

## New tax eyed for banks, garments

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

AS GOVERNMENT revenue projections continue to be dragged down by the slumping economy, the House Ways and Means Committee is considering legislation that would impose new taxes on banks and garment products, according to its chair, Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan).

Reyes, in an interview yesterday, said the government could tax the banks' gross receipts instead of their net profits, which is a much lesser amount.

Other businesses pay taxes based on their gross receipts, Reyes pointed out.

He added that garment products could also be taxed, "but not in a rate that would drive them to the brink of closure."

Instead of a dollar-per-garment-product tax as proposed by then representative Stanley T. Torres, Reyes



Karl T. Reyes

said the rate could be in "cents."

Meanwhile, he added, the government should continue cutting down on its expenses and should no longer expand.

Reyes said the austerity measures set in place by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's administration may have to be implemented for a much longer period of time.

He admitted that accommodating all the budget requests of the various agencies will be "very difficult."

However, vital programs such as the school lunch and utilities expenses will be funded, Reyes said.

"There's no question about that, and what we're now looking into are the personnel expenses of each agency," Reyes said, noting that two-thirds of the entire budget go to personnel and benefits.

"It's too much," he said.

The number of non-vital full-time employee positions (FTEs) will be reduced, Reyes said.

"There would be no new FTEs. I don't think we could afford it."

He added, "Of course the people expect the government to help them, but it's difficult to explain that we have to have money to run things."

The government, which pays a much higher salary and benefit rate, continues to be the main employer of local residents.

## Foreign troops in military exercises on FDM, Tinian?



Juan N. Babauta

By Rafael H. Arroyo  
Variety Editor

RESIDENT Representative Juan N. Babauta yesterday said he is looking into reports that non-US military units have been using Farallon De Medinilla and certain parts of Tinian for military exercises.

Babauta could not confirm the nationality of the foreign units, but said he wants to find out if they are doing their drills in conjunction with or with the

knowledge of the US military.

"I don't know if this is acceptable or not under the Technical Agreement," said Babauta in an interview with the Variety. "But I sure will bring this matter up with the military command on Guam."

Babauta wants to know if such exercises violate the CNMI-US technical agreement under the Covenant which governs the US Military's 50-year lease of FDM, Tinian and certain parts of Saipan.

Under the lease, the US was to use the subject military retention land areas for defense purposes.

FDM and Tinian are favored sites for US military drills and bombing exercises.

Babauta said he learned about the alleged exercises through a well-placed source, who could not ascertain whether the US military is aware of the matter.

There are theories, however,

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## Teno says CIP master plan ready in 6 months

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE ADMINISTRATION has promised to come up with a master plan for Capital Improvement Projects covering fiscal year 1996 to 2000 soon, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said.

"If all goes well," Tenorio told U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, "we anticipate our capital projects master plan for fiscal year 1996 to FY 2000 to be available in about six months."

The master plan is a requirement set by the U.S. government for the release of CIP money granted to the CNMI under Section 702 of the Covenant.

Tenorio said his government has formed a high level multi-agency task force to begin work on the master plan.

Federal CIP Coordinator Tom Bussanich, who visited Saipan last month, said the previous administration was not able to get its grants for fiscal years 1995 and 1996 because of its failure to come up with a plan.

Bussanich, in a meeting with local officials, said the Department of Interior would extend technical assistance to the CNMI through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in preparing the master plan.

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Rep. Karl Reyes, Sen. Thomas Villagomez, Speaker Diego Benavente, Sen. Ricardo Atalig, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Senate President Paul Manglona tell NMC students in a forum yesterday they are committed to find money to pay for educational assistance this summer.

NMC Photo

## Women's conference aims to 'build bridges'

By Jan Furukawa  
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam — Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Republic of China, Thailand.

These member countries are being represented at the four-day Federation of Asian

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## NMC students ask leaders for more scholarship funds

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature's presiding officers yesterday assured the Northern Marianas College's students and faculty members that they will try to find money for the Educational Assistance Program.

Funding for program, which benefits 1,259 students, is "nearly exhausted," according to Scholarship Administrator Maggie Camacho, who was invited to at-

tend yesterday's student forum, but failed to show up.

Of the estimated \$4 million that goes to the program, \$1.2 million is allotted to 732 NMC students. The rest is for college students enrolled in the mainland US.

Camacho sent a two-page letter to the NMC's student association, saying that though the program's appropriation level remains the same, more students are applying for assistance.

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## WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with light rain showers

# British POWs plan Japanese protests

LONDON (AP)—British veterans who survived Japanese World War II prisoner of war camps said Tuesday they will call for protests during May's state visit by Emperor Akihito.

Veterans have asked crowds to remain silent during the Japanese head of state's three-day visit, which starts May 26, or to wear something symbolizing blood spilled during the war.

"We hope those invited to events will either refuse the invitation or show something red on the day, a rose or something," said Martyn Day, a lawyer representing the Japanese Labor Camps Survivors' Association.

British veterans of the Japanese camps are campaigning for compensation and a more unequivocal apology than Japan has previously offered for wartime atrocities.

POW representatives recently went to Tokyo to put their case for compensation before judicial authorities, and showed documents that they believe strengthens their case for fuller compensation.

Officials from the Japanese Embassy met with a veterans' delegation Tuesday, and said that the emperor was not responsible for Japan's policy toward veterans.

"The emperor and empress's schedule has been drawn up in agreement with Buckingham Palace. We sincerely hope this visit will be a further step forward for the enhancement of British-Japanese relations," said a spokesman for the Japanese embassy, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Families of murder victims place photographs on a stand at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday during the annual victim's rights march. The event draws friends and families of people who have been murdered. AP

# Saddam hinders aid flow, EU says

By Maureen Johnson  
LONDON (AP) — Saddam Hussein himself is the biggest stumbling block to a smoothly flowing effort to provide humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people, the European Union told a conference Tuesday on improving the U.N. oil-for-food program.

The meeting brought together EU and U.N. representatives and, for the first time, aid agencies working in Iraq. But Iraq, which derides the food program as a



Saddam Hussein

conscience-salve for the West, boycotted the two-day conference along with most Arab nations and Russia.

Britain, the current president of the 15-nation union, called the conference after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan averted a U.S.-British attack on Iraq by getting Saddam to sign a Feb. 23 agreement allowing weapons inspectors access to sites previously deemed off-limits.

Britain was adamant U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, leading to the Persian Gulf War, should remain in place.

"If Saddam Hussein would stop producing weapons of mass destruction, sanctions would be lifted," said Clare Short, Britain's International Development Secretary.

Since 1996, the United Nations has eased sanctions to allow Saddam to export limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicines. In June, the oil sales ceiling was raised from \$2 billion every six months to \$5 billion.

Saddam's next big test will be whether he cooperates with implementing the new U.N. program, Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett said.

"Sadly, for too long, Iraq has refused to cooperate fully. Indeed, the government has too often been obstructive," Fatchett said. "This must change if the organizations represented at this conference are going to be successful in... helping the people of Iraq."

Britain said the meeting enabled donor countries to focus on key projects, particularly improving water supplies.

British officials said the EU might call a similar conference in the second half of this year, when Austria will hold the EU presidency, and try to get Iraq to show up.

# Underwood surveys isles

By Jan Furukawa  
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam — The United States Military is constantly refining its Marianas Training Plan, so Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands should maintain vigilance, Guam Congressman Robert Underwood said yesterday.

## Impact of military exercises concerns Guam Congressman



Robert Underwood

The congressman took a three-hour trip abroad a Navy HC-5 helicopter to Farallon de Medinilla Monday to survey the effects of military training operations there.

He said his trip actually was twofold: He wanted to become familiar with the situation as the Department of Defense prepares its Environ-

mental Impact Statement on the northernmost island on the Marianas chain.

The second purpose, he said, was to enhance his knowledge of military operations in the region and gain insight into how important these islands are to planning and operations.

The congressman said he hovered over the island for about 30 minutes.

Accompanying him on the trip was Roy Tsutsui, ComNavMar's environmental protection specialist.

The one-mile-long island is half rocky terrain, half green plateau, the congressman said, with only birds inhabiting it.

"It could sustain a significant amount of bombing," he said.

He also noted that with fewer and fewer training opportunities available to the military, there will be increased use of the Marianas for that purpose.

"Farallon de Medinilla is one of only three bombing ranges used by the Air Force in the world," Underwood said. The Navy uses the island for shelling in joint operations with other countries, and a Japanese

ship was allowed to use it for target just last year, he noted.

Birds and goats used to fight for habitat on the island, but the Navy declared the birds the winner, and relocated the goats to another island.

"The goats had no chance, they don't have an Audubon Society like the birds," he said in jest.

The irony of the situation, he explained, is that the bombing keeps people away, so Nature takes advantage of the situation by replenishing its stock of fish and game near and on the island.

# CNMI Senate readies for street-naming measure

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

SENATE Vice President Thomas Villagomez will file a bill seeking to implement the previous administration's plan to name the streets on Saipan.

Villagomez, chairman of the special committee on street-naming project, said the committee is now working on possible amendments to a draft bill.

The committee meets at 10 a.m. today to review the plan, Villagomez said.

The draft bill, Villagomez said, seeks to adopt the master plan prepared by the Henry K. Pangelinan and Associates, an engineering firm which was contracted by the Saipan Mayor's Office during the administration of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

During his term as Saipan mayor, Jesus Deleon Guerrero headed the commission which was assigned the task to produce a list of names for streets. The commission came up with names of flowers, plants, animals, and prominent surnames among



Thomas Villagomez

others.

According to the master plan, Beach Road would be changed to Sunset Drive.

But Villagomez said he is opposed to changing the name of Beach Road.

"That road has been known as Beach Road for a long time, and I don't see any reason why it should be changed," Villagomez said.

The draft bill noted the need to carry out the street-naming project because "the situation is reaching a crisis proportion... especially in these tough economic times."

# Driver in accident that hurt NMI lawmaker pleads guilty

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE DRIVER of a vehicle that struck the car of Rep. Ana Teregeyo resulting to injuries to the congresswoman last year pleaded guilty of traffic charges.

During a hearing yesterday, TM I. Suda admitted the charges of unlawful overtaking on the left, no driver's license, and no vehicle registration.

Police records showed that Teregeyo was injured and taken to the Commonwealth Health Center after the vehicular accident on Capitol Hill on Oct. 29.

The complaint stated that Suda "unlawfully operated his vehicle to the left of the outer lane when the road was not free of oncoming traffic."

Suda interfered with the "safe

operation of a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction," said the complaint.

The defendant had no driver's license and vehicle registration when the accident happened, according to Assistant Atty. Gen. Ramona V. Manglona.

Following the plea, Manibusan ordered Suda to pay \$75 fine and restitution in an amount to be determined by the Probation Office.



Guam Police recruits hold signs and wave at passers-by along Marine drive Tuesday afternoon. They were part of a rally advocating for crime victims' rights. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

# Man charged for 'bribery' cop

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday charged a man who allegedly tried to bribe a police officer with \$50 over a traffic case.

Zhi Rong Peng a.k.a. Andy Peng, 30, of Dangang, was charged with bribery before the Superior Court.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Ramona V. Manglona in the complaint said last Feb. 10 Peng "unlawfully and voluntarily give \$50 in wrongful and corrupt payment for an official act not to be done."

Manglona said the bribery was intended to avoid Peng from "receiving a traffic citation ticket by a uniformed police officer."

Peng was summoned to appear in court to answer the charge on May 11.

The AGO has charged a number of persons, mostly Korean and Chinese nationals, over the past five years for trying to bribe police officers over traffic violations. (FDI)

# OPA holds ethics forum

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Auditor Leo LaMotte yesterday held an ethics forum for employees and leaders of the House of Representatives.

The forum was part of the Office of the Public Auditor's continuing program to educate government employees about "acceptable and unacceptable" conduct of public officials and employees under the CNMI Code of Ethics.

"It was very helpful," Speaker Diego Benavente said. "The forum was able to answer a lot of questions about what is legal and illegal under our ethics law."

Benavente admitted that despite the existence of pertinent

laws, many government officials and employees did not have adequate knowledge about ethical standards governing public servants.

In a report last year, LaMotte attributed some of the violations committed by public servants to their lack of knowledge about the CNMI Code of Ethics as well as the proper procedure in entering into transactions.

Benavente said during the forum many of the questions dealt with acceptance of gifts by public servants.

LaMotte said that although the Code of Ethics is strict particularly with regard to accepting gifts, it allows flexibility for situations that involve local customs and traditions.

"We'll probably get less because businesses may have to close down," he said, noting the effects of the Asian currency crisis on the local economy.

# Tenorio sees no need for new taxes despite slump



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the economy will continue to worsen throughout the year, but ruled out the imposition of new taxes to salvage the government's sinking revenue projections. (See related story in this issue)

Tenorio, in his remarks during the student forum at the Northern Marianas College (NMC), said increasing taxes will not mean more revenues for the government.

"We'll probably get less because businesses may have to close down," he said, noting the effects of the Asian currency crisis on the local economy.

He said the "future remains bright" though the economy is not expected to recover this year.

In an earlier interview, Tenorio said the government's revenue projections continue to be weak and may not support all the budget requests of the various agencies, departments and programs.

The administration's budget estimate for fiscal year 1999, which was originally pegged at \$240 million, may go down to \$233 million, or \$14 million less than the government's current budget.

The administration's budget bill, which will be submitted on or before May 1, will mark the first time in CNMI history that a budget proposal is less than that of the previous fiscal year.

The former administration's FY 1998 budget proposal amounted to \$262 million, but was later scaled down to \$252 million, which is still the largest budget outlay in CNMI history.

However, the Legislature did not act on the budget bill, with key legislators saying that they doubt the accuracy of the figures submitted by Tenorio's predecessor.

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

**STRIKE THAT!**  
By Ferdie P. de la Torre



## Scrounchy, the ransom dog

MAURICIO Rodriguez took his dog Scrounchy to Saipan Veterinary Hospital last Feb. 26 for treatment of a broken leg hit by a car. Dr. Eugene Clothier operated on Scrounchy and continued to see the dog for post-operative treatment.

Rodriguez failed to pay the \$450 balance of the veterinary bill. On April 3 he took Scrounchy to SVH for post-operative treatment, but on that day he failed to pick up his pet before the hospital closed for business. The following day, Rodriguez went back to get the dog, but Clothier's wife, Mona, refused saying they were closed on weekends.

After two days, Rodriguez paid \$50, but Mona refused to release the dog or accept the money. Mona allegedly demanded \$200. She allegedly also threatened that if he won't pay, Scrounchy would be "euthanized." Mona then allegedly called the police to have him arrested for not paying the bill.

Cops arrived and questioned Rodriguez. The officers advised them to instead settle the matter amicably. After repeated demands, the couple refused to return the dog. Rodriguez, through counsel Michael Dotts, finally sued the couple last April 9.

Dotts said Rodriguez and his family suffered from "emotional distress" in that he and his two godchildren had been deprived of their pet. Rodriguez asked the court to issue an order for the return of the dog and to save it from possible "murder."

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas immediately issued a temporary restraining order compelling the Clothiers to refrain from killing or hurting Scrounchy. Bellas also asked the Department of Public Safety to get the animal.

When the officers got the dog, the Clothiers and Rodriguez signed a stipulation terminating the TRO. The preliminary injunction hearing was also taken off calendar. The lawsuit for damages, however, is pending in court.

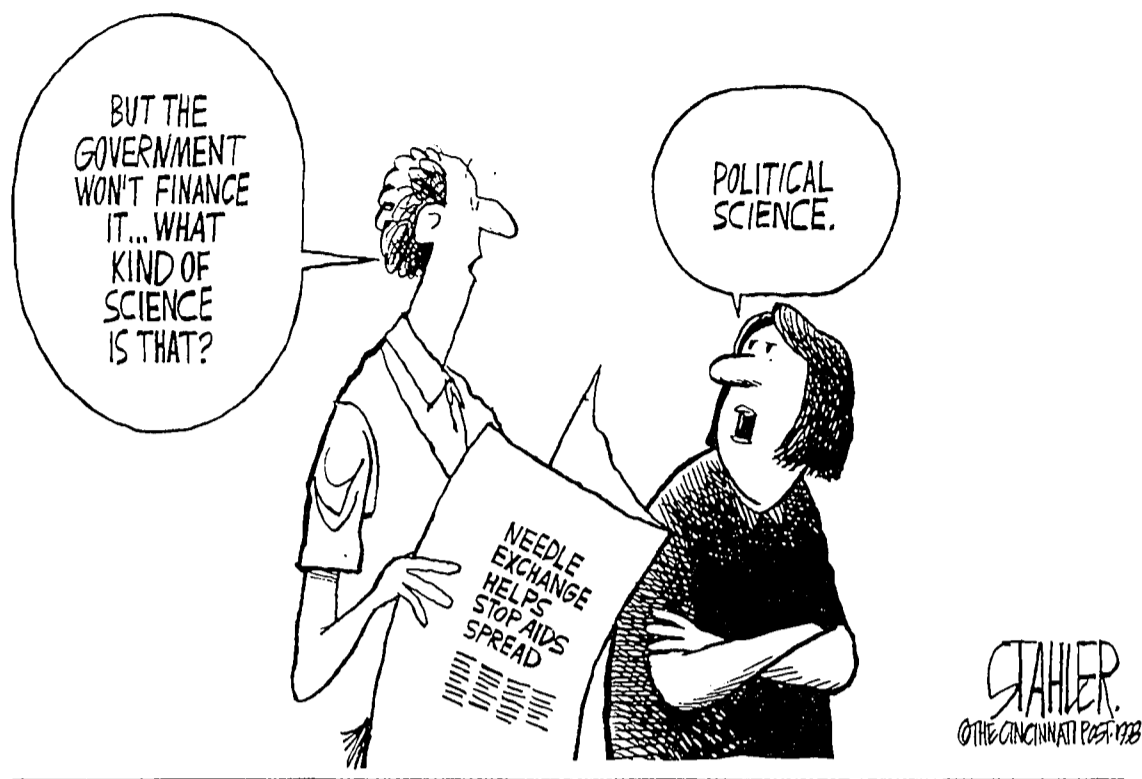
We understand the Clothiers' position that they are simply doing business. They expect Rodriguez as a responsible client to pay his debt. There's no doubt that Dr. Clothier, who had previously also treated Scrounchy for an ailment, saved the dog's life.

Judge Bellas' decision to issue a TRO was right. The Clothiers' means to collect the debt was improper. Take note that in this case the dog was taken as ransom for payment of the debt. The issue is a simple \$450 debt. Was there an existing contract between Rodriguez and the hospital that gave the Clothiers the right to hold the dog as security for payment of the bill? We doubt.

Instead of holding the dog and threatening to kill the animal to get payment, the Clothiers should have instead filed a small claim before the court. If both parties just showed respect for and understanding of each other's situation, the matter could have not reached the court. With this suit, not only the parties involved will spend money on costly litigation. It's a waste of government resources and money as well. In this case, perhaps it was not Scrounchy which acted like an "animal."

PHILIP M. Dennis of the Crime Stoppers International, Inc., recently met with the local Crime Stoppers Board and Crime Stoppers Coordinator Sgt. Franklin Babauta. In that meeting, the Crime Stoppers officials underscored the media's role to make the program successful. Crime Stoppers Board chairman Manny Vilaga also clarified that he was not a victim of a recent burglary as reported. Vilaga said he was simply helping his neighbor whose house was burglarized.

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan issued a bench warrant against an Immigration employee who failed to appear at a recent hearing for a domestic violence case. An hour later, the Immigration employee showed up in court, explaining he had overslept. The defendant said he was awakened only when his young daughter pulled his hair while trying to reach for a bottle of milk. Manibusan looked at the defendant because he could not believe such an excuse. The judge said: "Your daughter pulled your hair?...but you don't have much hair!"



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER  
**WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**

## Pope helps Poland overcome anti-Semitism

IT IS no small thing that the man who is trying to heal relations between Catholics and Jews is a Pole — Karol Wojtyla, otherwise known as Pope John Paul II.

The signs point, however, both to his sincerity and to the genuine anguish he has felt about the Holocaust that decimated Jewry in Poland and elsewhere.

Last month, in a carefully worded document, the Pope issued an official statement described as "an act of repentance" for the failure of many Catholics to thwart the Holocaust. Several years ago, the Pope finally opened formal diplomatic relations with the state of Israel.

What makes this all the more extraordinary is that it has been spearheaded by a man whose occupied countrymen did little to prevent the slaughter of Polish Jews during World War II. Nor did they feel like apologizing for it, in general, during the post-Soviet period.

During one of our visits to Poland, the Catholic Church's official expert on Polish-Jewish relations was startlingly candid about the endemic nature of Polish anti-Semitism.

With eloquence and emotion, Father Stanislaw Musial suggested that post-communist Poland needed a moral cleansing from the Holocaust and its anti-Semitic roots. Though the Germans did the killing, and though many Poles died — it was the Jewish race that was nearly wiped out.

"It's a terrible thing," he told us. "Imagine 10 percent of the population murdered overnight in America. And yet here, there is no feeling of a void today. I can tell you there has been no sorrow. It is because we lived not together, but side by side."

Poland was once a haven to Jews, who emigrated en masse in the 1300s when the then-Polish king invited them in to become the merchant class. Within a century, four-fifths of world Jewry lived inside Poland's borders.

Some 3.5 million Jews lived in Poland when World War II began, fully 10 percent of the nation. Less than 7,000 have survived into the 1990s.

For centuries, Father Musial admitted, Catholic officials had fostered outrageous sto-

ries about Jews — most typically that Jews kidnapped and killed Catholic children to use their blood for unleavened bread. In a 17th-century church in Sandomierz, a huge painting called "Infanticida" features caricatured Jews kidnapping, stabbing and dismembering Christian babies.

Between World War I and II, the Polish Catholic Church stoked anti-Semitism with right-wing, reactionary rubbish. One pastoral letter by the primate of Poland charged that "Jews fight the Catholic Church." The letter called Jews "the advance guard of a godless life, of the Bolshevik movement," and baldly stating "Jews are embezzlers and usurers (who) engage in the white slave trade."

Even the communists came down on the Jews in the post-war period. In the late 1960s, the government sponsored an official anti-Semitic campaign, blaming Jews for the nation's ills and purging Jews from government positions and state enterprises. Tens of thousands of Jews fled the country in 1968, leaving only a small number behind.

So it was with baited breath in 1978 that Israeli leaders received the news that the new pope was Karol Wojtyla, a Pole. But the first sign was good: his first papal audience was granted to an old Jewish friend, Jerzy Kluger, with whom he had played as a boy in their hometown of Wadowice.

In the pre-war period, Wadowice was a town of 8,000 Catholics and 2,000 Jews. Kluger had fled when the Germans invaded Poland and joined the Russian army. The Pope stayed behind, eventually training to be a priest in an underground seminary.

But less than 35 miles from their hometown was the infamous Auschwitz. Could the majority of Catholics have done more to stand up for the unfortunate prisoners in concentration camps?

It's a question the Pope has now answered in the affirmative, though it is short of an explicit apology. Still, it has been heartening to watch this Polish Pope become the first to visit a synagogue, tour Auschwitz — and refer to Jews, like his friend Kluger, as "our elder brothers."

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## No direct casino flights, says Continental

# Air transport concerns mount

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
WITH the expansion of its airport runway still a farfetched possibility, Tinian can only see domestic service from the major air carriers, including Continental Micronesia.

Walter Dias, Continental vice president for sales and promotion said given the current length of the West Tinian Airport's runway, the airline company can only consider coming up with connecting flights.

This means Continental can only operate in-transit flights from either Guam or Saipan to Tinian.

But Dias said the airline company management is still looking

at the possible services it can offer to Tinian, especially when the casino industry opens next week.

He cited the potential of flying to Tinian, with the expected increase in air traffic demand due to efforts to make the island the casino gambling hub of the Pacific.

The \$200 million five-star Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, the CNMI's first major casino-hotel, will open its doors to the public starting Saturday, with government officials and business and community leaders in attendance.

The hotel-casino is expected to be gambling aficionados' haven in the Pacific as it will offer blackjack, baccarat, roulette and craps,

among others. The casino will have a total of 80 gaming tables and over 400 slot machines with progressive jackpot linking worth more than \$100,000.

The hotel management was finalizing negotiations with various airlines to operate direct flights from Guam to Tinian.

Dias said Continental is yet to come up with a definite plan on the charter flights, pending the completion of feasibility studies that have been conducted by the airline company, while adding that the casino industry on Tinian is an "interesting prospect" to stir tourist arrivals in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Casino is a good tourist attraction for the CNMI," he added. But he pointed out that the present state of the West Tinian Airport will prohibit daily nonstop flights to the island.

"The runway is not long enough," he stressed.

Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas earlier admitted the CPA does not have immediate capabilities to pursue the improvement of the West Tinian

Airport, even as he agrees with Continental that its present condition will not be able to support non-stop flights to the island.

Salas said the CPA has remained committed to improving the Tinian International Airport, adding that the Ports Authority is working closely with the Tinian legislative delegation for possible ways to finance the needed repair and improvement of the airport.

## Babauta says Young remains a friend of 'CNMI self-gov't'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
RESIDENT Rep. Juan N. Babauta yesterday said US Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), who is now backing a more aggressive reform legislation, respects the CNMI's self-government as defined by the Covenant.

"He would like for the CNMI to exercise maximum self-government, and that is why he prefers that we take immediate action and implement reforms," Babauta said.

He described Young, who chairs the House Resources Committee, and Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-California), who will introduce the reform legislation, as "good friends."

"So when you see Mr. Gallegly as the prime sponsor of a bill that is being supported by Mr. Young we should consider that as significant," Babauta said.

The bill, however, is still being drafted, he said.

"When (Resources Committee



Don Young

insular and international affairs adviser T.E. Manase Mansur visited the CNMI) and talked about the bill, he was expressing conceptual ideas that might be used in the bill," Babauta said.

Moreover, he said, the CNMI government will be consulted by the committee during the drafting of the legislation.

Mansur has said that the "Gallegly-Young approach" would give the CNMI a transition period during which the common-

wealth, with federal assistance, would be required to address federal concerns over labor and immigration.

If the CNMI successfully resolves its problems during the transition period—which could be 10 years, according to Mansur—there would be no need for a federal takeover of local immigration and minimum wage policies.

Mansur said the GOP-backed legislation has good chances of getting enacted this year.

Among the provisions it may contain:

- US citizens, permanent residents, US nationals and citizens of the Freely Associated States should constitute a majority of the CNMI population.
- The creation of an "industry sensitive" special industry committee led by the US Labor Department but with local participation. Its function will be similar to that of a wage review board.

## Attao filed bankruptcy since March

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
AS EARLY as March 18, before at least seven security guards filed complaints against her, Aida Attao, owner of Bangel Security Agency, filed a petition for bankruptcy at the federal district court.

In her petition, Attao listed her total liabilities as amounting to \$242,466.27, of which \$232,966.27 represents unsecured nonpriority claims, \$7,000 unsecured priority claims, and \$2,500 secured claims.

Her total assets, she said, amount to \$13,819.80 in personal property.

Attao is also the subject of a joint complaint by six security guards who also alleged that they hadn't been paid their regular wages and overtime pays.

Meanwhile, the owners of another security agency, Joseph and Agapita Borja, also filed yesterday a bankruptcy petition also at the federal district court.

They listed their total liabilities (also mostly unpaid wages of employees) as amounting to \$3,461,958.59, of

from Attao \$15,000 that he had given to her allegedly to cover the costs of "fixing" the documents of 10 of his relatives recruited in Bangladesh to work for Bangel.

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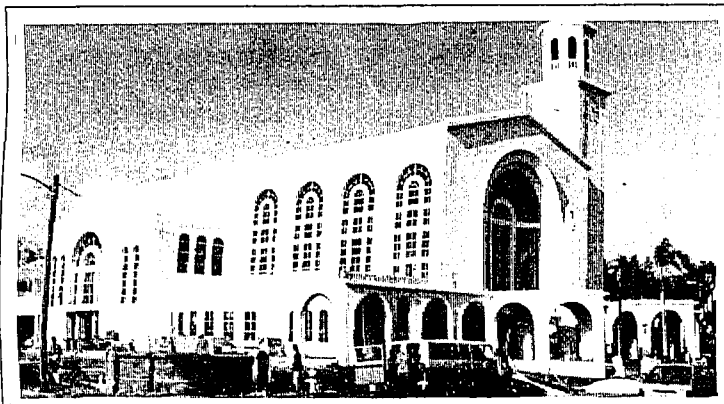
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# Guam's Basilica awaits restoration's completion



The Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Hagatna.

By Jan Furukawa

Variety News Staff

**HAGATNA** — Forty years after its dedication, the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica here had yet to be completely restored. The church still awaits finishing touches to its front walkway, stained-glass windows, ceiling, conference center, chapel and museum.

The museum's grand opening is scheduled for June 16, the date on which the Blessed Diego Luis de Sanvitores founded his mission 330 years ago.

About 800 Catholics gathered at the church Monday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its initial dedication.

They paid special tribute to the late Frank D. Perez and family, whose company, Perez Bros., donated concrete and other quarry products to the 1950s construction project and again, this restoration.

The \$3 million project was partially funded with a grant from the Guam Preservation Trust.

According to Sr. Marian T. Arroyo, everything should be done

Thursdays and Sundays.

The president's chair and the archbishop's chair, Arroyo said, are made of if it wood.

Six monitors outside the basilica Monday evening had been set up for the anticipated overflow of people. They were not needed.

Church officials had prepared to host 1,500 guests at the reception following the Mass; there weren't that many. A band played; no one danced.

"It was a relatively long service," Arroyo said, "but people thought it was beautiful."

within a few months.

The upgraded sound system, part of which is housed in the new ceiling, is not yet in full use.

Electrical wiring and air conditioning ducts, also contained inside the ceiling, also are not completely set.

Although the crucifix was not in its final resting place at Monday's dedication, Arroyo said it was put into place yesterday.

The Ave Maria Gift Shop is done, and is open five days a week, except



CNMI Speaker and Mrs. Diego Benavente, Saipan Mayor and Mrs. Jose Sablan with Archbishop Apuron, Bishop Tomas Camacho and several members of the clergy were in attendance.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

# New DOF boss finds her hands full with new job

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

NEWLY-confirmed Finance Secretary Lucia DLG. Nielsen yesterday said she finds her new job to be a "big challenge."

Nielsen, a former comptroller for the Marianas Visitors Bureau (MVB), is now tasked to ensure that the government's coffers are stable and all accounted for.

Her confirmation came at a time when government is groping for ways to ensure financial stability for its operations, having had reportedly inherited a \$35 million budget deficit from the previous administration.

"It is a big challenge for me. It is not something to be depressed about. You have nowhere to go but improve," said Nielsen.

Nielsen who used to have a hands-on job at MVB said she now "has to rely a lot on the staff."

"It's very different," she said. The department has six rev-

enue-generating divisions including customs.

Its former head is now the subject of a public auditor's probe over allegations of unauthorized fund juggling.

Nielsen refused to comment on the matter saying she is still waiting the investigation's results.

Nielsen's appointment by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio was confirmed by the Senate last Thursday.

Her confirmation came together with Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio and Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Thomas A. Tebuteb.

Tenorio was previously the Northern Marianas College's associate director for research and is the brother of former lieutenant governor Pete A. Tenorio.

Tenorio was the governor's runningmate in the 1981 and 1985 elections.

Tebuteb was also DCCA head during the previous administration.

# Ayuyu: Business sector welcomes new U.S. bill

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

THE BUSINESS sector on Saipan yesterday welcomed a proposed legislation that would institute a special industry committee in the Commonwealth which will be spearheaded by the federal labor department.

But Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu said there should be representation from the local business leaders to the special committee.

The committee's function, according to previous reports, will be similar to that of a wage review board earlier proposed by the Saipan business community to the federal takeover hearing in Washington.

"I would like to see that the governor would appoint representatives from the Northern Marianas' business sector [to the committee]," Ayuyu said.

He added that the Chamber supports the institution of the committee which would take a look whether or not there is a merit to increase the existing minimum wage.

He stressed that this move is also expected to contribute solutions on the Commonwealth's wage problems, while adding that doing the wage adjustments now is counter-productive considering the current economic situation.

Ayuyu said the committee



Joe C. Ayuyu

should be an independent body that would base its findings and recommendations on the current economic situation and "how will the economy do in the future."

Ayuyu said the adjustment should depend on how the CNMI economy will conciliate with the financial status of its neighboring countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Chamber last month released a position paper calling for the reinstatement of an independent body that will review and study the feasibility of minimum wage increase in the NMI.

The new legislation proposal, being drafted by Republican leaders of the US House Resources Committee, would require a gradual increase in the number of US citizens and Micronesian residents hired by garment factories until they form 50 percent of the total workforce.

# DPS traditionally spends more on OT every year

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety (DPS) had, in the last two fiscal years, spent \$10 million of the \$21.2 million incurred by the previous administration in overtime expenses, available official figures revealed.

The department, in fiscal year 1996, ate up close to \$4 million of the \$7.2 million overtime expenses of former governor Froilan C. Tenorio's administra-

tion.

In fiscal year 1997, DPS cornered half, or \$6 million of the government's \$12 million overtime expenses.

The figures, which showed DPS consistently consuming a big bulk of overtime expenses, bolstered allegations some DPS personnel may have unnecessarily worked overtime to supplement their low salaries.

Finance Secretary Lucia DLG. **Continued on page 23**

# DOLI raid on Eurotex yields minor violations

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

LABOR and immigration operatives swooped down on a San Vicente garment factory Tuesday afternoon and found only "minor violations," acting Secretary Mark Zachares yesterday said.

Elated by what he described as "not very serious violations" at Eurotex Inc., Zachares said the eighth raid could mean government is finally getting its point across.

"The message is getting out. We're very happy," he said.

The department, Zachares said, found violations on alien registration cards (ARCs) and health and safety concerns.

The raiding team found at least two exposed electrical panel boxes and another that is not in compliance with occupational safety standards.

Entry into the workers' living quarters as well as exit from the fac-

tory was also found to be obstructed. "Actually, these are not too bad, not very serious," said Zachares.

Results of the raid, as well as that of another one done Friday at Joo Ang Apparel in San Antonio, were a stark contrast to last month's inspections where 1,200 workers were found without ARCs and 34 overstayers were arrested.

Also, close to 100 health and safety violations were documented.

Among the garment factories raided were two ones owned by business tycoon Willie Tan.

Zachares has earlier said 20 factories will be subjected to "unannounced inspections" this month.

He has also stressed that employers running businesses other than garment factories will also be inspected.

The inspections were temporarily put on hold late last month to enable members of the raiding teams to prepare reports and file appropriate charges against erring employers.

# Another guard files suit vs Attaos

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

ANOTHER security guard filed yesterday a complaint against Aida S. Attao and Julie Attao, both of Bangel Security Agency and Asia Pacific Security Service, over allegedly unpaid salaries and illegal deduction.

Abdullah Al-Mahmud, a citizen of Bangladesh, also included as defendant his compatriot Md. Kamruzzaman whom he claimed served as supervisor for the defendants.

Al-Mahmud claimed that Kamruzzaman collected \$15,000 from him in behalf of Aida, and personally owes him \$2,627.

It was stated in the complaint that the two Attaos are shareholders and board members of the two security agencies. Aida was also identified as the "real owner" of Asia Pacific.

Earlier, a week ago, the two Attaos were sued by six Bangladeshi guards who claimed they had not been paid their regular wages and overtime compensations.

Four of those guards had also complained that the defendants allegedly illegally deducted \$1,600 from each of them to cover the processing cost of the nonresident employment contract applications.

In the case of Al-Mahmud, he said he was charged \$600 by the defendants for the processing cost.

Al-Mahmud said in his complaint prepared and filed by his legal counsel Pamela Brown that during each week of his employment from April 1, 1996 until he was terminated last March 31, except for one week, he rendered overtime work.

He alleged that the defendants failed to pay him his proper wage for non-overtime and overtime hours he had worked.

# Most workers on Rota not fully aware of health regs

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

MOST nonresident workers on Rota do not know that the new health regulation is mandatory, it was gathered yesterday.

In an interview, Connie Guerrero, the public health department's labor and immigration liaison officer, said efforts are now being exerted by government to inform Rota workers of the health screenings they are required to undergo.

Guerrero went to Rota on Monday to coordinate with the island's officials on the matter.

She said she met with the island's resident directors for public health and labor and immigration.

"We basically set up a system for them (workers)," she said.

"We don't have much information put out there for the general public and so we are working on it. The general public is not aware

that it (health screenings) is mandatory," Guerrero added.

Under the system, workers are asked to coordinate with the island's health center where a government staff has been posted to assist them on the new regulation.

Representatives from at least one private clinic regularly goes to Tinian and Rota for the tests.

Guerrero also said that the "pouch system," devised to save Rota and Tinian workers time and resources in getting their medical certificates, will finally be implemented this week.

A labor and immigration representative, Guerrero said, has been tasked to collect forms from Rota and send them to the department's main office on the island, which in turn will "pouch back" the certificates.

Guerrero said a representative for Tinian is now being trained to be the Department of Labor and Immigration's (DOLI) "contact" from the island.

Guerrero will be on Tinian this week "just to make sure that the system is going smoothly."

"We want to be assured that everybody understands where to go and where to send their papers," she said.

Government implemented the emergency health regulation in February this year. It requires all of the Commonwealth's 40,000 nonresident workers to undergo tuberculosis (TB), syphilis and HIV tests by next month.

The move was done after the study recently done by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) revealed the TB cases in the CNMI has reached epidemic proportions.

Tests for syphilis and HIV were likewise implemented by government which noted that the island's populace could also be at risk.

**OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS**

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### PROGRAM ANALYST

**U.S. Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C.**

The Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs' mission is to assist the islands in developing more efficient and effective government by providing financial and technical assistance; and to help manage Federal-island relations by promoting appropriate Federal policies. We are seeking a highly qualified candidate for the position of Program Analyst.


The Program Analyst is responsible for reviewing requests for technical assistance and makes recommendations for implementation of approved projects within the context of the strategic plan. Explores alternative implementation plans to identify more economical solutions with equal technical standards. Provides evaluation and reports concerning on-going projects.

**Requirements:** Candidates must have at least one year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the GS-12 grade level that is directly related to the work of this position. U.S. citizenship or National (including American Samoa) to be eligible for this position.

**Condition of Employment:** Periodic travel to insular areas is necessary to perform the network.

**Application Information:** Recruitment for the position is being conducted by the Office of Personnel Management located in Washington, D.C. Complete application materials and guidelines may be obtained by calling a voice message system (202) 606-2700. Follow the recorded directions; request vacancy announcement number OSPM-98-22. Position opens 4/16/98 to 5/8/98.

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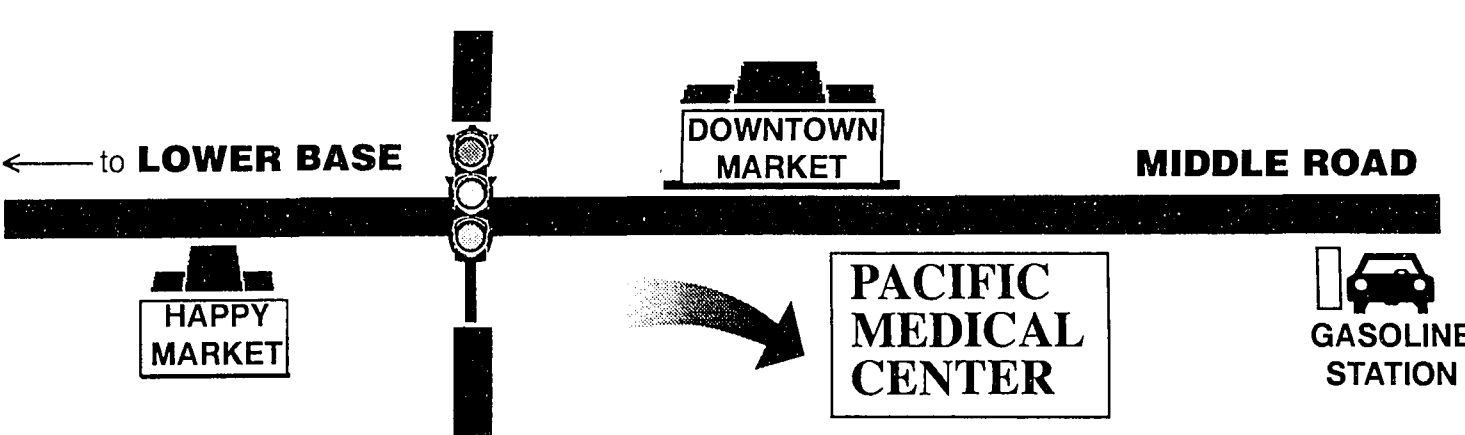
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# AROUND the Islands

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

## DEQ Lab gets certification

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE Division of Environmental Quality Water Analysis Laboratory has been given a three-year certification by the US Environmental Protection Agency after passing an EPA evaluation.

The certification was presented by Norman Lovelace, Region 9 chief of Insular Affairs Program, to DEQ acting Director Ignacio Cabrera the other day.

According to Nora McGee, EPA assistant regional administrator for policy and management, the full certification was granted to the laboratory on the basis of the evaluation of Andrew Lincoff, EPA Region 9 laboratory certification officer, last March 24-25.

The certification was for the microbiological analysis of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

"This certification will remain in effect for three years unless the laboratory fails to successfully analyze an annual EPA performance evaluation sample or major changes occur in your laboratory personnel or facilities," McGee said in a letter informing Cabrera about the granting of the certification.

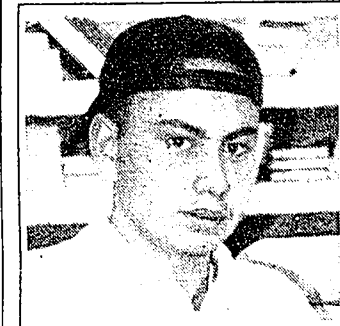
In his evaluation report, Lincoff said, "The laboratory staff are extremely well-experienced and qualified to perform their assigned analyses."

He added that "no deviations were found during the audit, which would affect the quality of the data regarding sampling, use of the approved methods, record keeping...or sample tracking procedures."



Marianas High School JROTC students practice formation during class recently. A team of JROTC cadets will be heading to Tinian this weekend for the Inter-island Drill Competition. Photo by Laila C. Younis

## Saipan student receives honors



Terrence Thornburgh

By Laila C. Younis  
Variety News Staff

A CAPTAIN from the U.S. Army was here on island visiting both private and public high schools to offer four year scholarships for students.

According to Captain Brian McDermott, the "steady number of students" applying for the U.S. Army National Scholarships called for a more extensive "Pacific Rim tour".

TERRENCE Thornburgh, a freshman at Seattle University, made the President's List with a perfect 4.0 grade point average during the winter quarter.

This is the second consecutive quarter that Terrence has made a 4.0 grade point average.

Dr. John Eschelman, Provost of Seattle University, in a letter, congratulated Terrence on joining a select group of Seattle University scholars who made President's List which requires at least a 3.9 grade point average (gpa) on a 4.0 scale.

He stated that Terrence's outstanding academic achievement is, "evidence of your ability to focus your intellect and energy effectively to achieve academic excellence."

Dr. Eschelman added, "Your grade point average should be a source of satisfaction and pride for you."

Terrence is a graduate of Marianas High School and is a Teacher Academy Program Alumni.

Terrence is the son of Tim Thornburgh who works as Federal Program Coordinator for the CNMI Public School System.

## CHC Volunteers donate to RHC

By Marc Hizon  
For the Variety

CHC Volunteers Association Officers headed by Susan Schwarz, Rose White, Bill Ripple and two other volunteers were on Rota last week and made a courtesy call to Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona to present various hospital equipment.

They later proceeded to the Health Center.

The group donated a fetal monitor, a heat lamp, vital signs monitor (stethoscope), wheel chair and a cardiac monitor (sphygmometer) to the Rota Health Center.

Ripple did a mini-workshop and demonstration to the medical and Ob-gyn staff Elizabeth Paeda on operating the fetal monitor and heat lamp.

"We are very grateful for the groups donation and Rota is very privileged to receive this much needed equipment for all our expectant mothers on island," said Public Health Resident Director Teresita Santos.

There are no words to express how much I appreciate their efforts.

"Anything donated to our center will definitely benefit the citizens of our community regardless of who they are. Little things like these means so much to us," said Santos.

The resident director in gratitude



Congressman Frank Cepeda (center) stands holds a WOFID poster with among other WOFID members and Ford representatives recently. The Ford vehicle displayed will be the grand prize for the WOFID raffle.

## Cepeda organizes WOFID

BEING a disabled person himself, Congressman Frank Cepeda had set as one of his goals, "Work Opportunities For Individuals With Disabilities," (WOFID).

"My objective is to bring the disabled of this island community out of the back rooms, and into public life where they can work, build up their self-esteem, and set an example for others with disabilities," said Cepeda in a press release.

WOFID is still in its formative stages, Cepeda pointed out, and the organization is looking for monetary and in kind contributions to help get its programs going.

According to Cepeda, he is also

Continued on page 20

# AROUND the Islands

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

## U.S. Army Captain visits schools



Brian McDermott

"I am also visiting Rota, Tinian and Guam this week, then I'll be heading out to Japan and Korea," said McDermott.

"I head national tours for the scholarships, and I visit Hawaii. By coming here, on a national level, I offer a different perspective on the scholarship process," he said.

"The students here will be competing with students from the mainland for the scholarships. The only requirements are to be a U.S. citizen, and have to enroll in a Senior JROTC program in college," he added.

McDermott also stressed that S.A.T. and A.C.T. test scores and overall G.P.A. are also merits that are considered for the program.

The four year scholarships, McDermott says, can range from \$9,000 to \$16,000 a year and is "a great financial opportunity for students".

The U.S. Army is also offering two year and three year scholarships, McDermott noted.

## Literature Corner

If you have poems and short stories you would like to share, please mail to P.O. Box 231 or fax to 234-9271

**Wings**  
By Keith Pangelinan  
12th Grade, MHS

**My Super Dad**  
By Alvin Klein G. Ganiban  
GES, 2nd Grade

I look up to things,  
I wish I had wings.  
As time flies by,  
I think and think,  
But I just shrink  
And shrink.

After all, time  
Beat me to it.  
He had the oldest wings  
Of all, but I flew  
Even higher with its call.

**Seasoning Spice**  
By MHS Seniors Keith Pangelinan,  
John Paul Sablan,  
Sheila R. Muna,  
Jennifer DLGuerrero  
and Min Jun Park

A little sound,  
A little season,  
Makes summer a happy reason.  
The sound of rain  
Should have brought pain,  
But it was the happy feeling  
That drove me insane.

One day  
My Dad and I  
talked heart to heart  
He shared with me  
about his past  
about his life.  
I've learned from him  
how important  
that life on earth  
is full of joy and  
happiness.

He taught me how to stand  
where and what I am now  
and it will always bear in my  
mind.  
I've got a word mightier than  
a sword  
I've become strong and brave  
enough  
to be a man my whole life  
that's why I am thankful  
having a super dad.

## MCS '78 Reunion meeting

BENJAMIN Seman and Thomas J. Camacho, president and vice president of the 1978 Mount Carmel High School Classes are calling all the 1978 MCHS graduates for a special meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans and formulate committees for this year's 1998 Twenty Year Class Reunion.

The meeting will take place this Friday, April 24, 1998, 6:30 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Camacho, 140 As Matuis Homestead.

Class members presently in the CNMI are urged to attend this very crucial meeting.

For meeting place direction, or if you have any questions please call Ben at 234-8950 and/or Tom at 322-3014/5 (wrk) or 322-7959 (hm).



Fun Coloring. A teacher and students gather around a table while a student colors a rock during the Division of Environmental Quality "Earth Fair" on Tuesday at the Joeten-Kiyu Library. Today is the last day for the exhibit. Photo by Laila C. Younis

## Guam Centennial exhibit to be featured in D.C.

AN EXHIBIT highlighting the past 100 years of Guam history will be presented May 17-30 in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., according to a press release from Congressman Robert Underwood's office.

This year marks the centennial of Guam's Americanization.

Additionally, May is Asian-Pacific Heritage Month.

"Guam's Reflections of the Past 100 Years" is being planned and organized by the Guam Museum, the University of Guam's Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center, the Guam Public Library, Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, the Guam Preservation Trust, the congressman's office, the Filipino community and indigenous rights organizations.

Eight panels will highlight historic events of the last 100 years.

They are:

Panel 1: Guam, an American territory. This section will include maps of the island, past and present; a report of Guam's capture by Capt. Glass and Ft. Ortin; and a copy of the Treaty of Paris, the peace accord between Spain and the United States at the end of the Spanish-American War.

Panel 2: Guam's indigenous people, the Chamorro people. Prints and photos of Chamorros, past and present will be featured, as well as an example of the Chamorro language, with translation; a poem, the Guam Hymn or Chamorro proverbs.

Panel 3: Guam's Spanish legacy. This third section will feature photos and prints depicting Spanish architecture, the Catholic religion, and Spanish period artifacts.

Panel 4: Guam's early American period. Photos will show American influence in architecture, dress, etc.

Panel 5: The War Years, 1941-45. Photos of destruction of the island; Hagatna before and after the war; U.S. military buildup after the recapture of the island.

Panel 6: Guam Today. Photos of people, facilities (educational, health, tourism, government), etc.

Panel 7: Scenic Guam. Various scenic photos, including Guam's flora and fauna and endangered species.

Panel 8: Guam's political development. This final section will feature photos of the signing of the Organic Act, the Guam Congress "walkout," which served as a catalyst to the Act's passage, and appearances before Congress and the United Nations.

## I Taotaota to feature Hunter

PROGRAMAN I Taotaota is featuring Robert Hunter, acting executive director, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture (CCAC). Cindy Macaranas, coordinator, CCAC Flame Tree Arts Festival, Noel Quitugua, acting chairman, CCAC Board, and Vicky Olopoi, traditional craft artist, today, hosted by Frances M. Sablan on Marianas Cable Vision (MCV).

Tonight's discussion on MCV, Channel 7 at 7 p.m. will be about the upcoming Flame Tree Arts Festival.

If you are tuning in to the live program on Saipan or Tinian today, and have questions or comments, please call the MCV studio during the show at 235-6382, 3 or 4.

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## MVB foresaw slump

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
THE Marianas Visitors Bureau foresaw the present tourism slump even before the economic turmoil surfaced in July last year, its managing director said Monday.

"There was a warning that MVB did. We were warning on the economic situations (of Japan and Korea). Our economic consultant had studied and reviewed the situations," Anicia Q. Tomokane said.

An April 1997 Progress Report prepared by economic analyst Edward C. Stephens Jr. for the MVB warned that both the Japanese and Korean economies were projected to slow down last year.

The MVB report was circulated among the MVB members during a membership meeting on April 9, 1997.

Citing a Daiwa Institute of Research study, the report said that Japan's economic growth was projected to slow down from 2.8 percent in 1996 to 2 percent in 1997.

The report said the scenario was more grim considering Japan's consumer spending projected to grow at only 1.1 percent, "which is not, of course, a particularly encouraging number for the tourism industry."

"The erosion of the yen's value against the US dollar, coupled with slowing economic growth in Japan, will substantially impact the spending

Continued on page 20

## District Court sets hearing on Senate case

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
THE hearing for the Senate reapportionment case is scheduled for the latter half of this year, it was learned yesterday.

District Judge Alex R. Munson issued an order yesterday detailing the case schedules.

The reapportionment case is seeking to increase the number of senators representing Saipan from three to eight. Tinian and Rota, which are each represented also by three senators, would both be represented by only one.

The reapportionment is being sought by lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand and former Rep. Stanley T. Torres. Their case is being handled by lawyer Theodore Mitchell.

Continued on page 20

## RP Consulate resumes meetings with DOLI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
THE PHILIPPINE Consulate is resuming regular consultation meeting with the labor and immigration department, in an attempt to jointly address labor problems confronting overseas Filipino workers in the Commonwealth.

Consul Julia C. Heidemann said her office will resume the biweekly meeting with Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares to cooperatively work out measures that would protect nonresident Filipino workers in NMI.

Heidemann said her office will closely work with the DOLI to ensure that problems involving Filipino workers and employers or recruiters are swiftly addressed.

"This is basically to coordinate and

discuss with them [CNMI labor and immigration officials] the problems and the possible solutions to address the concerns raised by the Filipino community on the islands," she told Variety.

She also said the Philippine labor office has not been receiving any reports on major maltreatment case involving Filipino workers since mid-1997, dismissing earlier reports of rampant labor abuses in the NMI.

Heidemann said the Consulate has previously conducted sporadic inspection of Filipino workers' staff houses and did not find any OFW living in subhuman conditions as it has been reported.

She also said her office and that of the Philippine labor representative did not receive any reports of forced

Continued on page 20

## Plan to cap number of accredited clinics in OCW-countries welcomed

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
PLANS of the public health department to cap the number of accredited clinics in countries deploying overseas contract workers are gaining support, it was learned.

Rep. Karl Reyes, vice chairman of the House committee on health, edu-

cation and welfare, yesterday said the proposal is a welcome development in the government's effort to safeguard public health.

Reyes said if the plans pushed through, the CNMI would be assured that all nonresident workers coming in are free from communicable diseases.

He added that this move would ensure that guest workers are carrying precise, concise and fraud-free medical certificates.

"We largely depend on foreign clinics to screen CNMI-bound workers, if this [capping clinics] is put in place, there would be no apprehension that we get healthy workers," he told Variety.

But Reyes said the accredited clinics should be accessible to government offices processing the foreign workers' labor documents, like the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in Manila.

Acting Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, raising concerns on the entry of some nonresident workers with fraudulent health certificates said his office is looking at the possibility of capping the number

of accredited clinics in guest workers' countries.

The Department of Public Health is coordinating with embassies of the United States in four countries to identify at least four medical service providers that will do the health screening for incoming guest workers.

Villagomez added that this will enable CNMI health officials to trace down faked documents, if the papers submitted by a worker appear to be questionable.

"Right now, we have close to 120 different clinics and that is not good," he stressed.

He pointed out that the probability of workers coming in to the Northern Mariana Islands with fraudulent documents increases with the present number of medical clinics in foreign countries still doing medical examinations of CNMI-bound guest workers.

Villagomez said the Department of Public Health and Services (DPHS) is still working with the US Embassy in identifying some prospective clinics in Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and the Philippines where a great number of alien workers in the CNMI are coming from.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
MUNICIPALITY OF ROTA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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OR THE NMC ROTA CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR,  
MR. ANICETO H. MUNDO AT  
TEL. # (670) 532-9477

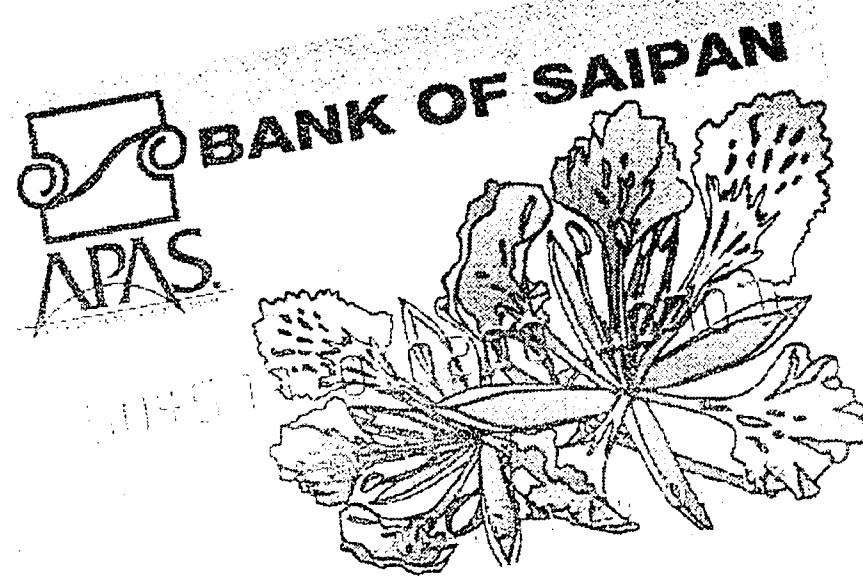
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B. Be of good moral character.  
C. Single, never been married, never been pregnant,  
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# Faulty aircon leads to suit

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
THE OWNERS of a Saipan restaurant have sued a private firm demanding damages for alleged improper installation of air conditioning system in the establishment.



Robert J. O'Connor

Lawyer Robert J. O'Connor and Rowena L. O'Connor, owners of K's Dimsum and Noodle House in Susupe, named as defendants Remedio and Daniel Buniag, doing business as Marfran Enterprises.

The O'Connors sued the defendants for breach of contract, breach of express warranty, breach of implied warranties, negligence, unfair business practice, fraud and negligent misrepresentation.

The plaintiffs asked the Superior Court to cancel the contract with Marfran and award them \$4,500 in actual damages, and other damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

According to the complaint filed

anteed labor and parts on the air conditioning system for six months after installation.

Plaintiffs paid Marfran \$3,000 in advance then gave the \$1,500 balance due under the contract.

The O'Connors said the air conditioning system installed did not, and does not, function properly.

"On the contrary, the difference between the temperature outside and temperature inside K's, with the air conditioning on, is negligible. During the heat of the day, including lunch time, it is uncomfortably hot inside K's for workers and customers," O'Connor stated.

The lawyer said plaintiffs have spoken with Marfran on numerous occasions since the air conditioning system was installed, advising the firm of the system's inadequacy.

The plaintiffs said they had urged Marfran to repair the sys-

tem, replace it, or take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure a cool and comfortable environment inside the restaurant.

O'Connor said Marfran has neglected, failed and refused to take any effective steps to remediate the situation.

"Marfran's failure and refusal to supply and install an adequate air

conditioning system in K's has damaged the reputation of K's in the community as a pleasant place to eat, and has resulted in lost business and lost profits to plaintiffs," O'Connor said.

He added that Marfran's representation that the air conditioning system it supplied and installed "was adequate to cool K's was false."

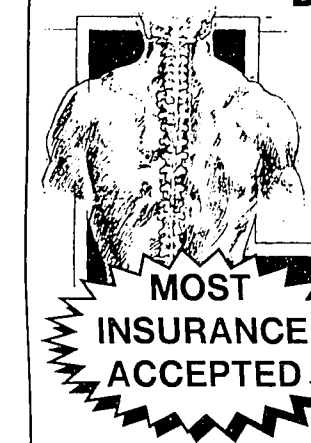
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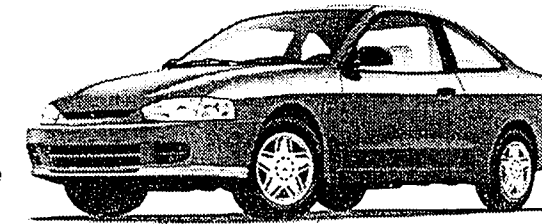
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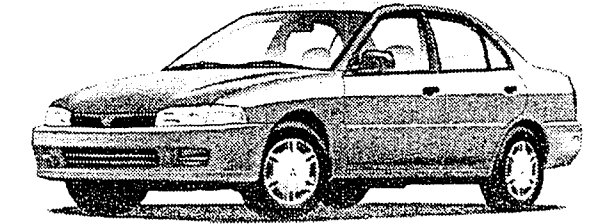
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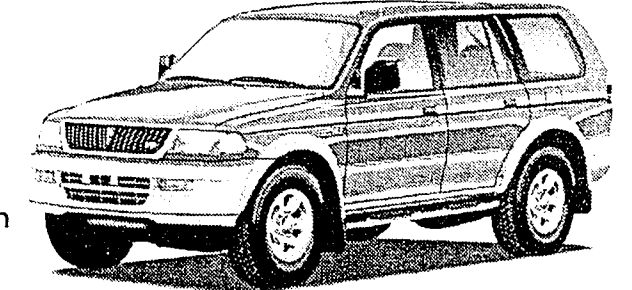
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## Elsewhere in the Pacific EU, Australia, Japan to fund Solomons projects

**HONIARA (Pacnews)**—Three of Solomon Islands development partners - the European Union, Australia and Japan - have offered to provide funding to meet about 60 percent of the country's 1998 development projects.

Contributing to the debate on the budget speech delivered by the Minister for Finance last week, National Development Planning Minister Fred Fono revealed that of the total of more than \$202-million (\$US43m) development budget, 90 percent will be funded from outside sources, SIBC reports.

A 60 percent of the 90 percent will be sourced to the European Union; Australia and Japan. Solomon Islands government will provide funds for only 10-percent or \$19.5 million dollars of the total development budget.

Mr Fono revealed that 30-percent of the total development allocation will go towards infrastructure development, while the rest will be used for human and natural resources, commerce, industries, finance, community and government and security developments.

He said the local funding

will go towards both on-going co-financed projects with development partners, government funded projects which are aimed at enhancing economic growth in the short and medium term.

Fono said the priorities in the development estimates are aimed at maximising natural resource development to generate money to meet the people's needs and to foster national unity and identity.

The debate on the national budget is expected to be completed Thursday.

### Pacific isles review coral reef program

**APIA (Pacnews)**—Representatives of the 18 Pacific island countries who took part in last year's Pacific Year of the Coral Reefs are currently meeting in Nadi, Fiji to review the Pacific wide campaign to protect the Pacific reefs in the long term.

The meeting will develop a three year work program for the conservation of coral reefs in the region, based on the successful outcomes of the 1997 campaign, Radio 2AP reports.

Activities in 1997 included coral reef competitions in dancing, singing, artwork, poetry, essay writing and quizzes.

The Nadi meeting will be discussing their success, and the lessons the countries learnt from the campaign.

## Gov't decision on casinos defended

**HONIARA (Pacnews)**—The Solomon Islands Ministry of Home Affairs has defended its government's decision to close down all casino related operations in the country as from April 7 next year.

Permanent Secretary to the Ministry Joses Sanga says although the closure will cost the government \$51600,000 (\$US128,000) annually in revenue, the social cost of the effects of gambling in Solomon Islands is heavier on some families particularly in the capital Honiara.

Sanga says there are broken families, families without food

because the break winner empties his pay package at the casinos and some children go to school in the mornings without breakfast as a result of their fathers' addiction to casino.

He says, "\$51600,000 is nothing when you compare this with the social cost" above.

Sanga says the government anticipates that state lotteries and games of chances for charitable purposes which will be unaffected by the closure, will provide employment opportunities for some of the 500 employees who stand to lose their jobs when the decision is implemented next year.

### Cyclone warning in Cooks

**MELBOURNE (Pacnews)**—A tropical cyclone alert has been issued for the northern Cook Islands.

A tropical depression lies about 350 kilometers southeast of the Manihiki atoll and is moving northwest at about 15km per hour, Radio Australia reports.

The depression is generating thunderstorms and winds of up to 80kms per hour, where the forecaster say there is a moderate chance that the depression will develop into a cyclone within the next 24 hours.

### Agreement reached on New Caledonia's political future

**MELBOURNE (Pacnews)**—New Caledonia's pro and anti independence groups have reached an agreement on the political future of the French Pacific territory but independence is still a long way off for New Caledonia.

After months of hard bargaining and almost two days after a dead-line for the end of negotiations, an agreement was signed in Noumea late Tuesday, Radio Australia reports.

The pro-independence groups

wish for an associated state relationship with France leading to independence has not been realised. Instead a gradual transfer of powers will take place over a transition period of 15 to 20 years.

At the end of that period, a referendum on independence will be held.

The agreement known as the Noumea Accord provides greater autonomy for the colony but falls a long way short of the ambitions held by pro-independence groups.

### Election campaign on in French Polynesia

**MELBOURNE (Pacnews)**—Campaigning has begun for by-elections in French Polynesia. By-elections are being held in eleven of the territorial assembly's 41 seats, Radio Australia reports.

The by-elections were called after results of the 1996 elections were cancelled because of irregularities in voting and allegations of corruptions.

Polls will be held May 24 for eight seats in the Leeward Islands and for three seats in the Marquesas Islands.

Seven of the eight seats being contested were won in the 1996 elections by the Tavini Huiraatira Party headed by French Polynesia's president, Gaston Flosse.

All major parties are contesting the election.

### Samoa surveys attitudes toward contraceptive use

**APIA (Pacnews)**—A health survey focussing on attitudes towards contraceptive use is underway on Samoa's Upolu island.

The four weeks survey which began today (Samoa time) will look closely at the involvement of men in decision making on family planning and the size of a family, 2AP reports.

The survey jointly conducted by the Samoa Family Health Association and the University of the South Pacific will also look at teenage pregnancies, which is becoming to be the main common problem in the country.

Similar surveys are being conducted in Tonga, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands.

### Fiji's sugar industry agrees to crop rehab

**SUVA (Pacnews)**—Fiji's sugar industry has agreed to undertake a crop rehabilitation programme to assist growers who've seriously been affected by the drought.

Farmers this week have called on government for cash assistance to help rehabilitation crops, Island Networks Corporation reports.

However, Sugar Commission Chairman Gerald Barrack told Network News that the implementation and timing of the programme will be critical as it's expected that the current dry conditions will continue for sometime.

Barrack said he's informed the Minister for Agriculture,

Fisheries and Forests that information will be available for discussion at a meeting of the parliamentary select committee on sugar to be held on May 1.

He said at the meeting the sugar industry will present a crop rehabilitation programme proposal to the select committee for consideration by government and by that committee.

Barrack says the question of obtaining funds will also be discussed as the Fiji Sugar Corporation survey which is just being completed indicates that a substantial amount of money will be needed to assist the growers and the industry in this particular difficult time.

### Work on Melanesian village progress

**HONIARA (Pacnews)**—Work on the Melanesian Cultural village at the old Cenotaph area in Honiara is reported to be progressing well.

Cultural Village Coordinator Frank Haikiu says work on traditional houses have begun, and he is confident they would be completed by mid-June. SIBC reports.

Among others, the village would accommodate five traditional buildings showing traditional houses from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands.

Haikiu says all four Melanesian neighbours have confirmed their attendance with each sending a contingent of about 100 dancers and artists to the festival.

He says only PNG has indicated that it will send about 120.

The Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival is the first of its kind to be organised, and it is timed to coincide with the celebrations of the Solomon Islands 20th anniversary of Independence in July this year.

### Talks continue to avert Fiji protest

**SUVA (Pacnews)**—Last minute talks to avert nationwide protest action by Fiji workers tomorrow (Thursday) continued in the capital Suva this morning.

The outcome of last night's meeting of the Tripartite Forum between unions, employers and government officials failed to resolve the grievances of the unions, Island Networks Corporation reports.

The two main issues now under contention are the redundancy issue and the check-off facility, allowing employers to deduct union subscriptions from

workers on behalf of their union. Unions want all parties to sign an accord that there won't be new redundancies and that the check-off facility remains.

Fiji Trade Union Congress Secretary Pratap Chand told journalists after Tuesday night's meeting that they will NOT be engaging in any talks after midday today. Chand says the employers are trying to make things very difficult.

The Fiji Employers Federation says the union's threat of protest action Thursday is the very reason why employers do not want to enter into negotiations.

Federation President Hector Hatch said after last night's meeting, that they will not negotiate under duress.

Hatch also brushed aside union accusations that the employers were being unreasonable.

He said they will discuss anything and everything that was put on the table provided the strike threat is lifted.

FTUC officials have told the other parties that they are prepared to allow a committee of the tripartite forum to look into the wage issue - the issue which initially fuelled the dispute.



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09:00	09:50	10:30	11:20
12:00 (noon)	12:50	15:30	16:20
17:30	18:20	19:00	19:50
20:30	21:20	23:00	23:50
00:30	01:20	02:00	02:50

Boarding Time: 30 minutes prior to departure time

The above will be available April 25, 1998



A protester gives a bottle of drinking water to an anti-riot policeman guarding a peaceful rally Tuesday on the campus of Sahid Jaya university in southern Jakarta. Students have staged anti-government protests in the past months, demanding President Suharto to step down. AP

## Red Cross says it will visit deportees in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross said Tuesday it will soon visit hundreds of Indonesians who were deported last month from Malaysia.

The Indonesians are from Aceh on the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, where an armed separatist movement has operated since the 1970s.

United Nations officials have said they want to establish whether those deported to Aceh have suffered political persecution in Indonesia.

A spokeswoman for the Red Cross, Sri Wahyu Endah, said the Indonesian government had given the "green light" to visit the deportees, many of whom had sought work in Malaysia.

"It will be soon, in the near future," she said.

Endah said the Red Cross also planned to visit political detainees in Aceh province. In the past, the Red Cross has asked for permission to visit the detainees at a military camp and last year the government barred its workers from the region.

"We welcome the Indonesian openness now to give the ICRC access to Aceh," Endah said.

On March 26, an Indonesian navy vessel repatriated 544 Indonesians from Malaysia, with all but 20 of them returning to hometowns in Aceh. Malaysia claims the Acehese are economic, not political, refugees.

With the move to allow Red Cross officials to visit the workers in Aceh, the fate of 22 Indonesian illegal aliens seeking refuge at U.S. and U.N. compounds in Malaysia may move closer to a resolution.

## Taiwan exports on decline again

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Export orders fell almost 3 percent in March, prompting renewed concerns that the Asian economic slump will affect Taiwan's growth, the Economics Ministry said Tuesday.

Falling regional demand for Taiwanese goods because of the region's troubles is the main reason for a decline in exports, said Chang Yaw-tzong, the ministry's director of statistics. He added that economic growth will be affected by the slowdown in exports in the first half of this year. In contrast to Asia, exports to the United States and Europe were doing well.

A think tank last week reduced its estimate of Taiwan's economic growth this year from 6.37 percent to 5.95 percent.

Increased competition from Asian countries whose currencies have depreciated were also harming exports, the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research said.

The ministry said export orders in March fell 2.74 percent against the same period last year, to a total of \$10.2 billion. That was part of an

overall reduction of 2.67 percent for the first three months of the year.

Meanwhile, actual exports in the first quarter of 1998 fell 6.4 percent compared to the same period last year.

The relatively smaller decline in orders compared to the fall in real exports pointed to a recovery trend. Armed with bulky foreign reserves and a healthy banking system, Taiwan has largely escaped the Asian financial crisis. But economists say the impact could be more severe if the crisis spreads to Japan and China, Taiwan's two major trading partners.

The ministry said export orders in March from the United States and Europe increased at a healthy 7.1 percent and 4.5 percent respectively from the same period a year earlier.

Japanese export orders last month for Taiwanese products were down 18 percent from March a year ago, due in part to a year old ban on pork exports over an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the ministry said.

## Exile group: Dissident jailed over interview

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Myanmar's military government has sentenced a leading member of the country's pro-democracy movement to 25 years in prison for giving an interview to a foreign radio station, an exile opposition group said Tuesday.

San San of the National League for Democracy was originally detained on Oct. 28, 1997, said a news release from the All Burma Students' Democratic Front.

The 58-year-old San San was arrested with two other NLD lawmakers and five other party members, after an attempted political meeting between party leader Aung San Suu Kyi and youth members of her party in the capital. Riot police scuffled with several of Suu Kyi's supporters as they tried to prevent the meeting.

Those detained were tried last December and all were given six-year prison terms for violating a 1950 emergency law that allows jailing people likely to "inspire security problems" or incite "unrest among the people."

The students' announcement said the government tried to force San San to promise to end her political activities, an approach they have reportedly taken with other NLD supporters.

After San San refused, she was charged under the Official Secrets Act for doing an interview with the Burmese-language service of the British Broadcasting Corporation in which she was critical of the

government, the statement said.

On conviction, her prison sentence was increased to 25 years. The secrets law was enacted in 1923, when the country was a British colony.

The statement quoted unnamed sources as saying no one had been allowed to see San San since she was sentenced.

San San was elected to parliament from a Rangoon district in the 1990 general election in which the League won a landslide victory. The ruling junta, which seized power in 1988, refused to allow parliament to be seated, and still runs Myanmar, which is also called Burma.

No comment was immediately available from the government.

San San was previously arrested in November 1990, sentenced to 20 years in prison for "high treason," and dismissed as a member of parliament and barred from running in future elections.

She took part in the country's major pro-democracy uprising in 1988 as head of a workers union while she was a deputy director of the department of labor, the student statement said.

The dissidents sentenced in December included Dr. Than Nyein, the brother-in-law of Gen. Khin Nyunt, the head of military intelligence and one of the four most powerful generals in the government.

Suu Kyi's party protested the trials to the government because it was not allowed to provide lawyers for the defendants. Family members of the jailed democrats were also barred from witnessing the trial.

# Malaysia eyes defense cuts

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Malaysian government on Tuesday hinted that defense cuts could even top the 21 percent slash in spending since last year.

Malaysian Defense Minister Syed Hamid Albar said his ministry could face budget cuts of nearly 1 billion ringgit (dhs 270 million) this year. The ministry's budget was slashed by 3 percent last year and a further 18 percent cut was made after an austerity budget was announced in December, totaling 21 percent.

"It may not be 21 percent. It may be more," Syed Hamid said.

A number of intended projects will be "reprioritized," he told reporters after opening the 6th Asia Defense Services exhibition. The four-day event is the world's second largest for paramilitary and security firms, with 600 companies from 43 countries participating.

"That is why we are not looking into purchasing new assets," said Syed Hamid, who announced Monday that Malaysia would not purchase sub-

marines, as planned. "But we are preparing ourselves when the economy turns around, hopefully soon."

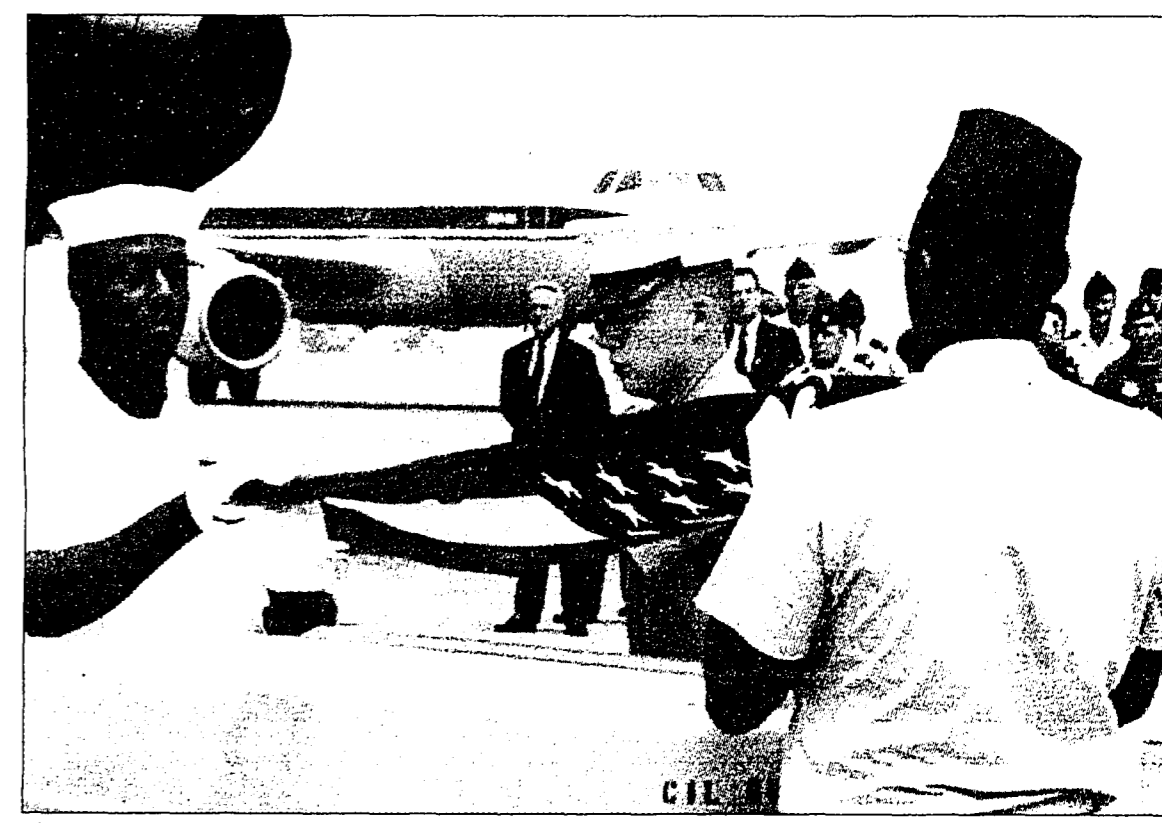
The budget cuts will not affect projects or purchases already under way, he said.

The purchase of two Corvettes from Italy and two British frigates are still expected to be delivered to the Royal Malaysian Navy next year.

The cuts may affect the purchase of the South African Rooivalk helicopters to replace the aging Wasp helicopters and the proposed submarine project, he said.

Earlier, Syed Hamid said his ministry has begun identifying key companies to be the anchors in the defense industry sectors earmarked for development. They would be invited to participate as prime contractors in major defense procurements and encouraged to create partnerships with foreign companies, he added.

Syed Hamid suggested collaboration in promoting regional defense industries through manufacturing of armored personnel carriers and weapons systems.



U.S. Marine honor guards drape a U.S. flag over a coffin containing the remains of a U.S. MIA at the Hanoi airport Tuesday. Five sets of remains were flown to Hawaii later in the day. AP

## Malaysia police chief upholds 'shoot-to-kill' policy to quell any violence

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's police chief defended the department's "shoot-to-kill" policy as the way to maintain order, according to news reports Tuesday.

"Our main task is to ensure public safety," said Police Chief Rahim Noor, responding to a critical commentary against the police force by a human rights group.

"We will continue to take appropriate action against armed criminals including 'shoot-to-kill' if our men's lives are at stake," Rahim was quoted as saying in The Star newspaper.

More than 50 suspected armed criminals have been shot dead by the police in the last two-and-a-half years, an "unprecedented" increase, according to Raja Aziz Addruse, president of the National Human Rights Society.

"In combating crime, the police cannot assume the roles of a judge, jury and executioner, all rolled in one," Raja wrote in a commentary published recently in the government-backed New Straits Times.

Citing several incidents where the police had gunned down suspected criminals in their cars and homes, offering no chance for surrender, Raja condemned the police as "too trigger happy for the common good."

In March, police shot and killed five suspected bank robbers as they exited a bank on a busy street of a university campus.

In January, seven suspected robbers were shot dead en route to the supermarket they planned to rob, Raja said.

"What about the basic creed of 'innocent until proven guilty'?" said Raja, calling the police "a loose cannon" and "vigilante force."

Rahim defended the police actions, insisting officers had never "blindly shot" at innocent people.

Rahim said the police were protecting the lives and safety of a public threatened by "impetuous" criminals.

## NUTISIA PARA FAMALAO'AN YAN PUBLIKON NORTHERN MARIANAS

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PUT FABOT FANMATTO YA EN FANMAHUNGO I OPINI'ON-MIYU YAN HINASSON-MIYU PUT ASUNTON I LINA'LA-TA GUINI ISLA-TA SIHA - ESPEPATMENTE I ASUNTON LINA'LA I MAMAMAILA' NA HINERASION.

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# HK officials vow more jobs

HONG KONG (AP) — Officials said Tuesday that the government has provided incentives to stimulate the economy, but that improvements in unemployment largely

depend on the private sector. Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's finance secretary, said that the territory's government was increasing investments in public infra-

structure and improving financial services, while leaving the rest to private businesses "to ensure that more job opportunities would be created."

"I think at the end of the day it will be the private sector who would seize these opportunities to ensure that existing business will be strengthened," Tsang said at a press conference.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa expressed concern about rising unemployment, which he tied to Asia's overall economic woes. He added that persistent high rates of inflation and rising production costs had dented Hong Kong's economic competitiveness.

Although still low, the unemployment rate is high by Hong Kong standards the highest since March 1995.

The territory, handed back to China by Britain last summer, has avoided the worst of Asia's economic problems because of strong foreign reserves, a stable currency and sound economic management. But it has been suffering from weakness in its retail, construction, real estate, manufacturing and hotel-restaurant trades.

Analysts have predicted that government infrastructure projects and tax cuts taking effect later in the year were likely to ease the problem.

## Hong Kong repatriates more Vietnamese

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong on Tuesday repatriated more than 200 Vietnamese, three months after scrapping a 22-year policy of offering the asylum-seekers temporary haven.

The 239 Vietnamese — whom the government says were mostly economic migrants — were flown back to Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, under the government's forced repatriation program.

The group — some of whom arrived in 1988 — was the latest batch to be sent back since Hong Kong early this year scrapped a 22-year-old policy giving all Vietnamese the right to be screened

for political asylum and appeal in court if rejected.

China had long contended that Hong Kong's status as a "port of first asylum," giving all arriving Vietnamese the right to seek temporary political asylum, was a decision the British colonial government imposed on the territory.

More than 63,000 Vietnamese, some forcibly dragged onto the plane against their will, have been sent back since 1991, when the government's forced repatriation program effectively began.

Early this year, Hong Kong's legislature approved the changes in immigration laws ending the

territory's status as temporary haven for the Vietnamese asylum-seekers. Vietnamese who now arrive illegally are simply held in detention until arrangements can be made with their government to send them back.

Since Communist North Vietnam defeated the U.S.-backed South in 1975 ending the Vietnam war, nearly 223,000 Vietnamese have passed through Hong Kong, most of them arriving by boat penniless.

Hong Kong still harbors more than 2,700 Vietnamese still awaiting repatriation or resettlement overseas.

## Japan auto exports up 10 percent

TOKYO (AP) — Exports by Japan's three top automakers rose more than 10 percent in March from a year earlier as they shipped more cars abroad amid slumping sales at home, according to reports released Tuesday.

Toyota Motor Corp. exported 114,365 cars, trucks and buses in March, up 10.9 percent from the same month last year. Nissan Motor's exports grew by 17.9 percent to 60,962 vehicles while Honda Motor Corp.'s expanded 11.8 percent to 45,146, according to the automakers' monthly reports.

At home, where car sales have been declining since a national sales tax increase last April, both Toyota and Nissan suffered declines of more than 20 percent while Honda's sales slipped 7.7 percent.

Japan raised its national sales tax to 5 percent from 3 percent last April. A sluggish economy has also dragged down consumption in Japan.

## Indonesia says economic reforms are on schedule

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian officials working to overhaul their battered economy face a key deadline Wednesday for the implementation of a raft of reforms.

Following concerns that it was backsliding on pledges to open up its economy, Indonesia signed a revised reform agreement earlier this month with the International Monetary Fund.

"We will be able to undertake the entire reform and we will also fulfill all items in the reform agenda," the official Antara news agency quoted Finance Minister Fuad Bawazier as saying Monday.

Inflation and unemployment are soaring in Indonesia as it weathers its worst economic crisis since the 1960s. The slump was spurred by a plunge in the value of the rupiah last year.

Under the new IMF deal, designed to help get aid from a \$43 billion IMF-led bailout flowing again, Indonesia must make a string of economic changes by April 22.

They include a reduction in export taxes on logs and minerals, the

lifting of restrictions on foreign investment in wholesale trade and progress toward an agreement on the restructuring of Indonesia's \$18.6 billion corporate debt.

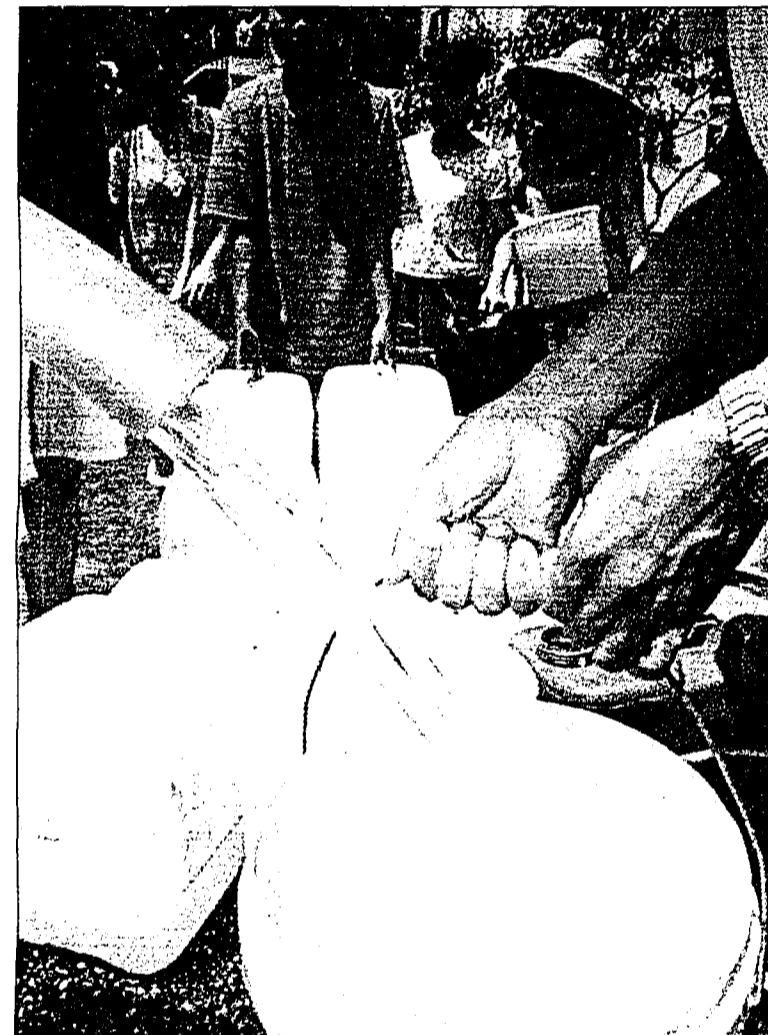
Bawazier said the government on Wednesday will release details of debt talks last week in New York between Indonesian officials and international creditors.

The head of Indonesia's negotiating team, Radius Prawiro, has said the two sides agreed that Indonesian corporations will repay their debts in rupiah to an agency that will provide foreign currencies.

Bawazier said the most important thing in overcoming the present monetary crisis is to stabilize the exchange rate of the rupiah, which plunged in value last year when Asia's currency crisis erupted.

Bank Indonesia, the nation's central bank, said Tuesday it had raised interest rates by between 3 and 6 percentage points in an attempt to strengthen the rupiah.

The rupiah was trading Tuesday afternoon in Jakarta at 7,850 to the dollar, up from its close Monday at 8,100.



Drought-stricken Malaysians lined up at a water truck as water rationing and the country's worst drought in decades hit home Tuesday. Nearly two million people around Kuala Lumpur had their taps turned off starting this week. AP

## Spurned husband blows up self, 2 others on train

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese toy factory worker angry over his wife's affair set off a bomb beside a train, killing himself and two other people, an official newspaper reported Tuesday.

Seven people also were injured, two of them seriously, in the blast last Friday after train No. 469 arrived in Fuzhou from Guangzhou, Wen Hui Bao reported. Both cities are in south China.

Police suspect a toy factory worker surnamed Zhang whose wife recently began having an affair, leaving him bent on revenge, the newspaper said.

It said he triggered the bomb he had made himself and hid inside his clothing after the train arrived in

Fuzhou and people got off. The blast killed Zhang, one of two sisters who got off the train before him and a passenger on the platform, the newspaper said.

Zhang already had killed two of his wife's relatives using bombs made with electrical wire stolen from the toy factory, it said.

Meanwhile, Chinese police have ordered a nationwide crackdown on the illegal production and sale of explosives in an effort to stem an increase in criminal cases and accidents involving explosives, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

The Public Security Ministry also ordered a nationwide safety check on companies and organizations that use explosives.

# Seoul to compensate sex slaves



South Korean civic group members, including former sex slaves for Japanese Army during World War II, shout anti-Japan slogans during a protest rally in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul last week. They were demanding the full compensation and apology from the Japanese government. AP

By KYONG-HWA SEOK

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— In a policy change aimed at resolving one of its thorniest historical disputes with Japan, South Korea said Tuesday it will directly compensate South Korean women used as sex slaves by Japan during World War II.

Japan expressed hope that the Seoul government's decision would help improve the living conditions of the aging South Korean victims.

"We consider this step taken by the government of the Republic of Korea to be an expression of their serious approach to resolving this issue," Sadaaki Numata, the Foreign Ministry's chief spokesman, told a regular news conference.

"We do hope that this will lead to an improvement in the living conditions of all the ladies who were involved in this during the war," he said.

Under a plan approved by the Cabinet, the Seoul government said it will offer 38 million won (\$25,300) — 31.5 million won (\$21,000) from the government and 6.5 million won (\$4,300) raised by private organizations — to each of 152 South Korean women known to have been used as "comfort women" by the Japanese army.

Calling its compensation "comfort money," the South Korean government said that it will not ask Japan to put up any of the money, as groups representing the former sex slaves have demanded.

Seoul officials said their new policy means that the compensation issue for the former South Korean sex slaves has been settled "at least at the government level."

They said they would not intervene when private organizations push their demands for compensation from the Japanese government.

"This does not mean that the government is giving up its longstanding demands for Japan's apology and histori-

cal and moral responsibility," President Kim Dae-jung told the Cabinet.

Kim is the first opposition leader to take power in South Korea. Since taking office in February, he has called for new ties with Japan, putting behind thorny historical problems.

"We welcome the decision to compensate the women. But the government should demand that the Japanese government reveal the truth, compensate the women and punish those responsible," said Yang Mi-kang, secretary-general of the Korea Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery.

Yang said Taiwan also has directly compensated former Taiwanese sex slaves for the old Japanese army.

In March, the Seoul government adopted a proposal to compensate the former sex slaves, then recover the money from the Japanese government.

But the government backed away from that position last week, saying it would not seek payment from Tokyo. Japan refuses to compensate the women, saying that all reparation claims were settled under a 1965 normalization treaty.

The South Korean policy change triggered angry reaction from the former sex slaves, who insisted that a real apology will come only when the Japanese government offers compensation.

After consultations with the victims, Seoul decided to omit from Tuesday's announcement any mention of whether it will seek compensation from Japan, a government official said.

"The government's policy (of not asking for Japanese compensation) has not changed," Chung Yeon-dook, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said.

Former South Korean sex slaves maintain that any compensation money should come

from the Tokyo government as a sign of atonement for atrocities Japan committed during its colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula in 1910-1945.

Historians estimate that as many as 200,000 women from Korea and other Asian nations were taken to front-line Japa-

nese brothels during World War II. No one knows how many are still alive because most keep their past secret.

While maintaining that post-war treaties settled all all war-time compensation claims, Japan in 1996 established a private Asian Women's Fund, which offered \$17,000 to each

surviving sex slave.

Most of the former South Korean sex slaves turned down the offer, insisting that any compensation come directly from the Japanese government.

Most of the women are in their 70s, have never married and have no children to support them.

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South Korean acting Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil, third from left, poses with China's economic delegation during a meeting at the government building in Seoul Monday on South Korea-China civil economic cooperation. Second from left is Yu Xiaosong, head of Chinese delegation. AP

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# Critics: IMF 'misuses' funds

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund is run like a "private club with public money," and the Clinton administration is letting billions of taxpayer dollars be used to bail out wealthy banks and investors, congressional critics charged.

In an ongoing effort to derail President Clinton's request for dls 18 billion more to replenish IMF resources, a House Banking subcommittee accused the administration Tuesday of ignoring laws directing the United States to use its "voice and vote" to oppose various IMF policies.

The oversight subcommittee for three hours grilled Karin Lissakers, the U.S. representative on the IMF's 24-member executive board, asking why she had registered objections only 12 times during her more than five years on the board.

Lissakers told the subcommittee that most IMF actions are taken by consensus, essentially a voice vote. During the five years, she said, the executive board dealt with an estimated 2,000 items. She submitted a list indicating the United States had voted "no" three times and abstained from voting to register its objections nine other times.

Committee members called this record unacceptable. "It is my judgment that our representative has not obeyed the law," said Rep. Bernard Sanders, a Vermont independent. He said congressional language seeking to halt human rights abuses, protect worker rights and restrain military spending in the Third World was being ignored routinely.

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Before Congress approved any more funds for the IMF, it must decide whether "the IMF is simply a front group for giant banks, global corporations and wealthy investors."

Rep. Spencer Bachus, a Republican and chairman of the House oversight panel, said, "The IMF should not be permitted to operate like a private club with public money."

Lissakers and Assistant Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner rejected lawmakers' assertions that the administration was ignoring Congress' intent. They said the administration had actively pushed U.S. positions with some success because, as the world's largest economy, the United States controls 18 percent of IMF voting power.

## Mary Bono sworn in as US Rep.



Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich questions Chianna Bono during her mother's, Mary Bono, mock swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill Tuesday. In the back, from left, is William Rodriguez, Bono's godson, and son, Chesare Bono. AP

By Darlene Superville  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Mary Bono, sworn in Tuesday as one of two new House members, said she continues to draw strength from and be guided by her late husband, Sonny Bono.

Mrs. Bono, a Republican who won a special election to succeed her husband, said serving the people of California's 44th Congressional District was his proudest achievement.

The seat had been vacant since Bonodied Jan. 5 in a skiing accident at Lake Tahoe. "I understand why this chamber held so much meaning for my late husband," Mrs. BonotoldtheHouse, her two young children at her side. "I will do my best to live up to the legacy that he has left and continue to bring his commonsense approach to serving the people of this great nation."

Mrs. Bono says she supports

fiscal responsibility, education and the environment.

The House also welcomed former California state senator Barbara Lee, a Democrat, who is filling the 9th Congressional District seat long held by her mentor, former Rep. Ron Dellums.

Dellums retired in February after more than 27 years in Congress to focus on his personal life.

Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., died of cancer last month. Voters will chose his replacement in a June 23 special election.

Rep. Thomas Foglietta, D-Pa., resigned last year to become U.S. ambassador to Italy and a special election to choose his successor is scheduled for May 19.

Lee, meanwhile, captured 67 percent of the vote in a special election April 7. Waite has promised to challenge her in the upcoming election for a full two-year term in the House.

Lee, Dellums' former chief of staff, promised to push for a solvent Social Security system and good jobs and livable wages for working men and women and to protect abortion rights.

Lee, Dellums' former chief of staff, promised to push for a solvent Social Security system and good jobs and livable wages for working men and women and to protect abortion rights.

"I accept the challenge to continue to be a long-distance runner for economic, social and political justice," she said in her remarks to the House. Dellums listened from the floor.

Mrs. Bono defeated actor Ralph Waite, patriarch of "The Waltons" TV series, by winning 64 percent

# Netanyahu is ready to meet Arafat in London



Benjamin Netanyahu



Yasser Arafat

By DAFNA LINZER  
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he is ready to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in London once progress is made in exploratory talks with the Americans.

Netanyahu and Arafat for separate meetings in the past, each time with expectations that those talks would lead to a summit. Arafat and Netanyahu last met in October.

Albright has summoned

Israel media

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to hold separate meetings May 4 in the British capital with Netanyahu and Arafat to discuss the scope of an Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

# EU under pressure to resolve euro dispute

By PAUL AMES  
LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Italy and Belgium faced pressure Tuesday to formally commit themselves to balancing budgets and lowering debt soon after they join other European Union nations in switching to a common currency on Jan. 1.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel is leading demands for Italy and Belgium to allay fears that their huge public debts could undermine confidence in the new currency, the euro.



An Israeli prison authority guard denies access to actress Susannah York, left, into the Shakma Prison in Ashkelon, southern Israel Sunday. York arrived in the hope of visiting jailed Israeli nuclear-spy Mordechai Vanunu and securing his release. AP

# Czech leader Havel undergoes surgery

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel underwent another abdominal operation late Monday after a small abscess developed in his abdominal wall, his doctors said Tuesday.



Vaclav Havel

The president's life was not in immediate danger, doctors said after his second abdominal surgery in seven days. But it wasn't immediately clear whether the operation was a major setback in Havel's recovery.

Havel's temperature was high Tuesday as a result of Monday's surgery, Martin Kraft from the president's office said in Innsbruck.

HEY KIDS.... WANNA HAVE SOME FUN?

Join us this coming Saturday, April 25th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM at the Civic Center (Old Legislature Bldg.) for the 1998 St. Jude Parish Kids Carnival.

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- Face Painting
- Sack Race
- Water Drinking Contest
- Sandcastle Building
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- Egg Toss Contest
- Water Balloon Contest
- Three Legged Race
- Jet Ski

Lots of Prizes, Fun and Excitement awaits you! Don't forget to bring Mom and Dad... See you there!!!

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

Unit Bank, Plaintiff vs. Jean L. Evangelista, Defendants Civil Action No. 94-1046

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 23, 1996, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinafter, all of the right, title and interest of Defendant in and to the following property.

Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing Caladina Plan No. 2083-84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1398 at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 1998 at the hour of 1:15 p.m., at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mullan & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed.

Reserve. The reserve price on the property offered for sale is \$50,000.00. No bids will be accepted below that figure.

Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid on the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of White, Pierce, Mullan & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of White, Pierce, Mullan & Nutting, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

Court Approval Required. Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Removal or Storage of Personal Property. The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 17th day of April, 1998.

JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer

NMC . . . Continued from page 1

She also reminded the students that the program is a privilege and not a right.

"For your information.... the (CNMI) is the only government that gives out so much money for college education," Camacho said, and the commonwealth, she added, is "experiencing an economic setback."

Still, according to Camacho, the fall semester will not be affected by the program's funding shortfall.

During the forum, Tenorio said the government will "try to help as much as possible," but asked the students "not to be too emotional."

"Please bear with us," he said after being asked why the program has no money when government officials and employees continue to "drive around" with government vehicles and receive overtime pay.

"We're trying our best, please be understanding," Tenorio said. "I myself use and drive my own car," he added.

"I know your concern and we will address it."

Some students also complained that CNMI residents enrolled in the mainland US get more financial assistance.

CHC . . . Continued from page 8

Students who opted to study at NMC are being "discriminated," they said.

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) replied that the Legislature will look into the entire program, find ways to "cut fat" and "unnecessary allotments."

He said if additional funding is available, and if vital public services—public safety, health, education—are not jeopardized, "We are more than willing to assist the governor to find money for the program."

Noting that the elections are already over, and that they are not merely making campaign promises, Tenorio said he and the legislators "are here to help and assist" NMC students.

Not all of students and faculty members seemed impressed with the words of the visiting officials—which also included Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan) and Senate Health, Education and Welfare Committee Chair Ricardo S. Atalig (R-Rota).

An NMC official was "making faces" while the governor was talking about the need for "understanding."

CHC . . . Continued from page 8

expressed commitment to return the favor by assisting the CHC volunteers in their fundraising and future endeavors.

The equipment were procured through fundraising drives by the CHC volunteer group.

"In the future we will work out with food items.

Groot added: "I certainly welcome the opportunity of working with the Communities of Saipan and Tinian in order to support and encourage any Training that benefits us all in the long term. I have made my responsibility to initiate these types of programs to build together an industry in which we all can be proud of."

The training also focused on the awareness of food handlers and the responsibility towards not only the customer but also focused on personal grooming and personal hygiene towards the people who prepare, serve, clean, order, receive, and distribute

congressional salary to purchase a Ford vehicle which will be raffled off.

The proceeds will be used to find meaningful employment for the disabled, and aid in funding other community projects.

The CNMI will find it more important than ever to be able to compete on the basis of cost," the report said.

The economic turmoil, which spread from Thailand in July to other Asian countries with Indonesia and Korea the most affected, has taken a toll on the CNMI, which has suffered from double-digit declines in tourist arrivals.

Tomokane said that not only the CNMI but also its neighbors including Guam and Hong Kong has been affected by the crisis.

Despite the warnings, the CNMI was caught flat-footed.

"I'm sure that what the Saipan industry is doing is not different from what the other countries are doing in reacting hastily to address the situation," Tomokane said.

The industry, led by the hoteliers, have taken the initiative to launch a Visit the Marianas Year campaign in 1999 in response to the arrivals slump.

CHC . . . Continued from page 8

the mayor in planning to organize a similar association and pattern their objectives and fundraising drives on island and likewise generate funds for the needs of our center. Not to forget in time donate in part equipment we have on hand (surplus) to other health center. Hoping that we could work as one for the benefit of the people of Rota and the entire commonwealth," ended Santos.

The equipment were procured through fundraising drives by the CHC volunteer group.

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Teno . . . Continued from page 1

The master plan, Tenorio said, would also include details about how the CIP money would be prioritized.

But first, he said, the Legislature will have to identify sufficient local funds to match the CIP grants in accordance with the formula stipulated in the grant.

power of Japanese tourists," the report then said.

The report also warned that the Korean economy faced the prospect of a slowdown.

It cited the predictions of some credible analysts that the Korean economy "may be in for a crisis."

The report also saw the erosion of the won against the dollar and warned about the possibility of the Korean government restricting overseas travel to prevent further drain of capital.

The report suggested how the CNMI could react to the economic events of Japan and Korea, from where 85 percent of visitors to the CNMI come from.

"Slowed growth and a strong dollar will both put a lid on the demand for dollar-priced travel. Therefore,

RP . . . Continued from page 10

prostitution, abortion and other human rights abuses, as far as Filipino workers are concerned.

A report from the Department of Commerce has indicated that Filipinos have remained the largest ethnic group in the Northern Mariana Islands' labor force.

The 1995 survey made by the

DOC's Central Statistics Division noted that close to 20,000 Filipino contract workers are now on the island, comprising a big bulk, or half of the total CNMI labor force.

Majority, or at least 28 percent, of the Filipino workers in the Marianas are in the personal entertainment and recreation industry; 20 percent are in the mining and construction sector; and 20 another percent are in the retail industry.

be filed by May 1.

Munson said parties other than the plaintiffs may file their opposition to the plaintiffs' summary judgment motion by June 26.

Munson asked the intervenor-defendants or amici not to duplicate arguments in their respective submissions.

He said the plaintiffs' opposition to any motions filed should be with the court by July 24 and replies to this opposition by Aug. 14.

Distric . . . Continued from page 10

The defendants in the case are the members of the Board of Elections and Elections Executive Director Juan M. Diaz.

Under the scheduling order, Rayphand and Torres have until today to amend their motion for summary judgment.

Parties seeking to intervene or appear as amici have also until today to file their motion. Opposition should

RP . . . Continued from page 10

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A report from the Department of Commerce has indicated that Filipinos have remained the largest ethnic group in the Northern Mariana Islands' labor force.

The 1995 survey made by the

DOC's Central Statistics Division noted that close to 20,000 Filipino contract workers are now on the island, comprising a big bulk, or half of the total CNMI labor force.

Majority, or at least 28 percent, of the Filipino workers in the Marianas are in the personal entertainment and recreation industry; 20 percent are in the mining and construction sector; and 20 another percent are in the retail industry.

be filed by May 1.

Munson said parties other than the plaintiffs may file their opposition to the plaintiffs' summary judgment motion by June 26.

Munson asked the intervenor-defendants or amici not to duplicate arguments in their respective submissions.

He said the plaintiffs' opposition to any motions filed should be with the court by July 24 and replies to this opposition by Aug. 14.

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RP . . . Continued from page 10 prostitution, abortion and other human rights abuses, as far as Filipino workers are concerned.

Distric . . . Continued from page 10 The defendants in the case are the members of the Board of Elections and Elections Executive Director Juan M. Diaz.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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NOTICE OF HEARING Dated: June 11, 1998 Time: 8:30 a.m. Judge: Virginia Sablan Onerheim

NEW RESTAURANT NOW HIRING Hiring all positions, waiters, waitress, cooks, kitchen help, bartenders. Applicants must apply in person, Monday, April 27, 1998. One day only, at Saipan's Gold Beach Hotel from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Absolutely no phone calls.

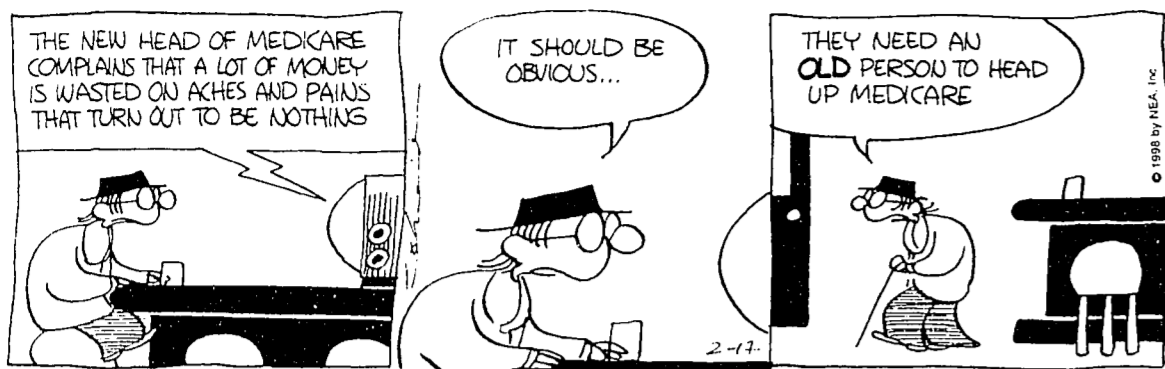
Out of Stock Sale! Brand name Swimwear Two piece set, assorted prints & sizes Low, low prices. Contact: 233-4274 Terro Corp. Distributor

MOVING-OUT SALE (Last Day Sale - Sunday, April 26, 1998) Household Furnitures & Office Furnitures Ceramic Tiles, Marble Face Sink, Bathroom Cabinet w/ 3 ways mirror, 20 feet Container, Dryer, Refrigerator, Stereo Set: CD Player, Radio, Cassette, Speakers and Case, Jewelry & Jewelry Cases 1989 Nissan Pickup Truck. Location: Right across Mt. Carmel Church Corner of Beach Rd. and Sugar Dock Rd. Tel. 235-3976

LOST PASSPORT The Passport of ZHANG, SHENG QUAN (Chinese National) was stolen. If found, please notify the owner. Telephone No. 235-8775

Golden Lobster Restaurant IMMEDIATELY OPENING ACCOUNTANT Must be College Graduate or equivalent, with 2 years experience. Must be able to work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day, including weekends & holidays as scheduled. With computer background preferred. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Apply in person at the 2nd Floor BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Building, Beach Road, Chalan Lallau, Saipan

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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

THURSDAY BORN today, you are always one to espouse the most fair and accommodating methods in your life and in your work, and you insist on treating others in the manner in which you wish to be treated by them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may have to sort out the various reasons why you are doing what you are doing at this time. Be prepared to explain yourself to a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may have to engage the services of a stand-in today, as you may not be prepared to face a certain challenge that lies in store.



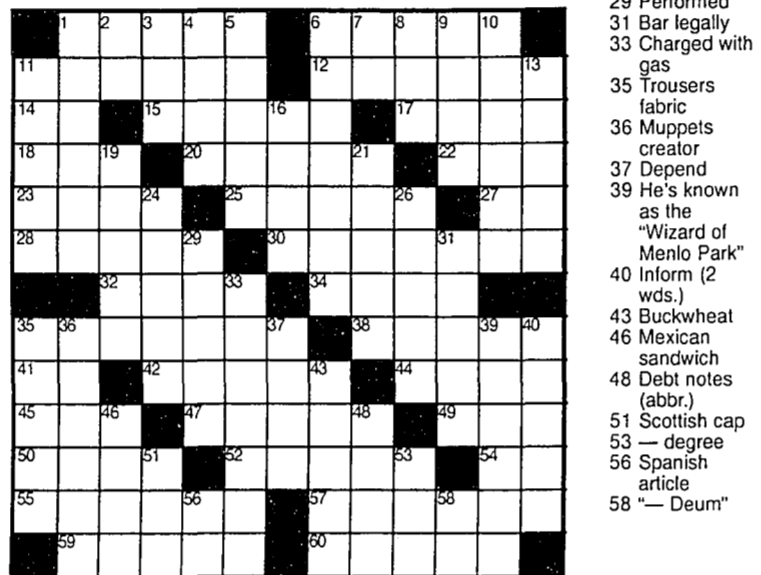
FRIDAY, APR. 24 CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may have to check things out with greater care than usual today before making a final decision that you cannot ultimately reverse.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There are always going to be those who disagree with your methods, but you must strive to impress even them with the way things turn out.

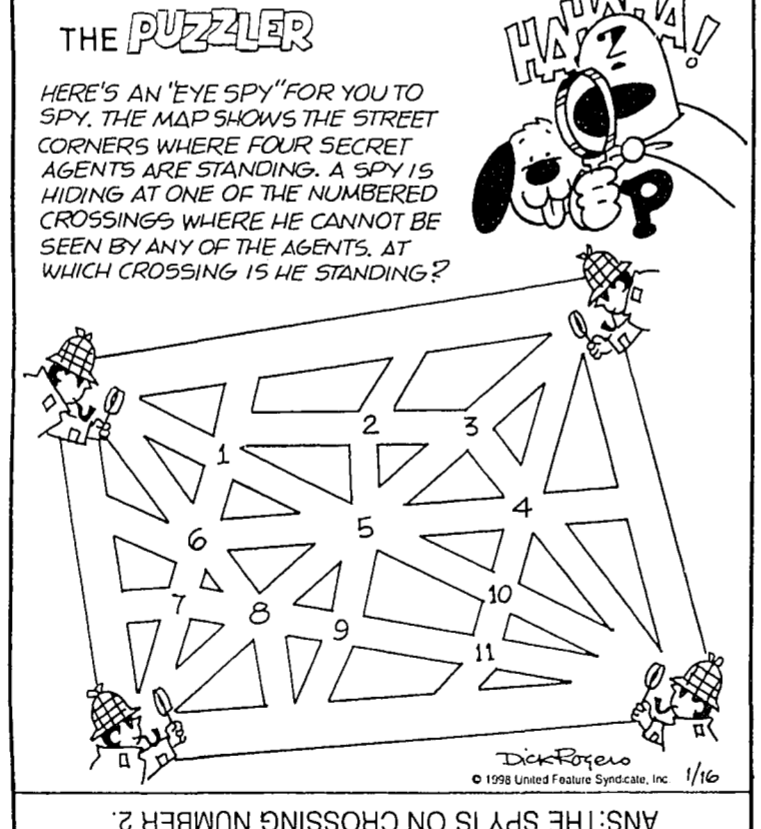
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 Seymour and Fonda 6 Author Verne 11 Nullify 12 Distant planet 14 12 mos. 15 Makes a road 17 NBA great Chamberlain 18 Meadow 20 Slow (music) 22 Unclaimed mail dept. 23 Atlanta arena 25 Ms. Gorbachev 27 Half an am 28 Antelope 30 Of a triangle type 32 Mineral 34 Protection 35 Playhouse 38 Diner 41 Pronoun 42 Actress Bo

DOWN 1 Actor Irons 2 Silver symbol 3 Short sleep 4 And others (2 wds., Latin abbr.) 5 Cut 6 Fairness 7 Chaldean city 8 Lay down the — 9 Geraint's wife 10 Surly 11 Stocking material 13 Rock 16 Namesakes for a Spanish queen 19 "What's in —" 21 Kind of orange 24 Poem by Homer 26 An assumed name 29 Performed 31 Legally 33 Charged with gas 35 Trousers fabric 36 Muppets creator 37 Depend 39 He's known as the "Wizard of Menlo Park" 40 Inform (2 wds.) 43 Duckwheat 46 Mexican sandwich 48 Debt notes (abbr.) 51 Scottish cap 53 — degree 56 Spanish article 58 — Deum"



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers



9 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE GOOD WILL HUNTING MOVIE HOUSE

National League roundup

Reds defeat Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Last-minute replacement Dmitri Young had a two-run single as the Cincinnati Reds beat Curt Schilling and handed the Philadelphia Phillies their sixth straight loss 6-3 Tuesday.

and Jeff Shaw pitched 1 2-3 innings for his sixth save. Giants 6, Pirates 3 In Pittsburgh, Barry Bonds and Brent Mayne homered off winless Jon Lieber as San Francisco extended Pittsburgh's losing streak to seven games.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 2 In Milwaukee, John Jaha hit a grand slam and Jeff Juden pitched Milwaukee's first complete game of the season as the Brewers won their fifth straight.

Astros 6, Mets 0 In New York, Mike Hampton became the first four-game winner in the major leagues, pitching a

seven-hitter to lead the Houston Astros over the New York Mets. Hampton (4-0) got his fourth career shutout and 10th complete game. He struck out eight and walked one, winning his fourth consecutive start following a no-decision in his first outing. He has won 16 of his last 19 decisions since June 27.

DPS . . .

Continued from page 6 Nielsen however said there is, so far, not enough data to suggest anything to uphold the allegations. Nielsen is forming part of a task force that is being created to investigate the previous administration's huge overtime expenses.

address this." Nielsen said she is "hopeful" the task force can establish if there were irregularities. She noted that both private and public sectors are now experiencing financial constraints requiring belt-tightening measures thus the need for a thorough probe on the previous administration's spending habits.

could have been spent during emergency situations caused by the three supertypoons that hit the islands. Still, she said the amount spent by the previous administration in overtime appears to be like "it's really not reasonable."

Foreign . . .

Continued from page 1 that the units may have been those of countries with which the US has defense pacts or which the US is holding joint military exercises with.

craft and equipment into our areas. I am just very concerned about problems that may arise," said Babauta. Babauta said that the entry of such equipment and other military paraphernalia increases the likelihood of "alien species," like the brown tree snake, being introduced.

areas may get affected. But there is also concern in FDM considering that military units are bringing in junk cars which they use as firing targets," said Babauta. Babauta added that if appropriate, he would bring the issue up in Section 902 consultations.

Women's . . .

Continued from page 1 Women's Associations Conference, which began with a welcome dinner last night at the Government House here. At the United Nations women's conference in Beijing a few years ago, some 10 themes were identified as key to the roles that women play in today's world, according to Dr. Rebecca Stephenson, a Guam member helping organize the conference.

sen to be highlighted at this FAWA gathering: Advancement of Women, Violence Against Women, Decision-making and Women's Rights. This year's theme is "Women: Bridges for a Better Tomorrow." Today's keynote address will be made by Madame Fang Yui Lien, wife of the vice president of the Republic of China. Stephenson called Taiwan, or ROC, the "spiritual home" of FAWA. "The women there are the most influential," she said. Workshops on Violence and Women's Rights will fill the afternoon hours.

Activities tomorrow will include delivery of reports by member countries and workshops on Advancement of Women and Decision-making. On Saturday, conference participants will adopt final reports and resolutions, and install new board members. That evening, the women will congregate for a farewell dinner. On Sunday, an interdenominational service and memorial will be conducted in the Hilton Schapel at 8 a.m., and then participants will go on an optional island tour.

Wins . . .

Continued from page 24 winner since it took Nick Price until May 30 to win the Colonial in 1994. The last 14 majors — the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship — were won by 14 different people. The last repeat winner was Price, who won the British Open and the PGA in 1994. Over the last 52 weeks, the 44 PGA Tour events were won by 30 different people and 91 players managed a top-three finish. For nearly a year, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els have been virtually

defeated the Toronto Blue Jays for their 10th victory in 11 games. The Yankees, coming off a 3-2 victory in 11 innings Monday at SkyDome, have won five straight against Toronto. Tino Martinez, whose two-run single put the Yankees ahead 3-1 in the seventh, led off the 10th by reaching on first baseman Felipe Crespo's error. Williams followed with a triple off Dan Plesac (0-2) over the head of center fielder Jose Cruz Jr. for a 4-3 lead. Pinch-hitter Tim Lincecum sacrifice fly added an insurance run. Williams went 3-for-4. Mike Stanton (1-0) pitched two perfect innings for the win. The Yankees are 8-0 in games which Stanton has pitched. Rangers 4, Devil Rays 0 In Arlington, Texas, Aaron Sele kept up his surprising start, pitching a four-hitter and striking out 10 in his second shutout of the season. Sele (4-0) became the first Rangers starter to begin his Texas career with four consecutive victories.

Davis," Woods said. "There are a lot of good players now and they are coming up." There are a ton of ways to determine who is best and the fun of trying to do it is that there is no conclusive way to arrive at an answer. By victories, Duval has been the best the last 52 weeks, winning four times. Leonard, Love and Els won three times, while Woods, Norman, Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh and Mark Calcavecchia had two victories. Based on top-three finishes the last year, Duval, Woods and Leonard are first with six while Norman and Love had five and Els, Mickelson and Jeff Maggert had four each.

Jazz . . .

Continued from page 24 that roster and you'll see they're a very good team." Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "They've got the players to contend for a championship." Several of those players—Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler, Mario Elie — know what it takes to win a title. The Rockets are the only team other than the Chicago Bulls to win an National Basketball Association crown since 1991. But the Rockets have been ravaged

Courier . . .

Continued from page 24 "The third set turned into a dogfight," said Chang, 26. "He was serving really well and I was serving well, and in a tiebreaker just a few points can swing things. I was hoping he would get a little bit tight and give me a few freebies, but he really didn't let up until the tiebreaker. Then I think he did get kind of tight." Delgado, ranked 104th in the world, said his collapse was more a failure of tactics than nerve. "I think I took too many chances in the tiebreak," he said. "I was risking more than I did during the rest of the match."

Red . . .

Continued from page 24 the Cleveland Indians overcame an error-plagued four-run inning to beat the Chicago White Sox. Albert Belle, returning to the park where he flipped an obscene gesture to abusive fans last season, went 1-for-3 with two walks. Belle, batting .177, was showered with boos but only minimal debris. Kenny Lofton, who teamed with Belle to lead the Indians to their first World Series in 41 years in 1995, was back in the lineup a day after being carted off the field with an injury in Boston. Cleveland starter Chad Ogea came off the disabled list to make his first start of the season. The Indians built a 7-0 lead against James Baldwin (2-2), but Ogea didn't make it out of the fifth. Yankees 5, Blue Jays 3, 10 innings In Toronto, Benjie Williams tripled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and the New York Yankees

# SPORTS



A trio of skysurfing daredevils hit the airwaves over Surfers Paradise Beach on the Gold Coast of Queensland Saturday. The trio are part of The Extreme Games now being held on the coast. AP

## Guam expects 5,000 to arrive for Games

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
For the Variety

**TAMUNING, Guam**—The South Pacific Games Commission press release estimates that 5,000 athletes and support personnel will visit Guam in May and June next year.

In addition the Sponsorship Package for the 1999 SPG is nearing completion and is expected to be ready by the end of May.

Members of the business community should soon be able to concretely contribute to plans for the 1999 Games.

The Commission has had discussions with potential sponsors both on Guam and elsewhere. Ed Fortier,

Executive Director of SPG, said, "We have had interest expressed from potential sponsors in both cash and in-kind sponsorships. The Commission is aware that the economic downturn is not good news for any of us, but sponsors obviously recognize the potential of being associated with huge events like this. They say they definitely want to be a part of the Games."

In related development, Bonita Magazine, a publication catering to female readers, launched in April a coverage of the SPG starting with an introduction of some background facts. As part of a joint project with the SPG Media

Liason office to highlight Women in SPG, future articles will focus on female sporting personalities in the months leading to the Games.

Bonita will be contacting the organizing committee in all 22 countries and territories of the Games to identify athletes, coaching personnel, and staff to be featured.

Bonita Associate Editor, Carol Flores Linco said, "We think our readers will be interested to hear how these busy and dedicated women balance sporting timetables and commitments with the other areas of their lives."

## Jazz, Rockets familiar foes in NBA playoffs

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It's springtime, which means the Utah Jazz and Houston Rockets are getting reacquainted in the NBA playoffs.

This time, the teams get together early, in a first-round Western Conference series that begins Thursday.

Usually, they save their battles

for later in the playoffs, but the Rockets had a rough season and were the lowest qualifier in the West. Utah had the conference's best record.

"They've had their troubles this year, and we've done well against them, but you just need to look at

**Continued on page 23**

## Wins spread around PGA

By RON SIRAK

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Not that long ago, there was concern that golf needed a dominant golfer. Since Tom Watson took that title from Jack Nicklaus a generation ago there had been no such animal.

Then came Tiger Woods. The King had arrived. Long live the King.

But a year after Tigermania's peak no dominant golfer has emerged. And that could not be better news. The battle for the crown of best player the next several years should be a joy to watch.

Consider these numbers:

There have been 14 tournaments on the PGA Tour this year with 14 different winners — none named Woods. The tour hasn't gone this long without a multiple

**Continued on page 23**

## Courier advances at US Clay Court meet

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)** — Defending champion Michael Chang overcame a spirited challenge from Paraguay's Ramon Delgado on Tuesday and struggled into the second round of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.

Earlier in the day, third-seeded Jim Courier beat wild-card qualifier Geoff Grant 6-1, 6-2, avoiding the first-round upsets that sidelined Vince Spadea and Wayne Black at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex outside Orlando.

Chang, who is coming back from a partial cartilage tear in his left knee suffered less than two months ago, was pushed to the limit before taming the 21-year-old Delgado 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-1).

Delgado, Paraguay's No. 1 one player, matched Chang shot for shot for nearly two hours before abruptly disintegrating in the climactic tiebreaker.

With the score tied 6-6 in the third set and Chang laboring to fend off Delgado's power game, the Paraguayan opened the tiebreaker with five consecutive unforced errors to virtually hand the top-seed the victory in a match he never really controlled.

**Continued on page 23**

## SSA Co-ed softball slated

THE Saipan Softball Association will be holding its second fundraising softball event for the weekend of MAY 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

This will be a Co-ed Softball event with each team having at least five male & five female players to participate, organizers said in a news release.

Entrance Fee is \$200, and sign up

& waiver forms may be picked up at Torres Refrigeration.

Dateline for submission of \$200 fee & waiver form is 5:30 p.m. on April 30, 1998 at a managers meeting at Ada Gym, Susupe.

For more info, call Joe Torres @ 235-1662, Newman Techur @ 234-0173, Carol Ngiraidis @ 235-4247 or Paul Baron @ 322-7814.

## Red Sox top Tigers

**DETROIT (AP)** — Nomar Garciaparra hit two homers and matched a career-high with five RBIs, leading the Boston Red Sox over the Detroit Tigers 11-4 Tuesday.

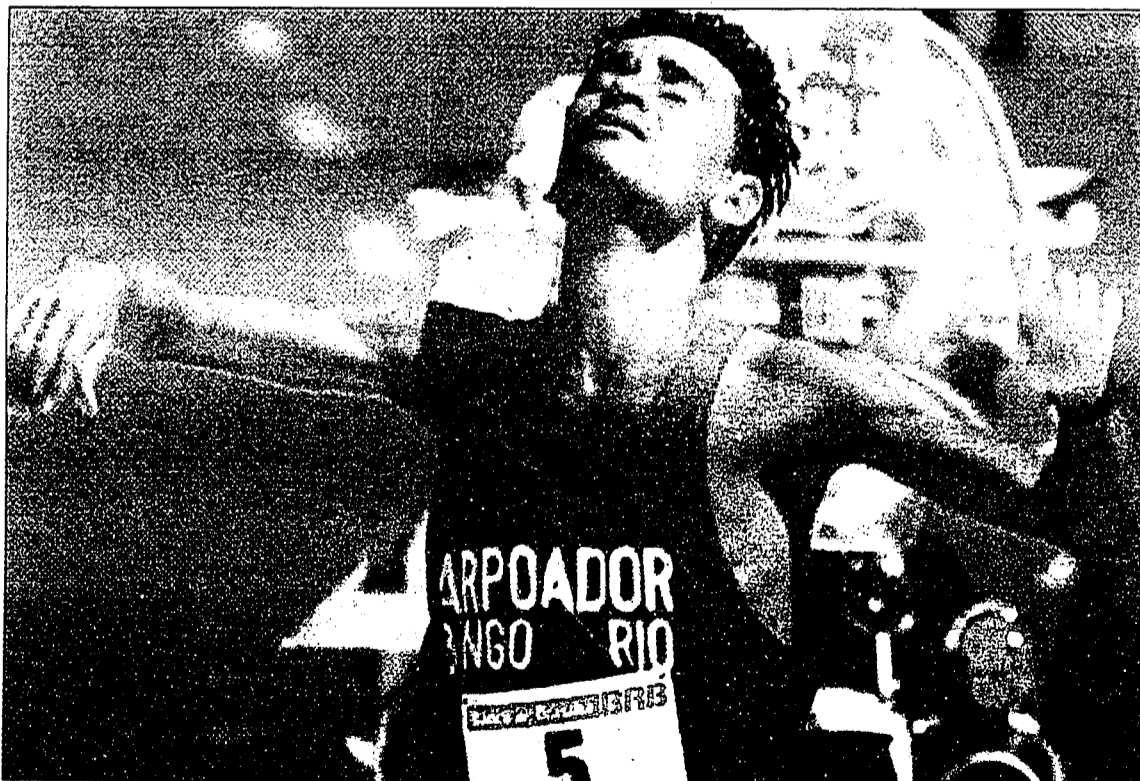
It was the second five-RBI game of the season for the 1997 AL rookie of the year, who led the major leagues with 68 multi-hit games last season. Reggie Jefferson also homered to help rookie Brian Rose (1-1) pick up

his first major league victory in his fourth start. The Red Sox won their third in a row.

Rose gave up four hits in seven innings, including solo homers by Tony Clark and Luis Gonzalez. Pinch-hitter Kimera Barteo and Damion Easley homered in the Tigers' ninth.

Indians 14, White Sox 6  
In Cleveland, David Justice homered and drove in four runs as

**Continued on page 23**



Brazilian runner, Elisvaldo Carvalho, crosses the finish line with a time of 2 hours 19 minutes and 35 seconds, to win the 8th Marathon of Brasilia Tuesday. AP