be given preference in employment in the CNMI.

By terminating the employment of the plaintiffs and retaining the employment of nonresident workers, Cool said, L&W failed to give the plaintiffs' pref-

Continued on page 15

WEATHER Outlook



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

Rebel demands rejected

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
LIMA, Peru (AP) — President Alberto Fujimori has again rejected a key demand of rebelsholding 72 captives, dampening Easter Week speculation that an end to Peru's hostage crisis was at hand.

Despite newspaper reports that the government and leftist guerrilla captors were considering a deal, Fujimori said in an interview broadcast Sun-

day that he had not budged from his refusal to release several hundred jailed rebels.

"The framework in which we're working is the same... That is to say, to not accept the release of any of them," Fujimori told a television news program, Contrapunto, on Saturday. He said, however, that talks had advanced.

Tupac Amaru leader Nestor Cerpa said this weekend that the standoff at the Japanese ambassador's residence will continue as long as the government refuses to free his comrades.

Cerpa, who led a team of commandos that seized the compound during a cocktail party on Dec. 17, denied reports that a resolution to the hostage crisis was close.

Fujimori was more positive, saying preliminary talks had "practically" finished and that the two sides had reached agreement on some issues.

He said Cerpa and government negotiator Domingo Palermo still needed to hold some meetings.

"There was a lot of speculation this Easter Week that a peaceful way out would happen, but it (the negotiation process) wasn't in the final stage," he said.

Talks between the rebels and the government were expected to resume this week. The two sides have not held direct talks since March 12.

Last week, Peruvian newspapers reported that mediators had crafted a plan in which the rebels would be offered a payoff and safe passage to Cuba, which has agreed to accept the rebels. The deal also would include the promise of early release for some, but not all, jailed Tupac Amaru rebels.

Fujimori said the rebels had been flexible on the issue of a ransom payment.



Alberto Fujimori

"I understand that there's no insistence on that subject," he said.

The hostages, meanwhile, planned to celebrate Easter Mass on Sunday with a Jesuit priest who has voluntarily stayed with the captives.

"They're physically well. But from the psychological point of view, it could be causing deterioration in their health after more than 100 days of being confined," Fujimori said.

China to send trade delegation to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A 30-member Chinese trade delegation was to arrive in Taiwan Monday, a sign that trade ties between this island and China are growing despite political tension, a newspaper reported.

The delegation is the largest to visit Taiwan since relations nosedived in June 1995 over Taiwanese efforts to raise the island's international profile, the China Times said Sunday.

The Chinese officials, mostly from agencies dealing with foreign trade, will meet with Taiwanese businesspeople during the visit, the paper said.

It did not say how long their visit would last, and officials were unavailable for comment Sunday.

Leaders of the delegation include Chang Xiaocun of the State Council's office of machinery and electronics import and export; Qiu Jiliang, head of the import-export brand quality recognition center, and Zhang Ligui, head of the post office's department of telecommunications, the report added.

China and Taiwan, divided since the end of China's civil war in 1949, both say they want eventual reunification. But China believes Presi-

dent Lee Teng-hui is secretly working for independence, and rattled Taiwan with military exercises following his 1995 visit to the United States.

Lee has tried to curb Taiwanese investment in China, arguing that it exposes the island to economic hostage-taking. In early March, Taiwan imposed up to \$540,000 in fines for unauthorized investments in China.

But China's sheer labor and enormous market are too strong a lure for many companies, and Taiwan's largest private corporation said Saturday that it is going ahead with a U.S. \$3 billion power project in China despite a government ban.

The Formosa Plastics Group power plant in Zhangzhou, Fujian province, is being built in a joint venture with a foreign company to skirt the Taiwanese government ban on large-scale energy projects in China.

Government statistics show 11,100 Taiwanese companies have invested about \$6.87 billion in China. But Beijing says there are 35,000 Taiwan-based companies in China with investments totaling \$15 billion.

Anyone who remains in the country for 180 days illegally won't be allowed back in for three years.

Some immigrants overstay their visas after visiting their legalized families then apply to join their family legally. The move gets around long waits that people who lawfully seek to join their families here often face.

These people have been able to

Governor asks court:

'Stop taxpayer lawsuits'

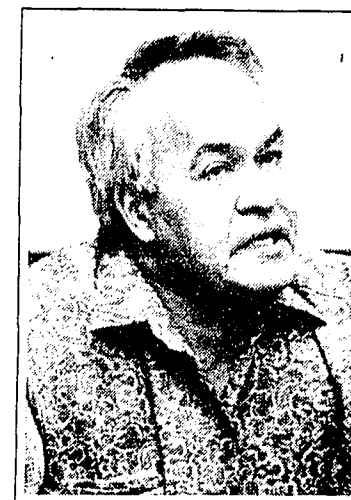
By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

GOV. Froilan Tenorio has asked the Superior Court to put an end of the "destructive" taxpayer lawsuits filed against him through lawyer Ted Mitchell.

In a motion to dismiss, Tenorio, through counsel Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg, stated that the plaintiffs' insistence on suing him rather than the government, highlights the political nature of the suit.

The governor was specifically referring to the taxpayer suit filed against him, government and Saipan Korean Hotel, Inc. by Isidro C. Ogarto over a lease of public land.

Tenorio said a court's ruling in his favor on the issue will confirm the scope of tax-



Froilan Tenorio

payer actions and save future public servants from the burden and expense of taxpayer suits.

On behalf of the governor, Goldberg said the relevant constitutional history con-

firms that Article XI §4 and its fiduciary duty were extinguished by the 1994 abolition of Marianas Public Lands Corp.

"That fiduciary duty no longer exists. Accordingly, there is no legal basis for this action to proceed. Plaintiffs cannot sue the Governor for a decision regarding public land," Goldberg pointed out.

The government lawyer said Tenorio's actions with respect to public land are circumscribed by the Covenant, the US and CNMI Constitutions, the Commonwealth Constitu-



Ted Mitchell

tion, statutes and Executive Branch regulations.

He said the plaintiffs argue that requiring taxpayer plaintiffs to sue the governor (rather than individuals) will destroy individual review of the Executive Branch.

Goldberg said the taxpayers can sue the Commonwealth, Office of the Governor, or any Executive Branch department.

"But taxpayers cannot sue individual public officers. Plaintiffs have sued the wrong defendant here, but plaintiffs are not precluded from suing a proper defendant," he said.

Chamber urges stricter border guards for illegal HK aliens



David M. Sablan

hiring overstaying and illegal workers.

A study identifying CNMI's capacity to accommodate Hong Kong-based investors should also be made to avoid "overcrowding" at the business front.

"On our part, we will safeguard against any unethical doing of the members. We will oust any member who purposely violate the law... we will not tolerate nor stand behind them," said Sablan.

The hand-over, Sablan admitted, brings with it "a cause for concern."

"This is a small island. Hong Kong and China have billions of people. We should guard our borders properly and do our job," he explained.

China's estimated 10 million-strong active labor force is anticipated to spill over Hong Kong and the rest of the Pacific Rim as the reversion goes full swing on July 1.

The situation, according to a ranking labor and immigration official, will further make it difficult for the already undermanned Department to ensure that no illegal aliens sneak into the Commonwealth and secure employment.

Chinese nationals seeking to illegally land a job in the Commonwealth are known to enter the CNMI

through a 30-day temporary business permit.

"Once inside... poooof! they (Chinese nationals) are gone," said the DOL official requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, Sablan also expressed concern on the possible crowding of Hong Kong investors in the CNMI saying such may exhaust the Commonwealth's power supply and cause undue erosion of its infrastructure.

"The volume of influx (of investors) can be a cause for concern. CNMI has a limited resources... a limited land mass... it would therefore be in the best interest of the Commonwealth if our leaders do a study on how many of what businesses can we bring in... to what extent will it saturate our power plant output... our infrastructure."

"We have to know our capability to accommodate," he explained.

Being a US Commonwealth, Sablan said CNMI is an "attractive" investment area for Hong Kong-based businessmen seeking to put up establishments elsewhere after the reversion.

"We fly the flag of the United States... it's a stable government. We operate in US dollars... we control our own immigration and don't have much difficulty bringing in non-resident workers," he explained.

Netanyahu laments peace process

By KEVIN GALVIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Accusing the Palestinians of unleashing "terrorism as a weapon of the negotiations," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday lamented "a virtual collapse of the peace process."

Netanyahu reiterated that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat must crack down on Islamic militants to halt violence before peace talks resume.

"What we're asking is not merely a control of terrorism for the next few days or weeks," Netanyahu said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "We want to see a peace process where terrorism is simply put out of the picture."

"Thousands of Palestinians filled the streets in cities across the West Bank and Gaza Strip again Sunday to protest Israeli construction in east Jerusalem and the shooting death of a 20-year-old demonstrator. The Palestinian student was killed Saturday

by Israeli army gunfire.

On March 21, three Israeli women were killed in a suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv cafe.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of provoking the fresh violence by proceeding with the building plans, but Netanyahu said that most of the land under development was owned privately by Jews.

"Seventy-five percent of it is private Jewish land," he told Newsweek magazine, adding that "while we're building there, we're building more housing units for Palestinians in 10 different neighborhoods."

Speaking on CBS, the prime minister said the militant groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas were emboldened to carry out actions against Israel after receiving "the green light for terrorism" from Palestinian officials — something Arafat has pointedly denied.



Benjamin Netanyahu

"I think he's able to control and quell all violence, and that's what we expect of him," Netanyahu said of Arafat.

While it is natural to reach sticking points in any negotiation, Netanyahu added, violence would not resolve them.

Tougher US immigration laws take effect Tuesday

MIAMI (AP) — It will be harder for immigrants to get into the United States and easier for officials to deport those who are here illegally under new rules scheduled to take effect Tuesday.

The rules have many immigrants desperately seeking last minute relief. There are reports of increases in marriages between illegal immigrants

and Americans, and long lines for people seeking other emergency relief. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service says the frenzy is unwarranted, and that there will be no mass deportations. But the difference is likely to be noticed by people from those trying to enter the country to claim asylum to those seeking to bring family members from

other countries.

The new law gets tougher on people who stay after their visas expire. Many illegal immigrants arrive with a temporary visa but fail to go home once it has expired.

Under the new law, anyone caught after having been in the country illegally for a year could be deported and not allowed to return for ten years.

Anyone who remains in the country for 180 days illegally won't be allowed back in for three years.

Some immigrants overstay their visas after visiting their legalized families then apply to join their family legally. The move gets around long waits that people who lawfully seek to join their families here often face.

These people have been able to

legalize their status after paying a \$1,000 fine if they have family here. New rules ending that practice don't take effect until September.

But in the meantime, those who are here illegally have a tough decision — whether to go back home to wait for legal authorization to rejoin their family or risk getting barred from the country for years.

Seized Chinese ship released from US Marshal custody

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE arrested Chinese ship that refused to unload a cargo of construction materials to be used for a huge hotel and casino project in Tinian is now back in China.

The materials had been off-loaded, but the case isn't over yet.

District Judge Alex R. Munson, on request of both parties in the case, gave the defendant — Shanghai Haixing Shipping Co. Ltd. — until April 11 to give its response to the complaint filed by America Double One En-

terprises, Inc., last March 7.

Kevin E. Moore, the counsel for Shanghai Shipping, had asked for extension to file the response since he said he needed more time to confer with the defendant's representative in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The defendant's freight vessel, Youyi 12, was ordered arrested on March 7 on the request of America Double One after the ship refused to deliver over \$1-million worth of construction materials the plaintiff had purchased in China.

The ship arrived on Saipan

March 4, but Shanghai Shipping apparently objected to the manner of payment in the form of a cashier's check.

The cost of shipping the materials was \$110,000 of which \$2,750 was paid in China and the balance of \$107,250 to be paid after delivery and off-loading of some of the freight in Saipan.

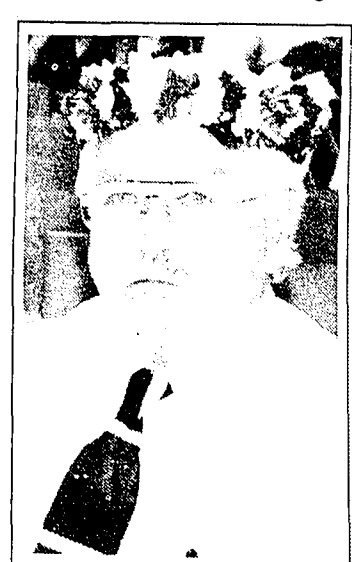
The ship had threatened to return to China with the unloaded freight.

Last March 13, the attorneys for both parties moved the court for the release of Youyi 12 from the warrant of arrest and writ of attachment. On

the same day District Judge Alex R. Munson ordered the ship's release from the custody of the United States Marshal and its restoration to the possession of Shanghai Shipping.

The parties also agreed that a cashier's check in the amount of \$107,250 be made payable to the defendant and filed with the district court.

The freight—consisting of 2,500 metric tons of cement as well as steel pipes, wall boards, fiber glass, roof plates, steel roof structures and other construction materials—were then off-loaded in Saipan and Tinian.



Alex R. Munson

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

Lologlog bisnis casino iya Tinian

Ginen: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

ANTES de geran dos, iya Tinian solu tano' tupu, dos na fakterian asukat, fangualuan yan daŋgkulo na pastahen guaka muna' lalala'. Guaha poko mas o'menos 11 mit na Koreano manmachochochu' familian niha gi fakterian asukat. Ti bobobu' adelanton kometsiante lao estaya sumasaonao gi todo kinalamten Japon gi bandan produkton tano' yan lokue' tase. Gi duranten geran dos, iya Tinian 'nai makatga i solu mas dañosu na balan bomb ni mayute' gi Hiroshima' yan Nagasaki. Ginen ayo na bala ni fuma' apu este i dos siuda na dumimo i imperadot Japon ya mangagao pas gi Amerikano. Fotte na daño fumatoigot i los probes guie na ogaan 'nai memegaiña man matai gotpe 'nai pagpag ayo na bala. I man soplu na Japonese, solu ayo i mañasaga gi oriyen este i dos siuda.

Iya Tinian esta ha tututuhon munalo tatte lao pago na biahe hatsadan mas manpaire na fasilidat casino yan fanliheñe (hotels) turista. Siempre u guaha inekuñgog publiko pot otro proposito ni para umahatsa otro daŋgkulo na fasilidat hotel. Guha otro mas proposito manmanagaga inina yan konsiderasion i Tinian Casino Gaming Commission. Kontodo i plasan batkon aire lokue' siempre uma' adelanta pago na sakan.

Mafachuchue' lokue' yan i Federal Aviation Administration pot ayo na ginagao i para umasede plasan batkon aireña Tinian muna' tunog daŋgkulo na batkon aire taiguie i 747 na jet plane siha. Sumen presiso este pot para umasuppotta i maŋgakaolo' na fasilidat casino yan fasilidat turista. Kontodo hotel halom tase para u guaha guine gi bisinuta. Pues parehoha' gi tano osino i tase, siempre u guaha kuaton hotel para i bisita siha ginen i chago yan halom Marianas mismo.

Gi katkuet manera, siempre iya Tinian u adelantague' gi bandan fasilidat casino yan turista. Mas daŋgkulo na motibo guaha para i natibon este siha na tano' yan para siha i mañeluta mismo gi selebrasion patron niha santos gi kada primet haane gi Mayo (Fiestan San Jose). Esta tita fan chathinasso pot kuaton hotel para i familia sa' para umababa i primet fasilidat casino yan hotel gi mamamaila' na Septiembre. Ta diseseha i mañeluta lokue' felis na karera gi tinituhon este na industria i casino.

Mañgge' un' inutet leblo

Inataka stroke (machuda' haga korason) un'tat Jean-Dominique Bauby gi 1995. Taya' kalalamten gi tataotaña solu ke un' gugat babaleña. Ha achechetge i infetmeraña para una' tuŋgo na mamaaleg ha' titanosña. Ginen este, sinañgane nu i infetme letra siha ya yangin konfotme, hana' kalamten babaleña gi propio letra. Sige mona, adumididi' ha didikta 'an chatagmag pahinan i leblo ni ha tuge' ginen uson babaleña.

Sumen napinite 'nai hasasañgan i prohimo sentimenton korasonña deste ke ninaye stroke sa kulan mohon mapega hinassña gi halom un' taro. Era i taro i tataotaña ni tisiña kalamten ni gumugot' yan sumustetene titanosña. Megai na matto pinituñi i ni hafa nina' siñaña piot 'nai malala' tataotaña pot kumama yan ni hafa siña hachogue nu ayo na odot i lumalaoya gi hilo' guieñña.

Matto gi inestotba 'nai ha komprende dispues na esta i guinaiaña ti siña ha impatta gi entre familiaña. Gi un' haanen mantata (Father's Day), estaba matatachoñg i lahiña hihot ginen i mataña lao pot ti siña ha mueba kanaña, esta nina tatañges sa' ti siña ha ulos potpot gapot ilon lahiña osino i tataotaña ni sige ma'estira. Ilegña gi lebloña na 'nai ha fongue' ayo na kinemprende yan siñiente 'nai ha tutuhon finatuiña.

Gi un' pahinan lebloña, mamamaisen "kao guaha maseha hafa na yabe gi halom mapagahes i lañget ni siña bumaba i petta 'nai mapopoñlegue'?" Maskeseha fina salape ni siña fumanahanyo' nu i libettaga?" Ilegña gi uttimon lebloña, "Debi de baiho espiha gi otro lugat. Bai' hanao para ayo na lugat". Dispues de hatuge' lebloña, matai felis gi katreña.

Ti siña hu komprende ayo na animo i bidan este na malañgo. Lao klaro na ti ha sede entero i inuteña na u ginana. Ha mumuye diaramente estake ha tuge' lebloña ginen uson solu gugat babaleña estake monhayan todos. Ha gana i malañgon korasonña yan mismo malañguña.

Guaha siha manmalañguta ni humulat chetnot niha ya gi mismo aron chinatsagan niha, sige ha repite "Si Yuus Maase pot todo oyudum chetluho" osino "Si Yuus Maase sa' matto hao man besita". Daŋgkulo yan gasgas sentimenton niha pot chinatsagan otro pot ginen guia. Lao man animo hit manman ayuda sa' malañguta. Lao mampas ha gomgum sensiagho si Señor Bauby gi ayo na fino'ña mampas pinituñi sa' ti siña ha ulos i petpot na gapot ilon lahiña 'nai binisita gi haanen Father's Day. Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Jackson Jr.'s methods differ from dad's

WASHINGTON—Only a smattering of news media and a handful of lawmakers were present last week for a Capitol Hill clash between Jesse Jackson and a man named Farrakhan.

In years past, such a meeting might have led the evening newscasts. But the Jackson involved in this confrontation was Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., the son of the preacher-politician. And the Farrakhan he was confronting was not Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan but Abdur Rahman Farrakhan, chairman of the Ocean Hill Brownsville Tenants Association in Brooklyn.

The scene that transpired symbolizes the profound differences between the junior Jackson and his more famous father. The elder Jackson has shown a lifelong preference for soundbite politics that get his face on television. His offspring, meanwhile, is quietly tackling some important issues—ones that might make a greater difference in the lives of his constituents.

On this day, the subject was public housing. Farrakhan had been invited by Republicans to explain his belief that poor people are better off when the federal government stays out of their lives. He cited his own experience running a nonprofit organization that has helped thousands of public housing tenants get off the dole. Though Jackson Jr. is a liberal like his father, he paid close attention to what Farrakhan had to say.

It was a profound exchange views by two men whose goals are similar but whose solutions differ. It's also the kind of exchange that doesn't get much outside attention—though it should. In the next few years, Congress will decide what role the federal government will play in rebuilding America's crumbling inner cities. And the younger Jackson intends to have a voice in that decision.

"To him, the issues are important, and whether cameras are there or not, he's been there," a Jackson Jr. staffer told us. "That's his work ethic, and that's what he is interested in. Obviously, he would like the cameras to be there to get his issue out. But (the lack of cameras) is not something that I've ever heard him speak about."

This housing hearing came not long after Jackson Sr., in a characteristic move, shamelessly injected himself into the national de-

bate about pro basketball thug Dennis Rodman. After the tattooed rebounder earned himself an 11 game suspension for kicking a court-side photographer during a game, Jackson couldn't resist jumping in on Rodman's behalf to assail those who attacked Rodman's "dignity."

Jesse Jackson Jr. may not have his father's gift of gab. But his actions are already speaking much louder than his father's antics ever will.

WHITE HOUSE WATCH—Buried among countless dates, details and scrawls in the documents that former White House honcho Harold Ickes turned over to Congress last month are some early hints the Democrats were not watching their fund-raising p's and q's. A name synonymous with Democratic fund-raising scandals of the 1980s, former Rep. Tony Coelho, D-Calif., turns up in Democratic National Committee and White House fund-raising documents.

Coelho, you'll recall, was the ambitious House majority whip when he became ensnared in a fund-raising scandal that ultimately led to his resignation from the House in 1989.

Yet Coelho became fast friends with top officials in the Clinton White House, advising the president on many key political issues during his first term. He also shows up in some of the early fundraising documents recently handed over to House investigators. Here's one excerpt from a Sept. 8, 1994, memo that Ickes wrote to then Chief of Staff Leon Panetta:

"Leon, given the DNC's shortage of 'hard dollars' (expected to run about \$4.5 to 5 million dollars during calendar 1994), Tony Coelho and Terry McAuliffe think it advisable to add two additional DNC fund-raisers in Washington, D.C., before the November elections to be attended by the president," Ickes wrote. "The purpose of these would be to raise approximately \$1.5 million in additional 'hard dollars.'"

New web site indexes CNMI news on-line

A LOCAL public relations firm and a Saipan's Internet provider have gotten together to provide browsers worldwide with news from the CNMI.

In fact, all of the news reported by the Saipan and Guam-based media that concerns the Commonwealth is now summarized and indexed online, a news release from Bruce Lloyd media services said.

The site, titled "News from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," [h t t p : / / www.blydmedia.saipan.com /] can also be linked through the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands page (www.cnmi.net) created by Saipan Datacom.

The site contains headlines and summaries of all stories appearing on Marianas CableVision and Saipan Cable TV, the Marianas Variety, the Saipan Tribune and the Pacific Daily News, as well as radio stations KCMN and KZMI which gather and present independent news-casts.

Other material from publi-



Bruce Lloyd

cations such as Guam Business News which run stories involving the CNMI, are also included into the website.

"We feel that it shows we are living up to our ongoing commitment to provide both useful and current information to both our customers and the rest of the world," said Saipan Datacom General Manager Steve Coleman. "This is a unique and useful collection of information for anyone, anywhere who wants to know more about the Commonwealth," Coleman continued.

Lloyd said that the site was a natural result of his public

relations work.

"If you're going to take care of your client's needs, you must be able to tell them rapidly exactly what's being said that concerns them in the local media," Lloyd said. "When what is being said about them is wrong or misguided, then I might have a new client," he added.

Lloyd predicted that developers and others wanting to do business in the CNMI would be particularly attracted to the site as they consider investing here: "It's sort of natural," he said.

"Investors need a lot of information to proceed with projects and we're to provide it, just like the lawyers, engineers and other professionals."

For Saipan Datacom, the news site is just the latest in its efforts to provide 'local content' on the World Wide Web.

Recently a site went up for the Commonwealth government and a wide range of information about the CNMI's history, culture and weather have been available for some time.

Adriano presses for benefits to 'Tinian 4'

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Joaquin M. Adriano is asking the Tinian Municipal Council to provide "death benefits" to the four Tinian residents who are believed to have perished in a sea accident last Jan. 5.

In a letter Wednesday to council chair Edward A. Villagomez, Adriano (R-Tinian) said the Tinian Legislative Delegation is "ready to accept" whatever death benefits the four men would have been entitled to under government life insurance.

Adriano, who chairs the delegation, urged the council to "make the necessary appropriations...as soon as possible."

Memorial services for the four—Isaac P. Palacios, 50; George A. Manglona, 36; Clifford M. Manglona, 22; and Ignacio Jose SN. Aquinogoc, 20—were held last Jan. 15, following an intensive search and rescue operations.

Clifford was the son of Tinian Mayor Herman M. Manglona.

The ill-fated boat's steering wheel, the remains of two t-shirts, a pair of shoes, a slipper, some floats,



Joaquin M. Adriano

life jackets and a brain tissue were recovered, but the bodies of the four were never found.

The four took off on board a 14-foot bayliner from Saipan to Tinian the evening of Jan. 5, and their loss, authorities said, was the worst CNMI sea accident in 10 years.

At least four sea vessels, two airplanes including a military C-130, and two helicopters were mobilized for the search participated in by a total of 25 persons including Tinian volunteer groups.

GTC school registration

GTC Elementary School SY 1997-98 registration for kindergarten and 1st Grade will start on Tuesday, April 1, 1997 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Registration will continue until all class enrollment is filled, an advisory for the school said.

Due to classroom shortages, GTC can accommodate only 50 kindergarten students and 50 1st grade students.

Applicants who have siblings in GTC will be first priority; second priority will be new applicants.

From April 1-18, registration for applicants who have sibling(s) in GTC and our current kindergarten students will have first priority to register for 1st grade.

From April 21 on, it will be based on whoever comes first.

Applicants must be from GTC School Zone.

Kindergarten applicants must be five years old by September 30 of this year.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Birth Certificate
2. School Entrance Health Immunization Certificate
3. Valid CNMI Entry Permit as applicable

For other grade levels (2nd-6th) registration, please call first to check if GTC has space for additional student in a particular grade. Call Nora Castro at 322-9842 or the Hotline 235-6061 ex. 82 (24 hrs)

Ubongen not RP-accredited

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate has established that Segundino Ubongen, the Filipino businessman who conned 191 Bangladeshis into the CNMI, was not accredited as a licensed labor recruiter in the Philippines.

This was gathered as Consul Julia Heidemann, in a letter recently sent to Rep. Stanley Torres, urged CNMI authorities to utilize the "diplomatic channel" in its attempt to bring Ubongen back to the Commonwealth.

"We have reported the case to Manila and recommended that Ubongen be blacklisted. Unfortunately, he is not an accredited recruiter in the Philippines. In my opinion, the US Embassy in Manila is the best and most effective recourse to expedite the prosecution," said Heidemann.

She referred to a certain Dennis Ortblad of the said embassy as the proper person to coordinate with. Ortblad, she said, handles CNMI labor affairs.

Heidemann also recommended that the Philippine Department of Justice be tapped as well.

The CNMI AGO has begun coordinating with the Consulate through Labor Attache Jesus 'Jess' Varela in seeking appropriate Philippine government agencies for Ubongen's extradition.

Varela, in an earlier interview, said he has sought assistance from the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Immigration in tracking down Ubongen.

The CNMI's Manila Liaison Office has recently confirmed Ubongen is in Manila.

"Let me assure you that as signatory to the 1990 Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers, we abhor any form of labor exploitation and abuse.

"Thus, we express hope that the case could be resolved speedily with the punishment of the guilty persons if only to serve as a deterrent to future nefarious activities of unscrupulous labor recruiters," said Heidemann in her letter.

Ubongen is facing \$1.4 million in administrative fines slapped him by Department of Labor and Immigration Administrative Hearing Officer Lynn Asper.

Three counts of immigration fraud have likewise been levelled against him by the AGO.



Julia Heidemann

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NHK expands live coverage on KMCV

MARIANAS CableVision yesterday announced that NHK will expand its live programming to enable MCV viewers to see 18 hours of live programming daily on channel 20.

NHK, Japan's oldest, largest, and only public broadcaster, has itself been expanding its coverage of the Asian and Pacific region, in hopes to provide information and mutual understanding in the re-

gion. The current live broadcast schedule will be expanded beginning today, April 1st, MCV said in a news release.

NHK will broadcast live between 8:00 am to 2:00 am daily. The additional programming falls in the afternoon, which has traditionally been vacant between the live morning, and the live evening programs.

"We know that many busi-

nesses in the tourism industry here in the CNMI depend on NHK for news and entertainment," says MCV General Manager Chris Kurz. "So we want to make sure that they stay on top of any change in the broadcast schedule and be able to use it to their advantage," adds Kurz.

NHK viewers should refer to the Island TV Times, MCV's program guide in the Sunday Pacific Daily News, for daily schedules of NHK programs.

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*Democratic mayoral aspirant:***'Tudela doesn't bother me'**

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Works Secretary Edward DL Guerrero yesterday expressed confidence he will win the three-cornered Saipan mayoralty fight. He also fell short of dismissing opponent Juan Tudela as a nuisance.

"He (Tudela) doesn't bother me. I'm still very confident I will win," said Guerrero in an interview.

Tudela is running as an independent candidate. His decision to do so was precipitated by what he alleged as the "political maneuvering" done by members of the Democratic Party's Central Executive Committee in having Guerrero endorsed as the organization's official bid.

Guerrero has repeatedly denied such "maneuvering" took place in that CEC re-organizational meeting held late last year.



Edward DL Guerrero

He nevertheless said he respects Tudela's move.

"Though I've been trying to convince him to work with me instead," he said.

Guerrero also denied allegations he has caught himself in a conflict of interest, keeping his post as DPW Secretary

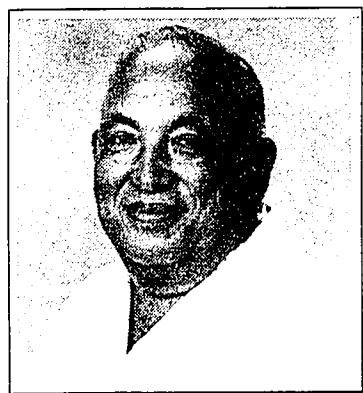
and "silently" campaigning for the electoral race using his office's resources.

"I am a political appointee. I serve at the pleasure of the governor.

"I can not use the power that I have nor the resources that I have with public works to campaign... that is part of the ethics that we have to observe," explained Guerrero.

Guerrero's capacity as Public Works Secretary, observers say, has boosted his chance of winning in the election.

"That's a two-way thing... if I do my job, then people will see me as a capable per-



Juan Tudela

son to handle a municipal office. If I don't then it could be detrimental also to my bid... it works both ways," Guerrero

stressed.

The party has yet to decide when to start the campaign season.

Having been in public office for almost 15 years, Guerrero said Saipan residents will be seeing a "revitalized Mayor's office" if he is elected.

He declined to divulge his specific program of action pending the party's official announcement of its campaign period.

Guerrero's other opponent is George Sablan, the Republican Party's official candidate.

Investment office launches survey

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE FOREIGN Investment Office has embarked on a plan to establish baseline data on the Commonwealth's business arena.

In its recent release, the Business Development News, a commerce department publication, said the Foreign Investment Survey which kicked-off last month "will paint a clearer picture" determining the various facets of the business sector.

Data expected to be culled include that on the average investment in the business community; number of employees — both non-resident and resident workers; and average business size.

The survey's "primary" goal, according to BDN, is that on the evaluation of the impact of foreign investment in the Commonwealth.

Focus will be on business owners who hold Long Term Business Certificates.

The FIO received a total of 102 LTBC applicants last January, 99 of which were approved.

The survey came at a time when an influx in the entry of Hong Kong-based investors is anticipated with the hand-over of the former British Colony to the Chinese government on July 1.

In a related development, BDN reported that a sub-committee was formed to look into the 90-day Business Certi-

cate program and to work with the Department of Labor and Immigration on how to tighten and improve regulations.

The possibility of issuing a single entry 90-day Business Certificate is also being discussed at the sub committee level.

BDN noted that the current certificate is good for a year's time and allows multiple entries to the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, the BDN also reported that remittances to the Philippines posted an 8.6 per cent increase in 1996.

Some \$48.5 million remitted to the Philippines in 1996 as against \$44 million in 1995.

BDN attributed the increase to "higher wages and more workers."

LaMotte guests on Cable Forum

TOO aggressive (or to slow) in its pursuit of uncovering inadequacies in government? Does the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) really have too much power (or in fact too little) granted to it by law? Is the Public Auditor in the running for Governor? Perhaps OPA stands as the 'public's best friend' by being a 'watchdog' of government mismanagement.

Tune in to tonight's Cable Forum, NMI's first live talk-show program hosted by John Oliver DLR. Gonzales (Bolis) as Mr. Leo LaMotte appears to answer (or hear) many of our questions.

Areas to be discussed will be the role and objective of OPA, its guaranteed budget percentage per year, what

enforcement powers (if any) does OPA have in ensuring that all audits and/or investigations are followed through, etc. Perhaps you can also assist OPA through better awareness about the office.

Tune in tonight on Cable Channel 12 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saipan's interactive premier talk show program, Cable Forum—where all viewers are better reached as callers are given the opportunity and flexibility to call in and ask questions both in Chamorro and English all in one television program.



Leo LaMotte

SCS to host spring dinner and auction

SAIPAN Community School invites the community to their 1997 Spring Dinner and Auction, Saturday, April 26th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Saipan Diamond Hotel.

The fun-filled evening will include a buffet of Chinese and Western delicacies, drawing for door prizes throughout the evening and a silent auction. All proceeds go directly to the Saipan Community School's new classroom and staff housing project, and all donations are tax deductible.

Tickets for this fun evening are available at Hot 98 FM, located on Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan Community School in Susupe and

Marianas Electronics in Chalan Piao. For further information on Saipan Community School: "Building today for the CNMI's Tomorrow," please call Saipan Community School at 234-6687 or Saipan Community Church at 234-6242.

CORRECTION

In our March 28 article "Tenorio Assails CUC," CUC board member Juan Dela Cruz's middle initial was mistakenly printed. It should have been "S" not "N."

Our apologies—Ed.

Rota fields its bet in Miss CNMI pageant

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A TEENAGER from Rota has joined the search for this year's Miss CNMI Universe beauty pageant.

Marylou Babauta Quitugua, a student at the Northern Marianas College, will represent Rota during the annual pageant to be held on April 6 at Nikko Hotel's Theater Hall.

The 18-year-old Marylou is the daughter of Lucia Quitugua, according to Ginny Reyes, treasurer for the Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association.

Reyes said Marylou, is the sev-

enth contestant to participate the 24th annual beauty pageant.

Tinian has no representative. Last month, the NMBPA introduced to the media six contestants.

They were Charlene T. Quitano, Sandra N. Camacho, Michelle Jongman, Melanie L. Sibetang, Maria Theresa F. Acosta, and Diann M. Tudela.

Reyes said the winner for the top title will represent CNMI in the yearly Miss Universe beauty pageant to be held in May at Miami, Florida.

Miss CNMI International winner will participate in the annual Miss International pageant in Japan.

Kathy Williams was named as last year's CNMI's Miss Universe after NMBPA stripped Belvilyn Tenorio of her title. Jennifer Lisa Camacho White took William's title as Miss International.

DOLI sends more agents to Garapan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration has sent more agents to Garapan in what appears as a relentless bid to combat prostitution in the said tourist hub.

"We are watching them (suspected pimps and prostitutes) very closely," said DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan.

A mere total of about four operatives have, in the past, been patrolling Garapan streets in search of members of a prostitution and extortion ring believed being ran by overstaying Chinese nationals.

The number, it was gathered, have been doubled following recent arrests of suspected pimps and prostitutes.

Citing intelligence reports, Garapan, according to reliable DOLI sources, "has become a hotbed of prostitution on Saipan."

"The situation has placed more people, mostly Japanese tourists at risk of acquiring the Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or AIDS," said one agent requesting anonymity.

He said pimps, mostly speaking Chinese or Japanese, accost tourists "offering them Chinese women for not more than \$50."

"And who knows, if they (prostitutes) even bother to observe safe sex practices," he added.

Health authorities have incessantly been raising the alarm on what they call as the "AIDS outbreak" that Garapan has the potential to cause.

A total of 13 overstaying Chinese nationals, including three "hardcore criminals," have been arrested in Garapan in the past two months alone.

The most recent of these were the three suspected pimps rounded-up by immigration agents last week.

It will be recalled that another batch of seven Chinese nationals, six of whom are women, were arrested by authorities last month at a massage parlor believed being used as a prostitution front by the syndicate.

The three "hardcore criminals" were arrested earlier and have all been deported according to Sablan. They were identified as Xuan Den Huang, Xun Chen Zheng, and Jian Ben Yu.

The illegal activity is believed to have taken a "low profile" following the arrests.

Nevertheless, "we are keeping a close eye on them," said the agent.

Senate tackles drug legislation

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

WHAT others may call "harsh" and "excessive" is, for the House of Representatives, a "message" of "zero tolerance" against drug abuse.

In a 15-0 vote yesterday, the 18-member House passed a bill that would imprison for life all persons convicted of importing and manufacturing any amount of "ice," heroin or cocaine.

House Bill 10-239 as amended would also provide that those convicted are not to be given the possibility or any condition or form of probation, parole or suspension of sentence "under any circumstances."

Discussion on the bill took up the entire session yesterday of the House, as members argued, deliberated and proposed amendments on the legislation which was introduced last May 1996 by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan).

Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), who stepped down from the speaker's chair to participate in the discussion, urged for the passage of the bill.

"Life imprisonment is called for," he said, "considering the seriousness of the drug problem. (We should have) zero tolerance for those who bring in drugs to the (CNMI)."

The bill states that the use of dangerous, highly-addictive narcotic substances "has

become (an) epidemic in the Commonwealth."

The "leading facilitators of the drug trade," it stated further, "are couriers who smuggle the contraband into the CNMI. (It) has become necessary to impose severe, even draconian penalties on those who, without conscience, would so prey on our society as to threaten its very survival."

Of the 2,153 grams of "ice" seized by the CNMI Customs from 1990 to 1996, 1,459.5 grams came from Manila; 777.67 grams from Japan; and 14.82 grams from Guam.

All of the 29,160 joints of seized marijuana came from Palau.

Alcohol license issuance declined by 24% in 1996

Pete dela Cruz

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

DECELERATING economy has triggered a drop in the number of alcohol license renewals by 24.7 percent in fiscal year 1996, according to the Department of Commerce's newsletter.

The *Business Development News* reported that in the closing of fiscal year 1996, the Alcohol Beverage Office has issued a total of 924 license throughout the CNMI.

"During the renewal period for FY 1997 which commenced on May 15 and continued through June 30, 1996, there was an unexpected 24.7 percent decrease or a total of 228 nonrenewals," reported the January issue of the *News* which was released recently by Commerce Secretary Pete dela Cruz.

The report, however, did not cite any figure from previous year's renewal record.

"The main reason establishments disclosed for their nonrenewal is a supposedly decelerating economy on the islands," the *News* said.

Despite the "obstacle," however, the department reported that an average of 66.9 percent or a total of 618 licenses renewed their ABC licenses on

time for FY 1997. The figure is broken down as follows: 537 on Saipan, 55 on Rota, and 26 for Tinian.

A total of 135 new applications for the first quarter of 1997 were approved and issued, enhancing a 59.2 percent coverage out of the total licensees that did not renew, the *News* said.

"This leaves at least 40.8 percent or 93 more licenses in the next three quarters if FY 1997 to restore the declination," the report added.

There were no new licenses issued for Tinian or Rota in the first quarter of 1997.

The *News* said the 18 new applications in January 1997 generated an additional \$749,000 in revenues.

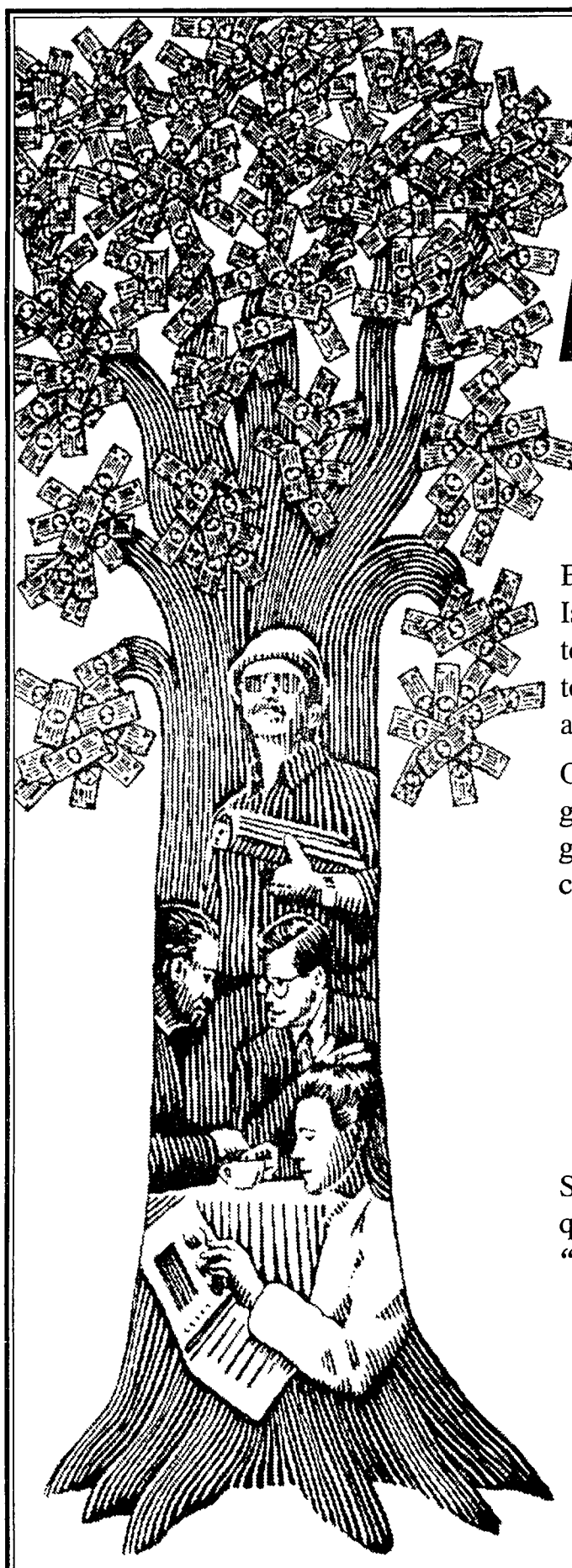
At least 75 establishments on Saipan submitted late renewals, 32 of which were suspended from selling alcohol and then reinstated on July 31, the *News* said.

At least 43 of the licensees with late renewals "eluded a 30-day suspension by meeting the three-day reinstatement period from July 1-3 1996."

The department said an average of .3 percent or a total of three licensees failed to complete the renewal process before the deadline, prompting the ABC office to revoke their licenses.

The department also said the ABC office had hired two more enforcement officers to monitor business establishments' compliance to rules and regulations.

The hiring of two more enforcement, the *News* said, has "doubled" the ABC's "inspection capability from an average of 360 to about 720 establishments per month."

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Solomons police investigate suspected piracy incident

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands police are investigating an incident at Solomon Islands' side of the common sea border with Papua New Guinea in which a man was shot dead and two others wounded aboard a foreign fishing boat.

Acting Solomon Islands Police Commissioner Morton Srihetti says armed men wearing camouflage uniforms travelling in three fast crafts shot at the Taiwanese fishing boat before boarding it.

Srihetti says the unidentified armed men then held up the crew of thirteen Taiwanese and Indonesians and looted the fishing boat.

He says the incident occurred last Wednesday and the two wounded men have been taken to the Honiara Central Hospital for treatment while the dead fishermen is kept in the ship's cool room.

Srihetti says this was the first such uncalled for and deplorable act of piracy in Solomon Islands waters and he expressed confidence it was not the act of Solomon Islands citizens.



Former army leader Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, is flanked by supporters at his residence at Murray barracks in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Singirok demanded Friday that Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and two of his ministers step down so that an investigation can be held into the use of foreign forces to quash a rebellion on Bougainville.



South Pacific Roundup

PNG caretaker PM warned conflict still far from over

THE HAGUE (Pacnews)—The self-styled Bougainville interim government (BIG) and its military arm, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), have welcomed the forced dumping of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan last week.

But they have warned Caretaker Prime Minister John Giheno that the Bougainville conflict is still far from being resolved.

In a statement from The Hague the secretary of BIG, Martin Miriori, says "The recent forced

resignation of Sir Julius Chan by the PNG Defence Force, which was fully supported by the public in PNG, can be seen as only one step in attempting to resolve the 9 year old Bougainville conflict".

He says at least the people of PNG have finally woken up to "the corrupt and dictatorial leadership style of Sir Julius and had him removed from office, hopefully once and for all".

Miriori accused Sir Julius of never being genuine in his negotiation attempts with BIG/BRA in the past, calling him a man of "twisted tongue".

He said Chan's attitudes were the reasons why the peace negotiations on Bougainville were never successful.

Miriori welcomed the appointment of Giheno as the caretaker prime minister.

But he warned that unless there was a new policy to resolve the Bougainville crisis peacefully with international mediation and participation, BIG/BRA will always be reluctant to participate.

The BIG secretary reiterated the three main key demands of the BIG/BRA which are: total withdrawal of the PNG Defence Force from Bougainville; deployment of an international peacekeeping force under UN mandate; and for PNG to recognise and fully respect the rights of the people of Bougainville to self determination.

US envoy to Fiji says race relations better

SUVA (Pacnews)—America's ambassador to Fiji, Don Gevirtz, believes race relations in Fiji have improved after the political upheaval of 1987.

He says while inter-ethnic relationships in Fiji has not been smooth, the society has not been torn apart, unlike the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda or Somalia where political strife has led to bloodshed, Radio Fiji reported.

"I would offer this thought from an outsider, who admittedly has not had to live the life of either an ethnic Fijian or an ethnic Indian. If you stop and take a look from a long term historical perspective, it seems that inter-ethnic relations here have improved over time," Gevirtz said.

"Many of your grandparents or great-grandparents live under the gimit system. No one in Fiji does now," he said.

Ambassador Gevirtz made the comments while opening the T-I-S-I Sangam's annual convention at Nadi during the weekend.

PNG gov't adds two more new ministries

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The government in Papua New Guinea under Acting Prime Minister John Giheno has added two new ministries to the current 25 portfolios.

They are the science and energy ministry and the ministry of state assisting the prime minister, NBC reported.

The police minister, Castan Maibawa, has been moved to the new science and energy portfolio and the member for Maprik, Sir Pita Lus, has been appointed Minister of state Assisting the Prime Minister.

The member for Angoram, Ludwig Schultz, is the new police minister, replacing Maibawa.

A government statement says the split of the new ministry from mining and petroleum has become necessary because of the potential created by the recent gas discoveries.

It says science and technology is PNG's window to the future and the challenges for this area are immense.

Research warns of high risks in teen sex behavior

HONIARA (Pacnews)—A research by a group of students from the Tropical Health University in Brisbane, Australia, has found a very high risk in sexual behaviour among female students in some schools in Honiara.

The health students, who conducted their three month research through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, interviewed both employed and unemployed female teenagers, and mothers, SIBC reported.

The group also organised questionnaires for a number of high schools in Honiara on teenage pregnancy and health related issues.

The health students found that despite the strong taboos and restrictions on sex before and outside marriage, a large number of teenage girls are having sex.

They say most girls are aware of the risks and consequences of pregnancy, but NOT the risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

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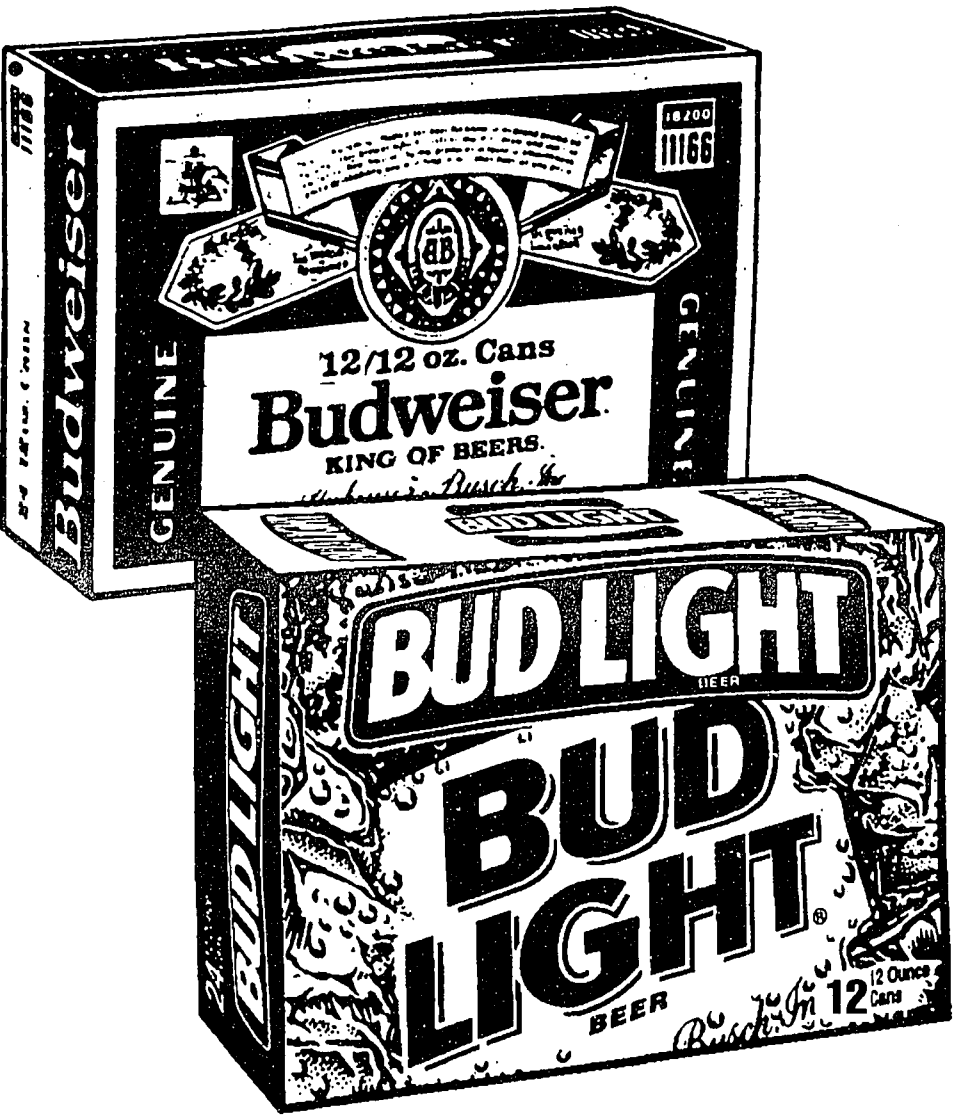
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Marshalls gears for shipbuilding industry

By Giff Johnson
for the Variety

MAJURO—Even as the first ship built in the Marshall Islands was being launched, other nations in the region are already expressing interest in this Central Pacific nation's new ship-building capacity.

The government's new 140 foot, steel-hull landing craft

was blessed in a ceremony in Majuro last week.

Transportation Minister Kunio Lemari hailed the arrival of the new ship into the fleet of vessels that are servicing the remote outer islands in this watery nation that is scattered across 500,000 square miles of ocean.

"Most people who look at it

don't believe we built it here," said Ray La Force, who supervised the construction at Majuro Dry Dock and Slipway. "Some people ask us, 'how long did it take you to fix it?' 'Fix it? We built it.'"

The construction work was done with just 10 workers, and only two who had previous boat-building experience, said

La Force, who is obviously pleased with the product. Building the first ship in Majuro was "quiet a feat," he said. La Force's family owns and operates a ship building company in the state of Alabama in the United States.

450,000 pounds of steel went into building the vessel. Thirty-two feet wide, the Jel Jelet Ae can carry up to 420 tons of deck cargo and four refrigerated containers. It has staterooms for 21 and, since it can be operated by as few as four individuals, this will provide rooms for passengers travelling to the outer islands.

"It will take very little to maintain this boat," La Force said. "We built it for the Marshall Islands."

The government paid about \$1.6 million to have the LCU constructed here. "Considering where it was built, the price the government paid it relatively inexpensive," he said, adding that by building the ship here it kept the money in the country.

La Force believes that proof that the Marshalls can operate

a ship-building industry is demonstrated by the first vessel built by the Majuro Drydock, the Jel Jelet Ae.

"We're talking with other countries about building boats for them here in Majuro," he said. Officials in Tonga, the Federated States of Micronesia and even countries as distant as Vietnam are talking with La Force about ship building possibilities, he said. "They'd rather build here because it's closer," he said. If ships are built in places like Alabama, it is very costly for Pacific island and Pacific rim nations to pick them up and deliver the vessels once completed, he said.

Now that the first vessel had been built here, costs will continue to come down for future ships because extra equipment and supplies were added to the Majuro Drydock to build the I.C.U.

"The Majuro Drydock benefited a lot by our building this boat," he said. "It will be cheaper to build boats in the future because we have the infrastructure in place."

Bougainville-PNG peace prospects more promising

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—Former US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Richard Teare says a settlement of the Bougainville conflict now is more likely, but much more needs to be done by both the PNG government and the Bougainville rebels if the goal of a lasting peace is to be achieved.

Commenting on Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan's agreement to step aside—while a judicial inquiry into his hiring of mercenaries from Africa takes place—Teare said real peace efforts now can resume.

Ambassador Teare, currently foreign policy advisor to the Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Area Command in Hawaii, says the PNG government must take an enlightened approach toward enforcing the law, and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army must abandon

its warlike tactics.

During an interview on Hawaii Public Radio, Teare recommended a quick and full restoration of normal government services on Bougainville, including schools and clinics, and a determined approach to obtaining the necessary financial and other assistance from the international community.

He said several regional governments, with the departure of the soldiers-for-hire, now are ready to help PNG and the breakaway Bougainville province find ways to achieve a peaceful resolution to the nine-year civil conflict. Teare, however, is not optimistic that the differences between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and any sitting government in Port Moresby will be resolved soon.

Tonga needs fishing port

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Tonga's Ministry of Fisheries is seeking foreign assistance to build a proper port for fishing boats.

Such a port would provide a safe refuge for fishing boats in bad weather including hurricanes, Radio Tonga reported.

Secretary for Fisheries 'Akau'ola says it was obvious that a proper

wharf should be built after a Sea Star Company's fishing boat was grounded on a reef in Nuku'alofa harbour during Cyclone Hina early this month.

A company spokesman supports the move by the government, saying it's difficult for his company's boats to find safe shelter during bad weather.

ENB classes still suspended

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Classes remain suspended in 40 community schools in East New Britain of Papua New Guinea which closed down due to destructions by strong winds over the last three weeks.

Education authorities say the classes in those schools will remain suspended until after the first term holidays, NBC reported. Provincial Education Advisor

Boas Koro says parents and Boards of Management of the schools are now busy carrying out repairs to the schools.

He says the schools suffered much damage including destruction of classrooms and teachers' houses. Koro says the second term resumes in two weeks and they hope all the repair work can be done by then for normal classes to start.

Arabs: Halt Israeli ties



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat speaks during a session of the Arab League in Cairo Sunday where Arab position to confront Israeli plans to build Jewish settlements in Palestinian east Jerusalem was discussed.

AP Photo

By SALAH NASRAWI

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - After a four-hour debate and an emotional appeal by Yasser Arafat, Arab foreign ministers approved an Egypt-sponsored resolution that recommends freezing relations with Israel because of its building projects.

The Arab League meeting followed protests by Arab and many Muslim countries against Israel's plans to build a 6,500-unit housing project for Jews in historically Arab east Jerusalem.

"The Arab League recommends that all Arab countries which have established normal ties with Israel, freeze relations until Israel agrees to implement its peace agreements with all Arab sides and stops violating the accords," the resolution said.

The resolution, approved in a closed session, will be announced in a final communiqué on Monday, delegates said. Israel had no immediate reaction.

The ministers debated a resolution drafted by Syria calling for a suspension of relations with Israel before agreeing on a watered-down resolution sponsored by Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and wants to maintain its role as a mediator.

"The resolution is good," said Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political

bureau.

Said Kamal, undersecretary of the Arab League, said steps toward freezing ties would include closing down offices and missions.

He said the league also recommended the suspension of Arab participation in multilateral peace talks - on water, economic cooperation, Palestinian refugees, the environment and disarmament - and to reactivate the Arab economic boycott of Israel until "a lasting and just peace is established."

Delegates said the resolution does not oblige Arab countries to suspend ties with Israel, and leaves it to individual states to decide on their future relations.

The recommendation was not expected to affect Israel's peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan. League officials said it was aimed more at countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and the Persian Gulf states of Qatar and Oman, which have opened fledgling trade links.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said before the vote that a tough stand by the 22-member league could save the Middle East peace process by making Israel rethink its plans. The planned housing project has stalled peace talks and kindled new violence.

Security tightened for Israel diplomats

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) - Security for Israeli diplomats has been tightened after an embassy official's car was vandalized in the Jordanian capital, an embassy spokesman said Sunday.

Shalom Tourgeman, a spokesman at the Israeli Embassy in Amman, said the windows of a car rented by a junior diplomat were smashed when it was parked outside his home in Amman's posh Sweifiyeh district March 18.

Tourgeman declined to identify the diplomat or give more details on the attack that came five days after a Jordanian soldier gunned down seven Israeli schoolgirls on an outing to an island in the Jordan River.

It was the first such incident since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October 1994.

Tourgeman said round-the-clock security for the 10 Israeli diplomats had increased, as more guards were assigned to protect them. Jordanian and Israeli security agents provide protection for the embassy staff.

"Investigations are under way to determine the motive, which could be linked to the atmosphere in the region," Tourgeman said, referring to growing tensions over Israeli settlement plans in disputed east Jerusalem.

"We're not sure if the embassy was the target, but we feel secure and we have increased security on diplomats," he added.

Israeli Embassy cars are leased from local rental firms. They do not carry diplomatic license plates like those of other foreign missions so that they do not become targets of terror attacks.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE 97-05

DATE : 19 March 1997

TO : Century Insurance Company, Ltd.
Equitable Insurance Company, Inc.
Global Insurance, Inc.
Goodwill Insurance Corporation
J.T.S. Insurance Company, Inc.
Marianas Insurance Company
Pacific-Rim Insurance Company
Premier Insurance Company
Royal Crown Insurance Corporation

SUBJECT : Surety Bonds and Arrangements Notice Number 97-03, dated January 10, 1997

This Notice is issued in furtherance of Administrative Notice number 97-03, dated January 10, 1997.

The following shall constitute a listing of Orders taken by this Office:

1. Surety bonds for Temporary Work Authorization (TWA's) shall be no less than the approved terms and conditions as filed with the Insurance Commissioner. The rates shall not be less than the \$50.00, as approved by the Commissioner for each natural person covered under the bond. The approved surety bonds do not have expiration terms of less than one year, and the Director of Labor will not accept a bond that is either endorsed for less than one year and with premiums less than \$50.00.
2. Premium discounting and premium rebates shall not occur. Companies engaged in this practice are instructed to discontinue or face possible suspension of their Certificate of Authority (COA). There is to be no special rates to any industry group which would result in premiums less than the approved rates as stated in the first order.
3. Cancellation notices to the Director of Labor or refusal to honor claim on bond due to nonpayment of premium is strictly prohibited. Cancellation provisions on approved bonds shall be deleted and amended bond forms should be filed. There should not be any cancellation provisions on any bonds issued from hereon, and the wording, "This bond is noncancellable," or some other language to the same effect, shall be incorporated in the bond.
4. Sanctions and penalties for noncompliance include suspension of COA's, imposition of additional reserves, restrictions on the ability to write other classes of insurance, the Director of Labor's refusal to accept bond from noncomplying company, and/or other measures to ensure compliance.
5. The Director of Labor and the Insurance Commissioner enter into a working arrangement for the enforcement of these Administrative Orders. The Director of Labor will institute CLAIMS PROCEDURES, to include all claims originating from him and with his signature affixed to a demand notice. Investigators and/or designee(s) will no longer be permitted to demand without the express permission from the Director of Labor. These demand letters shall either have hearing orders attached OR a statement from the Director to the effect that the Director has exhausted all administrative procedures to have employers bear the burdens of employing nonresident workers and that employers are to be penalized for their failures to fulfill their responsibilities. Penalties may include barring them from hiring additional nonresident workers and/or any nonresident worker.
6. Any and all signature(s) of a principal(s), on bonds issued, shall be executed with the official title and position of the said signatory. If the person represents a corporate entity, the full name of said entity shall also be clearly identified and included. It is assumed that the entity signing would be the same as that of the "employer of record" with the Division of Labor.
7. Compliance to Alien Labor Rules and Regulations governing the procedures for processing of claims. Specifically, Section 5(d) requires, in part, that "within ten (10) working days of receipt of a "Notice of Potential Claim," the bonding company, ... will provide written evidence to the Director of Labor that sufficient funds are available..." Furthermore, Section 5(f), in part, states, "Payment of bond, ... funds necessary to satisfy any final order of a court or administrative hearing officer for unpaid wages and/or the costs of repatriation, shall be made to the Director of Labor within ten (10) business days of the receipt of a "Notice of Claim."

Any questions regarding this notice should be referred to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Caller Box 10007 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. This Office may also be reached at the following: Telephone no. 664-3000/1/2, or Facsimile no. 664-3067.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO

Concurred by:
/s/ THOMAS O. SABLAN
Secretary
Department of Labor and Immigration
Date: March 25, 1997

/s/ Patrick A. Deleon Guerrero
Acting Director of Labor
Division of Labor
Date: March 21, 1997



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, right, bursts into laughter as he and U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich share a joke during their breakfast meeting at Hashimoto's office in Tokyo Monday. Gingrich arrived in Tokyo late Sunday as part of a 10-day Asia tour. AP Photo

Gingrich stays official on Easter

By CHARLES HUTZLER
SHANGHAI, China (AP) - U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich sang hymns and received a blessing of peace at a Chinese government-approved church Sunday, instead of spending Easter with China's beleaguered underground Christian community.

Gingrich and members of his bipartisan congressional delegation intended their church-going to be a display of their faith and a gesture of solidarity with China's often persecuted Christians.

The church they attended, Shanghai Community Church, far from being on the fringe of the Chinese

Christian community, is a centerpiece of respectability in the officially sanctioned non-denominational church.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, on a five-day China tour, also was there, his last stop before traveling to Beijing.

By government estimate, the nation of 1.2 billion people has 15 million practicing Christians. Missionary groups estimate the flock at 90 million, many of them practicing in illegal churches set up in people's homes.

Beijing has met religion's resurgence by trying to tighten control and shut down underground churches.

But the official and unofficial churches commingle. Many priests ordained in the government-sponsored churches preside at house churches. Believers worship at both approved and underground services.

Back in Washington, there was talk that Gingrich would try to meet with underground church members, something that would have appealed to many of the conservative Republicans now at odds with the House leader. He ruled that out in Beijing.

Gingrich has said he told the Chinese leaders that they need to tolerate freedom of religion, provided for in China's often ignored constitution.

Speaker eyes Japan economic secrets

By ERIC TALMADGE
TOKYO (AP) - He won't have much time to do it, but U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Monday he is hoping to learn the secrets of Japan's economic success during a brief stay here on his tour through Asia.

Gingrich, who arrived in Tokyo late Sunday night, met with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto for breakfast in the first of several meetings with Japanese political and business leaders. He plans to fly to Taiwan on Wednesday.

Asked if he was tired before the early morning breakfast, Gingrich quipped that the prospect of learning "the secrets of Japan's economic success had taken all tiredness away."

Along with Hashimoto, Gingrich was to meet the head of Japan's Defense Agency, the speaker of Japan's lower house and a group of top businessmen. Time allowing, he also was scheduled to visit one of Tokyo's biggest Shinto shrines.

Gingrich was not expected to do any serious negotiating with Tokyo over lingering disputes on the two countries' trade imbalance or concerns about the heavy concentration of U.S. military troops on the southern Japan island of Okinawa.

To the disappointment of some Christians, Gingrich also avoided controversy in China by spending his Easter

at a government-approved church, instead of spending the holiday with China's beleaguered underground Christian community.

Gingrich and members of his bipartisan congressional delegation intended their church-going to be a display of their faith and a gesture of solidarity with China's often persecuted Christians.

But the church they attended, Shanghai Community Church, is a centerpiece of respectability in the officially sanctioned non-denominational church. Australian Prime Minister John Howard, on a five-day China tour, also was there, his last stop before traveling to Beijing.

Gingrich decided not to go to an underground church after U.S. Embassy officials advised him that doing so would put worshippers at increased risk of government censure.

Gingrich has said he told the Chinese leaders that they need to tolerate freedom of religion, provided for in China's often ignored constitution.

Most Chinese worshippers at the Shanghai Community Church were caught up in their celebration of Easter and did not know who the foreign politicians were. But they welcomed them.

Gingrich, on the last of his three days in China, met with Shanghai's mayor, city legislators and U.S. business executives.

Japan, China renew ties

BEIJING (AP) - Japan's foreign minister on Sunday likened his nation's ties with China to a married couple marking their silver jubilee: still basically happy despite problems born of 25 years together.

Yukihiko Ikeda's assessment came in meetings with Chinese leaders Sunday in which the Japanese foreign minister said both countries should step up efforts this year to promote ties, a spokesman for Ikeda said.

Ikeda's talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng came amid an improvement in relations after disputes last year over territory and Japan's role in World War II.

In a measure of the improvement, Chinese and Japanese officials exchanged documents Saturday, the first day of Ikeda's two-day visit, marking a resumption of Japanese aid to China that Tokyo had canceled in 1995 to protest Chinese nuclear weapons tests.

Ikeda told Li that occasional conflicts were inevitable, given the closer relations between China and Japan since they established ties 25 years ago, said Ikeda's spokesman, Hidehiko Hamada.

"Before getting married both sides see some attractions in each other," Hamada quoted Ikeda as saying. "But once they got married, we have to live together and in ordinary daily life both sides may find some problems because their basic relations are much, much closer."

"That does not necessarily mean that basic relations between husband and wife are bad," he said.

"It is very important to wisely cope with this new phenomenon of conflicts," he added.

Ikeda said this anniversary year was "critically important" for strengthening China-Japan ties, Hamada said.

Both sides agreed that Li and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto should exchange visits this year, he said.

In his 70-minute meeting with Jiang, Ikeda also said Japan wished to see relations strengthened this year. Jiang said he was eager to visit Japan next year, the 20th anniversary of a bilateral peace treaty, Hamada said.

Relations were strained last year by a bitter dispute over a group of uninhabited islands that China calls the Diaoyu and Japan calls the Senkakus. Both sides claim them.

China, which suffered an often brutal occupation by Japanese forces in 1937-1945, was also angered by Hashimoto's visit to a shrine for Japan's war dead, including war criminals.

On Saturday, Ikeda told his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, that Japan is considering withdrawing its sponsorship this year of U.N. efforts to criticize China's human rights record.

Hamada said the change was being considered because previous efforts to



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, right, gestures while speaking to Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, left, during their meeting in Beijing Sunday. Ikeda is in Beijing since Saturday for a two-day visit. AP Photo

Gov't troops kill 3 rebels, nab 3

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) - Government forces killed three rebels and captured three more in an ongoing operation aimed at wiping out the fighters loyal to two warlord brothers, a news report said Sunday.

The latest clash took place Saturday

in the Red Ridge Mountains, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of the capital Dushanbe, said Gafur Mirzoyev, commander of the Presidential Guard.

Government troops have killed a dozen rebels and captured more than 20 in the past week, part of an offensive

targeting warlords Rezvon and Bakhran Sadirov, who were involved in a recent hostage-taking episode.

The government says it is closing in on the remaining fighters in the heavily wooded gorges of the Red Ridge Mountains.

After cocaine, Colombians make US foray with heroin

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
SAN JOSE DE LAS HERMOSAS, Colombia (AP) - Standing waist-high in red, pink and violet poppy flowers, a peasant delicately splits a plant bulb with a razor. Milky-white opium gum, the key ingredient in heroin, oozes from the gash.

"This work is innocent because I'm just making a few pesos," says Torchio, who sells the opium in San Jose de las Hermosas, a ramshackle village an hour's walk down the valley.

It is stage one in the making of high-purity Colombian heroin that in the last few years has grabbed a big chunk of the U.S. East Coast market for the drug. Some Colombian heroin is also reaching Europe.

On Feb. 28, the United States cited the growing threat of Colombian heroin among reasons for decertifying Colombia, the world's biggest producer of cocaine, as an ally in the war on drugs.

Dwarfed by decades-old Asian heroin trafficking networks, Colombia produces only 1.5 percent of the world's opium, which is refined through a chemical process into morphine, and then heroin.

But Colombians have promoted the drug with the same entrepreneurial agility they applied to cocaine, making strong inroads in the biggest U.S. heroin market - the Northeast. American officials say they account for at least 80 percent of heroin sales in the New York area.

The key is simple: marked-down prices for white-powder heroin so pure that it can be smoked or snorted instead of injected, avoiding the use of needles and the danger of AIDS.

The price of a kilo of Colombian heroin in the United States is as low as \$85,000; a kilo from Southeast Asia might cost twice as much.

Unlike their counterparts in Asia and the Middle East, Colombian heroin traffickers employ few middlemen who must share in the profits, enabling them to keep prices down, said Anthony Senneca, acting chief of the New York office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Thousands of miles from New York, the production chain begins in remote places like San Jose in Colombia's Tolima province.

There is no police station. Army patrols rarely venture here. Leftist rebels who tax opium buyers rule the hills.

An Associated Press reporter and photographer reached San Jose on horseback, riding for five hours into a canyon of dense forest. A traditional, brightly painted bus called a "chiva" offered another way out: five more bone-crunching hours on a winding mountain road to a nearby town.

Armed guerrillas in civilian clothing who belong to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's biggest rebel band, monitor traffic and make sure opium traders do not get mugged.

At a roadside kiosk where travelers buy food and drink, a visitor asked to talk to the local guerrilla commander. "Did you come to buy?" replied the young vendor, signaling how deeply rebels are involved in the business.

Colombians started growing poppy in the late 1980s, and heroin cooks were brought in from Asia to teach them how to make heroin.

High prices encouraged a planting boom in the early 1990s, which in turn produced a big supply that has pushed down prices despite periodic crop-poisoning raids by police planes.

In San Jose, a kilo of opium gum costs 500,000 pesos (\$500) or less, well under half the price five years ago. Many poppy harvesters are paid just \$18 a day with free food.

Still, that is enough in this impoverished land to keep farmers growing poppy, and the DEA warns of a growing Colombian plague. Sixty-two percent of the heroin seized at U.S. airports in 1995 was from Colombia. Five years ago, the percentage was negligible.

The statistic, however, reflects in part that Colombians usually smuggle heroin by sending it in with more easily detected couriers on commercial flights to Miami and New York.

Asian traffickers usually smuggle heroin in greater bulk into the United States by sea, which is harder to detect and therefore seized less often.

The Colombians' use of "mules" who hide one or two kilograms of heroin in suitcases or swallow rubber packets filled with the drug is an indication that it is still a business for small-time operators. By contrast, Colombia's co-

caine cartels smuggle their product by the ton on jets, boats and even small submarines.

So far, the cartels seem unwilling to branch into heroin, said an official at DEA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. "They're making so much money in the cocaine business, they may not at this moment see a need to diversify," he said in a telephone interview.

He asked that his name not be used for security reasons because his work brings him to Colombia.

The DEA, however, worries that major cocaine groups will eventually try to exert control over the heroin trade, possibly expanding the business and making it harder to disrupt.

In Tolima province, the government is trying to wean peasants off poppy-growing by offering aid to grow legal crops. But money is short and many farmers fail to qualify for loans.

"This will never end," says Chucho, the peasant on the hill above San Jose. "As long as the (heroin) business continues, who's going to stop growing poppy?"



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

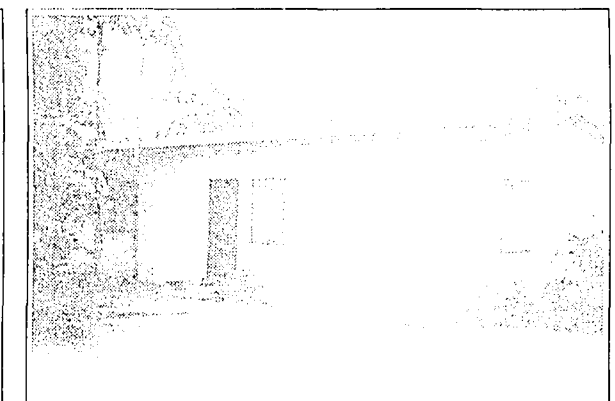
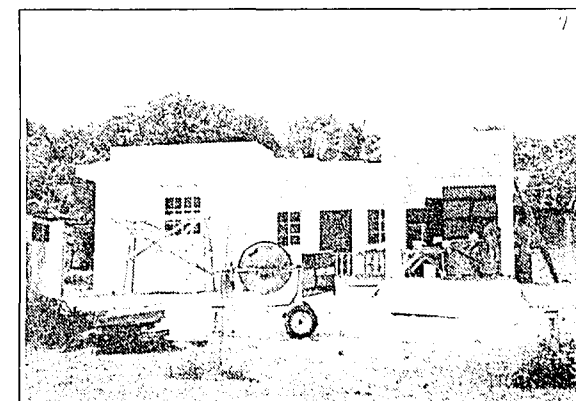
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) hereby serves notice to the general public of the increased availability of financing under its administration of several residential housing loan programs which offer varying interest rates and maximum loan limits. They are as follows:

1. Direct Family Home Loan (DFHL);
2. Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing (RH) 502 and RD 504 Programs;
3. Loan Purchase Agreement with Guam Savings & Loan Association (GS&LA);
4. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Native American Direct Loan (NADL);
Note: VA LOAN PROGRAM WILL EXPIRE IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. ELIGIBLE VETERANS, APPLY NOW!
5. Housing Preservation Grant (HPG); and,
6. HOME Program.

The NMHC/MPLT Loan Program will soon be implemented. The regulation for the program is being finalized. Loan term will be 30 years and interest rate will be between 6% to 8%.

NMHC's loan programs provide opportunities to construct or rehabilitate existing homes. Those interested are encouraged to take advantage of the above programs. Contact the NMHC Office at 234-9447/7689 for more information.



"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency"

Pope urges Easter peace

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Decrying the "forces of evil," Pope John Paul II used his Easter Sunday blessing to send a message of hope to victims of violence in Africa and Albania.

Some 100,000 people filled the flower-splashed St. Peter's Square for the Easter Mass and then the blessing.

ing.

As has become his custom, the 76-year-old pontiff appeared in his blessing for peace in the world's trouble spots.

"Christ is the hope ... of those who see life and the future threatened by war and hatred, especially in the heart of Africa," John Paul said.

There were calls for peace from many countries Sunday. In Jerusalem, Christians gathered at the traditional site of Jesus Christ's resurrection while in England, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the pain felt by young people.

In his message, the pope called out to those "who work to strengthen

peace and democracy, often obtained at the cost of great sacrifice, as in the Balkans, and especially in beloved Albania," said the pope.

He also appealed for peace in the Holy Land, and said his thoughts went out to hostages held by rebels at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru.

In Christ, "we can overcome the forces of evil," said John Paul, who delivered Easter greetings in 57 languages.

In a departure from tradition, the pope spoke from a chair near the outdoor altar, rather than from the balcony at St. Peter's Basilica.

The Vatican blamed the change on a late start of the pope's outdoor Easter Mass. He risked missing a satellite link for the message's worldwide broadcast if it had gone to the balcony, officials said.

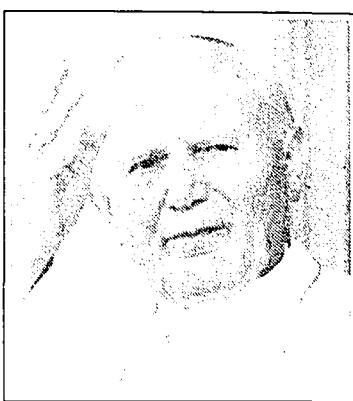
John Paul appeared in relatively good form, if a bit tired, after a long week of celebrations which culminated in Sunday's rites.

Albania, torn by chaos and violence, and Zaire, scene of a civil war, have been in the pope's mind during Holy Week celebrations.

He has referred to the countries several times in public remarks, and involved Albanians and Zairians in services.

In England, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey said the need for peace "is most obvious in those parts of the world disfigured by violent community conflicts."

Preaching in Canterbury Cathedral, the spiritual leader of the Church of England, said God's peace should



Pope John Paul II

begin in local communities.

"Too many people — especially young people — feel rejected and undervalued," Carey said.

In Jerusalem, church bells resonated as thousands of Christians gathered in the Old City.

Palestinian Christians from the West Bank, however, were unable to reach the city because of a closure imposed by Israel following a March 21 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher — the church at the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection — was crowded Sunday with Catholics celebrating Easter. Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Coptic and other Eastern Christians, who celebrate Easter next month, held services in their separate areas of the church.

The crowds in Jerusalem were thinner than in past years. Many pilgrims were deterred by recent violence, including the suicide bombing and daily clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

Ex-cult member sorry he missed mass suicide

By DEBORAH HASTINGS

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Former Heaven's Gate cult member Nick Cooke said he is sorry he missed last week's mass suicide, but is convinced his wife has "shed her container" and now lives on spaceship with 38 colleagues.

"I believe they are on a craft somewhere, whether it's behind the comet or not, I really don't know," Cooke said in an interview Sunday on San Francisco's KQED-FM.

Cooke said he left the cult three years ago but supports its beliefs of shunning sex, alcohol and earthly possessions while evolving to a higher level. His wife, Suzanne Sylvia Cooke, was among the 39 people found dead in a Rancho Santa Fe mansion.

Twenty years ago, Cooke and his wife abandoned their daughter Kelly to follow the cult. He said he had been a member "off and on" for 23 years and did not say why he left.

When asked if he was sorry he was not with the 39 members, Cooke answered, "Yes. I'm not suicidal ... but I have no problem in laying down my shell, or my body as they did that day. I don't consider it suicide."

As for why members committed suicide, he said, "They reached a point that the word was given to depart from this world back to the mother ship. To move into bodies that had been prepared for them, physical bodies of a finer nature — androgynous, sexless. It's an evolutionary step."

Cooke described a regimented cult life punctuated by conversations with the dead, and explained the change and \$5 tucked neatly inside each victim's slacks.

"Well, whenever we went to a movie or went out for any reason we always took \$5 and change, in case we suddenly needed to use the telephone, we had a quarter or two in our pocket. We would have \$5 if the car broke down and for some reason we needed a taxi," Cooke said.

Cooke also spoke of the cult's "procedures." He said members could talk for 30 minutes about the procedures for cleaning a bathroom.

"In showering, because we often shared the same house, we would often not use any more water than necessary, so we would scrub down and then rinse off."

"They were practical, they were to-the-point guidelines that had to do with living within the budget of your supplies. Let's say you might have so many supplies on board your craft to go from one star system to another, so they you would always live within that budget."

Cult planned for comet's arrival

By MICHELLE LOCKE

SAN DIEGO (AP) — For months, the 39 members of Heaven's Gate climbed a sci-fi stairway to Paradise, step by faithful step.

Up before dawn, they prayed and then trained a telescope on the sky to look for the UFO they believed would whisk them away from Earth's tribulations.

In March, as the Hale-Bopp comet swooped to within 122 million miles of Earth, they got the signal: Time to go.

Suddenly, their daily regimen switched from holistic hokum to recipe for destruction as they leaped into the void fueled by a cocktail of pudding, sedatives and vodka, confident to the end that cosmic salvation beckoned.

"We know whatever happens to us after we leave our bodies is a step forward" — videotaped message by Marshall Applewhite, glassy-eyed leader of Heaven's Gate.

Last October, the group known as Heaven's Gate moved into the sprawling mansion that would eventually become their high-priced mausoleum.

There, according to people who knew them through their business incarnation of Web site designers Higher Source Contract Enterprises, group members followed a schedule of almost military precision. They got up at 3 a.m. for prayers, searched the sky at 4 a.m., ate a communal meal at 5.

The rest of the day it was work and more work, interspersed by breaks for fruit and a lemon-cayenne pepper drink reminiscent of the faddish '70s purge

known as the "Master Cleanser."

They wore black and kept their hair trimmed to Marine recruit length. They didn't drink alcohol. They didn't do drugs. They didn't have sex. Some of the men had taken celibacy to the extreme: castration.

"I have the same kind of penetrating questions that you have: Who or what would make 39 people take their life in this manner?" — Sheriff Bill Kolender at a news conference describing the deaths.

In mid-November, a rumor began to circulate that there was a spaceship lurking behind Hale-Bopp.

On their Web site, cult members made references to the ghost ship. But they said it was irrelevant, because the comet signaled it was time for "the arrival of the spacecraft from the Level Above Human to take us home to 'Their World.'"

In March, the group started winding down their business, telling some clients not to call them until after Easter. One company tried to hang on to their services, recalled an employee who knew three cult members by the names of Jeff Moore, Nora and Golden.

"They became indecisive. It was like part of them didn't want to leave," the employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told The San Diego Union-Tribune.

On Friday, March 21, the group went out to lunch at a Marie Callender's restaurant in suburban Carlsbad.

Typical of their contact with outsiders, they were friendly, polite — and a

little bit strange.

They asked for so many lemons that the restaurant went through three deep-dish casserole pans of quartered lemons.

"They kept asking for lemons for their ice tea; we couldn't keep up," waiter Jeff Mercier told The North County Times. "They were just sucking them down."

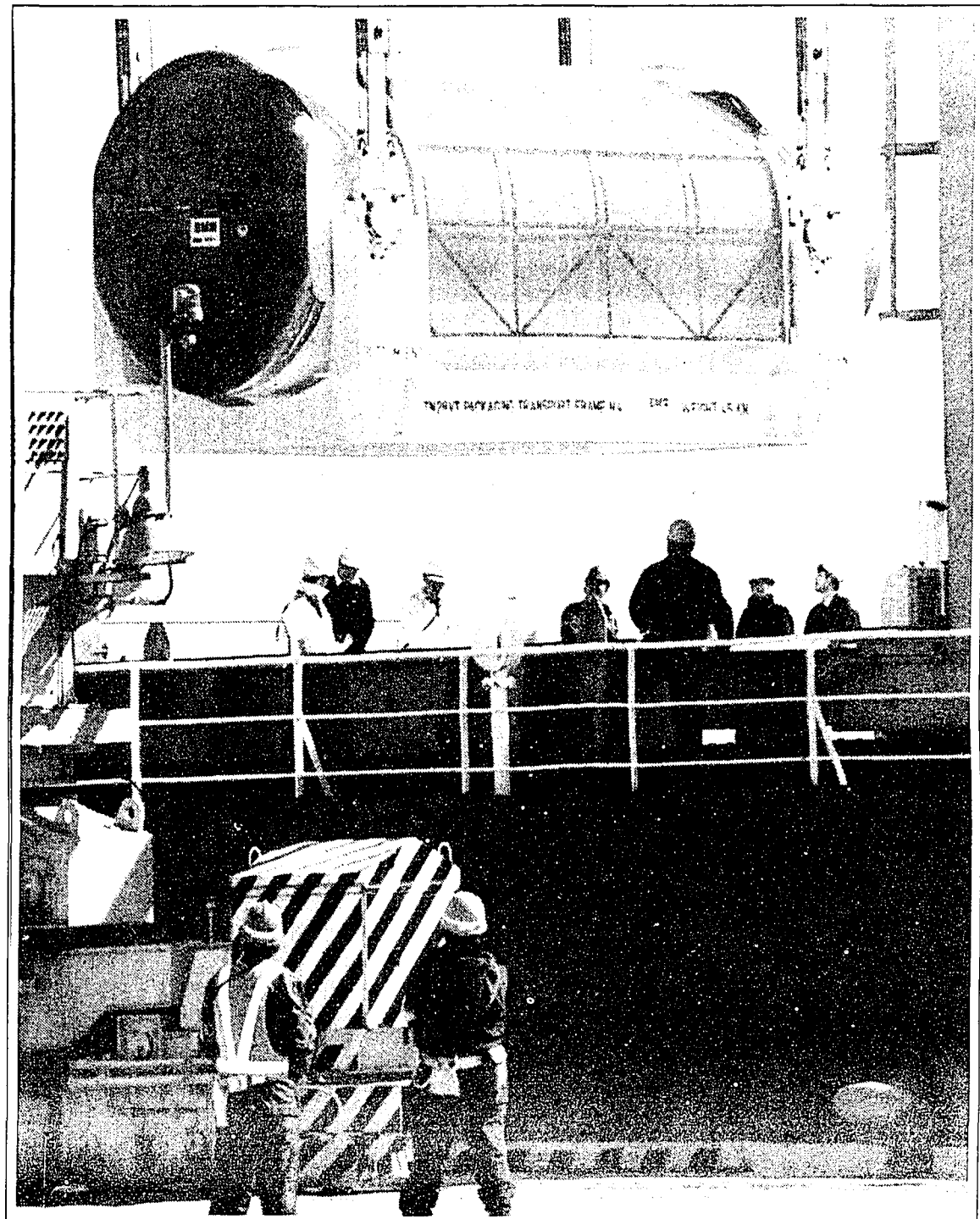
On Sunday, house owner Sam Koutchesfahani paid a visit. His lawyer would later say the group seemed fine and gave him a computer for his son to use in school.

That night, the ball of frozen gas and dust known as Hale-Bopp made its closest pass to Earth.

The Heaven's Gate Web site was updated one last time at 10:26 Pacific time.

In its final version, the page carried a flashing logo borrowed from Star Trek. "Red Alert, Hale-Bopp Brings Closure to Heaven's Gate."

"Take the little package of pudding or applesauce and eat a couple of teaspoons. Pour the medicine in and stir it up. Eat it fairly quickly and then drink the vodka beverage. Then lay back and rest quietly" — suicide instructions as read by the medical examiner.



Workers unload one of two containers holding a total of 20 tons of high-level nuclear waste from the British ship Pacific Teal at Mutsu-Ogawara Port in the village of Rokkasho in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan in mid-March. The controversial cargo arrived in the port earlier in the day after a two-month voyage from France, where the waste, originally from Japanese power plants, had been reprocessed. Officials later said the waste was safely stored at a temporary storage facility about 7 kilometers (4.4 miles) away in Rokkasho.

AP Photo

Agriculture official: no need to fear Aussie meat over anthrax

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Indonesia was too hasty in banning beef and cattle imports from Australia because of anthrax as any outbreaks were under control, New South Wales' state Agriculture Department said Monday.

Indonesia halted imports from New South Wales and Victoria on March 10, citing anthrax disease in cattle in both states.

Asian food buyers are particularly sensitive since Britain has been rocked by the "mad cow disease" scare.

But the head of the New South Wales Agriculture Department's animal industries division, Helen Scott-Orr, said New South Wales should not be included in the ban as reports of anthrax were normal and decreasing.

"In fact, our incidence this year has been on the lower side of what our

normal incidence has been," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"So it's not as if there's any greater risk whatsoever to the Indonesians than there was in the past."

"Each year we would have anywhere between five and 20 outbreaks but essentially they have been diminishing each year."

"Obviously (Indonesia) feels because of the high incidence in Victoria, it has aroused their awareness and they have looked to see where anthrax occurred in Australia and they have thrown the net rather wider than we think necessary."

From January through March some 150 cattle died on Victoria farms before anthrax was contained through quarantines and inoculation.

More than 80 Victoria farms lost

cattle to the disease and more than 77,300 head of cattle were vaccinated.

There had been outbreaks of the disease on six isolated New South Wales farms this year, Scott-Orr said.

Anthrax is a highly infectious cattle disease that leads to ulcerating nodules, lesions in the lungs and blood poisoning. It can also be transmitted to humans handling the infected products.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported Monday that Australia's US \$2.7 billion (3.5 billion Australian dollars) red meat and livestock export industries are worried about a possible loss of access to lucrative Asian markets after an apparent breakdown between government agencies in reporting recent anthrax infections in New South Wales.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF:
SEGUNDINO R. UBONGEN dba PHILAM ENTERPRISES, SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP.

LICENSING CASE NO. 1-97

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Hearing on the Revocation or Suspension of the Business License of the Licensee was heard on March 26, 1997. Present for the Department of Commerce ("Commerce"), was the Acting Secretary of Commerce Oscar C. Camacho ("Camacho"), Acting business License Officer Bernadita T. Palacios ("Palacios"), Enforcement & Compliance Officer Gregorio I. Sablan ("Sablan"), and Special Assistant Attorney General Wesley M. Bogdan ("Bogdan"). The Licensee failed to appear.

The Two Public Notices of Hearing, dated March 7, and publicly noticed, in a periodical newspaper of general circulation (Marianas Variety), for March 11 and March 17 (see Exhibits "1-2") set the date for the Licensee to appear. The Licensee failed to appear. 4 CMC §5611(f) entitled "Conditions for Revocation or Suspension", in part, states:

(1) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce may revoke or suspend any license issued under this section upon finding after two weeks public notice and a hearing conducted pursuant to 1 CMC §§9108-9111 that:

(D) The licensee violated any provision of Commonwealth law or any rule or regulation issued thereunder.

See also Comm. Reg. Vol. 17, No. 4, at 13273-76 (April 15, 1995) (effective date May 25, 1995) (Secretary of Commerce to appoint Hearing Officer to hear contested cases).

Notwithstanding the Licensee's failure to appear, the statutory notice requirement (calculated to reasonably put the Licensee on notice of the hearing) has been met (two weeks public notice) and the hearing shall proceed to determine if the Licensee violated any provision of Commonwealth law or any rule or regulation issued thereunder. See 4 CMC §5611(f) (1) (d).

At the hearing official notice was taken of the Department of Labor & Immigration ("DOLI") March 10, 1997 Administrative Order ("March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order"). The March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order, in pertinent part, noted:

1. Respondent was served with notice of the hearing and has failed to appear. The Division of Labor submitted... a Verification of Departure form indicating that respondent left the Commonwealth February 26, 1997. Respondent is therefore in default.

3. It is established at the hearing of March 6th that respondent employed 191 nonresident workers, 185 of whom are Bangladeshi nationals...

4. It was established at the hearing of March 6th that respondent has failed to provide employment for complainants or to pay their wages himself if unable to place them with other employers under service contracts. Respondent has fled the Commonwealth leaving no staff or assets to assist in fulfilling his obligations to complainants. Respondent is in violation of the Labor laws cited by the Director of Labor in the February 18, 1997, Notice of Violation.

March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order, ¶¶ 1, 3-4, at 2-3.

the Labor laws the Respondent was found to have violated cited by the Director of labor in the February 18, 1997 Notice of Violation were 3 CMC §4436(d) (2) (failure to account for employees); 3 CMC §4439 (a-c) (failure to produce upon demand names, addresses, occupational categories and wage rates, and payroll records of employees); and, 4 CMC §9232 (a), (c) (failure to keep records and furnish employees payroll statements). It is undisputed that the Licensee did not appeal the March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order, pursuant to 3 CMC §4445 (a)1, within fifteen days of the issuance of the agency order.

APPLICABLE STANDARD

The Secretary of the Department of Commerce may revoke or suspend any license issued under this section upon finding after two weeks public notice and a hearing conducted pursuant to 1 CMC §§9108-9111 that:

The licensee violated any provision of Commonwealth law or any rule or regulation issued thereunder.

4 CMC §5611(f) (1) (d).

The two weeks public notice requirement has been met. The Licensee was given a hearing conducted pursuant to 1 CMC §§9108-9111 (Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act). And the findings that the Licensee violated provisions of Commonwealth law (3 CMC §4436 [d] [2], 3 CMC §4439 [a-c], and 4 CMC §9232 [a], [c]) are unreviewable administratively or judicially.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The two weeks public notice requirement of 4 CMC §5611(f) has been met. The Licensee was given a hearing pursuant 3 CMC §4445 (a) entitled "Enforcement: Administrative Review", in pertinent part, states:

Within 15 days of issuance any person or party, affected by findings, orders or decisions of the agency... may appeal.... by written notice. If no appeal is made... within 15 days of issuance... the... findings, orders or decisions shall be unreviewable administratively or judicially to 4 CMC §5611(f), and 1 CMC §§9108-9111, of the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act.

2. The March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order made an administrative finding of violations of Commonwealth Law.

3. The findings of the March 10, 1997 DOLI Administrative Order are unreviewable administratively or judicially.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The license to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Segundino R. Ubongen, dba Philam Enterprises, a Sole Proprietorship is REVOKED.

DATED this 27th day of March, 1997.

/s/ JAMES E. HOLLMAN
Administrative Hearing Officer

DeLay . . .

Continued from page 1

DeLay said the federal government, like the CNMI, should provide tax relief, recognize that pro-business policies and free trade create jobs and prosperity.

"The CNMI is proof positive that these policies work."

He said Congress should also allow the CNMI people more control over their lands, referring to the "unreasonable" federal control of Tinian land.

DeLay said Tenorio has asked him and House Trade Subcom-

mittee Chair Phil Crane (R-Illinois) to assist the people of Tinian "with opening up more of their land for development."

"(Crane) and I hope to become active in bringing a positive resolution to this matter and other areas where we can help the people of the CNMI," he said.

First elected in 1984, DeLay, who will turn 50 on April 8, has been described by "The Almanac of American Politics" as an "aggressive political operator, strong ideological conservative and key member" of the House Republican leadership team.

that they had to be trained.

After they had been trained, Tai said they asked for salary raises. There were also instances that a captain hired additional crew without permission from the management.

Tai said the captain who had been hooked on alcohol had recovered and that he would be rehired on a temporary basis.

Tai drafted a letter in response to Torres and may send it today.

Tai also said Saipan Express and Tinian Express might resume operation next month.

Tinian Shipping officials said the ships had to undergo overhauling to stabilize their movements on the sea to prevent seasickness among the passengers.

Tinian . . .

Continued from page 1

is not true."

Tai said the ships' crews were only laid off temporarily while Saipan Express and Tinian Express are undergoing an overhaul.

He added that as of yesterday, "we called around eight to ten crew members back to work."

He said the captains were not among those recalled since "we don't need them yet."

He also said that two captains had opted to resign, with one of them not satisfied with his job and the other found to be an alleged alcoholic.

The four captains hired were locals, but Tai said that except for one, they were not qualified and

Resident . . .

Continued from page 1

erence in employment.

The company failed to provide

the plaintiffs with the same level of benefits mandated by law to be given to non-resident workers in violation of Public Law 9-71, Cool added.

BOE . . .

Continued from page 1

the termination of Guerrero Brothers' contract but DPW acting Secretary Martin Manglona refused to sign it.

BOE chairman Don A. Farrell has said PSS "has to convince DPW to participate in the initiative to terminate the Guerrero Brothers' contract."

Manglona, for his part, said the ball is with PSS.

"PSS and not DPW is the contracting party. We're waiting for PSS to terminate the contract," Manglona said in an interview with the Variety.

"We do not want to get into legal troubles," he added.

Manglona said he will consult the Attorney General's office on the matter.

Tinian High School was opened in August last year, but Guerrero Brothers has yet to complete cer-

tain portions of the school.

Aside from delays in the completion of the project, public works and education officials complain about "technical defects" in the project.

When reached for comment, Pedro Guerrero, Guerrero Brothers' president, said he did not know about the government's plan to terminate the contract.

"I'm surprised that Marianas Variety knows more about it than myself," he said, refusing to give further comments.

As for the MHS gym, Bicknel said PSS has already asked DPW to rebid the project.

MHS gym was conceptualized in 1990, and construction started in 1993.

Constant changes in the engineering and structural designs continue to stall the project.

The project was suspended late last year, and, as in the case of the Tinian project, construction has not resumed.

Eric Smith, lawyer for B&R, said PSS had "authorized" the suspension of the project.

"B&R agreed that certain aspects of the project could not be finished until there was approval by independent engineers on changes in the structural design," Smith said.

Compounding the engineering and structural problem is lack of funding.

Bicknel told the board that the project is facing a funding shortage of \$18,000 for the architectural and engineering design and \$150,000 for the construction. The project started with a \$1 million fund donated by a Japanese company.

One critical issue, Smith said, involves the question about "who would pay for certain items purchased by the contractor for modification."

fication."

Bicknel said B&R has agreed to pull out of the contract for the project.

"PSS and B&R mutually agreed that it would be cheaper for PSS if they rebid the project and have another contractor finish the remaining job. It was agreed that it would be in the best interest of everybody," Smith said.

Smith said B&R would extend assistance to the contractor who would be awarded the contract.

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will be closed for inventory on the following dates:

Tuesday, April 1, 1997

Wednesday, April 2, 1997 (up to 12:00 noon).

We will re-open for business at
12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 2nd.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

VICTORINO T. BORJA and
TRINIDAD A. BORJA,
Plaintiffs,
v.
KO, KYUNG MI; OK, YUL; and LEE,
HONG-RAE,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-259
SUMMONS

TO: KO, KYUNG MI; OK, YUL; and LEE,
HONG-RAE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, within thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons in this newspaper, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, attorneys for Plaintiffs, whose address is Post Office Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

By order of the above Court.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Commonwealth Supreme Court

Dated this 4th day of March, 1997.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1050

ROY S. REYES,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JON YE CHOI KIM, SEONG SOO
KIM, AKIYAMA YUKISHIGE,
Defendants.

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 you herewith, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to KENNETH L. GOVENDO, Attorney at Law whose address is P.O. Box 2377, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

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

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT

Dated this 17 day of September, 1996.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLON
Deputy Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads Section

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01 FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
01 FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: ISLAND BUSINESS SYSTEM & SUPPLY (CNMI) CORPORATION Tel. 234-8002/5155(4/1)T64961

01 FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: MARIBETH F. BABAUTA dba El Kay Jae Enterprises Tel. 288-0236(4/1)T64962

02 MAINTENANCE WORKER (GENERAL)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PEDRO C. SAN NICOLAS dba PAB Construction and Manpower Services Tel. 322-3045(4/1)T228452

01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: VICENTE M. CONCEPCION dba Ben and Ki Water Sport Tel. 233-7298(4/1)T228453

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ANGELITA M. BUNIA dba Alar's Enterprises Tel. 234-0695(4/1)T228455

01 MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PUYAT & SONS AND CO. INC. Tel. 288-1295(4/1)T228457

06 WAITRESS/WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: M & H CORPORATION dba Linda Restaurant Tel. 233-8168(4/1)T228440

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MASCOT CORPORATION Tel. 234-0692(4/1)T228442

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00-8.00 per hour
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
02 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
01 HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN INC. Tel. 322-3311(4/8)T656060

01 CABLE TV TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$6.60-7.60 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS CABLE VISION, INC. Tel. 235-6365(4/8)T65062

10 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
20 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 FASTFOOD SERVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIA ELENA B. PROVINCE dba E2JP2's Int'l Manpower Agency Tel. 235-4237(4/8)T228535

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$7.03 per hour
Contact: CREATIVE TOURS MICRONESIA, INC. Tel. 322-7417(4/8)T228537

01 COOK-Salary: \$600.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: PRO-DIVE SAIPAN, INC. dba Pro-Dive Saipan (4/8)T228538

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$900.00 per month
01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DOUBLE M LIMITED Tel. 233-0594(4/8)T228539

02 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary: \$1,160.00 per month plus 400.00 housing allowance per month
Contact: NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY MICRONESIA, INC. dba Mach Tour Tel. 234-9309(4/1)T228443

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: EDGARDO B. LOS BANOS dba Jade Skills Construction Tel. 233-1709(4/1)T228444

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.75 per hour
Contact: DON A. FARRELL/CARMEN D.L.C. FARRELL dba Micronesian Productions/Ric-Darsha Tel. 433-3082(4/1)T228445

02 TRASH COLLECTOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JACINTO C. CRUZ dba Cruz Sanitation Services Tel. 234-0456(4/1)T228446

01 LUNCH TRUCK DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
04 CATERER HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 COOK HELPER-Salary: 3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MANAGAH MARINE TOUR, INC. Tel. 233-2040(4/1)T228447

03 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
06 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
06 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MANAGER-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month
Contact: MANAGAH MARINE TOUR, INC. dba Hodoli Garden Restaurant Tel. 233-2040(4/1)T228448

01 TRANSLATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: X. CORPORATION Tel. 233-0691(4/1)T228449

01 POLYNESIAN CULTURAL DANCER-Salary: \$4.25-5.25 per hour
01 AUTOMOTIVE RENTAL CLERK-Salary: \$3.50-3.75 per hour
Contact: MARINO PRODUCTION INC. dba Tahara Show Tel. 233-3255(4/1)T228450

01 DAY CARE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CONRAD M. SABLON dba Little Rascal Day Care Center Tel. 234-7749(4/1)T228451

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CONRAD M. SABLON dba Mother & Child Care Tel. 234-7749(4/1)T228451

01 MACHINE ENGRAVER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: Younis Art Studio, Inc. Tel. 234-6341(4/1)T64980

02 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.80 per hour
02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT, INC. dba Saipan Ocean View Hotel(4/1)T64948

01 STEELMAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: VICENTE C. BARCINAS dba RM Enterprises Tel. 233-2054(4/8)T228555

07 WAITER/WAITRESS, NIGHT CLUB-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC ZHI DA COMPANY, LTD. dba Sweetheart Karaoke & Night Club Tel. 235-5818(4/8)T228556

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00-4.75 per hour
Contact: YUMIKO CORPORATION dba Yuichiro's Printing Design Lifestyle Tel. 233-0955(4/8)T228557

01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HUGO W. MICHLING dba Familia Enterprises Tel. 234-5424(4/8)T228559

01 MUSICIAN-Salary: \$700.00 per mo.
Contact: ASIA PACIFIC OVERSEAS, INC. dba BJ Entertainment Services Tel. 235-5219(4/8)T228541

02 BUILDING MAINT. REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
Contact: FRANCISCO C. CABRERA dba Design Florist, Cabrera Funeral Service, etc. Tel. 234-6582(4/8)T228542

01 CHIEF ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: D & C CORPORATION Tel. 233-7268(4/8)T228543

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CREDENCE, INC. dba Credence Sari-Sari Styles Tel. 235-6046(4/8)T228544

01 STORE MANAGER (Fluent in Korean/Japanese languages)-Salary: \$800.00-1,000.00 per month
02 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$500.00 per month
Contact: BONG ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1899(4/8)T228545

01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JSC CORPORATION Tel. 235-1721(4/8)T228546

01 HOUSEKEEPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: YANO ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Kinpachi Restaurant/Convenience Kinpachi & Dollar Shop (4/8)T228549

01 MAINTENANCE, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS PARAMOUNT CORPORATION Tel. 233-4030(4/8)T228551

02 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSE I. SAN JUAN dba JSJ Painting Services Tel. 288-1513(4/8)T228553

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MR. RODRIGO M. CAPATI dba Saipan Woodcraft Ent. (4/8)T228554

01 MANAGER, CUSTOMER TECHNICAL SERVICES-Salary: \$1,000.00-3,500 per month
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-8876(4/8)T228540

01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 FAST FOOD WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
04 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: R.S.M. MANPOWER SERVICES dba Manpower Services Tel. 235-0790(4/15)T228630

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ICE BERG CORPORATION (4/15)T228631

01 DISPLAYER, MERCHANDISE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: DASOM MARKET (DASOM CORPORATION) Tel. 234-1501(4/15)T228632

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERIANA CORPORATION dba Club Happiness Tel. 234-1545(4/15)T228633

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARCELINA B. ERMITANIO dba AJ's Enterprises (4/15)T228643

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: FUKUMOTO CORPORATION Tel. 322-8300(4/15)T228629

28 NURSE, REGISTERED-Salary: \$6,923-7,236 per hour
Contact: PARAS ENTERPRISES SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-8804(4/15)T228634

10 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GLOBAL ENTERPRISES CORPORATION dba Mojina Tel. 233-2200(4/15)T228635

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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Telephone 234-3252 / 3, Monday-Saturday 8:00AM-6:00PM

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Fletcher Pacific Construction Co., Ltd. (CNMI) is seeking candidates with experience in the construction project safety process. Requirements include electrical safety, knowledge of Federal OSHA Regulations, First Aid and C.P.R. Excellent Communication and interpersonal skills essential. Successful candidates must submit to substance abuse testing.

Please send resume/application to Fletcher Pacific Construction Co. Ltd. (Guam); POB 23068-GMF, Barr., Guam 96921; Fax # 671 647-5600; Attn: HR. Equal opportunity employer

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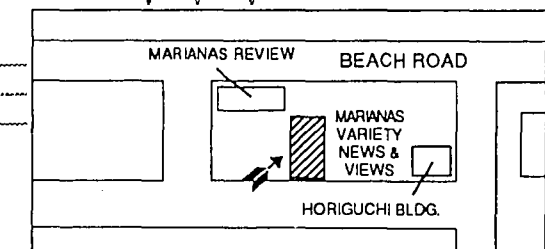
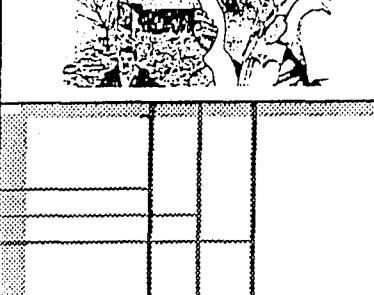
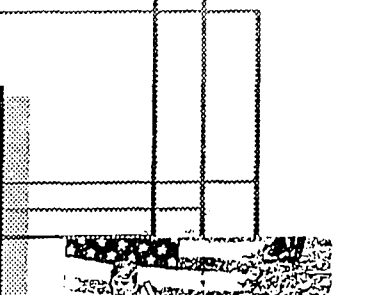
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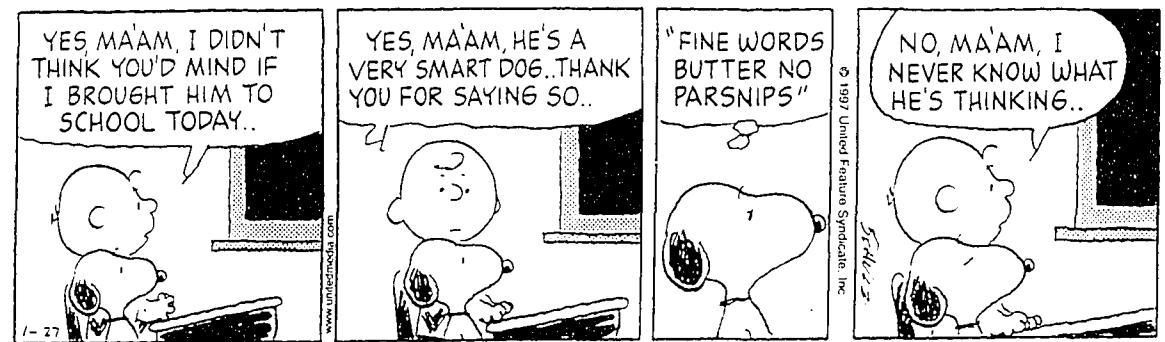
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STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you never seem to know just which way you will turn from day to day, but your faith in that unseen, unnamed force which guides you is unflappable, and it pays off again and again. Your record of success is likely to be quite remarkable. For someone who seems unfocused, you are perhaps the most focused individual you know. However, you are always willing to let yourself turn away from your prime interest to explore something else whenever you have the opportunity. You seem to be one thing one moment, and another thing the next. Who can figure you out? Not many!

You have a good deal of nerve and enthusiasm, and there are times when this may be seen as volatility or aggression. You are tenacious and willing to put up a fight whenever necessary; you're not the kind to turn away from a challenge simply because you may be afraid. Fear, for you, is a potent force.

Also born on this date are: Ali McGraw, Jane Powell, Debbie Reynolds, actresses; Rusty Staub, baseball player.

To see what is in store for you

END Your Birthday 04-01-97

CLOSERS

The most deadly explosion in American history occurred on March 18, 1937, at a school in New London, Texas. Four hundred thirteen people were killed.

William Henry Harrison was the most productive president, in at least one category. He and his wife had 10 children, more than any other American head of state.

Heard at sporting events nationwide, "The Star-Spangled Banner" has three additional verses that are seldom sung.

Notable Americans who have been assassinated in the 20th century include Presidents McKinley and Kennedy, U.S. Senators Huey P. Long and Robert F. Kennedy, civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers, U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Rodger P. Davies, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and City Council member Harvey Milk.

Earth Tip: One 15- to 20-year-old tree makes enough paper for only 700 grocery bags. Yet the alternative, plastic bags, are not degradable and are made from petroleum, which is nonrenewable. Bring your own reusable bag when you shop.

This Passover was the first to be celebrated in cyberspace. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations presented an on-line seder via the Prodigy service, followed by a discussion on the meaning and relevance of the holiday, which celebrates the exodus of Jews from bondage in Egypt.

A Minnesota company has developed a window that uses liquid crystal technology to alternate between clear and opaque "privacy" glass.

With over 65 million passenger arrivals and departures, Chicago's O'Hare airport remains the world's busiest. Its closest rivals are in Dallas (almost 50 million) and London (almost 48 million).

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Bullet sounds
5 Spike —
8 Smashes (slang)
12 Dye plant
13 Lorenzo's

14 Former Mets player
Tommie
15 Frozen materials
17 To some extent (2 wds.)
19 Not supplied with meals
20 Point of orbit, in astronomy
21 Pertaining to an age
23 Arabian garments
24 Mal de —
26 Berra, et al.
28 DDE
31 Silver symbol
32 El —
33 For instance

34 Rocky hill
36 Stories being
39 Army acronym
41 Trash pile
43 Pertaining to birds
45 Chicken homes
48 New York hockey or Texas baseballer
50 Chewing gum
51 Toward shelter
52 "The sixth sense" (abbr.)
54 N.Y. Stadium for 14 Across
55 Plots of soil
56 Baseball stat
57 Emperor

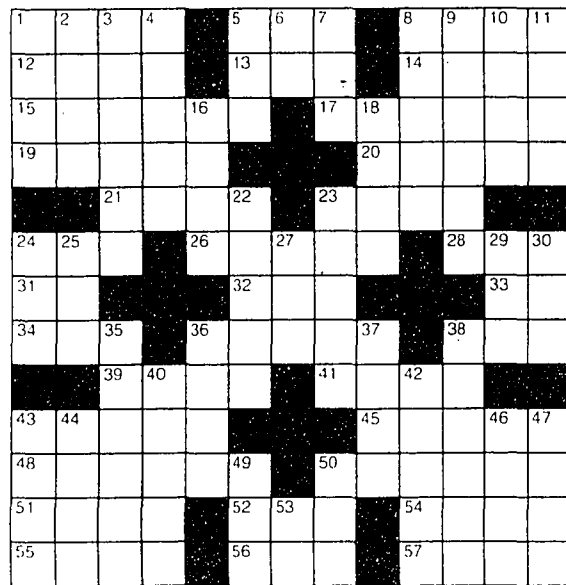
DOWN

1 Across Pitts
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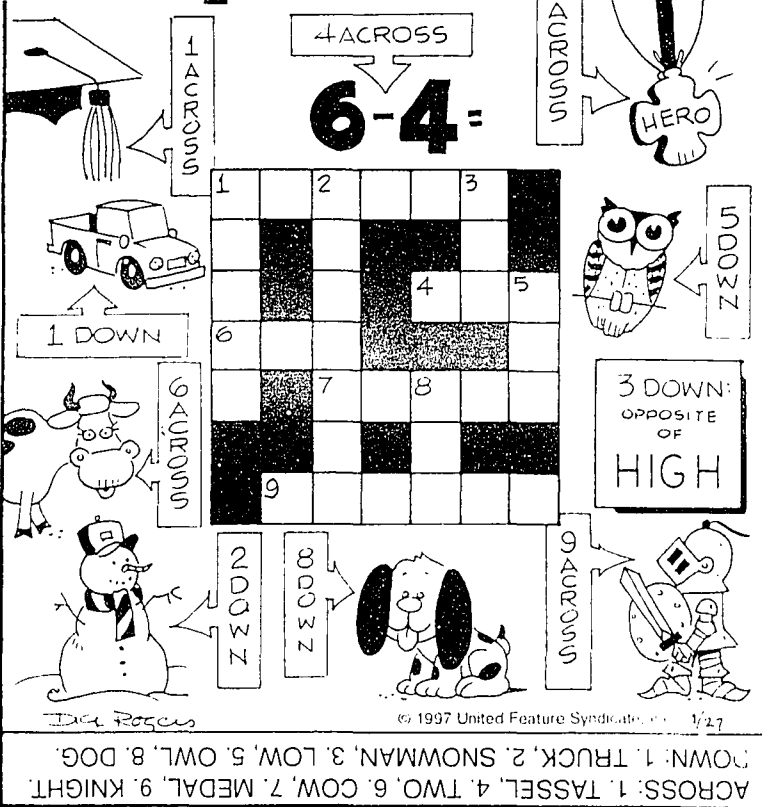
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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AUER ITE ARUN
PREY POR PYLLE

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KidSpot™



ACROSS: 1. TASSEL, 2. SNOWMAN, 3. LOW, 4. TWO, 5. OWL, 6. COW, 7. MEDAL, 8. KNIGHT, 9. KNOT, 10. KNOT

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Lipton tennis' championship game

Muster drubs Bruguera

By STEVEN WINE

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) - Thomas Muster, capping his comeback from a knee injury here eight years ago, beat Sergi Bruguera 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-1 Sunday in the final of the Lipton Championships.

Muster last reached the Lipton final in 1989, when he was unable to play because of an accident with a drunk driver shortly after his victory in the semifinals. He severed two tendons in his left knee, and the injury almost ended his career.

The 29-year-old Austrian earned \$360,000 and validated his contention that he's more than just a clay-court player. The title is his third on hardcourts, compared with 40 on clay, including the 1995 French Open. His only other championship in the United States came in Boston in 1988.

"After the French Open, this is probably the biggest victory of my career," Muster said. "This is very emotional for me. After what happened eight years ago, I felt today was a great day of justice for me."

In the women's doubles final, Natasha Zvereva and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario beat Sabine Appelmans and Miriam Oremans 6-2, 6-3.

Following his 1989 accident, Muster collected \$700,000 in a lawsuit settlement. But the injury robbed his knee of flexibility and left him susceptible to the rigors of a full hardcourt schedule.

"I always felt like I play well on this stuff," he said. "If I could play all year on it, I would play just on hardcourts and maybe I'd be a hardcourt specialist. They'd say, 'This guy can't play on clay.'"

"Obviously the only thing left now is, 'He can't play on grass.' Since I have a grass court in my back yard, I'm going to work on that."

The second-ranked Muster becomes the oldest Lipton champion at age 29. His only other title in the United States came on a carpet surface at Boston in 1988.

The courtside temperature read 106 degrees F (41 C) at the start of the match, so both players knew an early lead was vital. There were no break points in the first set, and after Bruguera squandered two setpoints in the tiebreaker, the match turned on a thrilling point at 6-6.

Muster chased down a shot in the corner and returned a lob. Bruguera hit an overhead down the middle, and Muster - his back literally against the wall - punched a weak overhead. Bruguera slammed another overhead, and Muster leaped to punch back another desperate shot.

It floated over Bruguera's head, and when the ball landed on the sideline, he managed only a meek backhand into the net.

The crowd roared as Muster pumped his fists, and he closed out the set on the next point with a backhand winner.

"The first set was very tough," Bruguera said. "When I lost my big chances, I felt very tired and very down in my mind. I tried to come back, but I was feeling so tired."

Bruguera lost to Muster for the ninth consecutive time. But the Spaniard beat third-ranked Michael Chang and top-ranked Pete Sampras on his way to the final, and he earned \$190,000.

Bruguera, ranked 81st at the start of the year, will now climb to 20th. Muster can't catch Sampras until the French Open at the earliest.

The all-European final ended a string of seven consecutive titles for American men at Lipton.



Thomas Muster, of Austria, raises the trophy over his head as he celebrates his straight set victory over Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, at the Lipton Tennis Championships in Key Biscayne, Fla., Sunday. Muster defeated Bruguera 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-1.

AP Photo

New . . .

Continued from page 20

Since its opening several months ago, the two lanes have become a big hit among the kids, including the adults who have just begun to take the sport.

"The kids can play bowling without the worry of rolling the ball into the gutter. With the two lanes, the kids are guaranteed to hit the pins, no matter how they throw the ball," Chang added. Aside from the state-of-the-art lanes, the bowling center has a snack bar in the ground floor and a restaurant in the second floor.

Team . . .

Continued from page 20

opponents as both teams try to keep abreast with Team#5 and JTG in the leaderboard.

O'Doul's and Baskin Robbins are currently tied with similar 28-20 slates and a good performance tonight for either team will certainly boost the team's bid for the top slot.

O'Doul's will face Martha's Poker in lanes 7 and 8 while Baskin Robbins arranged a lanes 11 and 12 tussle with Paras Enterprises.

Martha's Poker and Paras Enterprises tote similar 25-23 records for the sixth and seventh slots in the overall standings.

EPC International seeks to improve

its 26-22 record at the expense of unpredictable Marianas Star.

Currently at fifth, EPC will enter tonight's round enjoying a slight advantage over its 10th running rivals, Marianas Star is sporting a 20-28 mark.

In the other matches, V&J (22.5-25.5) match bowling skills against BCMGP (21-27) while Athlete's Foot (16-32) pits wits with Kun Pacific (10-38).

Also at stake in tonight's games are the current year to date high scores in the team's and individual all events.

Martha's Poker owns the league's mark in the high scratch game and series with 827 and 2,251 pins. In the high handicap events, Team#5 scored 921 in the high handicap game while BCMGP set the parameter in the high handicap series.

the losing bracket.

A total of 10 aces, six xunks, 20 kees and three goals were scored in the game.

Kaipat and Asty Suda shared the game's heavy hitter award by scoring 15 points apiece.

Kaipat had two aces, one xunk, three kees and one goal while Suda racked two aces, two xunks,

one kee and one goal.

In today's matchup, the Nails face Macaroni.

Boxscores:

	A	X	K	G
Brotherhood	6	4	10	1
Nails	4	2	10	3

Villamor . . .

Continued from page 20

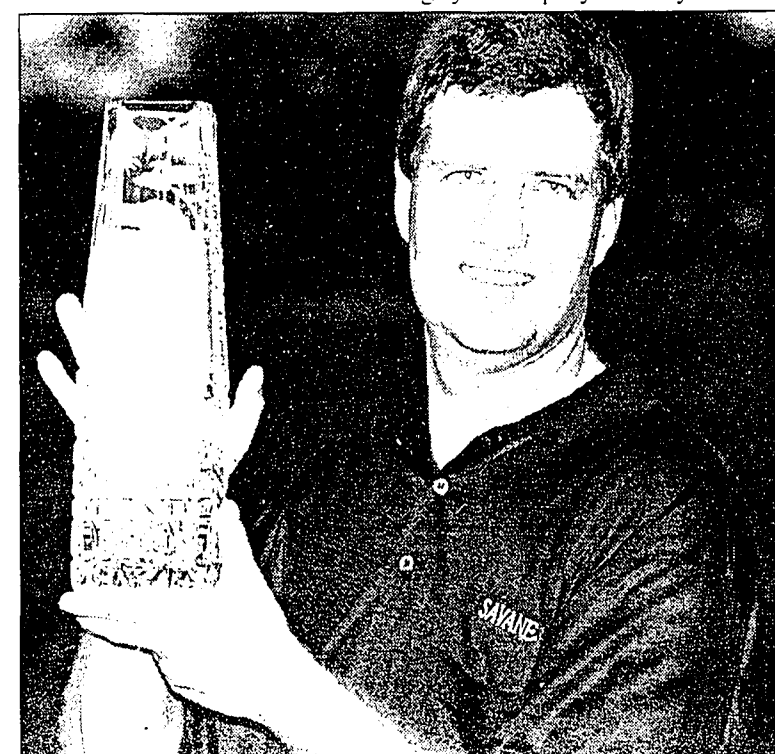
chess competitions, tournament director Vic Bana said that the CCA is planning make the active chess tournament a weekly affair.

It was the CCA's second consecutive Active Chess tournament in as many weeks.

In a related event, the CCA will hold its first ever Kiddie and Junior Chess Tournaments this coming Sunday, April 6 at Pinoy Special Restaurant. Upcoming

woodpushers from eight to 12 and 13 to 18 are encouraged to join the weekly tournaments.

For more information, please contact CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura at 234-6070 or tournament director Vic Bana at 234-6010.



Steve Elkington, from Sydney, Australia smiles as he holds The Players Championship trophy Sunday afternoon at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Elkington shot a 16-under-par 272 to win by 7 strokes.

AP Photo

Sixers . . .

Continued from page 20

high. Reggie Miller added 28 points and Antonio Davis had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana, which has won four in a row.

Malik Sealy had 24 points and Vaught 16 for the Clippers, who are trying to hold onto the No. 8 playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Knicks 101, Magic 86
In Orlando, Florida, Patrick Ewing scored 33 points and Chris Childs had 19 to lead New York over Orlando.

Ewing's status was questionable after he pulled his left tricep muscle during New York's loss to New Jersey on Friday, but he wore a black rubber sleeve on his upper arm and played 38 minutes without any apparent difficulty. He made 13 of 23 shots, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked four shots.

Allan Houston scored 13 and Buck Williams had 11 for New York.

Penny Hardaway led Orlando with 21 points, but shot only 8-of-25 while being guarded by forward Larry Johnson.

Belated Happy Birthday

Mc Jarrel John

From mommy Myora & Tiala janette



SPORTS



National Basketball Association

Sixers rally past Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) - Doug Overton filled in for the injured Allen Iverson with a season-high 19 points and 10 assists and the Philadelphia 76ers had a late comeback to shock the Detroit Pistons 96-92 Sunday. It was the fifth loss in seven games for the Pistons, who fell a half-game behind Atlanta for fourth place in the Eastern Conference.

Detroit lost for only the sixth time to a sub-.500 team and just the fourth time in 45 games in which they led going into the final quarter.

Grant Hill had a triple-double with 22 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists, but missed two free throws in the final 10 seconds that would have tied the game.

Overton, who started because

Iverson missed the game with a sprained left ankle, then made two free throws with 2.4 seconds left to give Philadelphia its final four-point margin.

Cavaliers 84, Mavericks 80

In Cleveland, Tyrone Hill returned to Cleveland's lineup after a two-game absence and scored 17 points as the Cavaliers snapped their three-game losing streak.

Cleveland increased its lead to one game over the idle Washington Bullets in the race for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Robert Pack had 23 points to lead Dallas, which lost its seventh straight.

Raptors 102, Heat 97

In Toronto, Damon Stoudamire tied his career high with 35 points and Toronto ended a five-game losing streak by handing Miami its first loss in nine games.

Alonzo Mourning, who led the Heat with 27 points but was only 7-of-17 from the free throw line, had a chance to give Miami the lead with 1:53 remaining but missed two foul shots. Then Stoudamire hit an underhand layup around Mourning, giving the Raptors a 99-96 lead with 1:26 to play.

Miami's Tim Hardaway, who

had 13 points and 12 assists, missed consecutive field goal attempts before Doug Christie hit the second of two free throws for a 100-96 lead with 38.5 seconds to play.

Pacers 103, Clippers 96

In Indianapolis, Rik Smits scored eight of his season-high 40 points in overtime to lead

Indiana over Los Angeles. Smits, who scored 11 of Indiana's last 15 points, was too much for the Clippers inside, hitting 17 of 28 shots against much shorter defenders Lorenzen Wright and Loy Vaught. Smits finished just four points short of his career

Continued on page 19

Adam and Eve Mixed Tilt

Team#5 puts lead on the line

Adam & Eve Mixed Bowling League

Pos	Tm#	Team Name	Won	Lost	Pct	Tolpins	Ave	Gm	Ser
1	5	Team #5	33.0	15.0	68.75	28075	779	921	2508
2	6	JTG Enterprises	29.5	18.5	61.46	27733	770	886	2546
3	4	O'Douls	28.0	20.0	58.33	27799	772	881	2493
4	9	Baskin Robbins	28.0	20.0	58.33	27684	769	886	2394
5	7	EPC Int'l	26.0	22.0	54.17	27924	775	862	2461
6	3	Martha's Poker	25.0	23.0	52.08	28272	785	919	2527
7	10	Paras Ent.	25.0	23.0	52.08	27887	774	909	2520
8	12	V&J	22.5	25.5	46.88	27613	767	871	2518
9	11	BCMPG	21.0	27.0	43.75	27929	775	899	2570
10	8	Marianas Star	20.0	28.0	41.67	27643	759	839	2371
11	2	Athletes Foot	16.0	32.0	33.33	26734	745	861	2412
12	12	Kan Pacific	10.0	38.0	20.83	22043	734	828	2326

By Erel A. Cabatbat

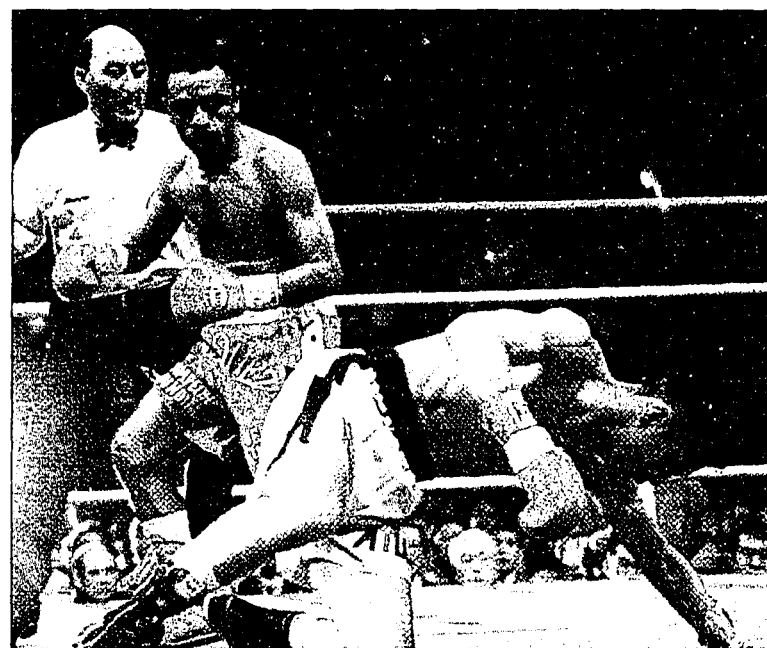
Variety News Staff

PACESETTING Team#5 stakes its hold of the leadership versus JTG Enterprises as the top two teams mix it up tonight in the 13th week of the Adam and Eve Mixed Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Team#5 leads the 12 team field with a 33-15 win loss slate or three and a half wins ahead of JTG Enterprises. JTG and Team#5 will face each other in lanes 1 and 2.

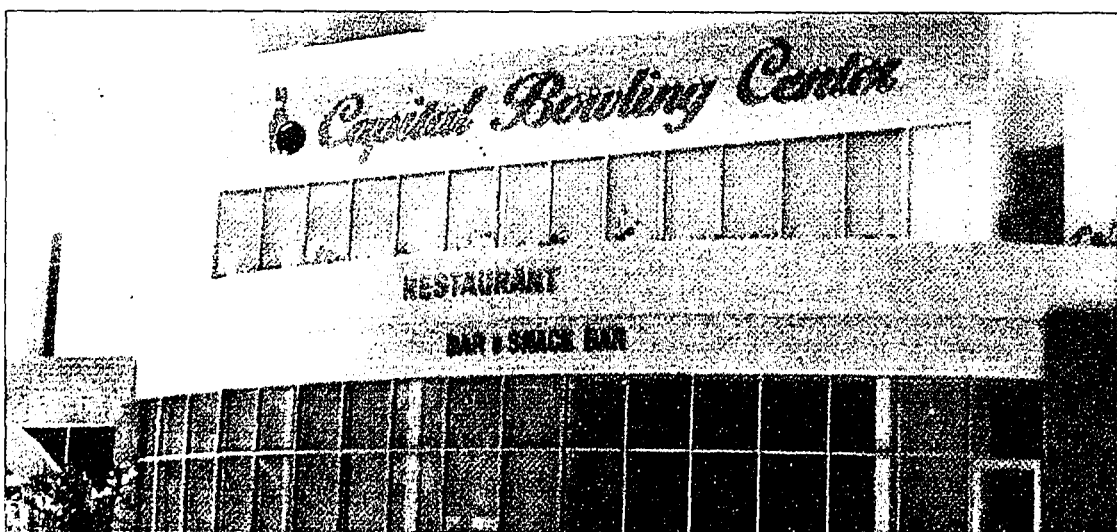
Third-running O'Doul's and Baskin and Robbins go up against separate

Continued on page 19



Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vazquez looks down to Japanese challenger Yuji Watanabe kneeling down on the canvas during the third round action in their World Boxing Association featherweight title bout in Tokyo Sunday, March 30, 1997. Vazquez retained his title, knocking him down in the fifth round of the scheduled 12-rounder. AP Photo

New bowling center opens



Capital Bowling Center—The island's newest bowling center offers 16 computerized bowling alleys and computerized scoring system. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

AFTER a few months of "testing the waters", the Capital Bowling Center opened recently to give local pinbusters another alternative to hone their skills.

The new bowling center has 16 computerized ten pin lanes including two bowler friendly alleys designed to give young bowlers, especially the little kids, the chance to

learn more about the game without breaking their hearts after rolling a series of "gutters".

Capital Bowling Center (CBC) executive manager Wang Yuong Chang said they "decided to put up the island's newest bowling venue to give CNMI residents a good place to spend their free time and at the same time, have fun".

Aside from the state of the art 16 lanes, CBC's computerized scoring

system make it more convenient for keggers to play.

Undoubtedly, CBC's two bowler-friendly lanes are one of the major reasons why the crowds keep on coming.

The affable CBC manager said that the 15th and 16th lanes can be converted into "gutterless" lanes making it easier for the kids to play bowling.

Continued on page 19

Brotherhood beats Nails in overtime

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

ROYKAIPAT slammed a goal in O-Kan to power Brotherhood to victory against the Nails in the first game of the double round semifinals of the 14th Annual World Organized Rockball Tournament at the Puga Court of Marianas High School.

The Nails won the first but the Brotherhood team came strong in the next two sets.

The Nails won the fourth to prevent the Brotherhood from juicing out the match and send the game into overtime.

Neither team scored three points or more against each other to win the game outright. The Brotherhood scored 28 points while the Nails finished the four sets one point behind their opponents.

In O-Kan, a team can win the match by scoring the first eight points of the game or a goal.

The Nails won the serve but the Brotherhood gained court position. The Nails' first serve went haywire turning the ball to the Brotherhood. Kaipat served an

Continued on page 19

Villamor prevails in active chess tilt

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

REY VILLAMOR beat Ely G. Buenaventura in a tie breaker to win the CNMI Chess Association's Active Chess Tournament held over the weekend at Pinoy Special Restaurant.

Villamor and Buenaventura scored similar 6.0 points out of possible eight to finish on top the nine man field.

A "winner-over-the-other rule" was applied to break the deadlock enabling Villamor to walk away with the title.

Lou Piliwale and Jay Fernandez had identical 5.0 points but Piliwale bagged third place edging Fernandez in another tie breaker.

Nick Cayetano completed the top five finishers.

The top three finishers received cash prizes.

The tournament was played in a single round robin format. Each player was given 15 minutes to mate his opponent.

Right after the end of the

Continued on page 19

Marianas Variety News & Views

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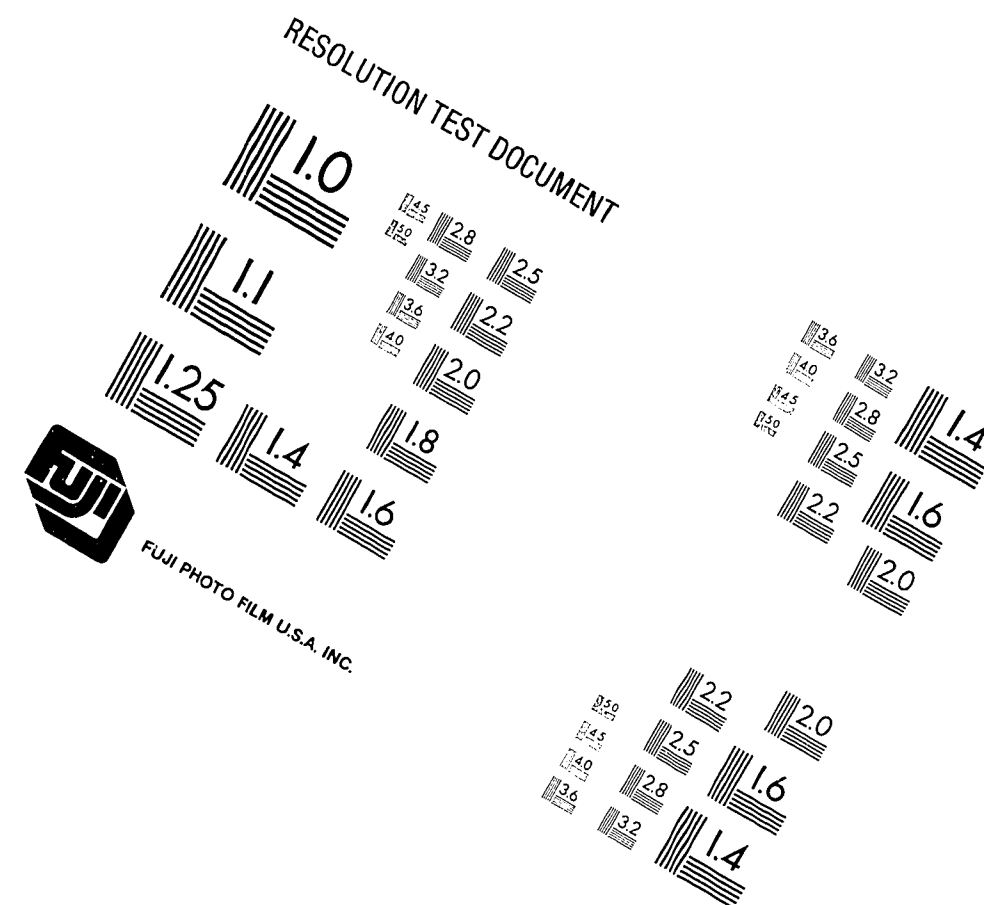
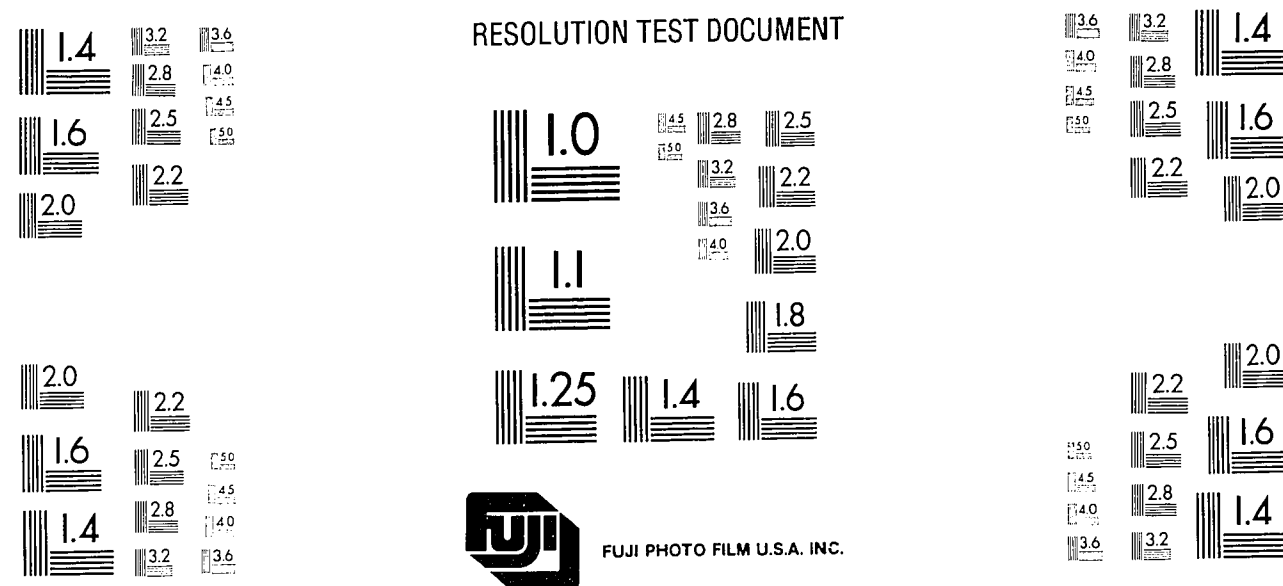
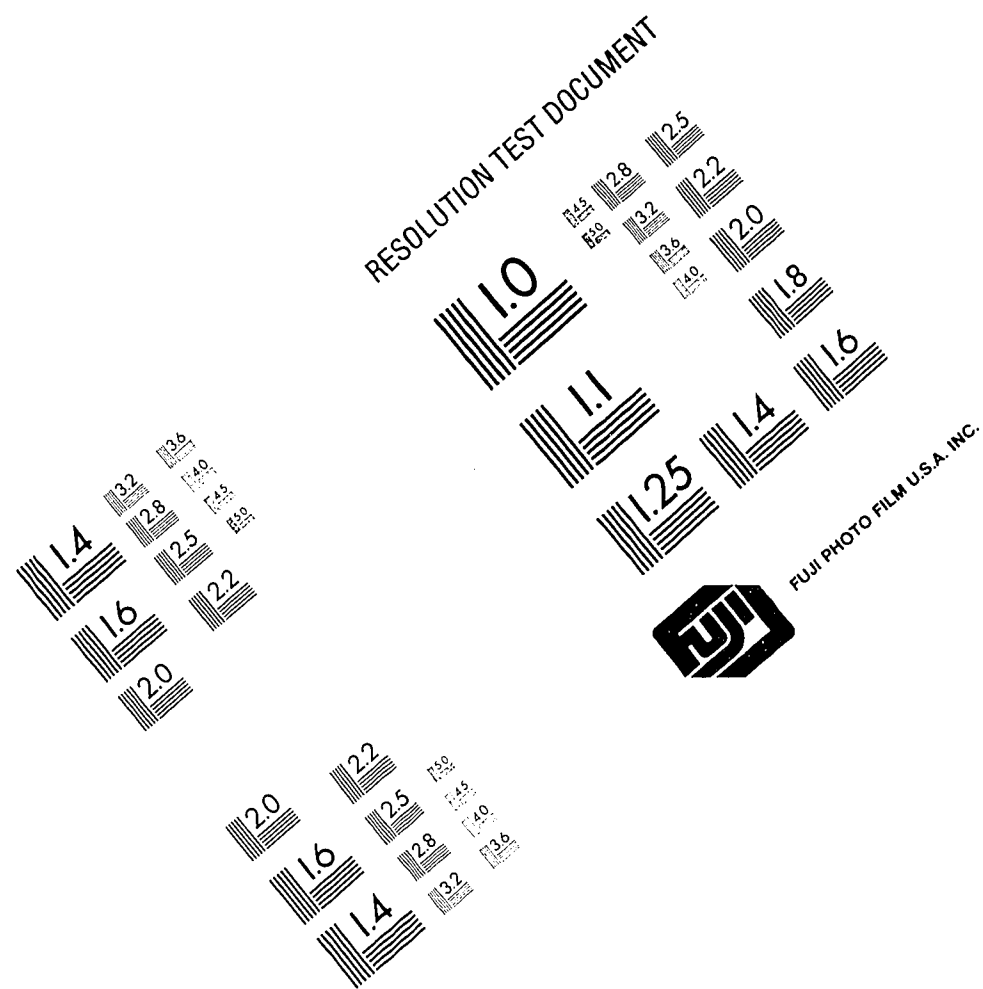
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