



# Marianas Variety

News  
& Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25 No. 234  
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Thursday - February 12, 1998

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## Marianas Air flies in March

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

A NEW AIRLINE company has expressed intentions to fly Saipan routes next month, a move which offsets reduction of flights by major carriers.

Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas said Marianas Airline has already proposed to launch its first flight by the third week of March.

Marianas Air, according to Salas, will service Saipan-Tinian route, in time for the grand opening of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino next month.

Tinian is fast becoming the hub

of casino resorts in the Pacific region, with the expected rise of another multi-million casino complex on the island.

Salas said Marianas Air has written the Commonwealth Ports Authority, adding that agency is currently working out logistics with Tinian airport.

"We may provide office space for the new carrier at our Tinian and Saipan facilities," he said.

He added that the new carrier, which will use a Cessna aircraft model, is seriously taking its third week of March schedule.

"That is already on schedule," he stressed.

As this developed, a New Zealand-based airline company has also expressed intentions to provide air service to Guam-Saipan-Guam routes, though the CPA is yet to receive formal proposal.

Salas said executives of Coral International, who visited the Northern Marianas during the inauguration rites of the new CNMI administration, made an informal proposal to fly the service routes.

"They promised to send us formal letter and proposal but we are yet to receive any," he said.

No other information was im-

Continued on page 20

## White wants Cruz to handle Froilan ruling



Benjamin J. F. Cruz

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court ruled yesterday that Guam Supreme Court Justice Benjamin J. F.

Cruz be the one to preside over a motion to reconsider his own ruling last year, which ordered former Gov. Froilan Tenorio to pay \$12.4 million in connection with charges that he misspent public funds.

Special Judge Michael White did not disqualify himself from the case, but requested the CNMI Supreme Court to order Cruz to re-handle the case.

If the high tribunal would not order Cruz's appointment within 30 days, White said he would set a hearing on the motion for reconsideration.

Lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand, through counsel Theodore

Continued on page 20

## 'War in Gulf would be triple blow for CNMI'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

WITH THE weapons inspection crisis in Iraq reaching a critical stage, the tourism industry slumping harder and government becoming cash-strapped, the Northern Mariana Islands may be in for a "tougher than toughest" time, a business sector leader warned.

"It is like a boxer inside a ring who received a right and left hook, knocked out by an uppercut, and once down, was bitten on the ear," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Ayuyu, describing a gloomy CNMI scenario once the feared "Persian Gulf War II" erupts.

Ayuyu, who was also chamber president when the Operation Desert Storm was staged in 1990, recalled the "blows" suf-



Joe Ayuyu

fered by the tourism industry then as "devastating."

He said tourism-related sales during the 1990 Gulf War dramatically dropped.

Ayuyu, who now owns the Saipan franchise of McDonald's

Continued on page 20

## Abolition of several gov't offices sought

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE TRANSITION Executive Committee is recommending the abolition of at least four offices, as well as the elimination of several special assistant positions and other posts perceived to be created for political purposes.

The committee, noted for example, the unjustified increase in the number of employees hired by the office of the Special Assistant for Administration and recommended that steps be taken to address the matter.

The SAA office "has always been political to some degree," the committee said in a report released yesterday. "However, there is cause for great concern when all personnel decisions and decisions determining who should

Continued on page 20



MHS Construction Instructor Joven Mallari assists a student in finishing work on a campus concrete bench. The students are constructing several benches along the school's entrance as part of a class project.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

## Teno creates task force on landfill, P.R. dump



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio has set up a solid waste task force to "fast track" the construction of a sanitary landfill in Marpi and the closure of the Puerto Rico dump.

In a memo Tuesday, the governor named as task force members himself, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, then acting Public Works Secretary John Cepeda, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Executive

Director Tim Villagomez, Division of Environmental Quality Director Ike Cabrera and then acting Finance Secretary Vicky Villagomez.

The task force's non-voting advisors are the governor's special adviser Mike Sablan and Assistant Attorney General Sally Pfund.

The task force will review all related contracts currently underway, and will complete "at the earliest possible date" a request

for proposals (RFP) to complete the project.

Tenorio, at the same time, noted that his transition committee has already initiated efforts on the plans for the sanitary landfill, including a history of all related work done in the past.

The creation of the task force, he said, will "facilitate the process."

The governor has vowed to

Continued on page 20

## WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

# Protests mar Chinese leader's Hong Kong trip



A demonstrator is carried by police officers outside the Hong Kong ex-Government House Wednesday during a demonstration to protest the head of China's legislature Qiao Shi's visit to Hong Kong.

By DIDI KIRSTEN TATLOW  
HONG KONG (AP) — Small but noisy pro-democracy protests, some ringed by police intent on keeping them under control, followed China's legislative leader Wednesday on his first visit to Hong Kong.

National People's Congress leader Qiao Shi, one of the most powerful Chinese leaders to visit Hong Kong since its handover to Chinese rule, went to Government House, the former residence of Britain's colonial governors, Wednesday morning for meetings with top Hong Kong officials.

Qiao also met members of the handicapped Executive Council that advises Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa, as well as members of an unelected legislature China set up when it recovered Hong Kong from Britain on July 1. Demonstrations outside Government House by two pro-democracy groups were heavily controlled, with police outnumbering demonstrators by about five to one and keeping them well away from Qiao. Minor scuffles broke out, but police said no arrests were made. One group of a dozen demonstrators included three former lawmakers thrown out of office when China replaced Hong Kong's elected legislature with the unelected body last July 1. Chanting "Long Live Democracy" and "Build a Free China," the demonstrators handed a petition addressed to Qiao to a policeman.

# Cohen: US carriers ready to launch

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER  
DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The United States is prepared to maintain a two-carrier presence in the Gulf as long as necessary to keep pressure on Iraq's Saddam Hussein, U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen says.



William Cohen

Cohen, who was wrapping up his four-day swing through the Gulf region Wednesday, scheduled a visit to the USS George Washington for lunch with the 5,500 men and women aboard. The 97,000-ton carrier out of Norfolk, Virginia, has been standing by ready to launch air strikes if the United States decides to use force against Iraq because of the impasse over U.N. weapons inspections. A second carrier, the USS Independence, also has been standing by for action. "We are prepared to be there as long as necessary," Cohen told reporters at a news conference, following meetings with Qatar's

foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani. "How long are we prepared to remain? That is a determination the president of the United States will make, and it will depend very much on (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," Cohen said. Following his round of visits with Gulf leaders, Cohen was flying to Moscow on Wednesday. Russian officials have been seeking a diplomatic compromise on the standoff with Iraq. President Boris Yeltsin has even warned that the United States could spark a world war, should it strike Baghdad. At present, warplanes from the George Washington's huge decks are flying over Iraq, helping monitor the no-fly zone set up after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War. Back in Washington, the Clinton administration Tuesday raised the stakes by threatening

Continued on page 19

# DOC warns on card scheme

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
THE GOLD card may not even be a bronze, after all.

The commerce department yesterday warned against a Dallas-based financial company, which allegedly offers a pre-approved "golden" credit card application at a minimum fee. Commerce Acting Secretary Bernadita T. Palacios said the banking division has been receiving inquiries from Northern Marianas residents on the legitimacy of the offer. Palacios said Credicorp Inc., a Dallas, Texas-based company, has been enticing consumers to get a pre-approved application for for a "gold card", for \$29.95. The pre-approved "gold card"

reportedly has \$10,000 credit limit, and would be handed over after applicants pay \$29.95. In a press statement, Palacios said the department's banking division, prompted by inquiries from interested CNMI residents, initiated investigation through the Net. Cyberspace investigations indicated that two leading business institutions in the US - Council for Better Business Bureaus and Card Trak of America - have also issued warnings against Credicorp's "goldcard" offer. Palacios said the Council has warned that the "gold card" could not be used as a general purpose credit card like MasterCard and Visa, as it is for exclusive use in ordering items from Credicorp's

catalog. In fact, Credicorp's mailer said that the \$10,000 credit limit is "valid exclusively toward Credicorp purchases." Full details are also made available only after consumer remits the \$29.95 annual fee. Card Trak, at the same time, said companies that offer so-called "gold cards" really offer a catalog shopping card, where items are generally "excessively over-priced" and a substantial 40-50 percent downpayment has to be made before consumers can charge them to their "gold cards." "If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is (bad)," the DOC statement said. Local residents have been warned against an increasing num-

ber of people who have fallen prey to a financial securities scam known as "affinity group fraud." The warning was initially aired by the Securities Commission of Hawaii, which was later relayed to the Northern Marianas' Department of Commerce. Under this new rip-off scheme, victims fall prey to swindlers who claim that their shared membership in an ethnic or minority group

make them especially worthy of trust. There was no immediate data available as to the number of individuals victimized by the new fraud scheme or the geographical extent of the fraud syndicate. A paper obtained from the commerce department only said that ethnic minorities must be on guard against an increase in the financial securities scam.

# New acting officials get named to Teno cabinet

## Reorganization plan still in the works

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
THE NEW administration is still working on a reorganization plan for the executive branch, hence the delay in naming the appointees to the Cabinet, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday. "We're still reviewing (my predecessor's 1994 reorganization) executive order, that's why it's taking time to name the Cabinet officials," he said. "We don't want to appoint now only to have that position phased out or moved to another department," he added. Immigration, for example, will be returned to the Attorney General's Office, and the new administration's revamp will also affect the Commerce and Lands and Natural Resources Departments, according to the governor. But there will be no agency that will be totally phased out, Tenorio said. His administration's reorganization plan, he added, will only reshuffle agencies for more effi-

ciency. Current confusion over the roles, for example, of the Division of Public Lands, DLNR and the autonomous Board of Public Lands will be resolved, Tenorio said. At the same time, Tenorio said government employees recently given a 60-day notice of termination were "misplaced," but will be given a priority if they apply for other vacancies in the public sector. "There are other vacancies elsewhere," he said. Politics, he added, has nothing to do with the "so-called termination." Most of those to be laid-off were hired by the previous administration. The notices of termination, however, came not from the governor but from the offices of the special assistant for administration and public information. Meanwhile, the following were named as the new acting

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 5

# Continental 'rules out' return of its Korean flights this year

By Laila C. Younis  
Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Micronesia is unlikely to resume flights to Korea this fiscal year and has placed Taiwan in the "danger list" of routes facing cancellation. After concluding a meeting with the airline's top officials in Guam, Marianas Visitors Bureau Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane said the prospect of having no flights to Korea only indicates the "rough times ahead". "Because the airlines is experiencing a drop in the numbers of tourists coming out of Korea, they said an opportunity couldn't be seen to resume flights to that area as of yet," said Tomokane in an interview yesterday. "They are also considering pulling out from Taiwan, but opening of the Tinian Casino might change those plans," she said. Tomokane said the meeting in Guam was "an eye-opener" as she learned about the operations of an airline company and why the current changes in flight schedules. "There will be changes in the airline's schedule beginning April that will affect us greatly. Flights to northern cities of Japan will be canceled and the only direct flights to Saipan will be from Osaka and through Nagoya," said Tomokane.



Anicia Q. Tomokane

Continental is planning to purchase five new 757 aircraft, that carries "less noise" than the 737 or the DC-10, and has a seating capacity of 190. "The new planes will serve the Nagoya and Osaka route. In order to improve business, the airlines must replace the old planes with new ones," said Tomokane. "I also learned that the 30-minute wait period is not enough for the plane engines to cool down and that is why we can't direct the Guam-Saipan flights through Saipan then Guam. The wait is too short," she said. Tomokane noted that Continental has canceled some of its flights on the Saipan and Guam route and has directed all of its Manila flights through Guam.

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 5

# Major U.S. airlines seek to beef up Japan service

NEW YORK (AP) — Several of the biggest U.S. airlines moved Tuesday to increase their service to Japan, hoping to take advantage of a new aviation treaty reached between the two countries. American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and US Airways all filed applications for new routes with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Delta applied to offer daily flights between Atlanta and Tokyo beginning June 3, and between Portland, Oregon, and both Osaka and Fukuoka starting around Nov. 1. The Atlanta-based carrier also applied for daily flights between New York and Tokyo, Atlanta and Osaka, and Cincinnati and Tokyo. Those flights would begin in 1999 if approved. Delta presently offers service from Los Angeles to Tokyo and from Portland to Tokyo and Nagoya. American, a unit of AMR Corp., said it applied for daily service between Chicago and Tokyo beginning May 1. It also applied for daily flights between New York and Tokyo, Boston and Tokyo, and Dallas/Fort Worth and Osaka. US Airways, based in Arlington, Virginia, asked for permission to offer daily flights between Philadelphia and Tokyo.

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195/75R14 69.95	195/60R15 94.95	205/75R14 99.95
175/70R14 59.95	195/65R15 84.95	215/75R15 104.95
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# Woosung told: Give breakdown of \$5.2M claim

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT OF Public Works yesterday asked Woosung Construction Co. to provide government with a breakdown of the latter's \$5.2 million claim so that a complete evaluation of the amount can be made. In an interview, Bill Bush, DPW legal counsel, said his office had, as early as last Dec., submitted a

formal request on the matter following recommendations made by a public works Construction Manager (CM) assigned to the project. "Largely," said Bush, "there are two aspects on this (CM's) report." "He (CM) suggested that either the claim be made individually while some may be granted, except that they (Woosung) did not

provide documentation to show how much the claim really amounted to." "So," he further explained, "they made an overall claim without providing enough back-up information that we could make an assessment on." Bush said Woosung had not replied to DPW's request on the matter. Nam Kook Heo, Woosung Gen-

eral Manager, in an earlier Variety interview, said the firm's claim was for additional expenses incurred including costs for the extra labor, materials, and equipment brought about by change orders. Bush however said there were only "two to three" DPW change orders "and they were paid." "According to the claim," he

Continued on page 5

# High Court has one week to resolve legal dispute

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPREME Court has only a few days left to decide on the legal question of whether Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio can act "validly" on four bills enacted by the Tenth Legislature, which are now on his desk. The question was officially brought to the high court yesterday, though a petition for review filed by the Attorney General's office and the Legislature's legal counsels. The AG's office and the Legislature are requesting the High Court for "an expedited action"

on their petition, as the bills await their fate until February 22. Lawyers of the Legislature maintain that the bills were supposed to take effect on this date "with or without the governor's signature." Acting Atty. Gen. Loren Sutton and Senate legal counsel Steve Woodruff, in separate interviews, said that if the high court failed to come up with an opinion before February 22, Tenorio may choose either to act or not to act on the bills. "If the governor has no objections to the implementation of the bills, he can just say 'I have no objections,'" Woodruff said.



Loren Sutton



Steve Woodruff

"The governor may sign or veto them; or do nothing at all," Sutton said. In either case, however, Sutton

said, the same legal question will keep hounding the bills. The bills were transmitted to Gov. Tenorio on January 13, a

day after he was sworn into office. Last January 26, assistant Attorney General Elliott A. Sattler issued a memorandum in which he said that the new governor cannot act validly on the bills. Citing Article II Section 7 of the Constitution, Sattler, whose opinion was officially adopted by the AG's office, argued that "Any legislation not properly transmitted to the Governor by the Tenth Legislature prior to the conclusion of the terms in office of both the Tenth CNMI Legislature and governor, results in such legislation being null and void." Continued on page 19

# Teno will be urged to maintain DC lobbyists

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE LEGISLATURE will urge Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to approach other lobbying firms in Washington, D.C., and perhaps even consider renewing the contract of the Seattle-based law firm Preston, Gates, Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds, it was learned yesterday.

Due to the CNMI's current financial condition, however, the Commonwealth government may ask for a less expensive contract compared to the \$200,000 a month reportedly given to Preston, Gates by the previous administration. The Legislature, in a letter to be sent today to the governor, will cite the Clinton administration's recent proposal to scrap the duty-free entry of CNMI exports to the mainland as basis for the legislators' recommendation.

### More control

In addition, the Legislature will

propose that the CNMI government ask for more supervision and control over its lobbying firm.

Any lobbying effort, moreover, will no longer be directed against congressional Democrats, some key members of which support an extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands.

Tenorio, the Variety was told, is expected to concur with the Legislature's recommendation.

In earlier interviews, he admitted that the CNMI should continue to have friends in Washington, D.C., but added that he is still looking into the contract of Preston, Gates.

The firm's lobbying efforts in Congress are credited for blocking the passage of legislation that would end local control over immigration and minimum wage.

### Dead set

Meanwhile, according to Wash-

ington, D.C. observers, the Clinton administration is "dead set" in implementing a "federal takeover" of local labor and immigration, and will propose various pieces of legislation aimed against the CNMI's continued control over its immigration and minimum wage policies.

The next six months will be crucial for the CNMI, the Variety was told.

The U.S. tariff schedules, for example, are up for renewal this coming June, and the Clinton administration is expected to submit a bill that would detail the levies to be imposed on CNMI exports.

If CNMI exports lose its duty-free entry privileges, the Northern Marianas's second largest industry—garment manufacturing—may be forced to shutdown its operations.



## Break the silence

After almost a year of suffering, a physically and verbally battered woman decided to file a complaint against her live-in partner. One night, the man, under the influence of alcohol, punched her on the face. The hapless woman cried. But the drunken batterer instead laughed and told her: "That's good for you. You're nothing. You're a slave!"

\*\*\* \*\*

To avoid further beatings, the victim fled from their house, but the man followed her in a car and spotted her running at the Mount Carmel baseball field in Chalan Kanoa. He pulled over the vehicle, grabbed the woman by her shirt and forced her to board the car. A concerned man approached him and told him not to force the victim into the car.

\*\*\* \*\*

When the two men argued, the woman jumped from the vehicle and ran as fast as she could under the rain. She finally took refuge at a friend's house in Susupe where she spent the night. Upon the advice of her friend, she filed a complaint with the police. When the case reached the court, the victim decided that she does not want to pursue her complaint.

\*\*\* \*\*

Here is a case of another woman who filed a complaint against her live-in partner because she could not bear his violent behavior. Many times he made a punching bag out of her legs, kicked her, and threatened to kill her. After every violent action, the batterer, however, apologized to her.

\*\*\* \*\*

Worse, this man also acted like a king treating her like a virtual slave. Before going to bed, he would sometimes make her stand at the corner of their bedroom and watch him until he goes to sleep. One night, he ordered her to buy a pack of cigarettes. When she told him she had no money, he said: "Go sell yourself...or better stay outside in the rain!" When the complaint reached the court, the woman begged not to continue the case.

\*\*\* \*\*

Battered women or even men should break the silence. Otherwise, they remain to "stay in the rain." No one deserves to be beaten or threatened. No excuses justify abusive behavior. As the Family Violence Task Force says, "there are places to get help. There are laws to protect you." For those batterers out there who have so many excuses, remember what Doctors Robert Geffner and Alan Rosenbaum said: "Provocation does not justify aggression."

\*\*\* \*\*

According to a myth: "Alcohol and drug abuse are the real causes of violence in the home. Psychologists, however, say the truth is: 'Because many batterers abuse alcohol and other drugs, it's easy to conclude that these substances may cause domestic violence. They can increase the seriousness of the violence but they are not the reason for it.'"

\*\*\* \*\*

Another myth states that "it is easy for battered victims to leave their abusers. But the truth remains, according to psychologists, that 'economic and social realities often make it difficult for victims (especially women) to leave. In some cases, the victim may be in greater physical danger for leaving an abusive spouse.'"

\*\*\* \*\*

Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli says many battered women in

Continued on page 5

## Silver resort decides to maintain 22-room hotel

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE Silver Resort Hotel has opted to maintain its present 22-room hotel instead of tearing down 10 rooms, it was learned yesterday.

The hotel, owned by Korean Lee Man Saeng, had earlier been told by the Coastal Resources Management to either remove the 10 rooms or file a major-siting permit application by Feb. 12.

But the hotel, located in Chalan Kanoa, requested the CRM last Monday to give it five weeks to prepare the application package including an

environmental impact assessment.

Lee has hired the services of the Micronesian Environmental Services to prepare and submit the application package.

The other day CRM acting Director Peter J. Barlas approved the hotel's request, giving it until March 17 to submit the application.

It was only last December that the CRM determined that the hotel is a major siting project.

The CRM thus ordered the removal of 10 of the hotel rooms to exempt it from the major-project permitting process.

# 5 DPW staffers may lose jobs

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST five public works staff, whose contracts with the previous administration has expired, are now being processed for termination as the firings continue from the Office of the Governor to the department levels.

This was gathered as Jose C. Sablan, acting head of the Department of Public Work's Administrative Service Division, in an interview, belied allegations the firings were racially motivated.

"That not true," said Sablan. "Americans, Chamorros, Carolinians, they are all the same. There is no discrimination," he stressed.

Some people were claiming the firings were "based on race."

Sablan however insisted that the termination notices were being worked on because the contracts have ceased to be in effect.

Asked if more firings are in the offing, Sablan said the matter "depends on the transition committee."

Acting Public Works Secretary John B. Cepeda refused to comment on the firings.

Two of those to be terminated are from DPW's Building Code Division while another two are with the Heavy Equipment and Operation Division.

The last one is from DPW's Technical Service Division.

It will be recalled that acting Personnel Management Director Mathilde A. Rosario, in an earlier interview, has disclosed that there are "more than 50" government employees who have allegedly been in the service despite having contracts that were yet to be certified by her office.

Rosario said most of these employees were under the supervision of the Office of the Governor's Special Assistant for Administration.

Early this week, some 33 government employees, the bulk of which were under SAA, were served termination notices, a move seen to signal a wave of firings in the new administration.

A desk audit on all positions is set to be performed by the Office of Personnel Management to determine whether there are more such employees in government.

## Break...

Continued from page 4

the CNMI who do not have independent legal immigration status on their own but have immediate relative status as a result of marriage are often forced to remain in abusive relationships and do not report incidents of abuse for fear of divorce and deportation. Forelli recommends the granting of temporary legal immigration status for non-resident battered women to enable them to seek employment in the CNMI. Forelli's idea is a good one for our lawmakers to consider.

\*\*\*\*\*

Family Court Judge Virginia S. Onerheim said among the objectives of last week's symposium on domestic violence was to educate the lawmakers on the effects of current policies on family life in the Commonwealth. It would have been more interesting if a

former senator was invited in the conference and asked why he "loved" to beat his girlfriend.

Two personnel at the Department of Public Safety allegedly collect nighttime fees. They also allegedly used DPS vehicles during their overtime. Our insiders said that upon investigation, the DPS Internal Affairs discovered otherwise. The two personnel were allegedly just "dating," using public vehicles and government funds. Wow, only at DPS.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Jan. 24, a concerned citizen reported that some people were fighting at the cockpit. Last week, another person said a group of people engaged in a fight at the same cockpit. In both incidents, we were told that during the fight, the roosters took their turn in cheering: "Place your bet, place your bet. Are you ready, are you set!"

## New acting...

Continued from page 3

Cabinet officials:

- Sally Pfund, acting attorney general
- Ana DLG. Flores, acting Community and Cultural Affairs secretary
- Guadalupe T. Manacop, acting Commerce secretary
- Robert T. Schrack, acting Finance secretary
- Mark Zachares, acting Labor and Immigration secretary
- Richard Seman, acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary
- Dr. James Hofschneider, acting Public Health secretary
- Steve Limeaux, acting Public Works secretary

## Woosung...

Continued from page 3

said, it just cost them more than they had planned to do the work."

"In a global sense," Bush added, "that is not a legitimate claim."

"There is a risk that the contractor runs."

Heo expressed hopes the matter can be resolved "wisely" saying he "has no intention to file a lawsuit."

Bush laughed the remarks off saying Woosung "can try."

"(But) I don't think they will succeed though," he said.

He explained that the project's contract requires the company to submit to a dispute procedure.

Woosung and DPW representatives held a closed door meeting on the matter also yesterday.

# Teno says he'll sign bill to allow PSS, CHC to hire back retirees

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will sign a bill that would allow retirees to be rehired as classroom teachers, doctors and nurses.

"I agree with what that bill intends to do," the governor said.

House Bill 11-32 seeks to allow the retirees to return to government service for up to two years without losing their retirement benefits.

The bill states that the number of teachers, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals remains insufficient to meet current demands.

It noted that local retirees could fill these positions, but are reluctant to do so because returning to government service would terminate their retirement benefits.

By allowing the government to rehire retirees, moreover, the need to recruit personnel off-island is



Pedro P. Tenorio

lessened.

Introduced by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Precinct 3, Saipan), the bill is cosponsored by Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Precinct 2, Saipan), Vice Speaker Jesus T. Atao (R-Precinct 3, Saipan), Reps. Bennet Seman (R-Precinct 3, Saipan) and Oscar M. Babauta (R-Precinct 2, Saipan).

Besides, H.B. 11-32, a bill that would provide the framework for all future bonding activities as well as

with the long waits our visitors will have to endure if they have to go through Guam first," she said.

Tomokane also said that the airline's officials are scheduled for a meeting with Governor Pedro P. Tenorio this month.

"Continental Micronesia is interested in staying in business and MVB's job is to assist everyone to

the necessary mechanism to protect the loans made by the CNMI is now before the governor.

Introduced by Hofschneider, H.B. 11-72 seeks to authorize the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue bonds upon approval of both houses of the Legislature.

The proceeds of the bond issues can then be used to fund infrastructure projects including

- Public school and college facilities.
- Streets, highways, roads, parking, wastewater, storm drainage and sewage removal or treatment facilities.
- Solid waste disposal (including landfill and incineration), remediation, recycling or resource recovery facilities.
- Water supply, treatment (including desalination) or distribution facilities.

## Continental...

Continued from page 3

"With assurances that the Saipan and Guam routes will be normalized by mid-March, the airlines also said that they will work on a schedule that will allow tourists to leave Guam within the hour," said Tomokane.

"That will address our concerns

stay in business. I'm pleased that they are not taking us off the hook entirely," said Tomokane.

"We agreed that it is no one's fault for the economic recession, it is based on currency falling in the region," she said.

"We just have to be more cautious in our spending and work together to find ways to deal with it," she added.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR  
SAIPAN, CNMI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: JOY VILLAMOR RAVELO  
Labor Case No. 93-340

The Department of Labor and Immigration has lost contact with the above-named nonresident worker.

Mr. Joy V. Ravelo is hereby notified to appear at the Department of Labor and Immigration, Hearing Office, 2nd Floor Afetna Square Bldg., San Antonio, Saipan. Failure to appear within twenty (20) days after posting of this notice will result in dismissal of the above-Labor case and an Order of Repatriation.

Dated this 6th day of February, 1997.

Hearing Officer

## Arts Council designates space for sale of arts, crafts

THE COMMONWEALTH Council of Arts and Culture will be holding the opening reception for the "Second Annual Photography Exhibit" this Friday, Feb. 13.

The reception will also celebrate the opening of a portion of the Gallery for Arts and Culture, as a permanent space for the sales of locally produced art and craft work, the CCAC said in a news release.

A permanent sales space was in the planning stage several years ago, however, due to the handover of half of the gallery to the Emergency Management Office by the previous administration, such plans were canceled.

Over the past year, the Arts Council has seen a greater need for a permanent space, in which local craft makers and artists can sell their work.

Throughout the year, the Arts Council receives many numbers of tourists and local residents alike, who find their way up to the Council in search of locally made crafts.

This was made especially evident during the previous two months when record sales of artwork were made at the gallery and the number of visitor's were at an all time high.

As the Gallery plays host to

eight exhibits per year, ranging from photography to student artwork, there is often periods in between exhibits of specific media when general art and craft work is not available to the public of our visitors.

Because of this, and until such time as appropriate facilities such as a Cultural, Performing and Visual arts center becomes a reality, the Arts Council has decided to sacrifice a portion of gallery space for the purpose of a permanent space for local handicrafts and artwork.

The Arts Council invites all traditional and contemporary craft makers and artisans to use the space. All sales of art and craft work go directly to the artists.

Because of the limited wall space, items to be hung, such as paintings must be smaller than eighteen by twenty four inches.

The only criteria for eligible work, is that it be crafted by artists residing in the Northern Marianas Islands.

Regular exhibit hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For further information, you may contact the Arts and Council office at 322-9982 or 322-9983.

## USDA commends DeBeer for outstanding service

AFTER committing more than a decade of service as administrator of the local Nutrition Assistant Program (NAP), Patricia Palacios-DeBeer was recently presented with a certificate of recognition praising her outstanding contributions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by Region Nine Administrator Allen Ng.

"Pat has consistently worked long and hard hours to ensure the accountable and efficient operation of the NAP and has always been cooperative with and helpful to our staff," Ng said in his letter to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan.



Patricia Palacios-DeBeer

As an example of her commitment, Ng cited Palacios-DeBeer's willingness to travel to American Samoa to help with the newly implemented NAP operations in

1994.

Her work there entailed advising the staff on the realities of beginning a complicated NAP program.

"Through the years, we, the grantor agency, have come to appreciate Pat's devotion to the NAP," Ng added.

Palacios-DeBeer had earlier last month accepted a new post with the Lt. Gov. office as Executive Assistant/Office Manager.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's certificate of recognition will be presented to her at a formal ceremony to be announced at a later date.

## OPM sets guidelines on Teno's hiring, procurement order

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE OFFICE of the Personnel Management has issued its guidelines on Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's new directive requiring all future hirings and procurement proposals to secure his approval.

In her memorandum, acting OPM Director Mathilda A. Rosario said Tenorio's directive with regard to personnel employment "effects the recruitment and new hire of both civil service and excepted service employees, the renewal of excepted service employees and any salary adjustments other than annual civil service within grade increases."

She said it is hence the responsibility of the department and agency heads to "identify vital positions, justify their need and obtain the governor's permission for the processing of their hire or rehire."

Rosario said the "appointing authority" will then "prepare a justification for the desired employment action" addressed to her which will then be forwarded to the governor for his "review."

"A copy of the Request for Personnel Action only should be attached," said the OPM memo.

The original documents will be maintained by the "appointing authority" as the governor will not sign papers other than the memorandum.

The governor will then review it to indicate approval or disapproval on a provided space.

"The governor's approval at this time is only for the initial

tion of the processing of the requested action," the OPM stressed.

"His final approval will be reserved until the completion of the review process."

The affected employee will be notified of the governor's response.

"If the governor approves the action for processing, the Appointing Authority will attach the memo with the governor's approval to the original Request for Personnel Action and, once reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance, submit it, with all required supporting documents to the Director of Personnel for certification and processing," said the OPM memo.

"Appointing Authorities must ensure that the employee does not sign the Contract or the Conditions of Employment. These will be signed by the employee when all other signatures are obtained," it added.

Tenorio recently issued Directive No. 195 which limited all departments from processing personnel and procurement requests that exceed \$5,000 in total expenditure.

It was supposedly meant to cut down on public sector spending.

## Public invited to attend opening of photo exhibit

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture invites the public to attend the opening reception for the "2nd Annual Photography Exhibit" tomorrow, February 13, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Gallery for Arts and Culture, located next to the Capitol Hill Post Office.

The exhibit, will feature both

amateur and professional work by Northern Marianas photographers, will be open until February 27, 1998. Gallery hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

For further information, you may contact the Arts Council at 322-9982 or 322-9983.

Drive Safely

## Slavery cannot be justified—Stayman



Allen Stayman

SLAVERY cannot be justified by economic prosperity, Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman said in an interview with another major paper in the mainland which run an article series about the labor condition in the CNMI.

The latest in the "anti-CNMI" article series was published by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

"The Northern Marianas offer just one example of how intense global competition combines with

an ample supply of desperately poor laborers to perpetuate sweatshop conditions," said the article written by Jennifer Lin.

"We're all for economic prosperity, but you have to look at the other side of the ledger," the Philadelphia Inquirer quoted Stayman as saying.

"Slavery also was a very prosperous economic system. Prosperity in itself doesn't justify behavior that is not acceptable in the United States," Stayman told the Inquirer.

Like the previous articles published by other big papers, the Inquirer discussed the unfavorable condition of Asian workers in the CNMI, specifically those employed by garment manufacturers.

The Inquirer said that one of the causes of labor problems in the island is the Asian companies' "unfamiliarity with US labor standards."

## MHS Marketing Classes to build, operate own stores

By Lalla C. Younis  
Variety News Staff

STUDENTS in the Marianas High School Marketing classes this year will have a chance to get first-hand training by running their own store and practicing overseas buying, according to a MHS Marketing Instructor Herald Heason.

"Within a month, we construct a store on campus in which the students will get to staff themselves. They will also do inventory, designs and be in charge of operations," said Heason.

"The Marketing classes are backed by DECA, Distribution Education Clubs of America. The classes were offered once again as a part of a whole range of electives," said Heason.

"The classes are a part of the business curriculum, but hope-

fully, if it is successful, PSS can possibly turn it into an academy," he said.

"The students will have a chance to practice their marketing skills and learn how to do local purchases as well as overseas buying," he added.

Acting Principal Peter Leau also said that the reason more elective courses are being offered is to give the students "more opportunities" to follow their interests.

"This also goes in line with the proposed change in the graduation requirements from 23 credits to 24 credits now being considered by the Board of Education," said Leau.

"This way, students will have more chances to take electives instead of just core courses, and for us to develop a curriculum that is more career-related," he said.

## Pre-divorce program proposed

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

DIVORCING parents cannot be granted a divorce decree unless they have undergone a mandatory course designed to educate them on meeting their children's needs both during and after the divorce proceedings.

This is if Senate Bill 11-14, introduced by Sen. Paul A. Manglona the other day, is enacted into law.

The bill, however, states that the court may waive this requirement if the course is determined to be un-

necessary, inappropriate, not feasible or is not in the best interest of the parties.

Under the bill, both parents shall present a certificate of completion of the mandatory course to the court before it issues a final order of joint legal custody.

The order of joint legal custody shall provide terms pertaining to, among other things, the child's residence, attendance at school, other activities, daily routine, and association with friends; the remaining parental rights, privileges, duties and

powers that they will exercise solely or jointly.

The mandatory course for divorcing parents will be a pilot program of the superior court to be administered by the court director, according to the bill.

The course may be undertaken by a public or private contractor.

Divorcing parents will pay the costs of the course, but if they are financially unable, they can attend the course just the same by filing an affidavit attesting to their financial incapacity.

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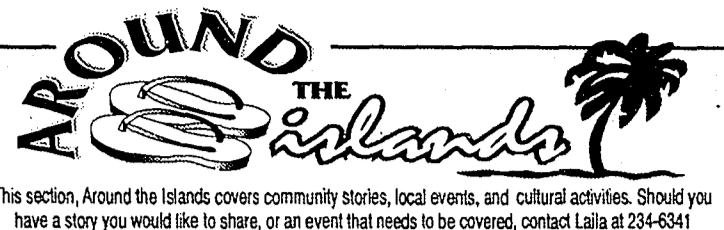
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This section, Around the Islands covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

## SSP of Japan donates to Joeten Foundation

JUNICHI Hamaguchi, Chairman of the Shima Sea Pearl of Shima, Japan donated \$2,000 to the Joeten Foundation which will be used to grant scholarships to high school graduates who are determined to pursue college education but who do not have the financial means.

On of the eligibility requirements of the scholarships is that the graduate must have maintained a "B" average in high school.

Also, the family of the graduate should submit proof of inability to provide financial educational sup-

port, a news release from the foundation said.

Hamaguchi, who is also the President of Shima Rotary Club was on Saipan last Jan. 23th to 25th.

He said that the donation was made to foster international goodwill and fellowship as well as to promote a mutually beneficial with the community in the CNMI.



Junichi Hamaguchi

## '98 Consumer Electric Show opens Saturday

ELEVEN firms will showcase up-to-the-second technologies at the Consumer Electronics Show '98 on Feb. 14-15 at the Joeten Kiyu Susupe under the sponsorship of Power 99—KPXP radio station.

According to Curtis Dancoe, Power 99 station manager, the Consumer Electronic Show '98 aims to educate and familiarize the public in understanding the information revolution of the next millennium.

"Computers, internet, video-conferencing, teleconferencing and other high-fangled words will become a common phenomenon in a business workaday world. We should be open to the call of the future and the advent of a new

medium called 'cyberspace,'" he said.

This two day high-tech event will feature the up-to-the-minute office and home technologies today and tomorrow.

Featured are digital copiers, wireless cellulars, high powered computers, high speed internet carriers, automated office equipment and other household electronic items.

Technology can also spell fun as continuing computer education will also be in the show as well as modified and improved cable services will be well represented.

The high tech sponsors for said event include Island Business Systems and Supply, Saipan Cel-

lular and Paging Systems, MTC, IT & E, PCI Communications, Marianas Cable Vision, Marianas Electronics, Computerland, Xerox, Northern Marianas College and Saipan Car Tunes and Accessories/Taro Sue Pro-Lighting and Sound Systems.

Complimentary food and beverage is provided by Micronesian Brokers and Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola and Power 99's Island Cruiser will have a live remote on the entire two-day event.

Raffle prizes and other special promotions is brought to you by Power 99—CNMI's number one radio station on the island as well as sponsors of the said show. The show is open to the public with free admission.

## Nestlé sees market in hotels

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the reported slump in CNMI economic activities, a big multi-national firm has opted to take the odds and tap the local hotels. Their edge?

Frozen entrees that could cut time and costs.

"I am optimistic," said Mike Brown, Nestlé Food Products Regional Sales Manager for the Micronesia, Guam, and CNMI. Brown, citing studies done by the firm, said the reported reduction in the number of tourists coming in may not affect the introduction of frozen entrees to the hotels.

"I think there is a slump," he said. "But I think the real impact of the

slump is that the tourist count is the same. The amount that they are spending has gone down.

"The average tourist, during the boom, takes two to three days on the islands spending \$1200. Now they come for two days and spend \$750," Brown explained.

"The yield of money coming has gone down but they (tourists) are still eating."

He said food industry professionals should, given the situation, "look for ways to cut costs." And frozen food, specifically, Mexican dishes, could be a welcome respite.

"You just out them in the oven, heat them up, and presto, you have food... good food," said Brown. Nestlé Food Products held a launch-

ing of their new merchandises before some 50 restaurant owners at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel last Friday.

Reactions vary from those who said they will keep their options open to others who said they think the product could as well help boost their sales.

"Mexican dishes are something considered still new on the island. I think a restaurant who serves them may enjoy better sales," said Koichi Tabei, owner of the Country House Restaurant in Garapan.

There were some 51,875 tourists who visited CNMI in Dec. last year, a figure that is more than 10,000 tourists lower than the 63,318 arrivals for the same period in 1996.

## I Taotao Ta on tonight

PROGRAMAN I Taotao ta is featuring Chamorro Orthography with Carmel S. Taimanao, PSS Chamorro Bilingual Program/CNMI Language Policy Commission Board member and Bill Macaranas, CNMI Language Policy Executive Director on tonight's live show on Marianas Cable Vision (MCV) hosted by Frances Sablan.

Join us tonight in finding out more about Chamorro Orthography. What is it? What's the latest word in standardizing the Chamorro Orthography within the CNMI and Guam and more.

Call MCV at 235-6382/3/4 to comment on tonight's topic and/or ask your own questions.

## 'Healthy Heart Walk' set for this Valentine's Day

THE SAN Vicente Elementary Student Council invites all students, and relatives of students attending the school to participate in our Healthy Heart Walk on Saturday, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day on the Beach Road Walking Path.

Registration and a rolling start will begin at 6 a.m. at Kilili Beach. "Walkers will go as far as they wish on the path, then turn around and walk back," a news release from SVES said.

There will be supporters cheer on the walkers every half mile and also a water station at the

last turn-around point across from Wendy's.

Participants are asked to come prepared with tennis shoes and water bottles. Students are encouraged to wear shorts and their school t-shirts or any yellow t-shirt.

There is no charge for this event. As each walker finishes, there will be healthy snacks, juice and water provided by the school. Walkers who complete the entire course will receive a special certificate. All walkers must be back at Kilili Beach by 11 a.m.

## NGA offers Teacher Institute

THE NATIONAL Gallery of Art welcomes educators from grades K-12 to apply for the 1998 Teacher Institute which will be repeated in three separate sessions: July 13-18, July 27-August 1 and August 10-15. Located in Washington, D.C., the National Gallery of Arts 1998 subject is Mythology.

The institute will focus on Greco-Roman mythology and will also examine select myth from African,

Native American and Asian cultures, a news release from the CNMI Council for the Humanities said.

The program will also feature slide-illustrated lectures, gallery tours, teaching methodology sessions and connections to the humanities, language arts, music and environmental studies.

The program enrollment is \$200.00 and applications must be postmarked by April 3, 1998.

For application, please write to the

Department of Teacher and School Programs, National Gallery of Art, Sixth and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. or leave your mailing address at (202) 842-6796 or send e-mail to h-applegate@nga.gov.

Applications will be available in mid-February. For additional information contact directly the National Gallery of Art at the address and phone number above.

## DPW: Political will needed to implement waste management

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

GIVEN the financial crisis it is now experiencing, the new administration will have to muster enough political will to implement a \$70-million solid waste management program that has been stalled over technical problems in the past several years.

"The Commonwealth has to come up with a lot of matching fund, the amount is so large that even a small percentage of that is still a large number," said Bill Bush, public works legal counsel, in an interview yesterday.

The project is to be funded jointly by both federal and local governments.

However, Bush explained that the CNMI government is required to at least release the "beginning money" and to commit itself to the program's 10-year scope.

"The entire amount of money doesn't have to be paid in a year..."

"(But,) if you're going to have a 10-year plan and you start it, you need to commit all 10 years now otherwise the money already spent will be wasted," he said.

"(The government) will really have to have a heartfelt commitment."

But with the tax rebate fund almost hitting rock bottom compared to its \$31 million projected amount and the deficit reportedly hovering at \$35

million, observers say the program may yet face an uphill climb.

Bush said the program is now a "hot topic" on the agenda of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's transition committee which is "reviewing the general scope" of its coverage and finding out ways on how to handle it (See related story).

He said the Department of Public Works has put all scheduled biddings and awards on hold pending a decision from the body.

"We've got some bids on and have begun to think about making awards. (But) all have been put on hold," he said.

"The amount from the previous projects that had been laid out but are currently on hold is in the neighborhood of \$70 million."

The program calls for the closure of the Puerto Rico fund, the opening of landfills and the construction of at least three incinerators.

Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, last year, approved the appropriation, from the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) fund, of about \$16 million for the closure of the Puerto Rico dump.

Similar funding had also been reportedly acquired for the incinerator project. It however failed to get off the ground following disagreements the previous administration had with the Environmental Protection

Agency regarding the burners' emissions.

Keith Aughenbaugh, federal CIP Coordinator for the CNMI, in an interview shortly after last year's elections, has said that the federal government is giving the new administration "a few more months to come up with a compliance schedule."

"A date when the dumpsite will be closed," he said.

"The governor has to come up with a compliance schedule that will give some target dates for site assessment... slope stabilization... the closing of the dump, and getting the new landfill operating," he said.

Aughenbaugh said Tenorio may want to try the Plasma Pyrolysis and Vitrification system (PPV) and the Plasma Remediation In-Situ Material (PRISM), two "unique" processes that recycle garbage to produce fuel, power and construction supplies.

The new technology was recently introduced by the Plasma Technology Corp., a North Carolina-based firm who claimed the method would cost government half of what it would have spent using incinerators.

"From our point of view, we are leaving it to them (new government) to make a decision. We have funding available," said Aughenbaugh.

## MPLT makes available \$5M for housing loans

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

A TOTAL of \$5 million borrowed from the Marianas Public Land Trust will be made available for relending by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to would-be homeowners.

NMHC Director MaryLou S. Ada said yesterday the money, which is deposited in the bank, is available for drawback pend-

ing the processing of housing loan applications.

Initially only \$1.5 million will be loaned out, with the amount increasing after the legislature approves the loan agreement between the MPLT and the NMHC.

Ada said the legislature's approval is necessary to insure that the MPLT's investment is

Continued on page 19

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
February 9, 1998

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, SECTION 11, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) ON FEBRUARY 5, 1998 WILL RECONVENE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1998 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, WAKIN'S BUILDING, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

**AGENDA (CDA)**

I. ROLL CALL	
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES	
1. November 25, 1997	
2. December 23, 1997	
IV. REPORTS	
1. Fund's Availability	2. Chairman's/Exec. Director's Report
V. DCD MATTERS	
1. New Loan Applications	3. Other Matters
2. Reports	
VI. OLD BUSINESS	
VII. NEW BUSINESS	
1. Pacific Buss. Center Program Request for Matching Funds FY '98-99	
2. NMHC's Letter of January 5, 1998	
VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	
1. Audit Fiscal Year 1997	2. Budget FY 1999
IX. OTHER MATTERS	

(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

## Court asked: Impose penalties on land case

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

L&T INTERNATIONAL Corp. yesterday asked the court to impose monetary sanctions against the estranged wife of former House Vice Speaker Luis C. Benavente for allegedly filing a frivolous complaint.

L&T, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, requested the Superior Court to order plaintiff Katherine S. Benavente to pay penalties for suing the company without conducting a pre-filing investigation.

"The language of the (statute) is crystal clear. The facts are essentially undisputed. The case lacks legal and factual basis," Pixley said in a motion for sanctions.

Katherine sued Luis Benavente and L&T to block the sale of parcels of land in Garapan they allegedly acquired during their marriage.

Katherine sought \$250,000 in damages for rents collected from tenants on the land in question.

The plaintiff, through counsel Pamela Brown, asked the

court to void any agreements entered between Benavente and L&T regarding the lands.

The Supreme Court upheld last November the decision of trial court allowing L&T to foreclose a property belonging to Benavente for nonpayment of loan.

Pixley said a review of the underlying facts and controlling law yields the inevitable conclusion that Katherine's lawsuit was commenced solely for the purpose of delaying the foreclosure of the real property owned by Benavente.

The delay, according to Pixley, enabled Katherine to continue to collect rental income from the lands and remove personal belongings from the property.

The lawyer said the action lacks merit because Katherine filed the case five years after the documents on the conveyance of the property to L&T were recorded.

Pixley said the plain language of the Marital Property Act shows that the lands are the individual property of Benavente who acquired them in 1982.

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## Sex, money scandals surfacing in Tuvalu

SUVA (Pacnews)—Illicit sex and Italian money scandals - allegedly banked in the Fiji capital Suva - have emerged in one of the world's smallest democracies as candidates slug it out in Tuvalu's bitter general election.

Tuvalu, made up of nine atolls and home to around 10,500 Polynesians, votes on March 26, The Daily Post reports.

Ten days later the 12-seat parliament elects a prime minister. Prime Minister

Bikenibeu Paeniu is fighting allegations he sexually assaulted a youth and has accused his predecessor, Kamuta Latasi, of taking money from an Italian businessman.

Paeniu comes from Nukulaelae which has 300 voters, and he's confident they will return him unopposed.

During parliament's volatile final session last year, in which a fist fight broke out at one stage, Latasi challenged Paeniu to say he was not a homosexual.

## Kiribati to maintain its \$30,000 Aloha charter

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—Kiribati President Teburoro Tito says his country spends more than \$US30,000 a week to charter an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 to fly passengers and cargo between Honolulu and Christmas (Kiritimati) Island, in eastern Kiribati.

The air service was established last year, and Tito said it had been costly to the Kiribati government and continues to drain the country's limited financial resources.

The Kiribati President said,

however, that the number of tourists visiting Christmas Island will remain low for some time because of limited accommodations and the need to improve the island's roads, telecommunications and public utilities.

Tito noted that the Kiribati government has begun implementing plans to upgrade hotel facilities and improve other support services on the island, which is located near the Equator almost directly south of Honolulu.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific Overstayers in American Samoa facing deportation

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—More than 1 000 overstayers in American Samoa who were granted amnesty to remain in the territory by Governor Tauese Sunia last year face deportation.

This is according to Immigration Board Chairman Tuilefano Vaelaa.

Tuilefano says the aliens did not appear before the Immigration Board to get approval to stay in the territory as or-

dered by the High Court when it shut down the governor's amnesty program.

The High Court had ruled that the 2 391 aliens who had been granted amnesty could not be deported as long as the Immigration Board allowed them to stay.

Tuilefano said the board extended the deadline twice for amnesty applicants to present required documentations such as police and medical reports and pay immigration bonds, but

more than 1 000 have still not done so.

As of last week, close to 1 000 of the amnesty applicants have appeared before the Board and had been given final or conditional approval to reside in the territory.

Details of how the deportation orders will be executed and the rationalities of those affected will be announced after an Immigration Board meeting later this week.

## Chan gives evidence for the first time in Sandline inquiry

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Former Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan has told the second inquiry into the Sandline mercenary crisis that he did not read the contract signed by both parties until after the mercenaries had left the country.

Sir Julius was giving evi-

dence for the first time to the inquiry which has been running for five months.

Radio Australia reported Sir Julius as saying that the first time he saw the contract was after the mercenaries had been deported.

Sir Julius said his main aim had been to end the war on Bougainville and that he did

not want mercenaries on the front line.

He said re-opening the copper mine was not his chief aim.

However, the contract provided for 40 mercenaries to make the rebels militarily ineffective and re-open the Bougainville copper mine.

## Vanuatu emergency lifted

PORTVILA (Pacnews)—The state of emergency in Vanuatu ended midnight last night, four weeks after it was first imposed by the government to restore law and order following riots in Port Vila on January 12.

The first two-week state of emergency had to be extended for another two weeks.

It allowed the Vanuatu National Provident Fund to pay out investments by members after up to 500 members rioted to force the payout.

This followed concerns over an Ombudsman's report which highlighted that politicians received preferential treatment in the VNPFF Housing Loan Scheme.

VNPF is continuing the payment with police security being maintained at the fund's headquarters.

Prime Minister Serge Vohor went on Radio Vanuatu Tuesday night to assure members that payments would continue after the state of emergency had been lifted.

## More enrollees at Samoa U

APIA (Pacnews)—About 400 new students enrolled this year with the National University of Samoa (NUS). Assistant Registrar for Academics Shorley Mariner says this is due to more new programs being introduced this year.

These include the Bachelor of Com-

merce course and other courses offered by the science, commerce, education and art faculties, 2AP reports.

Mariner says the new commerce degree course is the only one in the region apart from those in Australia and New Zealand universities.

## Australian aid to PNG begins its fourth cycle

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The Australian Defence Force flights carrying food relief to isolated villages in Papua New Guinea in serious need of food have begun their fourth monthly cycle of deliveries.

With AusAID and PNG government personnel on board to monitor the distribution of food relief and assess future needs, the ADF is flying food aid to the worst hit locations in nine provinces which cannot be reached by any other means.

In February, AusAID expects to provide food aid to 52,000 people, which is less than previously predicted.

The rains across PNG have meant that in some areas, garden foods have become available as a supplement to bush or famine food.

This means that some areas previously classified as Category 5 are now being downgraded to Category 4 or 3.

Meanwhile, the focus of the relief effort is now starting to turn to rehabilitation.

The first delivery of potato seeds, maize and vegetable seeds is due to arrive in PNG later this month for distribution by the PNG government and the ADF to the worst affected areas.

# Pohnpei reminded on PSRP



Jacob Nena



Del Pangelinan

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—President Jacob Nena has announced that an Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mission will visit the FSM next month to review the performance of each of the five local governments participating in the Public Sector Reform program (PSRP).

In this regard, Nena expressed grave concern that Pohnpei State may fail in its commitments to the ADB-sponsored PSRP which involves retiring employees in the public service system (PSS) in order to trim government's annual expenditures.

The president reiterated a condition of the ADB loan that state and national governments are required to focus their performance on the following reform areas:

• reduction in personnel through the Early Retirement Program (ERP);

- reduction in wage levels;
- increase in taxes and other revenues;
- enactment at the state-level of companion foreign investment legislation; and
- the maintenance of reforms and overall fiscal adjustment.

Pohnpei State, Nena said, is meeting only the "reductions in personnel through the ERP" requirement but not the other four requirements.

As a condition for the second drawdown of the remaining \$8 million dollars, the National Government and at least two states must show sufficient progress in meeting their targets.

The President expressed his concerns over the inclusion of the Pohnpei State's inflation adjustment projections in the operating budget for fiscal year 1998, reminding Pohnpei Gov.

Del Pangelinan the consensus of the Chief Executive Conference (CEC) and a subsequent legislation which precludes the use of inflation adjustment funds for operation.

Pohnpei State has included its fiscal 1998 operation budget, the President stated, in order to balance its budget while at the same time it shows the state of Pohnpei has lost its previous commitment to reform and adjustment.

While acknowledging that the tone

of his letter may not readily accepted, President Nena believes it is in the best interest of the State and the National Government to return to the more austere or strict medium-term fiscal year earlier achieved by Pohnpei State.

"Each of our Governments in undertaking reforms that require greater political will and courage," President Nena stated adding, "I hope that you will review efforts with your State leadership to re-establish consensus

to fully implement our two-pronged economic strategy of public sector reform and private sector promotion."

The President concluded his letter by offering to Gov. Pangelinan the assistance of the National Task Force.

The letter was copied to the FSM Vice President, Speaker of FSM Congress, Speaker of Pohnpei Legislature and the Chairman of Pohnpei Congressional Delegation.

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## Dengue in Fiji rising

SUVA (Pacnews)—The number of dengue fever cases in Fiji are continuing to escalate with figures to date totalling nine thousand.

According to statistics provided by the Health Ministry, the Central Division has so far recorded seven thousand cases since the outbreak, while the Western Di-

vision, a total of 1500 cases, Island Networks Corporation reports.

The Northern and Eastern Divisions have recorded more than 300.

The number of dengue deaths has also risen to NINE after a young man died at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva last Friday.

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# Cambodia parliament disrupted

By ELAINE KURTENBACH  
**BEIJING (AP)** - An exiled Chinese activist who traveled covertly to China for meetings with other dissidents was swiftly deported

to the United States, officials and dissidents said Tuesday. While expelling Wang Bingzhang, police widened their round up of domestic dissidents,

detaining a fifth democracy campaigner in connection with Wang's case, human rights groups said.

An important figure in China's democracy movement, Wang ended his exile of nearly two decades last month, sneaking into China under an alias to help dissidents form an opposition party.

The plan was one of the boldest challenges to Communist Party rule in years by a movement often divided and under constant police harassment.

Captured by police Friday in the eastern city of Bengbu, Wang was put on a Los Angeles-bound plane from Shanghai on Monday, said Bill Palmer, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

He said Chinese authorities did not inform the embassy that Wang had been deported until Tuesday, hours after the dissident had contacted his parents and human rights groups by telephone upon his arrival in California.

"All of my family members are delighted and happy ... be-

cause for the last of couple of days, we were very worried," brother Wang Bingwu said on Hong Kong radio. He and his parents live in Montreal.

A Chinese government spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said Wang was held for questioning and deported because he entered China illegally by using a false name to get a visa.

Asked whether police would release other dissidents rounded up because of their contacts with Wang, Zhu said only that detentions are handled "in strict accordance with our law."

Human rights groups based in Hong Kong and New York said Wang Donghai, a dissident based in eastern Zhejiang province who recently met Wang Bingzhang, was detained Monday night.

Police are believed to have rounded up at least four other activists, all of whom are thought to have met Wang in the two weeks he managed to elude detection.

Wang's citizenship and what

kind of travel document he used to enter China remain unclear, Palmer said. The Chinese government is believed to keep a blacklist of exiled dissidents it wants to keep out, and Wang is among the most notorious.

Wang left China for Canada in the late 1970s and then moved to the United States a few years later. In the early 1980s, he set up a magazine, China Spring, and the Chinese Alliance for Democracy, one of the earliest exiled political groups. Their actions and writings inspired students and intellectuals in China and angered Chinese leaders.

Wang's quick deportation apparently was intended to minimize any trouble between Beijing and Washington at a time of improving ties and in the weeks ahead of the March 16 session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

In 1995, Chinese authorities arrested another exiled activist, Harry Wu, who tried to enter western China to investigate labor camps.

Chinese authorities detained Wu, a China-born U.S. citizen, for 66 days, sentenced him to 15 years in prison for spying and then deported him.

## China deports detained dissident to the U.S.

By KER MUNTIT  
**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)** - Rival factions of a small political party turned Parliament into bedlam Tuesday as politicians disputed the legality of the legislature following last July's violent ouster of co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The division of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party into factions siding with Ranariddh or strongman Hun Sen, who deposed his co-premier in two days of battles in the capital, reflects what opponents view as Hun Sen's divide-and-conquer strategy ahead of elections scheduled for July 26.

Hun Sen has established unrivaled power over Cambodia since driving the prince into exile. Both before and after his takeover, he has been accused of orchestrating splits in the parties that once opposed his Cambodian People's Party.

On Tuesday, five National Assembly members belonging to the pro-Hun Sen faction of the BLDP walked out of the session when their rivals refused to apologize for alleged statements that Hun Sen seized power in a coup and the assembly was thus illegal.

Ieng Mouly, who heads the faction, said he could not accept the alleged statements made by anti-Hun Sen faction member Son Soubert, who spent six months in exile in Thailand after the takeover.

Son Soubert was attending his first assembly meeting Tuesday since returning to Cambodia two weeks ago. Each BLDP faction holds five seats in the 120-member assembly.

# Asia may see haze again

*But scientists hope for 'La Nina' to prevent it*

By JASMINA KUZMANOVIC  
**SINGAPORE (AP)** - Meteorologists call her La Nina - "baby girl" - and hope that this summer she can succeed El Nino and prevent the haze that hung over most of Southeast Asia for months last year.

El Nino is expected to weaken, experts said Tuesday after a two-day session at which Southeast Asian, American, European and Australian forecasters drew up a two-year climate forecast for the region.

El Nino, which means "baby boy" in Spanish, is the climate change phenomenon that last year delayed monsoon rains in Southeast Asia. That aggravated the effect of forest fires in Indonesia, causing massive pollution and respiratory problems throughout the region.

"Now we came to the end of El Nino's life span," said Woon Shih Lai, a Singapore weather expert who chaired the conference.

Experts predicted that after April, there is an 85 percent chance that the weather in the region will return either to normal rainfall conditions, or to a La Nina scenario, which is the reverse of El Nino and brings wet weather.



Steven Tan, 43, a carpenter bearing a kavadi is being decorated with skewers that pierce through his lips and tongue while his Indian friends chant for the Lord Muragan to bring him courage at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on Tuesday. Tan, who is a Chinese Hindi, is one of the few non-Indians who take part in the annual Thaipusam procession. AP

The experts estimated a chance of a prolonged El Nino at 15 percent. But this positive outlook does not rule out another haze episode, scientists said.

"If there are fires, we may be affected by haze, but no sooner than in April," said Woon. He added that a dry period between May and October always brings

along "some haze." A hundred fires are already burning in Indonesia, and some flights have been delayed. Clearing land by fire has been an agri-

cultural practice in Indonesia for centuries.

A Southeast Asian action plan was announced in December to head off another haze crisis this year, by preparing an inventory of fire-fighting capabilities, setting up an early-warning system and determining whether outside help should be sought in the form of aircraft, equipment and experts.

Under the plan, Malaysia is to work out policies on combating haze-producing fires, Singapore monitors the blazes and Indonesia is to bolster its fire fighting capacity.

Workshops like the one conducted Monday and Tuesday are supposed to emphasize the scientific message and alert the authorities, said Candace Clark of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The idea is to move from the academic ground into the real world," said Ms. Clark.

"If the local government has the information in advance, and acts upon the information, then agricultural practices can be suppressed," she said.

Last year, she said, the information was there, "but was not acted upon."

## Farrakhan applies for visa to visit Australia

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)** - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has formally applied for a visa to visit Australia later this week, the federal government said Tuesday.

The militant leader and his 24-member entourage applied for visas at the Australian consul in the Philippines capital of Manila on Monday, a spokesman for Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

The visa applications were being reviewed by immigration officials in Canberra.

"A decision will be made on the basis of the contents in the visa applications," the spokesman said.

Jewish leaders have called on Ruddock to refuse Farrakhan entry into Australia, using the same character provisions drawn on to refuse a visa to Holocaust revisionist David Irving.

Farrakhan is believed to be traveling to Australia via Indonesia as part of his second world friendship tour which has taken him to Russia, Libya and Israel.

Last September, Farrakhan opened his tour in Iraq, defying U.S. warnings that his visits to countries considered terrorist states could be used for propaganda purposes.

## Judge orders arrest of police over killing of 8 civilians

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** - A judge Tuesday ordered six policemen to be arrested in the massacre of eight ethnic Tamil civilians in northeastern Sri Lanka, officials said.

Twelve paramilitary guards, who work under police supervision, have already been detained over the Jan. 31 killings at Thampalagam village in the Trincomalee district, police officials told The Associated Press.

Police first reported they had killed eight guerrillas in a gun battle, but Tamil lawmakers wrote to President Chandrika Kumaratunga after army officials in the area said there was evidence of a massacre while in police custody.

The civilians, all young men, had been arrested earlier in the day.

Judge Paramalingam Selvaraj remanded the guards until Feb. 24 and issued the arrest warrant.

The military has been trying to clean up its image in recent months. Ten soldiers were arrested last month over the killings of two Tamil civilians in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Nine other soldiers are on trial for rape and murder of a high school girl and the killings of her mother, brother and neighbor in 1996 in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Tamil guerrillas are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils.

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# IMF overhaul sought

By BART JONES  
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Finance ministers and central bank heads from a coalition of poor countries shaken by the Asian crisis say it's time to give the Inter-

national Monetary Fund and the World Bank a facelift — or more. Closing out a three-day meeting, the Group of 24 called on Monday for a major overhaul of the world's top multilateral lend-

ing agency and its sister institution. "Uncertainty continues to be present and confidence continues to be absent," said Antonio Casas, head of Venezuela's Central Bank

and the outgoing president of the G-24.

Poor nations founded the G-24 in 1971 to promote development by lobbying for changes in the international monetary system.

Its membership is divided equally among Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Twenty-four hour trading on global financial markets that can move billions of dollars in a matter of minutes is overwhelming the IMF and World Bank, which were "designed for other realities," Casas told reporters.

The Asian crisis is raising questions among developing nations about whether the IMF's medicine is worth swallowing.

While it still enjoys a high level of credibility among poor countries, G-24 representatives said the IMF's demands for government belt tightening and open markets may now be met with greater skepticism.

And many of the nations are becoming more vocal in their demands for a greater voice in IMF decision making.

Colombia's finance minister, Antonio Jose Urdinola, said he felt vindicated in his decision to buck IMF policy and impose controls on how much money people are allowed to take out of the country. Capital flight has been a key feature of the Asian currency

crisis. "I think everybody is going to be taking (IMF calls for free movement of money) with a grain of salt," said John Ohiorhenua, a Nigerian economist and U.N. Development Program official.

In Caracas, some officials complained of unfair burdens, saying the world's poor suffer the most from IMF-prescribed austerity while the rich reap the benefits of the fund's bailouts.

Some developing countries have begun to question IMF calls for open markets, fearing that greater openness could make their economies even more vulnerable to fluctuations in global capital flows.

For its part, the IMF says it's not free markets that are to blame for today's woes, but countries' failure to break up monopolies, curb corruption and correct market distortions such as overvalued exchange rates.

Still, the fund is coming under increasing pressure from officials and analysts who say it handled the Asian crisis badly.

The most radical proposal made in Caracas was to replace the 54-year-old IMF with a new international agency to monitor 24-hour global financial markets.

"People are worried that these issues now are much too important to leave entirely to the IMF alone," said Ohiorhenua.



Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan, left, meets with Indonesian President Suharto in Jakarta Tuesday. Thailand will donate 5,000 tons of rice and a shipment of medicine to Indonesia to ease shortages of essential goods in light of the current economic crisis. Man center is Suharto's interpreter Widodo.



**NORTHERN MARIANAS  
HOUSING CORPORATION**



## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), a public corporation under the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is requesting Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) from Architectural/Engineering consulting firms for the planning, design and construction management of its various projects through the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Interested firms are asked to submit detailed statements of their qualifications which should, at a minimum contain the following:

1. List of projects completed. Consulting firm needs to identify extent of involvement with the project listed.
2. Number of personnel and their respective position titles or capacity within the organization. Also include current license/registration of staff members.
3. Short history of the firm indicating overall performance. The NMHC considers it critical that firms be firmly established in the Commonwealth to take full advantage of its desire to fully participate in all aspects of its projects.

While 254 and 255 forms may be used to document the firm's Statement of Qualifications, NMHC expects a more in-depth narration of the firm's background and qualifications.

The RFQ is to be submitted to the NMHC Office no later than 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 20, 1998 at which time NMHC will meet to evaluate each firm's submission of its qualifications. Firms are advised that they may be called for interview as part of the evaluation process at the discretion of the Corporate Director. Firms are also advised that NMHC may select only firm or several firms to participate in various projects which are expected to be accomplished over several years.

The following list while not all exclusive, presents the extent of projects the RFQ must address:

- Multipurpose Recreational Facility at the Northern Marianas College - to perform construction management;
- Low-Cost House Plans - to develop several complete A/E plans for a 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom houses; and,
- Kagman Community Center - to develop planning, complete A/E and construction management for a community center in Kagman, Saipan.

This request for Statement of Qualifications constitutes the scope of work. Thus, the Statement of Qualifications must be general, but at the same time, be specific enough to include projects relating to the planning, design and construction management of projects in the Commonwealth. All RFQ's shall become the sole property of the NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA  
Corporate Director

## Official: IMF willing to ease conditions for Thai bailout

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - The International Monetary Fund is willing to ease conditions of its \$17.2 billion economic bailout of Thailand that demand a big 1998 budget surplus, a senior IMF official said Tuesday.

The move comes amid growing criticism, even from the IMF's sister agencies, that the body has deepened the misery of Asia's crisis-stricken economies by insisting on deep budget cuts.

The Asian Development Bank says, for example, that the IMF budget rule has prevented it from disbursing up to \$200 million in loans for Thailand this year.

In an interview with the Dow Jones news agency, Hubert Neiss, director of the IMF's Asia-Pacific division, said the IMF is awaiting a final budget proposal from Finance Minister Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda before deciding whether to ease a requirement that Thailand generate a budget surplus equal to 1 percent of gross domestic product.

That proposal will be submitted next week, Neiss said. "There will definitely be some flexibility in view of the large decline in government revenue and also the need for larger social expenditure," Neiss said. "Contrary to what's been reported in the media, IMF programs are not rigid."

Thailand was the first of Asia's miracle economies to stumble in 1997, triggering a regional collapse that rocked world financial markets.

The IMF, many economists say, underestimated the ferocity of that contagion when it first came to Thailand's rescue last August. As a result, its belt-tightening prescriptions have proved much too harsh, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has said.

As Indonesia and South Korea followed Thailand into IMF bailouts, Thai hopes for a quick recovery dimmed. The economy slipped into recession for the first time in more than a decade.

The government has cut its budget three times to try to meet the IMF target, but still ended up in the red. In the first three months of fiscal 1998, which began Oct. 1, the country ran a budget deficit of 31.24 billion baht (about \$780 million at the time.)

The IMF says it hasn't altered Thailand's budget target so far because the government has not formally asked for an adjustment.

The Thai Finance Ministry confirms this, with an official noting Monday that the government has pressed for many adjustments in the bailout program, but not regarding the budget targets.

The Asian Development Bank, however, has told the IMF that an adjustment may be necessary.

## Around Asia

### Burdon to chair APEC Council

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - Former New Zealand cabinet minister Philip Burdon has been appointed chairman of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's Business Advisory Council from next year, Prime Minister Jenny Shipley said Tuesday.

The appointment will be concurrent with New Zealand's term as chair of APEC in 1999, when its annual conference is due to be held in Auckland.

### S. Korea auto parts maker up for sale

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea's bankrupt Halla conglomerate said Tuesday it is negotiating to sell all or part of its auto parts operations to U.S., British and German companies.

Halla owns South Korea's largest auto parts maker, Mando Machinery Corp.

ITT Corp. of the United States and British auto parts maker Lucas Industries PLC are interested in buying all or part of Mando's steering, brake and shock absorber plants, Halla said.

The conglomerate said it also was in talks with the United States' Ford, Germany's Sachs and France's Valeo to discuss investment in Mando's other plants.

### China shuts futures brokerage company

SHANGHAI (AP) - Chinese financial regulators said Tuesday they had revoked the business licenses of four futures brokerages that had failed to meet government standards.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission closed the firms down after finding they had debts exceeding assets, had suspended business for more than six consecutive months or had failed to comply with annual inspection requirements, the China Securities News reported.

An official with the commission confirmed the report, saying that China's futures markets were still at an experimental stage and were "not mature."

### Softbank wants out of Microsoft joint venture

TOKYO (AP) - Softbank Corp., a major Japanese distributor of computer software, plans to dissolve a computer game joint venture with software giant Microsoft Corp. because of slumping sales, a Japanese newspaper reported Tuesday.

Softbank's move comes amid sluggish earnings growth at the three-year old venture, called Gamebank Corp., due to weaker demand in Japan for personal computer hardware, the Nihon Keizai business daily reported.

# Dutch loans for Thailand

By PATRICK McDOWELL  
BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - The Netherlands will provide Thailand with \$30 million in low-interest loans to cope with an economic crisis that has spread across Asia, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo said Tuesday.

Van Mierlo announced the loans at a news conference capping a short visit to Thailand, where he met Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and other officials. He travels next to Indonesia, the country hardest-hit by Asia's economic turmoil.

The loans amount to an expression of confidence in Thailand's efforts to clean up its economy, which are slowly bearing fruit in improved showings by the currency and stock markets.

The money will be deposited by the Netherlands Development Finance Co., an overseas development bank that is majority-owned by the Dutch government, to the Thai develop-

ment bank, the Industrial Finance Corp. of Thailand, for use as it sees fit.

Thailand was the first of Asia's miracle economies to lurch into crisis last year. The contagion spread to other Asian nations and has buffeted financial markets worldwide. Thailand's economy is expected to shrink 3 percent in 1998.

Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia are receiving more than \$100 billion in bailouts arranged by the International Monetary Fund. Thai politicians have criticized both the United States and Europe for not directly contributing more to Thailand's rescue.

Van Mierlo said he wanted to dispel the idea that the European Union was a mere bystander in the Asian economic crisis, saying its members contributed 30 percent of the IMF bailout.


The Asian crisis would be the top agenda item for the April summit of Asian and European

countries in London, Van Mierlo said. Van Mierlo also met with Cambodian and Burmese opposition leaders in Bangkok, including Prince Norodom Ranariddh, deposed as Cambodia's co-prime minister in a coup last July, and Sam Rainsy, Cambodia's leading dissident.

The Netherlands will insist that the European Union pressure the Cambodian strongman Hun Sen, who overthrew Ranariddh, to allow all parties and the prince to fully participate in elections scheduled July 26, Van Mierlo said.

Hun Sen has been accused of rigging the election in his favor by orchestrating splits in the opposition parties and threatening to arrest Ranariddh if he returns from exile in Thailand.

The E.U. recently granted Hun Sen \$11 million to help organize the vote without demanding the prince be allowed to return and participate. The grant was seen as a major victory for Hun Sen.





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# Israel blamed for civilian casualties in Lebanon

NAQOURA, Lebanon (AP) - A five-nation committee monitoring a cease-fire in southern Lebanon blamed Israel on Tuesday for the death of a Lebanese farmer and the wounding of a civilian.

The group, comprising representatives of the United States, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel, appealed again to Israel and Lebanese guerrillas to avoid attacking civilians.

A Lebanese farmer was killed



An Israeli boy carries his new chemical warfare protective suit in Jerusalem Tuesday. AP

when a bomb exploded Friday near the village of Majdel Zoun, just across from an Israeli-occupied border enclave in southern Lebanon.

"The group reiterated that Israel and those cooperating with it are responsible for the manner in which they use explosive devices," said a statement issued after a 19-hour meeting of the monitoring group in this Lebanese border town.

A Lebanese civilian was wounded the same day in Israeli shelling of the village of Yater after attacks by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas on nearby Israeli and allied militia positions.

The monitors blamed Israel for that, too, and urged it to respect commitments "to take further measures necessary to prevent random civilian casualties and to strengthen these measures."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Marianas Visitors Bureau, hereby give notice that a Special Board Meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 1998, 10:00 a.m., at the MVB Conference Room, Professional Building in San Jose.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Adoption of Agenda
  - c. Adoption of Minutes - 12/9-10/97, 12/27/97, 1/6/98
- II. New Business
  - a. Attorney General's Letter to I&S Corporation (Action)
  - b. Cost Cutting Measures
- III. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- IV. Adjournment

/s/PEDRO M. OGO  
Acting Chairman, MVB Board of Directors

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors NOTICE

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan hereby give Notice that pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, a Regular Meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 12, 1998, at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan. The Agenda is as follows:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes - November 14, 1997
- II. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Financial Report
  - B. Wastewater Legislation
  - C. El Niño Task Force
  - D. Vacancies
  - E. Rota
  - F. Tinian
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Cable TV & Telecommunications
    1. Adoption of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation
    2. Adoption of Universal Service Discount Matrix for Schools & Libraries
  - B. Operations
  - C. Personnel
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Saipan Desalination Facility
  - B. Privatization Feasibility Study
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Resolution 98-01
  - B. Resolution 98-02
  - C. Resolution 98-03
  - D. Resolution 98-04
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VIII. CORRESPONDENCE
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 

Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13, Item (6), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.

  - A. Public Auditor's Report - Government Vehicle Abuse
  - B. Engine No. 8/Goltens Litigation - Update
- X. ADJOURNMENT

/s/BENJAMIN A. SABLAN, Chairman

# Annan: US, allies must stop 'humiliating' Iraq

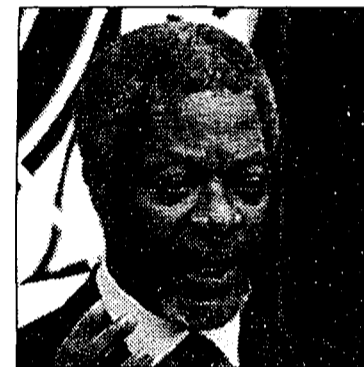
LONDON (AP)-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan cautioned against military action against Iraq and said the United States and its allies should avoid "humiliating" the country.

In a British Broadcasting Corp. interview aired Tuesday, Annan said that Saddam Hussein should understand that U.N. Security Council's resolutions were "serious," but cautioned against military action.

Annan said Iraq's leaders had "painted themselves in a corner and we need to work with them to get them to back down, but I think we should not insist on humiliating them."

Annan implied that the U.N. position could be flexible regarding resolutions demanding access for inspectors seeking to identify an eliminate Iraq's biological and chemical weapons facilities.

"I think that (full compliance) is



Kofi Annan

the position now and the position today. It does not mean that depending on what can be worked out, that would be the position tomorrow," Annan said.

Saying that position did not necessarily mean "compromise," Annan hoped for "a workable solution that would move us forward and avoid devastating air strikes."

"I think we all need to think through very carefully the consequences of

(military) action and what we do afterwards," Annan said.

"If we maintain fundamentalist positions all around, or purist positions all around, we will not find a solution, and I appeal for that kind of courage, that kind of wisdom, that will allow us to make the kinds of judgments that will allow us to get out of this..."

Annan had canceled a Mideast trip on Monday to concentrate on the negotiations at U.N. headquarters. He told the BBC it would be pointless to go without some idea of what both the United States and Iraq would agree to.

"I think we should do whatever we can to get a diplomatic solution," Annan said. "I do not believe the hour for diplomacy has passed. But before I go to Baghdad I think we have to have an understanding with key players that they are likely to come up with a workable solution, and that we know what our minimum would be."

# Military commanders worry on readiness of new weaponry

By JOHN DIAMOND  
WASHINGTON (AP) - Bunker-busting bombs, satellite-controlled cruise missiles, "smart" fuses that know what floor of a building to destroy - the Pentagon is rushing development of an array of sophisticated new weapons designed with Iraq in mind.

But several weapons that could be crucial to the success of any U.S. airstrikes against Iraq's chemical and biological arsenal are either still in planning stages or only beginning to be shipped to troops in small numbers.

Top military commanders and weapons planners describe an intensive Pentagon effort since the 1991 Gulf War to exploit and develop precision weaponry.

New bunker-penetrating bombs, satellite-guided missiles, titanium-tipped cruise missiles and sophisticated sensor fuses are emerging from weapons labs and private contractors. The Air Force also has the B-1 and B-2 bombers, neither of which played a role in the 1991 conflict. And the Navy has dramatically increased its store of "smart" bombs and expanded the computer and communications capability of its warships.

But key improvements are far from

complete.

"In the Persian Gulf War, we saw the promise of precision-guided munitions," said a senior Air Force official who briefed reporters on condition he not be identified. "We're flowing them into the inventory at a regular rate." But speaking of three new precision weapons - the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), the AGM-130 (air-to-ground missile) and AGM-142 - the official said, "They've just started these programs. They're not robust in terms of numbers. ... We've got a long way to go to get them out there."

Officials gave similar status reports on other weapons designed with Iraq in mind: the Advanced Unity Penetrator, a 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bunker-penetrating bomb; the Joint Programmable Fuse, which a pilot can reprogram for a different target in-flight; and the Smart Hard-Target Fuse, which can be programmed to detonate a bomb after it has penetrated a bunker roof and gone through a preset number of floors.

The 5,000-pound (2,250-kilogram) GBU-28, a massive bunker-busting bomb that was rushed into use in little more than a month in 1991, is now fully part of the arsenal. But the senior Air Force official said the version of

the weapon that fits the B-2 bomber is "imminent" but not yet deployable. And questions remain about the bomb's ability to destroy the most deeply buried targets.

"We have a bunker buster, the question is, How much can it burst?" said Dan Kuehl, an air power expert and professor at the National Defense University.

Many of the critical targets - command posts, secret weapons storage sites and production facilities - may be buried in bunkers beneath thick walls of reinforced concrete. Or they may be placed near workplaces or homes, placing a premium on accuracy.

Penetrating hardened targets requires both a thick-walled and hardened nose but one with a particularly sensitive fuse so the weapon explodes only after it has penetrated the outer shell of the target. This has proven to be a particularly difficult technical challenge.

Another tough problem for weapons planners is how to deliver precision-guided munitions in bad weather or smoky conditions. Laser-guided bombs that can home in on a beam of light made a lasting impression in 1991. What was less well-known

Continued on page 19

## Senate report on campaign fundraising:

# Gore 'misstated' roles

By KEVIN GALVIN

WASHINGTON (AP) - A draft of the final Senate report on fundraising abuses in the 1996 presidential election suggests Vice President Al Gore and some top campaign advisers misstated their fund-raising activities and that several Democratic money men were connected with the Chinese government.

A section of the draft report - portions of which were obtained by The Associated Press - said the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee collected evidence making it obvious "that despite his various denials," Gore "was well aware" that an event he attended at a Buddhist temple near Los Angeles in April 1996 was designed to raise money for the Democratic Party.

Gore originally said he thought the event was community outreach, but later acknowledged he knew it was donor-related and that his staff failed to tell him it was a formal fund-raiser.

The Senate committee, which compiled the report following months-long hearings and interviews last year, also concluded that President Bill Clinton's top political aide at the time, Harold Ickes, illegally "seized the reins of financial power" at the Democratic National Committee to "squeeze as much money" out of the party as possible for the 1996 re-election campaign.

The White House dismissed



Al Gore

the committee's findings as politically motivated.

"It is sad to see \$3 million in taxpayer money being used to fund a partisan attack instead of a bipartisan call for campaign-finance reform," White House spokesman Jim Kennedy said.

Meanwhile, The Washington Post said in Tuesday's editions that the report stated that Mochtar and James Riady - head of the Indonesia-based Lippo Group conglomerate and longtime Clinton supporters - "have had a long-term relationship with a Chinese intelligence agency."

The report said that relationship appeared to be "based on business interests" to obtain Chinese assistance in international business opportunities "in exchange for large sums of money and other help."

The committee also said, according to the Post, that it had "unverified information" that John Huang, the former Lippo

executive and onetime Democratic fund-raiser, may have a direct financial relationship with the Chinese government. Huang has denied such allegations through his lawyer.

The Democratic Party had to return \$3 million in 1996 campaign donations - most of it raised by Huang or Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie - because of concerns the money came from foreign or other improper sources.

Senate investigators traced more than \$1 million wired to Trie from Asia, including \$1.4 million from his business partner, Macao property developer Ng Lap Seng.

Trie, a friend of Clinton since the president was Arkansas governor, is awaiting trial on federal charges of conspiring to make illegal donations and to obstruct congressional and Justice Department investigations into his fund-raising activities.

The Post said much of the information on the alleged China links was based on U.S. counterintelligence intercepts. When the hearings began last year, the committee's chairman, Sen. Fred Thompson, a Tennessee Republican, said the investigation would demonstrate that China tried to influence U.S. elections. But the hearings provided little public evidence of that.

Meanwhile, a draft section of the Democrats' minority report said former Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour delib-

erately sought foreign donations for the National Policy Forum, a Republican think tank.

The section said a \$2.1 million loan guarantee for the policy forum came from a Hong Kong business instead of its U.S. subsidiary, as Barbour testified last summer before the committee. As soon as the policy forum obtained the money, it wired \$1.6 million to the Republican National Committee.

Barbour "knew the money would be used to fund congressional elections in 1994" because the policy forum was "a de facto subsidiary" of the Republican National Committee, the excerpt said.

Ed Gillespie, a spokesman for Barbour, replied: "The fact is the (National Policy Forum) siphoned money from the RNC, it never funneled money into it. Every witness who testified before the committee... said it was a legal transaction."



Volunteers are needed for February 21st and March 28th. Contact the CNMI MATHCOUNTS office for details. Phone: 322-7814, Fax: 322-6044

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# US activist testifies at defamation trial of man falsely accused of rape

By MICHAEL HILL  
POUGHKEEPSIE, New York (AP) - Ten years after accusing a prosecutor of raping Tawana Brawley, the Rev. Al Sharpton admitted in a \$150 million defamation trial that he never spoke with the teen-ager in any detail about the case.

"In terms of the details, I would not engage in sex talk with a 15-year-old girl," Sharpton testified Monday after being called to account for some of his most fiery accusations during the Brawley affair.

Sharpton, an outspoken civil rights activist, was a chief de-

fender of Miss Brawley, a black teen-ager who in 1987 was found smeared with feces and scrawled with racial epithets in the small New York town of Wappingers Falls.

Miss Brawley, who is black, claimed she was raped by several white men, including a police officer and a local prosecutor. The case touched off racial protests and led to a huge investigation that ended with a grand jury pronouncing the entire thing a hoax.

During the furor, Sharpton accused prosecutor Steven Pagones of taking part in the alleged attack. Pagones was exonerated in 1988 by the grand

jury and is now suing Sharpton and two other former advisers to Miss Brawley, Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason.

Sharpton once said he believed Pagones was "absolutely" involved in the attack, but on Monday he couched Pagones' role in softer terms.

"I am of the opinion that he was identified and should have been prosecuted," Sharpton said.

Sharpton said he was acting as a civil rights fighter when he publicly accused Pagones. "We were trying to stop the lie that there were no suspects," he testified. "That's why we used names."

# O.J. stops by Lewinsky house

LOS ANGELES (AP) - For three years, O.J. Simpson was the curiosity in the upscale Brentwood neighborhood. On Monday, he was a curiosity seeker.

Simpson's son, Justin, was fetching a friend two doors down from the house Monica Lewinsky is staying in.

Simpson drove up to the home owned by Dr. Bernard Lewinsky about 12:30 p.m., smiled for the cameras gath-

ered on the corner and asked one of the cameramen: "Is that the Lewinsky house?"

To get away from the publicity floodgates that her allegations against President Bill Clinton have opened, Ms. Lewinsky has sought refuge at the Brentwood home of her father and stepmother.

The media and publicity furor have followed.

Two years ago, Simpson was

acquitted of killing his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, outside her condominium just blocks away from the Lewinsky house. A year ago this week the former football star was found responsible for their deaths in a civil trial.

During the trial, thousands of gawkers and media traipsed by the Brentwood mansion Simpson once owned.

# Fujimori eyes 3rd term

LIMA, Peru (AP) - The Supreme Court cleared the way for President Alberto Fujimori to run for a third consecutive term by striking down a lower court ruling that banned his candidacy.



Alberto Fujimori

The high court ruled Tuesday that the ban denied Fujimori's right to free election.

The decision reversed a 1997 order from Peru's Constitutional Tribunal, the top constitutional court, that said Fujimori couldn't run again because the Constitution only allowed the president one consecutive re-election.

Fujimori was first elected president 1990 and won a second five-year term in 1995.

Fujimori's supporters had argued that since a new Constitu-

Fujimori hasn't said if he will, but he is widely expected to try.

"Millions of Peruvians will now have their rights respected" and be able to vote for the candi-

date of their choice, said pro-Fujimori Congresswoman Martha Chavez, who filed the motion to the Supreme Court.

Critics charged that Tuesday's

ruling was another authoritarian act by the government - which has loaded the Supreme Court with pro-Fujimori judges - to override the Constitution.

tion was approved in 1993, his re-election bid for the 2,000 election would be his first under the new Constitution.

Constitutional experts say that Peru's National Elections Board must approve his candidacy if he is to run.

## Puerto Rico judge grants kid's custody to biological father

By MARION LLOYD FAJARDO, Puerto Rico (AP) - An American man won custody of his 8-year-old daughter, ending years of heartbreak that began when she disappeared from her parents' bed as a toddler.

It wasn't immediately known when the child, who has been living in a Puerto Rico foster home since last year, would be reunited with her father.

Jeffrey Anzaldi said he was "very happy" with High Court Judge Lilia Ortiz Puig's decision Tuesday, which allows Crystal Leann Anzaldi to return with him to his home near Portland, Oregon.

Crystal's mother, Dorothy Anzaldi of Corning, California, had agreed earlier that the child should live with Jeffrey Anzaldi, from whom she is now divorced.

Crystal disappeared from the couple's San Diego home in 1990, when she was a chubby, 14-month-old toddler.

## FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY



*In loving Memory of the late*  
**Maria J. Taitano**  
"MARIAN DIKIKI"

*We the family would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us as we remember Maria in our prayers on her first anniversary rosary.*

*Holy Rosary will be said nightly at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Fidel Atalg Jr., in Dandan, beginning on Thursday, February 12, 1998 at 8:00 p.m.*

*On the final day, February 20, 1998 the mass of intention will be said at 6:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church.*

*Final rosary will be said at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Fidel Atalg Jr. Dinner will be served after.*

*Please join us.*  
*Danghulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
*Ginen I Gamilia*

## High Court...

Continued from page 3

tion 'dying' as the Tenth CNMI Legislature 'expires.'"  
Lawyers of the Legislature, however, looked at the same constitutional provision from another window.

Citing the same provision, the Senate and House legal counsels said that "if the governor does not act upon these bills within the constitutional period, these bills will become law without his signature."

The Constitution said the governor "shall have twenty days in which to consider appropriation bills and forty days in which to consider other bills."

The fortieth day from date of the bills' transmission falls on February 22.

"We're sure that the Supreme Court is aware that our question

needs an urgent answer, unless they feel that the question should not be reviewed at all," Woodruff said.

Sutton, for his part, said the AG's office does not really intend to contest the Legislature's position.

He said the AG's office and the Legislature went to the Supreme Court "hand-in-hand" to seek a clarification on a constitutional question.

"We don't care how it would come out. We only need to get an answer so we can avoid any legal problems in the future," Sutton said.

The bills in question are:  
•HB 10-163 which seeks to give elected officials the right to waive their salary and instead receive their retirement benefits."

•HB 10-239 which proposes life imprisonment for all persons convicted of trafficking and manufacturing illegal drugs;

•HB 10-467 seeks to repeal rules and regulations for the operations of Pachinko Slot machines; and

•Senate Bill 10-76 which seeks amendments to the Public Lands and Natural Resources Act.

## Cohen...

Continued from page 2

another attack if Iraq managed to rebuild its arsenals after a first assault.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, questioned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "Our aim is to limit, to reduce substantially, Saddam's ability to produce biological, chemical and nuclear weapons."

Pressed by Sen. John Kerry, who asked whether there was "more we can be doing," Albright said if Saddam was able to rebuild after a first strike, "we will strike again. This isn't any one-time issue."

However, she ruled out an invasion by the 30,000 troops the United States has in the region to topple Saddam. "I think not," Albright told the senators. And recalling the limited support for the 1991 invasion of Iraq, she said: "I don't know how many here are prepared to send half a million troops to Iraq."

The Clinton administration also contends it does not need approval from Congress to hit Iraq and believes support is growing in the international community for a military strike should diplomacy fail.

"Friends and allies share our conviction that Saddam must not be allowed to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons or the missiles to deliver them," President Bill Clinton said at a White House ceremony.

Clinton noted new support from Canada and Australia. Albright said the Netherlands, Germany and Argentina backed force, and Cohen added Oman to what was still a short list of Arab allies.

Later Tuesday, Clinton discussed strategy with Albright, national security adviser Sandy Berger and a representative for Cohen.

The White House session was the latest of their regularly scheduled meetings on the standoff with Iraq.

## MPLT...

Continued from page 9

fully protected while allowing the lending of money to NMHC at an interest rate that will allow low-income families to build a home.

Over 100 families have applied for housing loans under the program, Ada said.

She said most of the applicants are homesteaders, who usually can't obtain home financing.

Ada said the NMHC will lend

the MPLT money at interest rates ranging from 7.5 percent to 9.5 percent, depending on the family's income level.

The money will be made available to low- and moderate-income families for the construction, purchase, renovation, or refinancing of their homes.

Ada observed that the demand for home ownership has increased over the past five years.

The NMHC and the MPLT forged the loan agreement last Jan. 23.

The loan deal between the two government agencies had been in the works for about a year, snagged by the issue on whether the MPLT can invest its money at an interest rate low enough to enable the NMHC to relend the loan proceeds to low-income families.

The issue was resolved when the CNMI Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Public Law 10-29, which authorized the NMHC and the MPLT to enter into a loan agreement.

## Military...

Continued from page 16

was that the guidance system breaks down in smoke or cloud cover.

The JDAM, a bomb guidance kit that can fit 1,000- and 2,000-pound (450- and 900-kilogram) bombs, is designed to partially solve that problem, using the military's satellite-based global positioning system to provide a degree of accuracy even in adverse conditions.

The new air-to-ground missiles involve strapping a rocket to a guided bomb, allowing pilots to

release the weapons up to 40 miles (65 kilometers) from a target. Like the JDAM, these weapons can strike or come close to selected targets in foul weather, and they can be modified for night strikes or use with a television seeker that enables the pilot to steer the missile to its target.

Ken Koval, chief engineer for the AGM-130 program, said these new guidance systems are deployed, but "in reduced numbers." When conditions prevent use of laser-guided systems, the all-weather technology, he said, serves "as a fallback with reduced accuracy."


In the case of biological or chemical weapons targets, the Pentagon is scrambling to field a weapon that would set off an intensely hot explosion that would burn up deadly chemical or biological agents before they could do any harm. The military is working on these problems but has not solved them all.

Belated  
Happy Birthday  
Florendo "Jun"  
Almoite  
From Variety Staff

## Death and Funeral Announcement

# Augusta Blanco Matsumoto

of Garapan was called to her eternal rest on Tuesday, February 10, 1998 at the age of 81 years



*In her death she now joins her:*  
Parents: Juan Taitano Blanco & Antonia Blas Blanco  
Husband: Jose Y. Matsumoto  
Son: Francisco B. Matsumoto  
Grandson: Ryan B. Matsumoto  
Brothers: Manuel B. Blanco, Jose B. Blanco, Carlos B. Blanco  
Sisters: Elizabeth (Ellis) B. Camacho, Maria (Marikita) B. Kamiyama  
Brothers-in-law: Gregorio Camacho, Miguel Salas, Antonio Camacho

*The love & blessing of her memory will live in the hearts of her Children & Spouses:*  
John B. & Patricia B. Matsumoto, Margaret M. & Dan P. Rafferty (Bullville, New York), Roman B. & Lillian M. Matsumoto, Lydia M. & Felipe Fejeran, Herminia M. & Ron J. Fusco, Julia B. Matsumoto (Detroit, Michigan)

*Grandchildren/Spouses & Great-Grandchildren:*  
Dreama & Andy Messer (William & Kara) (Wichita Falls, Texas), Carla Rae Matsumoto (Plano, Texas), James B. Matsumoto  
Jeffrey P. Rafferty (Washington, D.C.), Michael J. & Edie Rafferty (Kaitlyn & Megan) (Middletown, New York), Timonty J. Rafferty (Virginia Beach, Virginia)  
Bonnie M. Matsumoto, Farrah M. Matsumoto (Kiana Lei), Bradley M. Matsumoto, Terra M. Matsumoto, Camille M. Matsumoto  
Philla M. Fejeran, Alex M. Fejeran  
Rachel Ann Fusco

*Brothers, Sisters & Spouses:*  
Juanita B. & Frederico F. Borja, (Yukon, Oklahoma), Rosa B. Camacho, Concepcion B. Salas (San Diego, Ca.), Josephine B. & Maximo R. Akiyama (Foster City, Ca.) Juan B. Blanco, Antonio B. & Hortensia Blanco (El Paseo, Texas)

*Sister-in-law:*  
Asuncion C. Blanco, Constancia C. Blanco

*Brother-in-law:*  
Albert Kamiyama (Guam)

*Additional survived by numerous nieces, nephews & cousins:*

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan. Last respects will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. Mass of christian burial will be offered on the same day at 4:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Dinner will be served immediately after the burial at Kristo Rai Church social hall.

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### War . . .

Continued from page 1  
Restaurants, was a top official of duty-free shopping center, Hakubotan, back then.  
"We lost a lot of sales. It was really disastrous," he remembered.  
Ayuyu said majority of visitors during the Gulf War were Japanese tourists, who were advised to stop traveling by the Monbusho government.

He explained that Japan is a very close ally of the United States, which was then heading the United Nations allied forces against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"They (the Japanese) fear that they could be the target of terrorism attacks when they go out of Japan. So they literally stayed home," he said.

Ayuyu said the pending Gulf unrest is going to hit the Northern Marianas bad, eventually.

"It will really be disastrous. But I hope it is settled before it affects other countries," he said.

The Chamber president also mentioned the need to make Northern Marianas residents

aware of the possible adverse effects of the unrest in the oil-producing countries.

"There are always possibilities," he said.

He raised for instance the possibility of extremely high end-prices of oil products as a result of supply shortages arising from uncertainties brought about by the Gulf crisis.

Economists say higher prices of oil products could mean increase in prices of other commodities, and NMI residents will really "feel the brunt of a disastrous economic situation," citing the already "high" fuel prices in the local market now.

Caught in an economic slump due to the declining number of tourist arrivals from its major markets, the Northern Marianas is confronted with another financial problem following recent reports that the government's coffers is empty.

The CNMI government is not only suffering from revenue loss due to the tourism slump, which was caused by the Asian currency turmoil, it also suffers from the apparent cash-strapped public coffers.

The Marianas Visitors Bureau said tourist arrivals dropped a historic 17 percent in October last year. The agency is yet to release its year-end report, though initial figures showed a dramatic decline.

The Northern Marianas hosted over 700,000 visitors in 1996, which could have meant an additional \$600 million to the local coffers.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Persian Gulf remains tense with US forces preparing for

an eventual attack on Iraqi targets if Saddam Hussein continues to defy calls for Baghdad to open up all weapons sites for United Nations arms inspectors.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan canceled a Middle East trip on Monday to concentrate on ever more urgent negotiations at U.N. headquarters, saying efforts to solve the Iraq crisis were at a critical stage.

Saddam has already dispatched diplomats to several

Arab countries that had joined the US-led coalition in the Gulf War, seeking support in the standoff over UN weapons inspections.

As a compromise, the 22-nation Arab League was putting forward a proposal to create a special UN team to search some of the Iraqi president's palaces for signs of banned weapon programs.

The US ambassador to the UN has dismissed Iraqi compromise proposals to end the standoff, calling the suggestions unworkable.

### Abolition . . .

Continued from page 1

receive government services are decided on the basis of political affiliation."

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The Final Transition Report was prepared by sixteen subcommittees which had been tasked to review the previous administration's operations.

"The purpose of this review was to identify how the government will more efficiently and effectively use its resources including personnel, finances, and facilities; and to streamline operations and refocus those operations to more effectively meet the changing needs of the CNMI government and its people," the committee stated in the report.

The idea is to abolish offices and positions that either duplicate the function of other agencies or don't have essential functions at

all. Among those sought to be abolished are the Governor's Representatives offices on Rota and Tinian, the Manila Liaison Office in Manila, and the Office of the Youth Affairs.

The committee is recommending the elimination of the positions of Executive Assistant to the Governor, Special Legal Counsel for Legislation, special assistants for special projects, planning, business, and public liaison.

Other recommendations are:  
• Revamp at the departments of Labor and Immigration; and Lands and Natural Resources;  
• The return of the offices of the Carolinian and Indigenous affairs to the executive branch;

• Salary raises for government lawyers assigned at the offices of the Attorney General, and the Public Defender; and  
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### White . . .

Continued from page 1

Mitchell, sued Tenorio who allegedly violated the law when he reprogrammed public funds without the proper procedure.

Cruz issued a decision last June ordering Tenorio to pay \$12,425,074 in compensation to people of the CNMI for mispending public funds.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg, counsel for Tenorio, filed a motion for reconsideration.

When Cruz's term as special judge expired last year, the Supreme Court assigned White to preside over the matter on June 30, 1997.

Mitchell then asked White to recuse himself saying the latter is personally biased and prejudiced against him and his client, Rayphand.

In a 13-page decision, White said the CNMI Constitution now provides that special judges may

be appointed by the Chief Justice from among the ranks of judges of any US jurisdiction.

"A motion to reconsider a judgment should ordinarily be made to the judge who issued the judgment from which relief is sought," said White in the order.

On Rayphand's motion to disqualify, White said if there is any bias or prejudice in this case, "it exists solely in the vivid imagination of (Mitchell), and not in the mind of the Court."

The Special Judge said Mitchell's statements, like many of his other conclusions, are unsupported by any evidence whatsoever.

"Mr. Mitchell has not caused the court embarrassment, he has only embarrassed himself," said White.

In his response to White's decision, Mitchell said they are "1,000 percent in agreement" that Cruz is eligible to preside the matter.

"We really don't care as long as the case is given to B. J. Cruz," said Mitchell on White's denial of Rayphand's motion to disqualify.

### Marianas . . .

Continued from page 1

mediately available. Salas only said Coral International was yet to provide CPA any proposal or specifications in "black and white."

The ports authority is bent on tapping other air carriers to service Saipan, after incurring dramatic shortfalls due to the suspension and reduction of flights by major air service providers.

Comptroller David Demapan said CPA is incurring \$200,000 monthly shortfall, and revenues from airport operations have dwindled, suffering a significant drop in comparison with last year's tally.

Previously, Gov. Pedro Tenorio said the government would find

another carrier to service the Northern Marianas, stressing his disappointment over the cutdown of major service to the CNMI.

Tenorio was also frustrated by the reduction in the number of direct flights to Saipan, a move which he claimed to have worsened the already plunging tourist arrivals from prime Asian markets.

Continental Micronesia has made Guam its hub for all of its Japan flights, while suspending its Seoul service since December due to declining passenger haul.

Korean Air pulled out its service in August as a result of the collapse of the South Korean economy, while other carriers like Asiana and Japan Airlines have also started downsizing its operations due to the financial crisis in Asia.

### Abolition . . .

Continued from page 1

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### Teno . . .

Continued from page 1

begin work on the closure of the Puerto Rico dump in the first 100 days of his administration.

The dump has been cited by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for posing an "environmental hazard."

Due to an administrative oversight, however, EPA announced last October that it would withdraw its complaint and would no longer seek the \$125,000 fine it imposed on the CNMI government.

But EPA vowed to pursue "more rigorous enforcement options."

## Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$2,200.00 per month Contact: FUKUMOTO CORPORATION Tel. 322-8300(2/19)Th25433

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800.00-1,400.00 per month Contact: GABRIEL F. BOYER dba Ginen Saipan Tel. 322-3121(2/19)Th25425

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03 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour

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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$5.00 per hour

Contact: NOEL M. SORIA dba Computer Business Services Group Tel. 233-18218(2/12)Th25348

05 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

05 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Arjay Construction Tel. 235-16298(2/12)Th70477

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Contact: JESUS V. DELEON GUERRERO dba JM & Associates Tel. 234-3533(2/26)Th70736

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.50-4.00 per hour Contact: JOHN B. ROBERTO dba PC Auto Clinic Tel. 235-0252(2/26)Th25512

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:\$3.05-4.20 per hour

02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.65 per hour

01 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-3.65 per hour

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**THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE**  
*Marianas Variety*  
NEWS AND VIEWS

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Call 234-7272 (PARA)

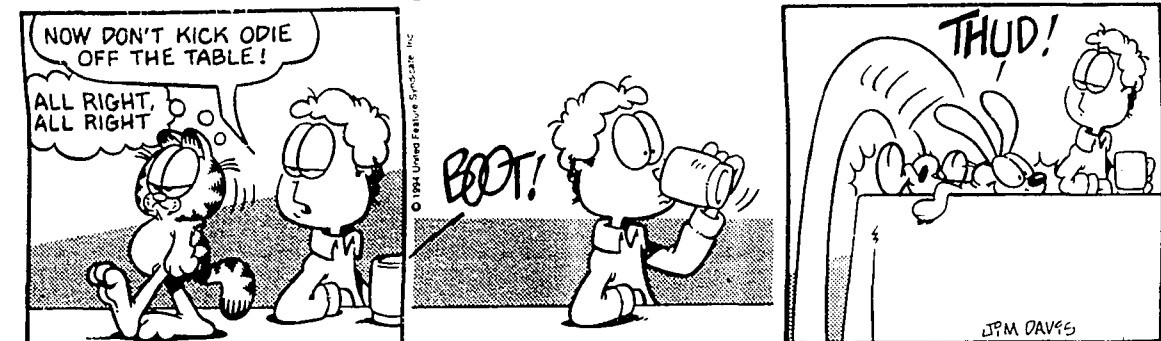
*First Anniversary Rosary*  
We, the family of the late  
**Frederica Villagomez Diaz**  
Would like to invite our family and friends to join us in prayer as we remember and commemorate the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Rosary will be said nightly at the family residence in San Jose beginning on Sunday, February 15, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. and the daily mass will be offered on the following days:  
February 15, 1998 at 7:30 a.m. San Jose Church  
February 16-21, 1998 at 6:00 a.m. Mount Carmel Cathedral  
February 22, 1998 at 7:30 a.m. San Jose Church  
On the final day, February 23, 1998 rosary will be said at 4:30 p.m. at the San Jose Church and the Mass of Special Intention will immediately follow. After the mass, everyone is invited to the family residence for dinner.  
With sincere appreciation  
**MR. JUAN M. DIAZ AND FAMILY**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
In the matter of the Estate

**EK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider**



**Garfield® by Jim Davis**



**PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz**



STELLA WILDER

**YOUR BIRTHDAY**

Born today, you do not always share your opinions with the world at large, though you do know how to attract the largest, most diverse audience possible when you choose to do so. You have a charismatic, magnetic style that attracts all kinds of people into your orbit, and you know how to say and do the right things to make sure you are the center of their attention at all times. It is as if you've turned life into the most carefully crafted of performances and you are always on stage. When you decide to let others know what's beneath the surface, you never do so in a way that could be misinterpreted.

The fact that you live your life in such a theatrical manner is likely to cause you a good deal of trouble at home if you let it. Unless you are careful to be genuine with your loved ones, you may never enjoy trust and closeness in your personal relationships.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 13**  
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — You may feel as though you are preparing for your swan song, but the fact is that you have a lot more up your sleeve.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.**

**18)** — A cooperative effort pays off today, but you must take care that you don't neglect one or two individual efforts that you must make at this time.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — The smallest error can result in a major setback today, so you must take care that you don't let any details slip by without your keen attention.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — You may have been trying to get together with a special friend for some time, with no luck. Today, the stars are conspiring to help you out.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — It may be more difficult than expected to arrive at the right conclusions today, but a friend will help you keep your perspective intact.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — The sooner you get down to work today, the sooner you'll complete the very things that you are not looking forward to doing. Get them done first!

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — It doesn't take a genius to realize that you may be trying to do too much too soon. Take time to reassess your current position, and alter plans.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Something may be keeping you from asking someone else for assistance today. Is it pride? Remember, pride alone

won't get anything done. **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — The more involved you can be in someone else's affairs today, the more likely you will appreciate what he or she is trying to accomplish.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Someone may be trying to oppose you at every turn, but you know how to get around even the most unusual of obstacles at this time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Do not let your memories lead you down the wrong path today. It is important that you recall how things really were, not how you wished they were.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — You may come in contact with one or two individuals today who seem to have your best interests at heart, but are actually opponents in disguise.

Industrial nations import almost seven times as much fish as do developing nations.

Rex Reed is the only film critic ever to have a movie review read aloud on the floors of both houses of Congress.

"SIMM" is an acronym that stands for "Single In-line Memory Module." The term refers to a slender circuit board that houses eight or nine memory chips. When plugged into the "motherboard" of a computer, a SIMM increases the computer's memory capacity.

During World War I, Pope John XXIII served as a sergeant in the Italian army.

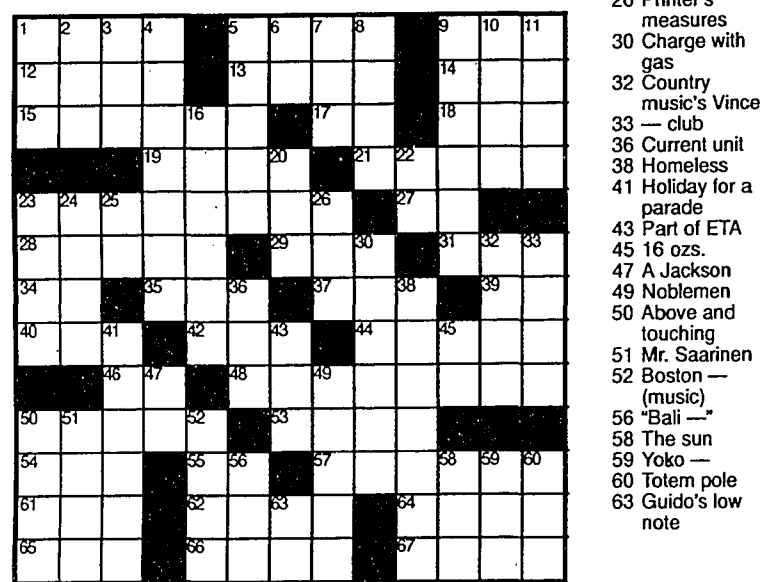
**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**  
1 Wash cycle  
5 Ham or salami  
9 Pro —  
12 Ending with six  
13 Data  
14 Call — day  
15 Actress — Address  
17 20th pres.  
18 Participated in a marathon  
19 Edges  
21 Fluff the hair  
23 Not temporary (2 wds.)  
27 — est  
28 Confused (2 wds.)  
29 Ms. Thurman  
31 — roll  
34 Calcium symbol  
35 Genetic material (abbr.)  
37 DC VIP

**DOWN**  
1 R-U linkup  
2 — the ramps ...  
3 DDE  
4 Having small ridges  
5 — Dolphins  
6 — garde  
7 Toward the stern  
8 Civil suit  
9 Long, vehement speech  
10 Greek letters

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**  
STIRS BERRA  
THROWN CUSTER  
AA CAESARS ER  
FLO GOOFY UFO  
FIRM NIT ANEW  
AVOW LARGER  
ISIT NINA  
SLEZAK GERE  
HALS LAB STAT  
ENE ACRES HGW  
NT EMULATE LE  
RANSOM TOUPEE  
ISLES WRIST

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**KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers**

**THE PUZZLER**

I HAVE A FROSTY QUESTION THAT MIGHT SNOW YOU. WHAT CEREAL DO SNOWMEN EAT FOR BREAKFAST? TO FIND OUT, WRITE THE FIRST LETTER IN EACH OBJECT'S NAME IN THE BOX ABOVE IT.

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**Pacers rout Magic**



Indiana Pacers' Antonio Davis, left, attempts to block the shot of Orlando Magic's Derek Strong (33) in the second quarter in Indianapolis Tuesday. Derrick McKey of the Pacers is at right. AP

By Hank Lowenkron  
**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Penny Hardaway's first start in two months ended with a new injury and the Indiana Pacers allowed their fewest points ever in the NBA in an 85-66 victory over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

Hardaway, who was on the injured list from Dec. 8 to Jan. 29 after having surgery on his left knee, went to the bench with 1:06 left in the first quarter and never returned.

The Magic said he had a deep muscle bruise in his left foot that was not related to the earlier injury and his status was unknown for Orlando's next game.

Indiana took control after Hardaway was injured and coasted

to victory with reserves playing much of the fourth quarter.

The 66 points by Orlando were the fewest allowed by Indiana since it joined the NBA in 1976. The point total was the lowest for Orlando this season.

Reggie Miller and Rik Smits shared scoring honors for Indiana with 16 apiece, while Nick Anderson topped Orlando with 16.

Smits had eight straight points in a 13-5 run at the end of the first half that gave the Pacers a 41-34 lead at the break. A Miller jumper ignited the run, giving Indiana a 30-29 lead with 3:41 left in the half. It was the 14th lead change of the half and the Pacers were never caught again.

Smits then had his run, starting

with a dunk off a behind-the-back pass from Mark Jackson.

The Indiana center then made a hook shot, a 17-foot jumper and a four-footer.

Indiana, which shot 52 percent in the second quarter after a 29 percent effort in the first quarter, then took its biggest lead of the half as Chris Mullin hit a 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds left.

Miller scored nine points in the third quarter, which ended with the Pacers leading 65-48. Orlando never drew closer than 13 in the fourth period and the Pacers led by as many as 21 three times in the quarter.

The victory was the seventh straight at home for the Pacers and their eighth triumph in their last nine games overall.

**Williams in \$1.3M Braves deal**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Outfielder Gerald Williams and the Atlanta Braves agreed Tuesday to a one-year contract that guarantees him \$1,325,000.

Williams, 31, came to Atlanta last December from Milwaukee for pitcher Chad Fox. Williams hit .253 with 10 homers, 41 RBIs and 23 stolen bases last season.

He gets \$1.25 million this year,

a raise of \$550,000, and Atlanta has an option for 1999 at \$1.4 million if he has fewer than 375 plate appearances. If the option is exercised, Williams would have the chance to earn \$200,000 in performance bonuses in 1999.

If Williams has 375 plate appearances or more this year, 1999 becomes a mutual option at a price ranging from \$1.4 million to \$1.7

million. And if Atlanta trades Williams, including after the World Series, 1999 becomes a player option.

Williams had been scheduled for a hearing in Phoenix on Feb. 17. He had asked for \$1.6 million in arbitration and had been offered \$1.05 million.

Javy Lopez is the only Atlanta player still in arbitration.

**Agassi wins over Martin**

**AN JOSE, California (AP)** — Andre Agassi, who hasn't won a tournament since 1996, beat Spain's Alberto Martin 6-2, 6-2 Monday night in a first-round match at the Sybase Open.

Agassi needed only 55 minutes to beat Martin. He finished the first set with two straight aces.

"It's not just good enough to win," Agassi said. "I want to iron the little things out. It's all about being a perfectionist out there."

In the late match Monday, second-seeded Michael Chang defeated Germany's Marcello Craca 6-2, 6-4.

Agassi, ranked No. 71, had nine

aces and won 86 percent of his first service points.

"The match was definitely in my control to win or lose," Agassi said. "I was hitting a clean ball."

Agassi has been moving up in the rankings since finishing out of the top 100 last year.

"Everything is moving along great. I'm getting better match by match. I'm zoning in on the top level," Agassi said.

In other first-round matches, seventh-seeded Tommy Haas of Germany beat Spain's Juan Albert Viloca 6-1, 6-4; Richey Reneberg defeated South Africa's Grant Stafford 6-4, 6-2; Mali Vai Wash-

ington beat Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 7-5, 6-2; and Jan-Michael Gambill beat Sargis Sargsian of Armenia 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

Washington is happy to be playing again after missing eight months of the 1997 season due to a knee injury.

"When I don't play for eight months, I feel giddy just walking on the court," Washington said. "It feels like the clock has been rolled back six or seven years. All that matters is just playing matches and staying healthy. Winning this event would be a great step on the way back."

**Golf . . .**

Continued from page 24

and 40 percent to off-islands golfers. Twenty percent of the proceeds will go to the Refalawash Golfers Association for its community projects and the rest will

go to the Joeten Charitable Foundation for its own projects.

The tournament format will include 36-hole, two day low gross and low net play.

Rogolifoi also said that they are considering Laolao Bay Golf Resort or Kingfisher Golf Links as the venue the tournament.

**FILATA . . .**

Continued from page 24

\$10 for Filata members. Registration forms are available at Las Vegas Golf Discount, COP Tennis Club, and the American Memorial Park bulletin board. The deadline for submission of entries will be on February 16, at 5:00 p.m.

While there is no official spon-

sor other than Filata, Yuchiro Printing and Capital Discount Market have offered support in areas related to their business ventures. Trophies will be presented to winners, and runner ups, and free t-shirts promoting the event will be provided for each participant.

For more information contact Ely Buenaventura at 234-5690 or Earl Maslin at 235-1927.

(P.T. Castro)

**BANMI . . .**

Continued from page 24

They will only allow six players per team. The entrance fee for the 3 on 3 tournament will be \$75.00.

Entrance fees for the rest of the

tournament will be \$300.00 per tournament.

Dues must be paid by the first day of the tournament.

Interested teams should contact President Abner Venus at 234-5911, V-President Tony Rogolifoi at 234-1001 or Secretary Mike White at 234-6547.

**Winkfields . . .**

Continued from page 24

just over a year and his record is 14 wins and one loss.

As for Klaris Rey she was chosen for her excellent skills in volleyball. Rey is 12 years old and a student of Saipan Community

School.

She has only been playing volleyball for two years and recently led her team SCS to the All Schools Volleyball Championship.

Rey is currently playing in the island-wide junior league on the Hyatt Hornet team.

**Japan . . .**

Continued from page 24

paused to salute. He bowed before Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife, Princess Masako, and was flung into the air six times by his teammates.

The prime minister called with his congratulations, and within hours a banner headline in an extra edition of the Shinano Mainichi in Nagano proclaimed, "Shimizu Gold."

At a news conference Wednesday (Tuesday night EST), Shimizu said that whatever adulation or endorsements come his way, he will retain the humility and folksiness that have endeared him to crowds in Japan and elsewhere.

"Inside, I have to be able to tell myself that I am not Hiroyasu Shimizu the gold medalist, but

the Hiroyasu Shimizu that made this possible," he said.

Shimizu finished the race in 35.59 seconds, beating the Olympic record he had set the day before. For the first time in Olympic history, the 500 was decided by the combined time of two races.

With every frantic, chopping stride, Shimizu moved closer to easing the pain of past Japanese failures in the Winter Games.

There was Masahiko Harada, who blew his ski-jumping team's virtually unbeatable lead on the last jump in Lillehammer four years ago.

And Midori Ito, who botched her short program in figure skating in 1992.

As much as the Japanese speedskating team tried to deflect the pressure from Shimizu — officials asked local reporters to keep their questions to a minimum in the days leading up to the

games — he could not escape it. He said he was nervous at the opening ceremony, where he was Japan's flag-bearer, and nervous after his first race, a 35.76 that set an Olympic record and raised Japanese hopes even higher.

"Last night, I was dreaming that I won the race and I won the gold medal," Shimizu said.

**Senior, Big League meetings**

THIS is to inform all division managers and coaches that there will be a meeting tonight, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room.

For more information contact Roman Reyes at 664-1082.

# SPORTS

## Winkfields named athletes of month

By Priscilla T. Castro  
Variety News Staff

BROTHER and sister Jacoby and Audra Winkfield were both chosen Athletes of the Month for January during the NMASA meeting held last Thursday at the Joeten-Kiyu Library Conference Room.

Jacoby was chosen for his excellent participation during the recent Kintetsu Buffalo 10KM Run.

Jacoby is a senior at Marianas High School and one of Saipan's top swimmers.

Partially due to his cross training, he also participates in other sports.

In the recent Kintetsu Buffalo

10KM Run, he won in the Junior Division and placed 6th overall in 41 minutes and 38 seconds.

He also joined the Saipan Community School Fun Run held last Saturday at the Memorial Park Pathway where he won first place in the 15-19 division.

He clocked in 17 minutes and 27 seconds

Audra Winkfield is also a student at Marianas High School, she is one of Saipan's top distance swimmers and running as well.

Audra won in the female junior division and was second female finisher during the Kintetsu Buffalo 10km Run in which she clocked in 50 minutes and 18 seconds.

She also joined in the Saipan Community School Fun Run that was held during the weekend in which she came in second in her division.

In the Student Athlete of the Month Category Nathan Torwal and Klaris Rey were chosen.

Torwal was chosen for his participation in Wrestling.

He is a Marianas High School student and a dedicated wrestler who competed in his first off-island tournament on Guam.

Torwal on his off-island tournament won a silver medal against Guam's All Island Champion in his weight class.

He has only been wrestling for  
Continued on page 23

## BANMI to host series of fundraising tournaments

By Priscilla T. Castro  
Variety News Staff

THE Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be hosting series of tournaments to help raise needed funds to send the Basketball National team to the Micronesian Games in Palau on August 1-9.

The first tournament to be held is the "back board hoops" which is going to be played on March 20-22 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Another tournament will be held on Memorial Day and will be called the "Memorial Day Gym Jam" on May 23-25.

Liberation Day "Rim Thriller" will also be played at the Gym but the schedule is still tentative on July 3-5.

BANMI has limited the slots to only eight teams, four on-island and four off-island.

In addition to the BANMI they will hold a two day tournament called the "Dubbed Gatorade 3 on 3 Ultimate hoops" on March 14 and 15.

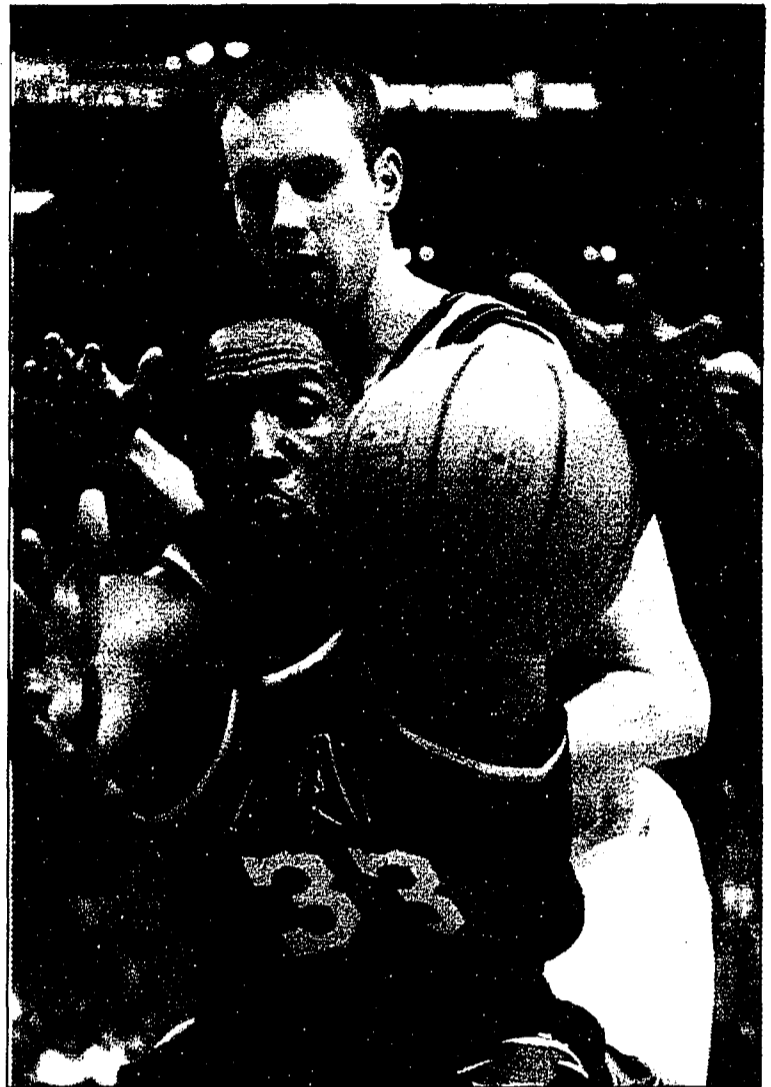
Continued on page 23

## FILATA sets tennis meet

FILIPINO-American Tennis Association President Ely Buenaventura has announced that an all-evening tennis tournament will take place on the weekends of Feb. 20 and 21 and 27 and 28. This is an attempt to accommodate those players for whom the hot daytime temperatures are a problem, according to Buenaventura.

Filata will rent courts at Coral Ocean Point from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on the days of the tournament. Events will be all doubles and will have ability level categories (2.0, 3.0 and 4.0) for both men and women.

Entry fees are \$15 per person or  
Continued on page 23



Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning (33) reaches for a loose ball under defensive pressure from Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas during the first quarter Tuesday in Cleveland. AP

## Japan exults in gold medal win of Shimizu

By Doug Ferguson

NAGANO, Japan (AP) — It wasn't enough that the son of the emperor was in the M-Wave.

Hiroyasu Shimizu felt as if all of Japan had crammed into the cavernous speedskating hall, eager to see whether one of its smallest athletes could fulfill the hopes of an entire nation.

"About a week ago, I started to feel an uneasiness," said Shimizu, a 5-foot-4 sprinter who holds the world record in the 500 meters.

"I started to worry: 'What if I do not achieve what everyone expects?' Some times I felt like I wanted to run away and be held."

On Tuesday, he ran straight into the hearts of the Japanese. Transforming the throat-gripping pressure into power, Shimizu burst to an Olympic record in the 500 to give his country its first gold medal of the Nagano Games.

In his victory laps around the oval, he shed tears every time he  
Continued on page 23

## Golf tourney to benefit the Joeten Foundation

By Priscilla T. Castro  
Variety News Staff

THE 3RD Joeten Memorial Golf tournament will be hosted by the Refalawach Golfers Association tentatively on November 14 and 15.

Joeten Charitable Foundation Director Norman Tenorio, RGA President Tony Rogolifoi, Vice President Jess Wabol and officers Sonny Flores and Tony Satur held a meeting yesterday to talk about the Joeten Memorial Golf Tournament.

Tenorio said this is the first

event this year to raise funds for the Joeten Charitable Foundation. All proceeds of the tournaments will go to the foundation.

This tournament will honor the pioneering businessman of Saipan Jose "Joeten" Tenorio who passed away in 1993.

According to RGA President Tony Rogolifoi, the tournament has 240 slots to make it the biggest ever tournament here on the island of Saipan.

Sixty percent of the 240 slots will be open to the CNMI golfers  
Continued on page 23



Japan's Hiroyasu Shimizu shows off his gold medals on the victory stand after winning the 500 meters men's speed skating competition at the Winter Olympics in Nagano on Tuesday. AP

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