

Caucus selects Heinz

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

TEN OF the 12 Republican House members who will serve in the 12th Legislature yesterday endorsed Saipan's Heinz S. Hofschneider for speaker.

Incumbent Speaker Diego T. Benavente (Saipan) will be vice speaker, a position he held from 1992 to 1994. Incumbent Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (Saipan) will again serve as House floor leader.

In a letter to Party Chair Francisco DLG. Camacho, the lawmakers said they support Hofschneider because of his "in-

At least 10 members assure Hofschneider of speakership

nate ability to work, his management style, strong leadership and passion for doing what is right."

The letter was not signed by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Saipan) and Rep.-elect Benigno R. Fitial (Saipan), who were also absent during a party caucus held at the Plumeria Resort.

A former speaker, Fitial is also seeking the post.

Hofschneider said Babauta had to look after a relative who was being treated at the Commonwealth Health Center, while Fitial, he added, was opposed to holding



Heinz S. Hofschneider

the venue at the resort.

Fitial was unavailable for comment.

"[Fitial] did lobby for the position," Hofschneider said. "But the members had pretty much committed themselves already and they're sticking to their commitment," he said.

Benavente, who has already served three terms as speaker, said he "has promised to allow other members to lead the House of Representatives and so this time I'm supporting [Hofschneider]."

The caucus also selected Rep-

resentative-elect Thomas B. Pangelinan (Saipan), who is currently a member of the Board of Education, as chair of the Health Education and Welfare Committee.

William S. Torres, a former education commissioner, will chair the Ways and Means Committee. Tinian's Representative-elect Norman S. Palacios will chair the Federal and Foreign Relations Committee.

Representative-elect Martin B. Ada (Saipan) will head the Natural Resources Committee while incumbent Rep. David M.

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MVA budgets \$20,000 for trip to Japan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT will be spending over \$20,000 to send an 11-man delegation to Japan in time for a conference of tour agents where it is hoped the CNMI's strong presence will help boost efforts at bringing in more tourists.

The contingent will be led by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who said that "a lot of work still has to be done" to attract more Japanese tourists despite official figures pointing to gradually increasing arrivals from Japan.

Tenorio's wife, first lady Sophie, will be coming along.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, according to MVA Marketing Specialist, Norman Berg, has budgeted \$20,000 to cover fares, per diem allowances, and conference fees for

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WORLD AIDS DAY. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (center) and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan (2nd row) join Public Health officials led by Sec. Joseph Kevin Villagomez (extreme left) for a photo right after the signing of World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) proclamation yesterday. Photo by Haldee V. Eugenio

DEQ confirms Agent Orange kept on Saipan

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Environmental Quality (DEQ) yesterday confirmed there have been containers of Agent Orange, a herbicide used during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, buried in some parts of Saipan.

Agent Orange is a U.S. military codename for a chemical mixture of plant hormone mimicking compounds that



Ignacio Cabrera

destroy plants by interfering with their normal metabolism. It has been known to cause soil nutrient loss.

"We did gather some information from people who used to work for the Trust Territory (administration) under the Department of Agriculture, and they emphasized that they have buried some chemicals over there," said Ignacio.

The director said his office initiated an investigation in 1987, wherein it has confirmed that the chemicals were buried on the island.

The director said he is not sure

whether another type of chemical, the DDT, was buried along with the containers of Agent Orange.

However, based on the division's interview with some of the workers, he said they have mentioned that there was DDT among chemicals they handled.

Upon learning of the possible existence of Agent Orange in the island, the US Environmental Protection Agency recently came over and did its investigation.

The EPA is now trying to go

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Another ex-Tinian mayor reportedly probed by FBI

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FORMER Tinian congressman and mayor James M. Mendiola made an appearance Friday afternoon in U.S. District Court for the NMI, but it could not be ascertained whether it had something to do with speculation he was being investigated on cattle rustling and ille-



James M. Mendiola

gal firearm allegations.

The Variety learned that the court proceedings were sealed. Mendiola was seen with his counsel Paul Lawlor entering the courtroom.

When contacted by the Variety yesterday, Lawlor refused to comment, saying the case is sealed.

But sources told the Variety Mendiola was taken into custody by Federal Bureau of Investigation after he voluntarily surrendered Friday to federal

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New OSHA rules hit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 27 million Americans who labor on assembly lines, at computer work stations or in jobs involving heavy lifting could benefit from a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries, supporters say. Business threatened to fight the rules in court.

"Government action to prevent the crippling of working men and women is long overdue," said John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor federation.

Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative announced Monday by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"If OSHA persists in pushing forward this ill-considered regulation, then we will meet them in court," said Randall Johnson, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vice president

for labor policy.

The new workplace ergonomics regulations, long promised by the Clinton administration, had been delayed for years as the Republican-controlled Congress, under pressure from business groups, repeatedly passed legislation requiring more scientific studies.

The House voted to put another hold on the rules this fall, but the Senate adjourned for the year Friday without acting. After lawmakers left town this weekend, the administration rushed to roll out its proposal.

"We are compelled to act. Employees are getting hurt. Workers are being sent home. People are suffering," said Charles N. Jeffress, assistant labor secretary for occupational safety and health.

The proposed rules, scheduled to be published in Tuesday's Federal Register, cannot become final before next year, however, to follow a comment period that will include hearings in Washington and other cities.

Existing workplace safety

regulations are aimed mainly at preventing mishaps, such as falls. The new rules also would require employers to minimize everyday physical — or ergonomic — stresses of certain jobs.

Each year, 1.8 million workers have musculoskeletal injuries related to ergonomic factors, and 600,000 people miss some work because of them, according to the OSHA.

The injuries to muscles, nerves, ligaments and tendons include such problems as carpal tunnel syndrome, back pain and tendinitis.

By spending money up front, employers could net an estimated \$5 billion a year on saved workers' compensation and medical bills and from increased productivity, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said.

"The principles of prevention are simple and easy to put into practice," Herman said.

Beth Pisknick, a former intensive care nurse from Massachusetts, said the regulations might have prevented the serious back injury she suffered from lifting patients.

"I, like most nurses, assumed that lifting was just part of the job. At the time of my injury I didn't know that there were lifting devices commercially available and that my hospital simply chose not to have them," said Pisknick.

Businesses argue that it is difficult to prove scientifically, however, whether some injuries result from work, activities at home or physical predispositions.

"This rule would cost businesses billions of dollars, yet the benefits — if any — are uncertain," Johnson said.

The new rules would cover a broad range of workers from nurses to baggage handlers at airports and people who work at computers or on assembly lines.

About 60 percent of ergonomic injuries currently are in manufacturing and jobs that require heavy lifting, but repetitive stress injuries from office work are on the rise.

"It's a big preventative issue for computer (workers)," Herman said.

Under the proposed rules, a

worker who has an ergonomic injury diagnosed by a doctor would be entitled to have his or her work environment changed to relieve the cause, by altering the height of an assembly line or computer keyboard, for example.

A worker who must be assigned to lighter duty during recovery from ergonomic injury would be guaranteed normal pay and benefits. A worker who must leave the job altogether would be guaranteed 90 percent pay and full benefits during recovery.

At workplaces with numerous incidents of ergonomic injury, employers would have to provide workers medical help and safety retraining in addition to repairing physical problems.

In addition, the rules would require manufacturers and companies with workers who do manual heavy lifting to provide preventive training.

Construction, agriculture and maritime workers would not be covered by the new rules.



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Japan's oldest and most famous twins Gin Kanie (left) and Kin Narita are all smiles in Nagoya, central Japan Monday as the 107-year-old twins receive gold- and silver-colored tatamis (Japanese mats) and prayers for their health in Year 2000. AP

Pakistan's Sharif claims innocence

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Former Premier Nawaz Sharif spoke out publicly Monday for the first time since the army swept him from power last month, insisting he is innocent of treason and railing against the military leadership that is putting him on trial.

Sharif, making his second appearance before a special anti-terrorism court, was also allowed to meet with his wife and family, whom he had not seen since his ouster Oct. 12 by soldiers loyal to army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

"Have been subjected to solitary confinement," Sharif told reporters in the courtroom. "I was not given newspapers or television. There was no contact with the outside world. I was confined to a room and I did

not know what was happening outside the room."

"We are still subjected to the same treatment," he added, saying his son and brother were also being held.

The appearance before the judge — who ordered Sharif's detention continued — was the ousted leader's first opportunity to speak at length to journalists. Previously, he had passed notes through lawyers or was quoted by aides.

Sharif has been charged with treason, hijacking and conspiracy to murder — because he allegedly denied permission for a plane carrying Musharraf and some 200 passengers permission to land. The charges carry the death penalty or life in prison. Seven other officials face similar charges.

Ruling affirms 'free speech'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI Supreme Court yesterday issued a decision underscoring the importance of protecting freedom of expression in the Commonwealth.

"The Court finds that in the CNMI, the free exchange of expression, thoughts and ideas requires that the statements be protected as a matter of law," said the high tribunal's ruling signed by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Justice Pro Tem Pedro M. Atalig and concurred by Justice Pro Tem Juan T. Lizama.

The high court came out a ruling on free speech as it granted Sekisui House, Ltd.'s request for a writ of mandamus directing the Superior Court to vacate its order and enter judgment in favor of the firm.

Court records showed that C.D.C. Japan and Saipan sued Sekisui in 1995 over a verbal agreement in which Sekisui allegedly promised to pay C.D.C. millions of dollars for the latter's interest in the land near Hopwood

School to develop a hotel/condominium.

After 13 weeks of trial, the jury ruled in favor of Sekisui.

Businessman Shigenori Hiraga and C.D.C. filed a defamation complaint against Sekisui in Feb. 1998 under seal. The complaint was based upon a legal memorandum and press release issued by Sekisui in the case.

One statement at issue stated: The old saying about a "leopard not changing his spots" certainly applies to Mr. Hiraga. While Mr. Hiraga was on probation for his felony bribery conviction, he continued with his practice of paying substantial sums of money to government officials. Mr. Hiraga's payments to CNMI government official are undisputed because they are recorded in written documents prepared to Mr. Hiraga and stamped "confidential." This document was discovered during the course of Sekisui House's investigation of the plaintiffs' baseless claims at issue in this case.

The other statement at issue stated: In his deposition, Mr.



Miguel S. Demapan

Hiraga was questioned regarding the "confidential" list of payments, and Mr. Hiraga admitted to paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to CNMI officials. Mr. Hiraga, of course, says that some of the payments were "loans," but he admits that the vast majority of the money has never been paid back, and he recalls no discussion about payments terms of the loans.

Sekisui filed a motion to dismiss the complaint for failure to state a claim or in the alternative, for summary judgment.

Hiraga filed a cross motion for

partial summary judgment arguing that the statements made by Sekisui were per se defamatory and do not constitute an opinion.

The Superior Court issued last Feb. 18 a decision and order denying Sekisui's motion and granting Hiraga's request for summary judgment, stating that it would be possible for a defamatory meaning to arise out of the memorandum statements, but denying it on all other grounds.

Sekisui filed the writ of mandamus. Demapan and Atalig ruled that the conditions in the case warrant the issuance of a writ.

"Sekisui has no means of a direct appeal from the denial of its motion for summary judgment. A summary judgment motion would normally not be subject to immediate appeal," Demapan and Atalig said.

The justices pointed out that the lower court's ruling has a chilling effect on free speech in the Commonwealth.

Demapan and Atalig said the allegedly defamatory statements

involved monies paid to persons who held or were seeking public office.

The justices said the lower court's ruling would also deter the public's ability to freely discuss the receipt of funds from third persons by those seeking public office or holding public office.

"Since the population of the Commonwealth is so small, third persons could easily influence and control any election by giving gifts and loans," they stressed.

The lower court's order is erroneous as a matter of law, said Demapan and Atalig, adding that the ruling evidences a disregard of applicable rules and involves an issue of first impression in this jurisdiction.

The claim for defamation of Hiraga, the justices said, is by "innuendo and implications."

Hiraga admits to the "literal truth" of the memorandum at issue, but states that it is "irrelevant."

In this case, the justices said, Sekisui never used the word

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DEA tags 3 countries as sources of 'ice' for NMI

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

ILLEGAL drugs are smuggled into the NMI mainly from three countries and law enforcement agencies are trying their best to stop the shipments, a federal agent said yesterday.

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Special Agent Deborah Muuserfs identified the three countries as the Philippines, Korea and Japan.

Muuserfs was guest at the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday during its weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where she spoke on the drug problem.

Barely five months in the CNMI, Muuserfs said DEA with the help of other local and federal agencies may have already closed the NMI borders but warned "if there's a will, there's a way" for drug traffickers.

Muuserfs could not yet give a complete picture of the drug situation in the Commonwealth, considering that she has been here for a short period.

But she noted Saipan has both

small and big "ice dealers" who are getting their supplies from the three countries.

Muuserfs said the problem of drugs and its effects may not be as serious now compared to the NMI's peak period in the early 80s, but warned it still is a very serious problem.

When asked by Rotarian Richard Pierce, the CNMI's former drug czar, whether the continued slowdown in the island's economic activity contributes to the proliferation of drugs, the special agent said there is a connection since those who lose jobs or does not have jobs may turn to illegal drug activity just to sustain their needs.

Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr., of the Department of Public Safety earlier noted that drug dealers on the island are experiencing scarcity in supply and this is raising the price of "ice" in the local market.

While "ice" is being sold for \$400 per gram in Asia and other markets, its price in the NMI is \$600, said Ingram.

FBI probes men in 'crime spree'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation has stepped into the investigation into the alleged crime spree instigated by a group of men in Koblerville and other areas on Saipan last July.

As a result of FBI's probe, Jeffrey Sablan Basa, Melvin N. Basa, and Jeronimo S. Ada were charged with taking a motor vehicle transported in foreign commerce with intent to cause bodily harm by violence and intimidation, and affecting commerce by robbery.

In addition, Jeffrey Basa was charged with felon in possession of a firearm charge.

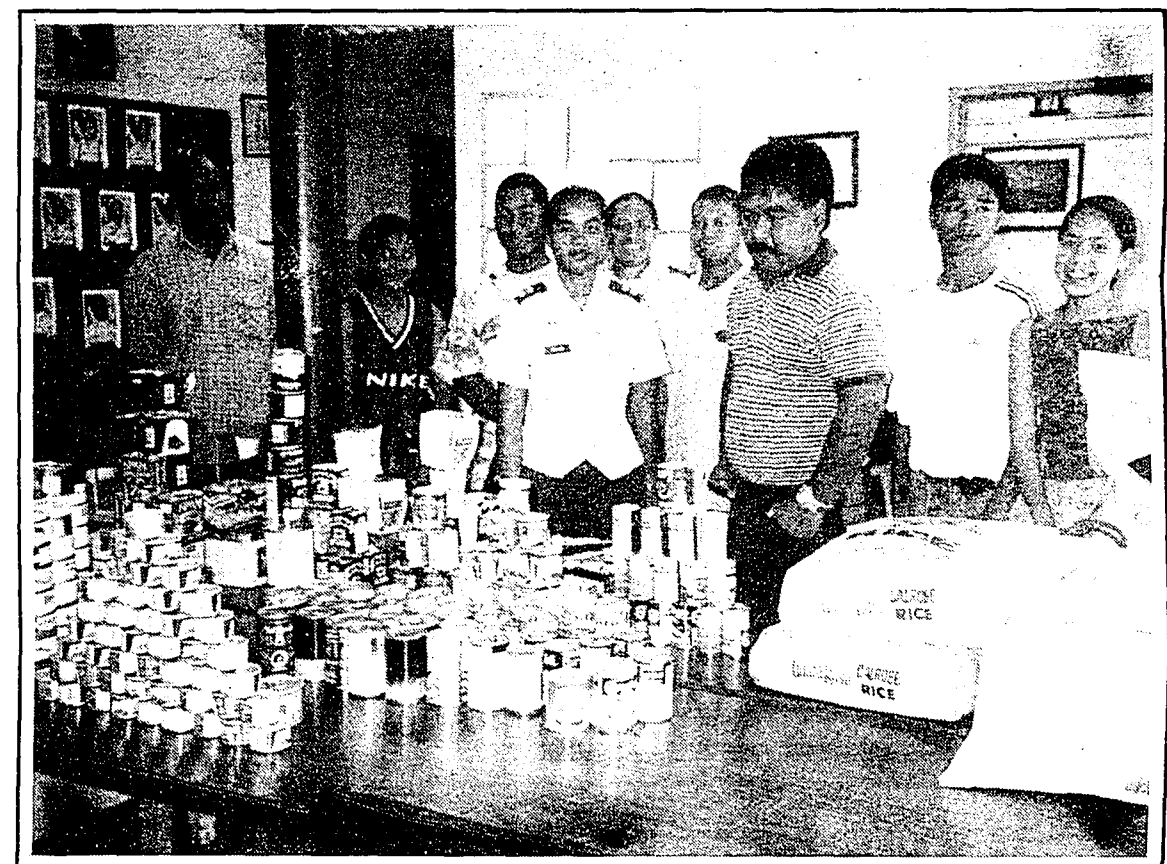
Assistant U.S. Attorney David T. Wood said all three defendants have waived indictment by a grand jury and entered a guilty plea of the charges.

The federal court set the sentencing for Feb. 29, 2000.

When asked by the Variety if more people would be charged in connection with the case, Wood only said "there is a continuing investigation."

Wood said the investigation was

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The MHS JROTC under Capt. Torres sponsored a food drive for the benefit of DYS kids' shelters yesterday. Photo shows the group viewing the collected foodstuff. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

McPhetres: SBDC 'misplaced' under CDA

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

OUTGOING Northern Marianas (NMC) College President Agnes McPhetres is not keen on plans to put the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program under the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), as recommended by former SBDC Director Jack Peters.

McPhetres said CDA is an "inappropriate" place for the business program as this would constitute a "conflict of interest."

"In my opinion, the most appropriate agency would be the Department of Commerce. CDA is a loaning institution and as a loaning institution, it should not be helping its clients. That would

be a conflict of interest," McPhetres said.

"Our position at the advisory board of BDC is to ask the Governor not to move the program because the college is doing its job and the college is running it. As in every place in the United States, it falls under the institution of higher education.

"This is to get our students involved and train them as interns under the program," she said.

Peters, who now heads the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network on Guam, has reportedly been coordinating with CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio for the transfer of a CNMI SBDC Subcenter.

Tenorio, at yesterday's CDA board meeting, said the authority is trying its best to be fair to both SBDC-NMC and PISBDC.

"It was made clear by PISBDC that the grant to SBDC-NMC will not be renewed and this, we have no control at all. Our concern lies with how our funds are used by the SBDC-NMC.

"As you are aware, we granted them \$93,208 for the last two years, and a little less than this for previous years. They repeatedly did not adhere to the conditions that we set, inspite of several follow-ups," he said.

But Tenorio added that while CDA has not yet acted on administering SBDC, he would like the board to consider the option.

DPH on PCB problem:

'Less talk, more action coming'

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

A MORE intensive health evaluation and testing for Tanapag residents by both the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the CNMI Department of Public Health is surely to get done early next year in connection with the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination.

DPH also confirmed yesterday plans of putting up a clinic in Tanapag mainly for the PCB medical evaluation and testing eyed to start in January 2000.

The CNMI has long been urging the federal government, particularly the U.S. military, to clean up Tanapag area of PCB which is a cancer-causing war

chemical.

In a response to DPH's recent request to fast-track the process of assisting the CNMI on "health" actions on PCB contamination, the ATSDR said medical experts will be sent to Saipan to work with local health personnel to address this issue.

"We no longer want more talk, we want action, but we will proceed with caution... The goal is to get the training going in January," Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said in an interview yesterday.

Villagomez earlier wrote a letter addressed to ATSDR Asst. Administrator Dr. Henry Falk, requesting the agency to conduct medical examinations on blood, body fats and breast milk



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

among Tanapag residents to determine whether they have been exposed to higher levels of PCBs.

ATSDR is under the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services, as well as the Center for Disease Control.

The training will most likely

take a week, and the medical evaluation and testing will proceed immediately.

The ASTDR specialists will train local physicians from both DPH and the private clinics on how to conduct the medical evaluation, what kind of things to look out for, what samples to collect, and where to send the samples.

At the same time, Villagomez urged the people to be patient as the medical processes need thorough review to ensure everything will go on smoothly.

"We can't just set up a clinic tomorrow and get going... It's a big disservice to the community to just show up next week just because everybody say we are not doing anything and then drop the ball. We need to plan

this carefully," said the DPH chief.

At least two physicians from the private clinics will be trained, along with DPH physicians.

Villagomez also said DPH and ATSDR's move is entirely separate from what the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are doing.

"This is (also) irrespective of whatever lawsuit that's out there. We cannot have that (waiver) our focus. That's part of the process itself. People are getting sick and we need to figure out what's going on," said Villagomez.

The medical evaluation and testing will be of no cost at all to Tanapag residents.

HIV patients a force behind DPH's outreach, awareness campaigns

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHILE some 33 CNMI individuals currently identified infected with HIV or AIDS do not come out in the open to talk about their ordeal, the Department of Public Health (DPH) yesterday disclosed these patients have been very instrumental in the government's awareness and prevention campaign on sexually transmitted dis-

eases (STDs).

At the same time, DPH said a number of these patients contracted the disease off-island and are now just returning home to be with their families.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said there are patients who are "very active" in participating in the National AIDS Committee and other local AIDS awareness programs.

However, the "social stigma" attached to the disease remains a stumbling block for the patients to get themselves identified.

"We're not encouraging them nor we're pushing them to come out to be spokesmen because of the social stigma... but in other ways, some of them, through telephone, work with us in giving us ideas on how best to reach out to the community and we're doing that.

"They are contributing to our efforts but not necessarily as visible as we want them to be," said Villagomez during yesterday's proclamation signing of the World AIDS Day at the Office of the Governor.

All the 33 patients are currently undergoing treatment at DPH.

Most of these HIV/AIDS patients are either local residents or have already acquired U.S. citizenship, as alien workers who will be found infected are immediately deported.

Villagomez said it takes an average of \$1,000 per month for HIV/AIDS medication per patient, assuming they do not have medical complications.

"It's quite high, obviously, and that's one of the reasons why it's important we stress on prevention for people at high risk, to (undergo) test early... if we wait until it manifests itself... it's more difficult, more costly," said Villagomez.

Seven individuals in the CNMI have already died due to AIDS since 1983.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, during the proclamation signing, said were it not for DPH's efforts in educating the public about these dreaded diseases, there could have been more persons who can get infected.

"I am thankful for DPH in its education campaign and in prolonging lives of patients... Hopefully next Millennium they will find a cure for this disease," said Tenorio.

The chief executive also called on the community to participate in the 6 am Walkathon on Saturday to show support for people who are infected with HIV/AIDS.

Tenorio proclaimed Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day.

Elsie Ramon, manager for DPH's Communicable Disease Control Program (CDCP) disclosed that from only 12 HIV/AIDS cases in 1997, the figure rose to 33 in 1998 and 1999.

"It has more than doubled for the last two years. It's partly because of an increase in individuals undergoing screening," said Ramon.

While 33 individuals have so far documented to be infected with HIV/AIDS in the CNMI, DPH said there may be approximately 300 cases here using the U.S. Center for Disease Control's method, and that most of these are either afraid to submit themselves to treatment or totally unaware of what has hit them.

Since the start of the year, DPH already reported one new case of HIV and another new case of AIDS.

Once an HIV-positive case developed into full-blown AIDS, the infected individual usually dies within two years.

Ramon also made pitch on the confidentiality and "free" HIV/AIDS counselling and testing at DPH, as she urged individuals to make appointments with the CDCP (tel. # 233-8951).

According to CDA chair:

CUC taking loan 'lightly'

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

COMMONWEALTH Development Authority (CDA) Board Chairman Juan S. Tenorio yesterday said the lack of urgency Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) gives its outstanding loans to CDA is hurting the authority's credibility in the open market.

"They are taking the loan lightly and it's not good for us because we may lose the confidence of outside institutions," said Tenorio in an interview.

In a recent report, CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said CUC's CDA obligation "is not one of its top priorities right now."

"It looks like we're just playing here without any substance and it's not good because CDA is serious with regards to the loans of CUC," Tenorio added.

CDA board members want CUC to start making its CDA loans priority, said CDA Executive Director MaryLou Ada.

"They should start looking at it and start paying us [CDA]...their grace period will be up next year. Our legal counsel has issued a notice of default and the loan agreement...CDA can come over and take over the management and see what it can do to improve the overall fiscal management of the program," she said.

"We gave them a notice of

default just before the agreed conversion agreement, which was at least two years ago. The notice of default was issued and the time ran but then we entered into negotiations regarding the equity conversion agreement," CDA Legal Counsel Vicente Salas said.

CUC currently owes CDA some \$105 million for prior capital improvement projects.

CDA is set to write a letter to CUC, reminding the latter of their default status and the amount it owes, according to Tenorio.

"The point here is just to make sure that even if they are in default, as long as its workable default, business is going to be



Juan S. Tenorio

as usual...we don't want to interfere with the operations," he said.

"They have not agreed to the equity of conversion yet. They agree in principle, but there's this requirement that CDA would like to insert on the equity conversion...so they have a responsibility to pay.

"With the absence of the equity conversion, CDA must proceed with the foreclosure of the adjustment of CUC. By doing that at least, the open market would have the confidence in CDA and the credibility of the Commonwealth," Tenorio added.

But Tenorio stated CDA is not asking for CUC's commitment in paying their dues, per se.

"It doesn't have to be a commitment but we should sit down and discuss terms and conditions of payment. We want to see CUC stand up on its own two feet.

"I think with the present management of CUC, I think they can do it..."

"It's up to the board. I have confidence that they can do it," said Tenorio.



Promising young talent Rowena "Ro" Ogo (middle) launches her debut CD during Saturday's YCMA fundraising concert. Also in photo are Ogo's back-up talents, the Pack Dancers.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

Over 1,000 containers per month

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

CARGOES disembarking from the CNMI seaports have continued to climb up these last two months as they exceeded 1,000, compared to the average of 700 containers during the first months of the year, the Customs Services disclosed yesterday.

The bulk of incoming cargoes are consigned to garment manufacturing companies, while the rest belong to retail stores and other businesses.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas said the increase in shipments towards the end of the year may not be surprising at all considering the Christmas season, although this may not hold true to garment firms whose shipments are quite uniformed.

"Starting in about September the cargoes exceed 1,000 per month and it may be because of the Christmas season," said Mafnas.

During the first months of the

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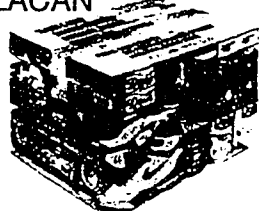
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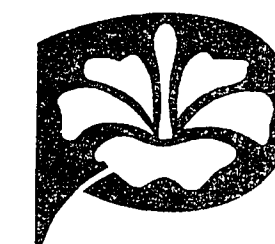
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EDITORIAL

We're in trouble

VOTERS and taxpayers should be concerned not because the governor's special adviser on education is making public statements on economic legislation, but because of what those remarks signify.

We do not know if Dan Nielsen got permission from the governor before handing out the two-page, "point-by-point" prepared statement to reporters during the special adviser's press conference last Thursday. It is, however, more than likely that the paper reflects the administration's position on the abysmal state of the economy and the government's finances.

And the administration's position, as Mr. Nielsen's prepared statement belabored to show, is this: "It's not our fault."

In other words, realizing how bad the economy is and how unavailing its efforts are to address it, the administration is no longer on the lookout for solutions, but for co-culprits.

Says Mr. Nielsen: The public should not blame this administration's ineffectual performance for close to two years now because "it is the FROILAN TENORIO DEFICIT, and people should acknowledge that." Never mind that voters chose Mr. Nielsen's boss in the 1997 general elections *precisely* to address such problems as the deficit.

Mr. Nielsen, at any rate, then fingers the administration's allies in the Legislature for their role in this close to two years' stupor governance.

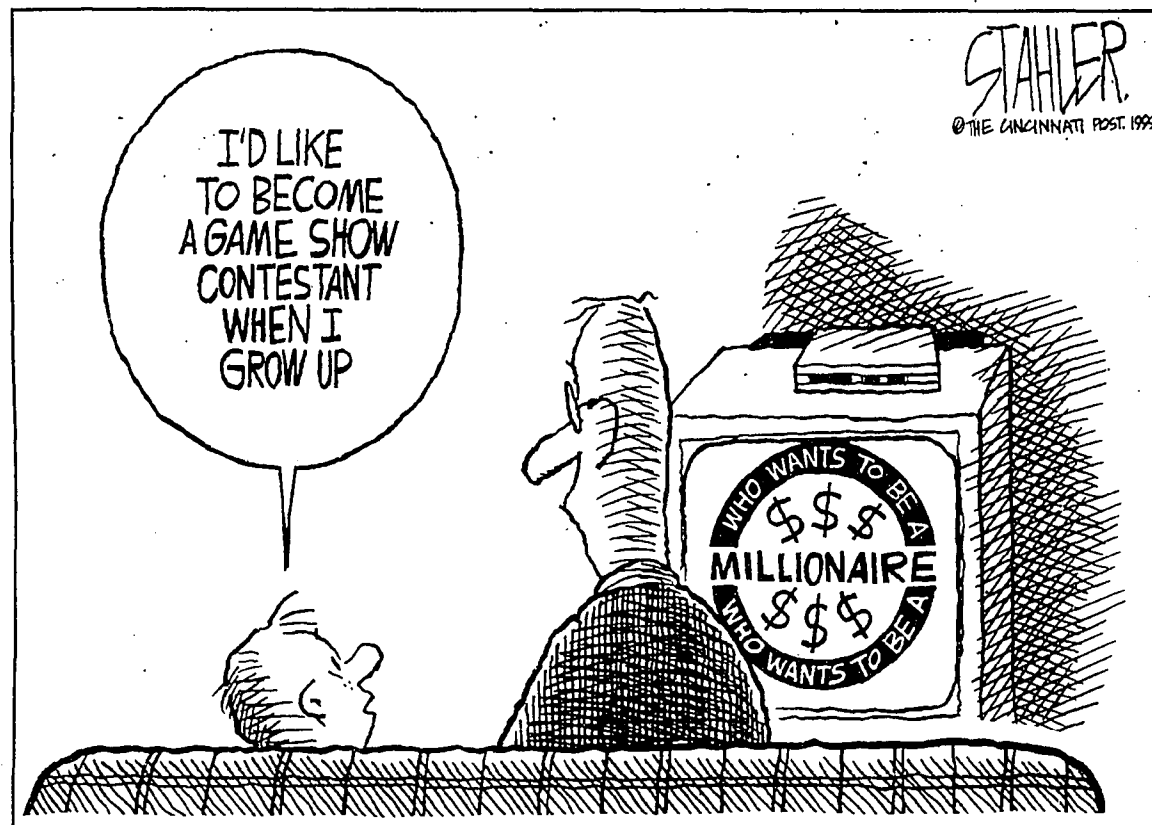
Obviously, Mr. Nielsen is not a politician. Otherwise, he would have noticed that he was referring to the governor's partymates and allies. He would also have known that his boss's legislative agenda is better discussed with key lawmakers. Mr. Nielsen's, well, "assessment" merely betrays the administration's apparent inability to persuade its own allies to support its programs and pet legislation.

His astonishingly impolitic statements, moreover, suggest that unless lawmakers forego their duty to actually read administration bills before passing them, the Office of the Governor is washing its hands of any responsibility in the expected worsening of the current crisis.

Not surprisingly, key lawmakers are seething. "If Mr. Nielsen would focus more of his time...on our students' scholarship needs," says Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, "[and less on] armchair coaching [legislators] and playing with his calculator estimating CPA board examinee fees we are supposedly losing to Guam, then perhaps our student scholarship program would not be in such a shamble as it is today."

Voters and taxpayers should be no less unhappy. They were told in 1997 that the occupants now of the Administration Building know what to do and how to do it. They were not told that they were electing leaders who know everything needed to know about a particular problem—except how to solve it.

The ability to lead, Mr. Nielsen should be reminded, is limited only by the capacity, the will and skill of the leader.



• Catherine Cruz-Norton

"Moving into a place we can call our home gave me reason to reflect on how fortunate we are, and how we might reach out to those less fortunate."



Moving

IT HAD been quite a few years since I last moved, which means that it had temporarily slipped my mind just what a major pain in the rear the process really is. Over the weekend though I was quickly and painfully reminded about it as my husband, daughter and I moved into a townhouse that we recently purchased in Tumon Heights.

The event itself is worth cherishing; in fact I've got the photographs to show for it, as it marked a major milestone in our lives. I also have the battle wounds of sore muscles and an aching back. Then there were negotiations with the furniture delivery men who refused to take off their shoes before entering our freshly carpeted home.

I didn't fully understand the scope of our job, until I went on a mission in search of boxes. Like a soldier with his marching orders, I set out to find the best moving boxes. They had to be the right size, and the proper strength to transport our belongings. I walked into a nearby convenience store and asked to purchase empty boxes. The store clerk nodded and remarked, "Oh you must be moving, huh?" Must be a well-known fact—if you're looking for boxes it has got to be moving day.

As I began to sift through our belongings I was shocked at the ability of two adults and a 2-year-old child to own so many unnecessary items. It seemed as if we had three of everything and I was discovering things we never knew we had. At one point I asked rhetorically, "Where did all of come from?" "And who bought it?" It certainly couldn't have been us; I would have remembered.

After our third—in what was expected to be dozens of trips back and forth, since my husband's truck wasn't big enough to accommodate our furniture at one time—it crossed my mind that perhaps we were in over our heads, and should hire professionals to help with the move. My husband wouldn't hear of it.

Needless to say late Sunday night we finally finished hauling and unloading the last of the brown boxes and in sheer exhaustion I plopped myself onto the floor and said to my husband, "Remind me never to do this again, at least not for a long time."

My husband remarked with a sense of accomplishment, "Just think now we can celebrate Thanksgiving in our new home."

I have to admit I'm looking forward to that.

While my overworked body settled in for a well deserved good night sleep, I thought about how thankful I was that the move went smoothly and most importantly it was now complete.

Moving into a place we can call home gave me reason to reflect on how fortunate we are, and how we might reach out to those less fortunate.

The folks at Catholic Social Services report that this year on Guam, 35 families will spend Thanksgiving in Guam's single homeless shelter Guma San Jose. While most of the island will observe the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends, these families will worry about where their next meal will come from, and whether they will have a roof over their heads come tomorrow.

Meanwhile, across America according to the National Homeless Coalition this year alone, 2 million will have experienced homelessness.

Guam is fortunate to have the wonderful phenomenon of the extended family. So far this has sufficiently helped to ensure that, for the most part, we don't have people out on the streets. But the need for more shelters and maybe even a soup kitchen, which are both fairly common stateside, is a reality we may be forced to deal with, in the not so distant future.

This Thanksgiving, as we turn our attentions inward to family and close friends let's be grateful for what we have. Let's be thankful for the roof over our heads, the warm meals on our tables and the closeness of family and friends.

My husband and I agreed to donate all of the extra stuff we have collected throughout the years, but don't have any room for, to the families at Guma San Jose and other non-profits that may have the need.

It's true everyone has a different vantage point. But whatever it is you are thankful for this holiday season, whether it be for the government's ability to avert a shut-down, the ingenious idea of an early buy-out program, or even for the lack of storm threats in this the typhoon season, remember those who are not so fortunate and find it in your hearts to reach out to them.

Who knows some of them may be your neighbors, your friends or your family.

ANALYSIS

Iranians hopeful moderation remains

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — On rooftops in a leafy suburb above the smog, some satellite dishes have come out of hiding.

Their owners know it's still illegal to watch foreign broadcasts. There's just not much pressure to maintain the old deceptions such as concealing the dishes behind laundry lines or crates.

A few exposed dishes hardly count as a bold cry against Islamic rulers and their controls. It's a murmur.

But listen closely around Iran's capital and you hear it everywhere: a confidence that the breathing room opened by moderate President Mohammed Khatami two years ago is not going to be choked off by his hard-line critics.

At Tehran's first Internet cafe, patrons browse almost any Web site. Once-banned nationalist songs and satire are performed at dinner clubs.

Underground entrepreneurs deliver bootleg videos to people's homes for a weekly rental of 50,000 rials (\$6.25).

The racy "Eyes Wide Shut" is currently hot. A soft-porn TV channel, Venus, is available via satellite.

Outside, young lovers hold hands in public and the Islamic coverings for teen-age girls grow shorter and tighter with diminishing regard for the "basij," the volunteer squads that were once the unchallenged morality enforcers.

"I wouldn't say this is paradise. But at least we're not always looking over our shoulders all the time now," said Ahmad Esteghalian, who runs a catering company. Many still do, however.

Twenty years of being hyper-cautious is hard to wipe away. The Internet cafe blocks access to any sexually explicit sites to avoid handing authorities an obvious reason to close them down.

At the Alighapoo restaurant, the host takes the stage between sets of Persian music to remind women to have fun but keep their headscarves on.

This is the kind of seesaw world experienced these days by most Iranians: Buoyed by new freedoms one minute; pulled back to earth by realities the next.

Somewhere there may be an equilibrium. But likely not until after parliamentary elections in February.

The outcome of the polls could help cement Khatami's vision of a nation less obsessed with being an Islamic standard bearer and more occupied with the business of trying to fix its many problems, including sticky relations with the West and a stumbling economy.

But religious hard-liners are not prepared to step aside quietly and are mobilizing to try to block Khatami's allies from sweeping the polls.

Abdollah Nouri, a former interior minister and a close Khatami ally, was proclaimed guilty by a jury of clergymen Nov. 11 on some of the most serious charges ever brought against a senior politician in Iran's Islamic government.

The jury's opinion was sent to a judge who will issue the actual verdict, which could include jail time.

The decision by a seven-man jury covered 15 charges ranging from publishing lies, insulting Islamic sanctities and advocating better ties with Iran's archenemies, the United States and Israel.

The legal action appeared aimed at preventing Nouri from running for parliament speaker. A hard-liner, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, has been the speaker of the 270-seat chamber since 1990.

Fearing defeat in the elections, the hard-liners have escalated their pre-emptive strikes. Government agencies still dominated by the hard-liners have closed several newspapers - most recently the crusading Neshat, whose top editor has been charged with insulting Islam.

Nouri's popular newspaper, Khordad, could also become a target. The conservatives may still have judicial clout, but public backing is clearly waning.

At the office of the closed newspaper Neshat, publisher Hamidreza Jalaei Pour believes it's only a matter of time before the conservatives are shoved aside.

"We need to begin looking at Islam as just a religion, not an ideology," he said. Both sides, however, are being extremely careful not to rekindle the student-led protests that gripped Tehran in July.

The rallies began as denunciations of the press clampdowns and escalated after thugs attacked a student dormitory. There are more potential flashpoints.

A probe into the killings of intellectuals and reformers has allegedly implicated factions in the intelligence service.

On Nov. 2, a court sentenced three people to prison terms ranging from six months to three years for publishing a play in a student journal that allegedly blasphemed Islam. At the base of the uncertainty lies a creaky economy.

Iran is blessed with huge oil reserves. But that's not enough to fuel an economic engine for a nation with weak international investment, a burgeoning young population and an economy largely controlled by huge foundations that answer only to the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The United States, which classifies Iran as a sponsor of terrorism, blocks all U.S. trade with Iran and threatens sanctions against others who do.

The desperation for foreign capital creates some interesting contrasts. Iran - never shy about supporting an Islamic cause - has been conspicuously silent about Russia's military offensive against Muslim insurgents in Chechnya.

William L. Flood, MD
Pediatrics, Saipan Health Center

• A 'Flood' of medical info



New diseases, new problems

THE PAPERS have been full of "new and frightening" diseases lately. The "West Nile-like" virus that has killed numerous residents in New York City has left many people terrified of these new "killer bugs."

Perhaps it is not so wrong to feel frightened. Public health officials from many parts of the world have been warning governments for years that these epidemics can happen, will happen.

Here in the Pacific, these epidemics *did* happen.

When the first Europeans came to the Pacific, they brought diseases to which the islanders had no immunity. Diseases like smallpox, measles, influenza, venereal diseases. The results were alarming. Death of from 1/3 to 1/2 of the native population of many islands was reported.

All of these diseases arrived by ship. Since ships required weeks, if not months, to cross the Pacific, this meant that the sailors bringing the infections would usually be sick themselves. This led to the earliest effective form of control — quarantine.

Major seaports established medical screening stations, and anyone found to be sick was placed in quarantine until they either recovered, or they died. This effectively sealed off these infections from the rest of the country.

Air travel has made quarantine much less effective. Most viral infections have an incu-

bation period, a time when the person has the infection but has not started to have any symptoms. During this incubation period even a careful examination will not be able to detect the infection.

Even more frightening is that some viral infections, like chickenpox, can still be contagious during this symptom-free interval. So it is possible to spread the infection before you even know you are sick! And it is certainly possible for a traveler to fly to another country without knowing they have a potentially serious illness.

This is probably what happened with New York's West Nile-like virus. What is surprising is that it has not happened more often. There are a lot of exotic infections out there for which there are no known cures. And it is easy enough for them to hitchhike on an airplane to a distant country.

Dengue Fever is all around us. Almost every other island group in the Pacific has had major outbreaks and the Marianas has the climate and the mosquito. Waiting.

The deadly Marburg and Ebola viruses, from Africa, are out there too. Washington, DC, had a "near miss" with Ebola when an outbreak in nearby Virginia turned out to be lethal to monkeys, but for some reason harmless to humans.

It's that old war of men against the microbes. And sometimes I am not sure who is winning.

FEATURE :

Asbestos haunts Montana town

SEATTLE — Asbestos-related illnesses linked to a closed vermiculite mine have killed at least 192 people over the past 40 years in Libby, Montana, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported.

Doctors and townsfolk say at least 375 more have been diagnosed with ailments that were likely caused by tremolite asbestos - a rare and extremely toxic form of asbestos released by mining for vermiculite, a mineral that expands when wet and is used for insulation and gardening.

In addition to miners who were sickened in the town of about 2,500 people, their relatives also have been stricken through exposure to dust brought home on the miners' clothes, the newspaper reported Thursday and Friday.

Most contracted their terminal diseases - asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung lining - years ago, when the Zonolite Mountain mine released more than two tons of asbestos into the air per day, six days a week.

John Wardell, coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency's operation in Montana, said that as a result of the Post-Intelligencer reports, the EPA would investigate the situation in Libby.

The mine in northwest Montana was closed nine years ago by Woburn, Mass.-based W.R. Grace Co.

"Obviously, we feel we met our obligation to our workers and to the community," said Jay Hughes, Grace's senior litigation counsel.

Hughes said Grace spent millions to upgrade safety conditions and reduce dust at the mine. The company was the focus of the book and movie "A Civil Action," about a case concern-

ing acute lymphocytic leukemia cases in Massachusetts that were linked to chemicals in drinking water.

Miners and their families from Libby are the victims named in 187 asbestos-related lawsuits filed against Grace.

So far, 67 have been resolved, with Grace either settling out of court or found liable and ordered to pay damages.

The Daily Inter Lake newspaper of Kalispell, Mont., said in its own report last Sunday that by 1959 one-third of workers at the plant had abnormal lung x-rays.

Respirators were provided in the 1950s, but rules requiring their use were not enforced, workers' lawsuits say.

State officials say they're confident that no asbestos is blowing off the mine site but admit it would not meet today's reclamation standards, which require covering thousands of tons of asbestos dust and mine waste with clean soil.

The Post-Intelligencer had two EPA-certified labs test five soil samples collected from the area.

Tremolite asbestos fibers were found in four of the samples - all at levels higher than those considered safe by the EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"More sophisticated testing would have to be done, but the levels (found in the samples) indicate that if it were a workplace, the workers picking huckleberries in that area would have to wear a respirator and a protective suit," said EPA official Armina Nolan.

A Grace spokesman would not discuss whether hazards remain at the site.

Marianas Variety

Serving the Commonwealth for 26 years
Published Monday to Friday By Younis Art Studio, Inc.

Publishers:
Abel and Paz Younis

Rafael H. Arroyo Editor
Zaldy Dandan Associate Editor

P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272
Fax: (670) 234-9271

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For Guam justice post

Cunliffe gets wide support

Variety News Staff

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Many prominent personalities expressed their full support for Cunliffe including Chief Justice Benjamin Cruz, Attorney General John Tarantino, First Lady Geri Gutierrez, and members of the Guam Bar Association which also released a poll showing that Cunliffe enjoys "formidable" support from the bar membership.

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However, it wasn't entirely smooth sailing for Cunliffe. Former Sen. Mark Charfauros and his legal counsel Rufo Lujan testified against Cunliffe, saying that the attorney's close relationship with the governor should disqualify him from the Supreme Court post.

"The court system is the last resort that we have. It should not be marred by political affiliation based on favors," Charfauros said. Lujan added that Cunliffe engaged in "unethical" conduct during the recently concluded libel case filed by the Gutierrez family against Charfauros by trying to influence star witness Antoinette Quitugua to change her testimony. He said this should be taken into account in evaluating a person being considered for the island's

highest court.

Charfauros and Lujan said their allegations are supported by court documents which they submitted to the committee.

In response, attorney Philip Carbullido said this accusation is without merit and meant to delay the nomination process. "This is not the forum to re-try a case that has already been heard by a jury of 12 with a decision rendered. Accusations that cannot be verified in effect delays the nomination process and defeats the process because time is of the essence," Carbullido said. Currently, the court still does not have a full bench.

Sen. John Salas (R-Dededo), who chaired the meeting, also reminded everyone that the hearing was not the time nor the place to discuss a court case.

But some senators said public perception of Cunliffe's activity during prior cases is very relevant to the case and should be included



Supreme Court justice nominee Randall Cunliffe, with his wife Rose, appears before the Guam Legislature's Committee on Judiciary yesterday. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

in his evaluation.

Salas said his committee will examine the court documents that Charfauros submitted.

Aside from Charfauros and Lujan, Franklin Gutierrez, the governor's cousin, also testified

against Cunliffe, saying that a previous case which pitted his father against Cunliffe adversely affected his father and could have contributed to his death.

In his testimony, Chief Justice Cruz described Cunliffe as

a very professional lawyer who will make an excellent judge. "His legal knowledge will be a great addition to our bench. His experience as a private attorney is probably as great if not greater than the rest of us in the Supreme Court. I believe we have an excellent candidate in Mr. Cunliffe with experience that is second to none in this island," Cruz said.

Carbullido, in his testimony, stressed that Cunliffe is a fair person.

"There is not a resident on this island who should have any concern that when he appears before Mr. Cunliffe, he will not receive a fair shake. Randy is able to put any personal difference aside, consider the arguments presented, and decide the issue on the merits," Carbullido said.

He added that Cunliffe is his own man and no one can tell him to do something he does not believe is right.

Tenorio hopes next legislature will OK health insurance bill

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SENATOR Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), who was defeated in the Nov. 6th midterm elections yesterday expressed hopes the 12th Legislature will consider a proposed measure he filed to require employers to provide health insurance coverage for resident workers.

"I only hope that they take another look and see whether it has merits," said Tenorio, explaining that it is unfair for taxpayers, under the current set-up, to be paying for local U.S. citizens' health needs.

"I am sure they (senators in the 12th Legislature) will find a solution to the problem that exists. Because sooner or later, somebody has to pay the bill."

"Right now, it is us, the taxpayers. And I don't think that is really fair."

"I think everybody has to chip in. It is needed and I would maintain that it

is good for the people, good for business community and good for the rest of the taxpayers," said Tenorio.

Tenorio said the problem on health insurance coverage involving U.S. citizens is also present in the mainland where, according to him, some 44 million Americans do not have coverage.

Tenorio said he has not spoken to any member of the 12th Legislature about his bill.

"I will leave it up to them. I had my chance, my opportunity. Unfortunately, time caught up with me. I was not able to push it through. But if I am still in office, I would," he said.

Tenorio's Senate Bill 11-134 seeks to implement mandatory medical insurance for all CNMI employees. It has remained pending at a Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Reform party stalwart Ramon S. Guerrero, who defeated Tenorio at the polls, has said the bill is anti-business.

Gov't employees clean roadsides

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

YESTERDAY was government's turn to clean the roadsides of Saipan from trash and litter, in what Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio Cabrera said was the island's preparation for the next millennium.

Also, it was one way of promoting Saipan to tourists and visitors, the island being not only a beautiful but also a clean destination, he said.

"We want to clean our island for the next millennium and we want to promote the island to the visitors, through this project," said Cabrera.

The director also encouraged the private sector and residents to do their share in promoting not only Saipan but also the two other islands of Rota and Tinian through clean establishments and surroundings.

Cabrera said the project is a public education campaign as it highlights the importance of cleaning and having a surrounding that is clean.

"We encourage the public to

Continued on page 27

Saipan garments maker sees rough time in Palau

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A Koror legislator has openly opposed the establishment of a \$6 million garment factory in Airai and asked the Foreign Investment Board (FIB) to recall the Foreign Investment Approval Certificate for the Pacific Garment owned by Saipan garment magnate Victor Yuen Tak Fong.

In a letter dated last Nov. 9 to FIB Chairman Shallum Etipson, Koror State Legislator Lolita Gibbons enumerated four reasons why the Board should take back the approval certificate it granted to Pacific Garment just recently.

Her arguments include:

- the industry will employ low-wage workers from China who do not contribute to the local economy;

- it will allow non-payment of foreign labor fees because of the sub-contracting of labor through Palauaif manpower supply companies;

- there will be minimal payment due to high labor output rates and offshore receipts; and

- it will allow "below full-cost recovery" payment of utility bills, thus adding financial burden to the government.

Gibbons in her demand letter to the FIB also cited the Palau National Committee on Population and Children (CoPopChi) in its latest report summarizing the Foreign Investment Act.

"While allowing controlled foreign investment, the principal aim is to protect Palauans interests by: prohibiting foreign investment in specified fields; restricting investments in other fields; promoting Palauan employment; and ensuring quality of investment.

Gibbons' strong protest against the garment industry is because it will expose Palau, as it has to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to ridicule for improper treatment of workers and will potentially subject the republic to unnecessary scrutiny of international labor watchdogs.

She also cited the Palau National Master Plan's picture of the industry as one offering "unclear" economic benefits and potential for social conflict.

"The Foreign Investment Board's recent action demonstrates lack of responsibility to the people of the republic and in this case, clearly disregarded our national goals and objectives," she said.

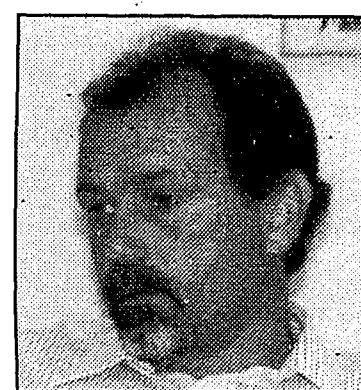
Pierce: US retailers group looks at SGMA as 'model'

THE National Retail Federation, an organization representing more than 1.2 million US retail establishments, is using the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association as international model for socially responsible factories.

NRF recently added a section on its internet web site which mentions SGMA prominently in the section regarding suppliers and labor standards, as well as on the site's home page.

The web site, which can be found at www.sweatshops-retail.org, describes the high standards of NRF and what retailers are doing to make certain they don't buy from sweatshops.

The site links to SGMA's own web site at www.sgma-saipan.org, its Code of Conduct page on the site, and states, "...the SGMA experi-



Richard A. Pierce

ence shows how suppliers can work with retailers, non-governmental organizations and the government to improve labor standards compliance."

"The SGMA effort represents one industry-wide attempt by suppliers to work together to improve the treatment of workers throughout an entire industry."

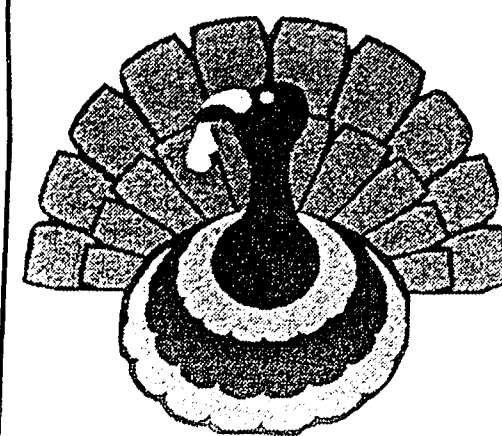
The National Retail Federation is the world's largest re-

tail trade association with membership that comprise all retail formats and channels of distribution including department, specialty, discount, catalogue, internet and independent stores.

NRF members employ more than 20 million people or about 1 in 5 American workers.

"We are so pleased that such a large and important organization as the NRF is recognizing the work that SGMA is doing to improve our garment industry and is now even using us as a model internationally," said SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, in a press release.

"We simply could not ask for a better acknowledgment of the substantial progress that has been made by our 32 member factories here on Saipan."



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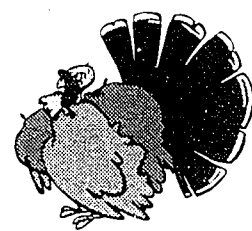
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For Guam justice post

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Sen. John Salas (R-Dededo), who chaired the meeting, also reminded everyone that the hearing was not the time nor the place to discuss a court case.

But some senators said public perception of Cunliffe's activity during prior cases is very relevant to the case and should be included



Supreme Court justice nominee Randall Cunliffe, with his wife Rose, appears before the Guam Legislature's Committee on Judiciary yesterday. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

in his evaluation.

Salas said his committee will examine the court documents that Charfauros submitted.

Aside from Charfauros and Lujan, Franklin Gutierrez, the governor's cousin, also testified

against Cunliffe, saying that a previous case which pitted his father against Cunliffe adversely affected his father and could have contributed to his death.

In his testimony, Chief Justice Cruz described Cunliffe as

a very professional lawyer who will make an excellent judge. "His legal knowledge will be a great addition to our bench. His experience as a private attorney is probably as great if not greater than the rest of us in the Supreme Court. I believe we have an excellent candidate in Mr. Cunliffe with experience that is second to none in this island," Cruz said.

Carbullido, in his testimony, stressed that Cunliffe is a fair person.

"There is not a resident on this island who should have any concern that when he appears before Mr. Cunliffe, he will not receive a fair shake. Randy is able to put any personal difference aside, consider the arguments presented, and decide the issue on the merits," Carbullido said.

He added that Cunliffe is his own man and no one can tell him to do something he does not believe is right.

Tenorio hopes next legislature will OK health insurance bill

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

SENATOR Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), who was defeated in the Nov. 6th midterm elections yesterday expressed hopes the 12th Legislature will consider a proposed measure he filed to require employers to provide health insurance coverage for resident workers.

"I only hope that they take another look and see whether it has merits," said Tenorio, ex-

plaining that it is unfair for taxpayers, under the current set-up, to be paying for local U.S. citizens' health needs.

"I am sure they (senators in the 12th Legislature) will find a solution to the problem that exists. Because sooner or later, somebody has to pay the bill.

"Right now, it is us, the taxpayers. And I don't think that is really fair.

"I think everybody has to chip in. It is needed and I would maintain that it

is good for the people, good for business community and good for the rest of the taxpayers," said Tenorio.

Tenorio said the problem on health insurance coverage involving U.S. citizens is also present in the mainland where, according to him, some 44 million Americans do not have coverage.

Tenorio said he has not spoken to any member of the 12th Legislature about his bill.

"I will leave it up to them. I had my chance, my opportunity. Un-

fortunately, time caught up with me. I was not able to push it through. But if I am still in office, I would," he said.

Tenorio's Senate Bill 11-134 seeks to implement mandatory medical insurance for all CNMI employees.

It has remained pending at a Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Reform party stalwart Ramon S. Guerrero, who defeated Tenorio at the polls, has said the bill is anti-business.

Gov't employees clean roadsides

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

YESTERDAY was government's turn to clean the roadsides of Saipan from trash and litter, in what Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio Cabrera said was the island's preparation for the next millennium.

Also, it was one way of promoting Saipan to tourists and visitors, the island being not only a beautiful but also a clean destination, he said.

"We want to clean our island for the next millennium and we want to promote the island to the visitors, through this project," said Cabrera.

The director also encouraged the private sector and residents to do their share in promoting not only Saipan but also the two other islands of Rota and Tinian through clean establishments and surroundings.

Cabrera said the project is a public education campaign as it highlights the importance of cleaning and having a surrounding that is clean.

"We encourage the public to

Continued on page 27

Saipan garments maker sees rough time in Palau

By Malou L. Sayson

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A Koror legislator has openly opposed the establishment of a \$6 million garment factory in Airai and asked the Foreign Investment Board (FIB) to recall the Foreign Investment Approval Certificate for the Pacific Garment owned by Saipan garment magnate Victor Yuen Tak Fong.

In a letter dated last Nov. 9 to FIB Chairman Shallum Etpison, Koror State Legislator Lolita Gibbons enumerated four reasons why the Board should take back the approval certificate it granted to Pacific Garment just recently.

Her arguments include:

- the industry will employ low-wage workers from China who do not contribute to the local economy;

- it will allow non-payment of foreign labor fees because of the sub-contracting of labor through Palauair manpower supply companies;

- there will be minimal payment due to high labor output rates and offshore receipts; and

- it will allow "below full-cost recovery" payment of utility bills, thus adding financial burden to the government.

Gibbons in her demand letter to the FIB also cited the Palau National Committee on Population and Children (CoPopChi) in its latest report summarizing the Foreign Investment Act.

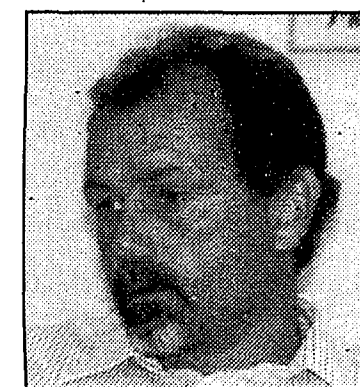
"While allowing controlled foreign investment, the principal aim is to protect Palauans interests by: prohibiting foreign investment in specified fields; restricting investments in other fields; promoting Palauan employment; and ensuring quality of investment.

Gibbons' strong protest against the garment industry is because it will expose Palau, as it has to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to ridicule for improper treatment of workers and will potentially subject the republic to unnecessary scrutiny of international labor watchdogs.

She also cited the Palau National Master Plan's picture of the industry as one offering "unclear" economic benefits and potential for social conflict.

"The Foreign Investment Board's recent action demonstrates lack of responsibility to the people of the republic and in this case, clearly disregarded our national goals and objectives," she said.

Pierce: US retailers group looks at SGMA as 'model'



Richard A. Pierce

THE National Retail Federation, an organization representing more than 1.2 million US retail establishments, is using the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association as international model for socially responsible factories.

NRF recently added a section on its internet web site which mentions SGMA prominently in the section regarding suppliers and labor standards, as well as on the site's home page.

The web site, which can be found at www.sweatshops-retail.org, describes the high standards of NRF and what retailers are doing to make certain they don't buy from sweatshops.

The site links to SGMA's own web site at www.sgma-saipan.org, its Code of Conduct page on the site, and states, "...the SGMA experi-

ence shows how suppliers can work with retailers, non-governmental organizations and the government to improve labor standards compliance."

"The SGMA effort represents one industry-wide attempt by suppliers to work together to improve the treatment of workers throughout an entire industry."

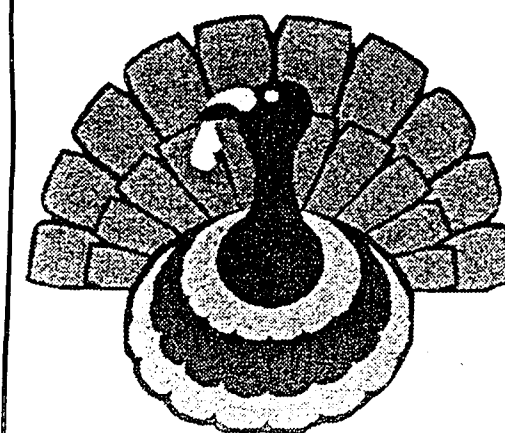
The National Retail Federation is the world's largest re-

tail trade association with membership that comprise all retail formats and channels of distribution including department, specialty, discount, catalogue, internet and independent stores.

NRF members employ more than 20 million people or about 1 in 5 American workers.

"We are so pleased that such a large and important organization as the NRF is recognizing the work that SGMA is doing to improve our garment industry and is now even using us as a model internationally," said SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, in a press release.

"We simply could not ask for a better acknowledgment of the substantial progress that has been made by our 32 member factories here on Saipan."



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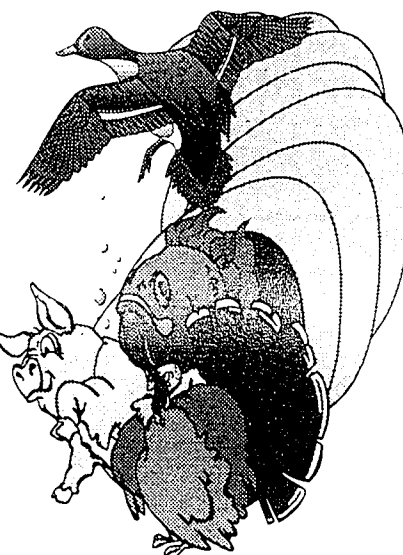
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Courageous Parenting Seminar slated Dec. 8th

GRACE Christian Academy is hosting a seminar called "Courageous Parenting Seminar" December 8, Wednesday, at the GCA auditorium from 6 to 8 p.m. sponsored by safe (sexual education & family education) Inc., a Montana-based non-profit educational organization.

Founded in 1993 by Gary and Laura Lee Swant, Safe Inc. actively promotes the facilitating of parents to take responsibility for their children's sex education.

The Swants have conducted over 350 school and community presentations in the last four years. Gary Swant has written numer-

ous curriculums including teen sexuality today and most recently, "Worth the Wait" parent guide, published articles for professional journals, and taught various graduate courses.

The seminar will include topics such as the parent factor; teen sexuality; high risk groups; advantages of abstinence and others.

The seminar is open to parents and is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

A two-day presentation will be held for GCA Junior and Senior High students called "teen sexuality in the 90s" on December 9th and 10th.



Mt. Carmel School President, Sister Kathleen Sarmiento of Saipan, raises a question during the HIV-prevention conference last week at the Pacific Star Hotel in Guam. About 30 participants from CNMI's education, health and religious sectors joined the event. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Domestic violence shelter up soon

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Housing Corporation is expecting a ground breaking by December for the domestic violence shelter for battered women project.

NMHC Executive Director MaryLou Ada said construction of the shelter shall commence as soon as the architectural and engineering design are completed by the agency's consulting firm of Efrain Camacho.

"I understand that there is a target date of Dec. 15 so we will see the ground breaking ceremony for the domestic shelter which is a beautiful



MaryLou Ada

facility, it's going to be a wonderful sanctuary for families..." said Ada in an interview.

Under the Fiscal Year 1999-2000, the NMHC projects in-

clude the domestic violence shelter, the continuation of the Tinian Community Center, and establishment of pavilions along Rota beaches.

NMHC has sought an increased funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant application for FY '99-2000.

NMHC's request was close to \$1.2 million or a \$36,000 increase from the previous CDBG allocation.

Ada said the shelter will be constructed in a secret place on Saipan as the project is designed to protect the domestic violence victims from harassment.

GCA Christmas presentation set

GRACE Christian Academy's Navy Hill campus will be needing parking attendants again when the elementary department presents "Psalty's Christmas Calamity."

Doors to the first production by the department (previous programs were by the Junior High/High School drama/music team) will open on December 3rd and 4th beginning at 7 p.m. with specials by the coconut jamboree tambourine team and the kindergarten students.

The affair will be the first under the direction of their drama/music teacher, Harmony Castillo.

Tickets may be purchased at the business office or at the door at \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 4 to 18. Children under 4 go in free. Proceeds will go to the cafeteria/library facility.

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Palau president wants misconduct charge probed

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — President Kuniwo Nakamura has asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate allegations of misconduct against Special Prosecutor Michael Rosenthal for purportedly threatening the Fennigans relating to a lease of a unit at the Waterfront Villa.

The president made the request to avoid any undue or unnecessary criticism of the Executive Branch.

"I am extremely concerned about the alleged conduct of Mr. (Michael) Rosenthal in threatening to use the powers of his office for his personal benefit. His actions reflect not only upon the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP), but also the Executive Branch, and upon the national government as a whole," the president said in his letter to Attorney General Jennifer Young.

In a letter, Arnold and Jemima Etpison Finnegan, operators of Waterfront Villa where Rosenthal used to live, said Rosenthal threatened to issue a subpoena so that he could confirm if a lease agreement existed for an apartment that he wanted, and also threatened to terminate his government lease if he could not get what he wanted.

Rosenthal, according to the president, has eventually terminated the lease with Waterfront Villa, but cannot confirm if the SP has already issued a subpoena.

"When we were threatened by Mr. Rosenthal, we felt like criminals, and we felt threatened and intimidated that this man, with the apparent backing of the national government and the laws of the republic, could use his official position and power as Special Prosecutor to obtain our private lease and to harass and coerce us into giving him what he wanted for his personal use," the Fennigans said.

They claimed that the lease was entered into by the republic to allow Rosenthal to reside in the apartment unit and it does not appear that he has any authority to terminate the lease by himself.

Rosenthal is merely the tenant who is a beneficiary of the lease entered into by the national government who has responsibility to pay the rent due under the lease, they added.

"This act of spite exhibited by Mr. Rosenthal solely for the purpose of punishing Waterfront Villa does not appear to be warranted under the lease, and we have concerns about whether or not he had the authority to terminate the government lease without the knowledge of the national government," the Fennigans said.

In light of this, the president has asked Young to determine whether the SP has the legal authority to subpoena any private lease agreements from Waterfront Villa; he has valid reason to threaten to issue a subpoena so that he could see another person's lease; or the termination requires other national government officials to authorize the termination of the lease?

Nakamura further asked the AG to see if there is a possibility that the national government may be liable for a breach of the lease agreement if Rosenthal did not have any individual authority to terminate the lease.

"If these allegations are true, I have serious concerns about the public's potential lack of respect for the Special Prosecutor's office, and the potential for other acts of abuse or misconduct by him," Nakamura pointed out.

He wanted his action "to tell the people of Palau that they may secure in the knowledge that the government is doing everything within its power to investigate the matter and to take appropriate action."

Palau earnings from Compact fund principal is fast depleting

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The next administration may be forced to draw down the Compact Trust Fund (CTF) sitting in banks as earnings from the Fund, called Compact Non-Trust Funds, have been depleting fast.

Based on a status report provided to Palau Horizon, the government has spent nearly a quarter billion dollars, or over 90 percent of the Compact Non-Trust Funds and all investment earnings over the past six years.

Compact Non-Trust Funds are earnings accumulated by the government from its \$75-million CTF, or the principal, through inflation adjustment, according to the inflation rate of the United States (U.S.).

The next administration will not have sufficient revenues to provide basic governmental ser-

vices without drawing down the CTF at a rate far in excess of earnings, Senate Legal Counsel Dorji Roberts said.

"We're now going into the corpus. The earnings of the trust funds should replenish the government operations. We're not supposed to touch the corpus or the principal amount," Sen. Santos Olikong, who has always openly questioned the administration's financial capability, said.

"You can therefore expect that the Compact Trust Fund will be exhausted in a few years unless significant reductions in government expenditures and significant increases in revenues occur," he warned.

Since 1994 when Palau became an independent nation, half of the total general operations revenues is derived from Compact Non-Trust Funds, while the other half is sourced locally.

For US Compact talks

Nakamura reiterates observer status request

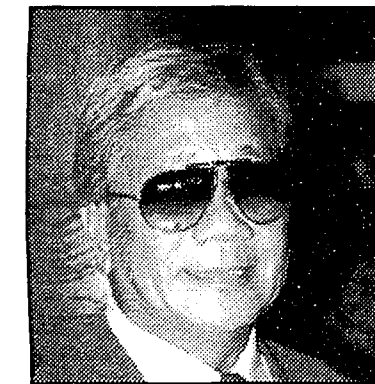
By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — President Kuniwo Nakamura has asked the U.S. State Department to reconsider Palau's request to sit down as observer in the upcoming Compact negotiations between the U.S., the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

This is the second time the president has requested observer status in the discussions of the US with the Freely Associated States (FAS).

The first request was turned down by the U.S. since the talks would delve on its bilateral negotiations with FSM and RMI.

A staff from the Office of the President said the U.S., FSM and RMI met last month to set the date and time of the upcoming meeting, but he cannot confirm when the ne-



Kuniwo Nakamura

gotiations would be held.

However, Palau and the U.S. are scheduled to meet in early December for a consultation meeting regarding Compact of Free Association issues in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In his letter to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Nakamura said Palau is interested in the talks since RMI, FSM and Palau have shared the same perspectives, conditions, goals, interests and status.

"This interest is particularly

keen in light of the potential impact such negotiations may have on Palau's relationships with its neighbors and with the U.S.," the president said.

Nakamura said he had already approached the respective chief executives of the FSM, and the RMI and discussed Palau's desire to be present during those discussions.

He added that he also broached the subject with U.S. Embassy to Palau Charge d' Affaires Allen Nugent and have received expressions of approval if not outright support for Palau to participate as an observer.

Earlier, Presidential Chief of Staff Temmy Shmull said the government of Palau is in no way trying to modify the terms of the compacts signed by the FAS with the United States federal government, but is only trying to raise its concerns over a proposed measure which would impose immigration and residency restrictions on Micronesians.



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Vanuatu MPs boycott vote

PORT VILA (Pacnews) — Vanuatu's Prime Minister Donald Kalpokas and his Government MPs boycotted Parliament yesterday morning to avoid a proposed no confidence vote by opposition parties against the Government.

Parliament was scheduled to begin its second ordinary session for the year at 8:30 am, but Government members stayed away. Opposition Leader, Mokin

Steven, who heads the main Opposition National United Party (NUP), was scheduled to move a motion for a vote of no confidence against Prime Minister Kalpokas and his Government.

It is not clear how the vote would have gone because the Government and Opposition both have 26 seats each in the 52-member Parliament.

Parliament is now scheduled to meet on Thursday when the Op-

position Leader will move his motion.

Prime Minister Kalpokas called a news conference later in the day to appeal to all Members of Parliament not to personalise the issue.

He warned MPs that they must make responsible decisions by taking into account how their actions would affect Vanuatu and its people.

He believes there won't be

a change of Government because both sides command an equal number of seats in Parliament.

However, later in the day Independent MP, Harris Naunun, announced he had defected to the Opposition side.

He told a news conference he had written to the Prime Minister explaining his decision.

Naunun's defection means the Opposition now has a two-seat

majority with 27 seats and could topple the Government in Thursday's no confidence vote.

However, negotiations between all parties are continuing and the Opposition support could change in the next two days.

The Opposition parties are made up of the NUP, Melanesia Progressive Party (MPP) led by Barak Sope, and an Opposition faction of the Union of Moderate Party (UMP).

Taiwan welcomes Nauru president

TAIPEI (Pacnews) — Taiwanese President, Lee Teng-hui greeted visiting Nauru President Rene Harris and his wife with full military honours, including a 21 gun salute in the capital, Taipei.

Lee noted that there has been a consistent friendship between the Republic of China (ROC) and the Republic of Nauru, and expressed hope that Harris' visit will lead to closer co-operation between the two countries and enhancement of the official ties forged in 1980.

The ceremony was held at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

in the heart of Taipei City.

The president said he plans to exchange views with Harris on international relations and matters of mutual concern during his weeklong official visit.

Harris for his part said that his South Pacific island is proud of having an ally like Taiwan.

"Despite being a small country, Nauru is confident of maintaining close co-operative relations with the ROC in the coming century," Harris noted.

He added that while the visit to Taiwan is not his first, it has made a deeper impression on him, as he now feels the ROC is like his

"second home."

After Taiwan was devastated by the Sept. 21 earthquake, Harris launched a two-week fundraising activity, which he called the "Plum Blossom Movement."

Nauru's churches also conducted services to pray for the victims of the largest quake to jolt Taiwan during the century.

In appreciation of his friendship, and his country's contribution to the promotion of cordial bilateral relations, Lee will also bestow a decoration upon Harris during his visit.

New Cook Islands Cabinet meets today

RAROTONGA (Pacnews) — The new Cook Islands Cabinet will meet today for the second time since taking office last week.

According to the new spokesman for the Government, Wilkie Rasmussen, today's Cabinet meeting will try and re-establish contact with the central agencies of Government - the Public Service Commission, the Financial Secretary and the Crown Law Office.

Rasmussen said these agencies used to scrutinise and advise Government on all Cabinet submissions. Their relationship with the previous Government reportedly deteriorated.

"This meeting is a familiarisation process for the new

Government to try and re-establish contact with them (the central agencies)," Rasmussen said.

The Cabinet met for the first time on Friday when it suspended all decisions made by the previous Government of Dr Joe Williams from October 13; the date when the Government lost its majority in the 25-seat House.

Among the decision was Cabinet's approval of \$NZ7,000 (\$US3,641) each for Dr Williams and former Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry for medical treatment in New Zealand. Out of this allocation, \$NZ2,000 (\$US1,040) was reportedly for entertainment allowance and \$NZ3,000 (\$US1,561) for accommodation.

Chinese delegation in Kiribati

TARAWA (Pacnews) — A high-level government delegation from China arrives in the Kiribati capital, Tarawa, today for an official visit.

The Chinese delegation is led by Vice Minister Sun Guangxiang and he's expected to make his first call on Kiribati's Vice President Tewareka Tentoa and the Foreign Affairs Secretary David Yee Ting.

Sun will also meet with other

government ministers and senior officials during his three-day visit.

The Chinese Vice Minister and the Kiribati Finance Minister Beniamina Tinga will sign an agreement for economic and technical co-operation between the two countries.

The Chinese officials will also discuss the proposed national sports centre China has agreed to build.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (left) link arms with former Presidents Corazon Aquino (center) and Fidel Ramos (right) during a function at the Malacanang palace in Manila Monday.

Worsening RP deficit does not worry IMF

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The International Monetary Fund said Monday it is not unduly concerned by the Philippines' widening 1999 budget deficit, which has already exceeded the full-year target, but revenues must be improved in 2000.

The IMF's representative in Manila, Sean Nolan, said the Fund is more concerned about next year's fiscal outlook, particularly the government's efforts to improve tax revenues, which have fallen far short of targets.

The government posted a budget deficit of 96.804 billion pesos (\$2.4 billion) in the first 10 months of 1999, higher than the projected 83.296 billion pesos (\$2.08 billion) for the period, and well over its full-year target of 85.3 billion pesos (\$2.13 bil-

lion) largely because of weak tax and customs revenues.

While the IMF — at least publicly — appears unruffled, the Philippines' deteriorating fiscal position is rattling the markets, weighing on the peso and causing short-term interest rates to nudge higher in recent weeks.

The IMF's deputy-director for research, Fleming Larsen, said the Philippines is not out of kilter with other economies in the region which are also running large budget deficits. "This is perfectly normal in a crisis situation," said Larsen, referring to the Philippines' efforts to spur a recovery through higher public spending.

Fiscal targets are among several economic goals the IMF set with the Philippines in return for a \$1.4 billion loan.

Rebel-fighting RP general eyed for East Timor post

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines is likely to nominate an army general who fought Communist rebels as its top candidate to head the U.N. peacekeeping force that will help rebuild East Timor, an official said Monday.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked the Philippines and Malaysia to provide the names of possible candidates to head the peacekeeping force, to be known as the U.N. Transitional Authority in East Timor, which will replace the Australian-led international force currently deployed there.

Philippine Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said Maj. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, commander of the southern Luzon region, is the

top choice and most senior among the three generals picked by the military.

Mercado will submit the names of the three generals to President Joseph Estrada, who will submit the names to the United Nations.

Pro-Indonesia militias, backed by the Indonesian military, went on a rampage in East Timor following the territory's overwhelming vote for independence on Aug. 30.

Philippine officials said Indonesia wants a military officer from a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to lead the force. Indonesia and the Philippines are founding members of the 10-member grouping.

A candidate from the Philippines is also preferred be-

cause it, like East Timor, is predominantly Roman Catholic, officials said.

As head of the military's Southern Luzon Command, Villanueva has jurisdiction over an area where Communist rebels are particularly active. The military presence in the mountainous region has been strengthened in recent months because of a series of rebel attacks.

Mercado said the two other possible candidates, major generals Jaime de los Santos and Gregorio Camiling, are also veteran field commanders involved in anti-Communist and anti-Muslim insurgency campaigns.

The Philippines has contributed nearly 600 soldiers to the present Australian-led force.

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Three men struggle to get past a police barricade during a crowd dispersal exercise at Manila's Rizal Park Monday, as part of security preparations for the coming 3rd ASEAN informal summit to be held in Manila later this week. AP

China urges RP to remove navy ship

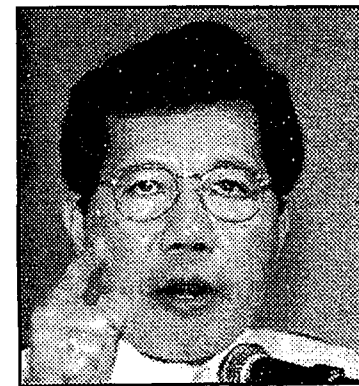
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Chinese official urged the Philippines Monday to comply with a promise to remove a stranded navy ship from a disputed shoal, possibly before the visit this week of Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji.

Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, however, said he could not guarantee that the ship can be removed from Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea by Friday, Zhu's expected arrival.

Zhu is attending a meeting between China, Japan and South Korea and leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Sunday. He will also make a state visit to the Philippines.

China has urged the Philippines to immediately remove the ship from the shoal, which is claimed by both Manila and Beijing, to avoid any misunderstandings. President Joseph Estrada has ordered authorities to remove the ship as quickly as possible.

"President Estrada committed that the ship will be extricated. We believe him that he will take action before our prime minister comes," Chinese Embassy political coun-



Orlando Mercado

cilor Sun Heping said.

Philippine officials said the vessel, a World War II-era landing ship, ran aground on the shoal on Nov. 3 after it developed mechanical trouble while trying to rescue distressed fishermen in the area.

They said crewmen deliberately beached the ship to prevent it from sinking and the grounding was not a prelude to a plan to occupy the shoal.

Mercado said the removal requires a high tide to lift the ship from the coral outcrop, repair of the ship's hull to prevent it from sinking, and the arrival of another vessel to tow away the stranded ship.

"These are the basic considerations and not anybody's visit," Mercado said.

Mercado has reiterated that the shoal lies within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone and Manila has the right to deploy its military vessels there to patrol the area and safeguard its resources.

China, however, says the area is Chinese territory and has been a Chinese fishing ground for about 1,000 years.

The rock outcrop, surrounded by rich fishing grounds, lies about 215 kilometers (130 miles) off the western Philippine province of Zambales.

China and the Philippines, along with four other countries, also have conflicting claims in the Spratlys, a chain of islands, atolls and reefs in the South China Sea believed to be rich in oil and gas.

China, Malaysia and Vietnam have all recently built or enlarged structures on the islands to reinforce their territorial claims.

The Spratlys straddle some of the world's busiest shipping routes.

The territorial disputes are expected to dominate the summit of ASEAN leaders and their meeting with China, South Korea and Japan.

Gov't won't allow treasury bills to go beyond 9%

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine government will not allow the yield on benchmark 91-day treasury bills to exceed 9 percent, an official said Monday. Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said the government will reject bids from banks at future treasury bill auctions that would push the yield over 9 percent.

At the government's weekly securities auction Monday, the 91-day yield climbed to 8.894 percent, from 8.875 percent last week.

Yields have been creeping higher in recent weeks because of a weaker peso and concerns over the widening 1999 budget deficit, which is already above its full-year target.

The 91-day yield, used by banks to set their lending rates, has not been over 9 percent since June 21, when it reached 9.067 percent.

Espiritu said the peso should be stronger than it is because the country's sound fundamentals "don't justify the deterioration" in the currency.

The dollar closed at 40.725 pesos Monday, up from 40.475 pesos at Friday's close. Dealers said offshore demand for dollars was heavy due to worries over the budget deficit, which has been rattling the market in recent weeks and keeping the dollar well above the key level of 40 pesos.

McCain bats for tutoring

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) — Republican presidential contender John McCain said Monday that he wants to create a pool of military veterans, retirees and others who would tutor students in math, science and English.

"You really need to have a lot more people helping kids get their education," McCain, a U.S. senator, said while campaigning in his home state.

Tutors can help reinforce the message that education is important and give students the support they need to succeed, McCain said. If tutors aren't available in some neighborhoods, the Internet may be able to link them with students, he said.

"These children deserve personal attention to help them meet their full academic potential," McCain said. "With the Internet, we can make that happen."

McCain called on school districts and state education officials to start building lists of tutors, but also said the federal government should recruit people who are leaving the military or receiving veteran's benefits to participate. He said there are 26 million veterans and 40 million retirees in the United States from which to draw.

Arizona Superintendent of Public Schools Lisa Graham Keegan, a McCain supporter, said the proposal would combine technology and volunteerism to help students in need.

"I would welcome the opportunity to build a clearinghouse of the best, brightest and most enthusiastic retirees from all

walks of life to help our struggling students," she said.

During the trip, McCain met with about 700 supporters at Buena High School in Sierra Vista and a smaller group during a luncheon in Tucson. He fielded questions on Social Security, the environment, foreign policy, illegal immigration and more.

McCain also reiterated his intention to release his medical records, including more than 350 pages of reports on the injuries he suffered as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

McCain said he had planned to release the records earlier, but has had difficulty finding all of them because of his extensive medical history. The records will not include psychiatric counseling reports because McCain said he did not receive any after his release. "The thing about this campaign is we do everything full disclosure," he said.

Monday's trip to southern Arizona followed the state's first debate among the GOP presidential candidates. Front-runner George W. Bush did not attend, but he and McCain are scheduled to share the stage in New Hampshire on Dec. 2.

Bush is scheduled to attend a Dec. 6 debate in Arizona, but McCain will not be there. McCain said Monday that his campaign was trying to arrange another Arizona debate for early next year that all of the GOP candidates can attend.

"We need to give the voters of this state an opportunity to judge all of us — side by side," McCain said in a statement.



Texas A&M Corp. of Cadets, serving as honorary pallbearers, salute the casket of fellow student Bryan McClain at the Alamo Heights United Methodist church in San Antonio, Monday afternoon. McClain died Thursday in College Station, Texas, when the school's bonfire under construction collapsed. AP

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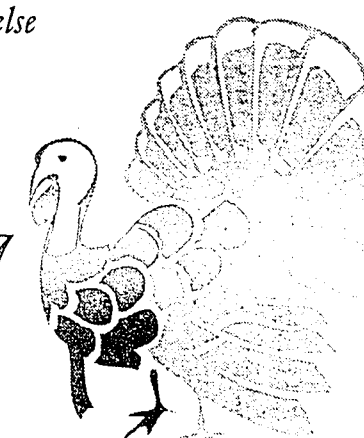
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Carmen Marie Indalecio, 12th Grade, Marianas High School-Performing Arts/Dance-Vocals
Maximo S. Cabrera, 12th Grade, Marianas High School-Visual Arts
Estelle Holschneider, 12th Grade, Marianas Baptist Academy-Literary Arts
Walter Mangiona, 12th Grade, Rota High School-Traditional Arts
Shelwyn D.L.C. Taisacan, 12th Grade, Rota High School-Traditional Arts
Jamie Ogo, 12th Grade, Rota High School-Literary Arts
NMI History Class, Tinian High School-Traditional Arts

*SECOND PLACE

Luis John Castro, 11th Grade, Marianas High School-Performing Arts/Tel-Com
Amanda P. Borja, 11th Grade, Mount Carmel School-Performing Arts/Theatre-Drama
Jessielyn Jurado, 12th Grade, Marianas High School-Performing Arts/Dance-Vocals
Philip Q. Vilaga, 12th Grade, Marianas High School-Visual Arts
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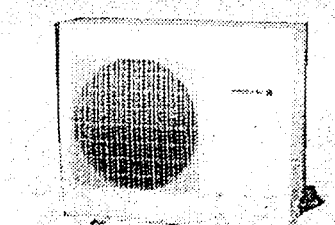
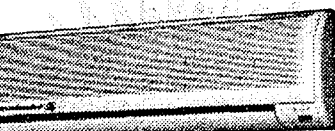
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Motorist shoots himself dead after road accident

OJAI, Calif. (AP) — Standing near the bodies of two friends killed when he lost control of a pickup truck and sent it over a cliff, a man held a gun to his head, warned a forest ranger away and committed suicide.

Gary Sears, 37, shot himself in the head 10 feet away from the wreckage, Ventura County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Lorenzen said. Alcohol was believed to be a factor in

the Saturday night crash, he said.

Sears lost control of a friend's pickup, sending it off a 50 foot cliff along Highway 33.

The impact killed Debra Lynch, 37, and Judy Villegas, 26, who were riding in the back seat of the extended cab pickup. They weren't wearing seat belts. The husband of one of the women was critically hurt.

After the crash, Sears got out of the truck, suffering two broken ribs.

A ranger saw Sears holding a weapon to his head, investigators said. Sears told the unarmed ranger to get away, so the ranger left and called for help, deputies said.

Sears' body, with a gun shot to the head, was found a short time later, near the wrecked truck containing the bodies of his friends.

Sitter pleads guilty in toddler's death

BOSTON (AP) — A 16-year-old boy pleaded guilty to manslaughter Monday in the beating death of a toddler he was baby-sitting.

Akeem Jackson of the city's Dorchester neighborhood was baby-sitting Raheem Dixon, who lived in the same housing complex, when the 2-year, 11-month-old boy was severely beaten, prosecutors said.

Raheem suffered lacerations of the liver, kidneys and small intestine and bled to death,

said Assistant District Attorney Josh Wall.

Jackson lived with his grandmother in an apartment adjacent to Raheem's, and had been baby-sitting the boy for several weeks, prosecutors said.

Jackson, who had been charged with first-degree murder as an adult, was scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 7.

Prosecutors recommended a 10- to 12-year state prison sentence.

Gore questions his rival's commitment

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — Vice President Al Gore, focusing squarely on his party's political base, told Democratic activists Monday that "my passions" are rooted in the party's core themes.

Meanwhile, he questioned his rival's commitment, urging "those who care about Democratic values" to look closely at proposals offered by former Sen. Bill Bradley on issues ranging from schools to health care.

"I feel passionately about these issues," said Gore. From abortion rights to more money for schools to popular health programs, Gore left few traditional Democratic issues untouched.

Indeed, Gore is aiming at key Democratic constituencies in his latest campaign swing. He went to a high school to tout education proposals with students and local activists, then headed to a union hall to firm up labor backing and to a senior citizens center.

Although he's from a southern state where unions aren't popular, Gore touted his pro-labor record to about 150 union activists. "I've had a 23-year record of fighting for working families," said Gore. "I have it in my heart to take your ideas and values and hopes to the White House."

Meeting with a group of older people, he pledged, "Medicare and Social Security have to be saved first."

Gore also was headed for Chicago and a fund-raiser expected to net up to \$700,000 for the Democratic National Committee from a group of big givers spending up to \$25,000 each to meet with Gore at a private home.

He also planned to court environmentalists later in the swing, heading to western Iowa on Tuesday.

Bradley is mounting a chal-



Al Gore



Bill Bradley

lenge for the Democratic nomination, but most polls have shown Gore with an edge in Iowa's leadoff caucuses. The caucuses are heavily controlled by party activists, with little history of involvement by independent voters.

Bradley is running better in New Hampshire and other states where independent voters have a stronger role. Gore aides said he was trying to solidify his party ties to hold off any Bradley challenge in Iowa's caucuses.

To that end, Gore filled his speeches with sharply criticism of the "breath-takingly reckless" congressional Republicans and GOP presidential rivals who he said cater to religious conservatives.

"If you want a Supreme Court majority for most of your adult life that is in keeping with the philosophy of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, that is what is at stake in this election," Gore told high school students gathered for a raucous rally.

Gore left the podium and prowled the floor, occasionally shouting out his message. His latest swing was through south-east Iowa, one of the most reliably Democratic sections of the state. To underscore his ties to the party establishment, Gore

was traveling with a retinue of local officials ranging from a congressman to sheriffs to union leaders.

Meeting with reporters, he continued a running feud with Bradley on health care and a long list of other issues, suggesting that Bradley can't be trusted to adhere to traditional Democratic values.

"I would urge those who care about Democratic policies and who care about the country to look very closely" at what Bradley has proposed, he said.

Bradley has offered a far more expansive — and expensive — health care proposal and insisted over the weekend he is winning the debate.

"I don't think there are very many people who agree with that assessment," said Gore. "I think his health care proposal is causing him serious problems. I think they are scrambling on it right now because it's unraveling before their eyes."

Bradley aides fired back that Gore is the one misleading voters on health care.

"The only thing unraveling is Al Gore's commitment to health care for all," Bradley aide Jim Farrell said. "He's offered a timid plan that leaves tens of millions uninsured."

UMass students rally

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — About 300 people chanted, marched and linked hands around the campus pond at the University of Massachusetts on Monday to voice concern about a series of assaults in that area.

"I'm probably as scared as I possibly could be," said student Elisabeth Lessard, 21. "Part of me is upset at what's been going on, but the other part of me is happy that the reaction from students is so great. I would never guess a big campus like this would bond like this."

The students chanted anti-violence slogans and carried signs saying "Protect Our Women" and "Too Little, Too Late" — a refer-

ence to the views of some students that administrators have not reacted strongly enough.

Four women have been assaulted near the pond since Nov. 2. Two were raped, including one in mid-afternoon in bushes near the student union. Authorities say three of the attacks could be related.

Security patrols have been bolstered at the campus, which has about 18,000 undergraduates.

The students at the rally demanded that more information be made public about the attacks. They said they want a 24-hour escort service and more security in libraries, dormitories and parking lots.



Reform Party presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan laughs during his speech on foreign policy at the CATO Institute in Washington, Monday. Buchanan rejected the isolationist label pinned on him by rivals for the presidency and said he supports opening a dialogue with Iran and Iraq.

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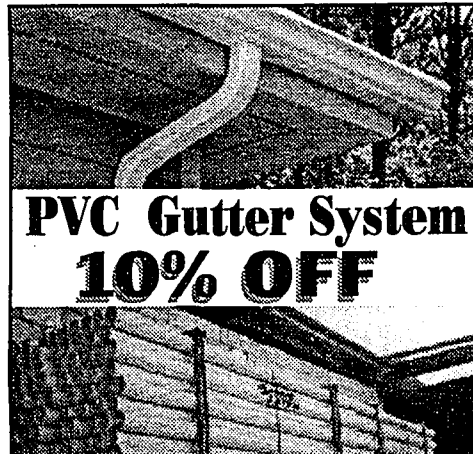
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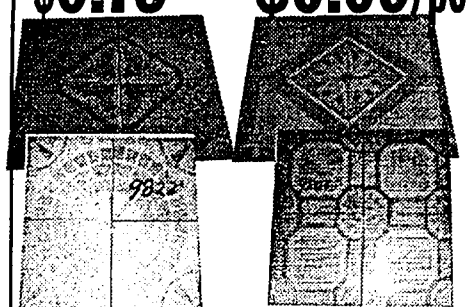
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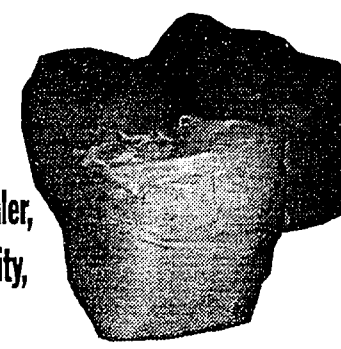
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Sen. Ted Kennedy and his wife Vicki pray at the grave of his assassinated brother, Robert Kennedy, at Arlington National Cemetery, Monday in Washington. The Senator also visited the tomb of his brother, President John Kennedy, on the 36th anniversary of his assassination.

US Rep. gives gov't a good Y2K rating

WASHINGTON (AP)—Aside from a few gnawing doubts in such areas as food stamp programs and foreign airports, the government is ready for Y2K, lawmakers said Monday. Most important now, they said, is to avoid public panic.

Rep. Stephen Horn, R-Calif., who closely follows the Y2K computer problem, said air traffic control systems are among those with work still to be done, but he emphasized that flying will be safe on Jan. 1. The Federal Aviation Administration said all its systems are fully Y2K-compliant.

Horn, who gave failing grades to many federal agencies when he issued his first Y2K "report card" in July 1996, gave the government an overall "B+" in his last report before the millennium change.

"We have come a long way since we began examining this enormous technological challenge four years ago," Horn said at a news conference.

He said that of 24 major fed-



Stephen Horn

eral agencies he has tracked, 12 have completed preparations and eight have fixed their computers but still lack testing.

Four departments—Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice and Treasury—still need to convert some crucial systems, and Horn singled out Justice for being behind. "The department does have a contingency plan," he said, "but the plan is worthless because it has not been tested."

Stephen Colgate, Justice's Y2K coordinator, said the unfinished work includes getting new equipment to FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration offices abroad and will not affect department operations or services to citizens. "It's just a few work stations in some difficult places to get to," he said. At any rate, he said, the equipment would be in place soon.

Many older computers only read the last two digits in a year. If not converted, they could mistake the year 2000, or "00," for 1900, possibly leading to malfunctions and failures.

The report also found that of 43 federal programs deemed to have high impact on Americans, doubts remain about 18, including child nutrition, food safety inspection, food stamps, low-income energy assistance, Medicaid, public housing and air traffic control. Many of those programs are run by state or local governments which have demonstrated varying levels of effort to solve the Y2K problem.

House has new chaplain

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Rev. Charles Wright has been chosen as the House's new chaplain, taking over for the retiring James D. Ford.

Speaker Dennis Hastert's office said Wright, a Presbyterian minister, has served pastorates in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Washington.

"I look forward to serving the members and their families with a caring, sensitive heart and to help them bear the loneliness of leadership; to be aware of the needs and to encourage those in staff and other support positions; and to build bridges of understanding and friendship among members," Wright said in a written statement.

Ford, a Lutheran, became the

Joel Willemssen, the chief Y2K expert for the General Accounting Office, the investigative wing of Congress, said the FAA is still testing some air traffic control integration systems. He also said U.S. experts are not certain about Y2K preparations of some foreign governments, but that safety is not a problem.

Horn said he will fly from Los Angeles to Washington on the last day of the year, and Rep. Constance Morella, R-Md., stressed that no plane will fly under unsafe conditions. "No one has to worry about getting on a plane domestically," Morella said.

FAA spokesman Paul Takemoto said all aviation systems, including air traffic control, were Y2K-compliant as of June 30 and have since done extensive end-to-end testing. "Frankly, we are ready," Takemoto said.

Morella, another leading Y2K expert, said all vital federal systems will be fine on Jan. 1. Some inconvenience related to computer problems may be experienced, she said, but "my greatest concern is that people will panic."

She repeated the advice of the White House Y2K office that people should take simple precautions, as they would for a storm, but shouldn't take such actions as drawing large sums from their banks.

Horn agreed. "The stupidest thing they can do is take money out of the bank," he said, because thieves will be targeting ATM machines or homes where they believe large amounts of cash are stashed.

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., said computer systems involved in health and safety will be free of computer bugs. But he worries that congressional offices will be besieged by people, whose government salary or benefits checks arrive a day late and convince them there's been a Y2K breakdown.

Judge OKs CIA's spending secrecy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge on Monday ruled that the Clinton administration doesn't have to disclose what it spends on intelligence activities, dismissing a lawsuit by a group seeking publication of the total.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan sided with CIA Director George Tenet, who had refused to publicize the total on national security grounds.

Those seeking the declassification of the spending figure argued that President Clinton had previously supported disclosure of the spending levels, for 1997 and 1998 — \$26.6 billion and \$26.7 billion, respectively.

"The fact that the president encouraged release of similar information in the earlier years is not determinative here," Hogan said in granting the government's motion for dismissal of the lawsuit brought by the Federation of American Scientists.

"The decision deprives the public of the most basic form of accountability," said Steven

Aftergood, director of the federation's government secrecy project. "But we are confident that sooner or later, this information will be declassified."

He said no decision had been made on whether to appeal. The Justice Department told a hearing this month that while Clinton had earlier supported releasing the spending figures, Tenet had persuaded him otherwise, beginning with the fiscal 1999 budget.

The intelligence budget, sometimes called "black" spending by Congress, is scattered and fragmented through dozens of defense and other programs in the federal budget to hide them from public scrutiny.

The Senate late last week approved a bill authorizing spending on these programs for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Sources close to the legislation said that the total figure had grown from the \$26.7 billion the government acknowledged in 1998 to about \$29.5 billion.

The Federation of American Scientists went to court to try to obtain the 1999 figures after the administration denied their Freedom of Information Act request seeking the number.

Hogan, in his ruling, said that while the president clearly has the authority to release the figures on his own, Clinton "never released or ordered the release of" the most recent figures for intelligence spending — neither his request to Congress nor the total appropriated.

CIA Director Tenet had argued in court papers that since the 1997 and 1998 levels were already known, publishing more recent figures would telegraph too much information about possible changes in spending patterns.

"The court must defer to ... Tenet's decision that release of a third consecutive year, amidst the information already publicly available, provides too much trend information and too great a basis for comparison and analysis for our adversaries," the judge wrote.

Detroit mobilizes for child safety

DETROIT (AP)—The city is enlisting parents and other volunteers to patrol the streets and escort youngsters to and from class after eight girls were raped since the start of the school year.

Mayor Dennis Archer planned a TV address Monday night to discuss the Safe Streets Initiative. He said about 300,000 letters were mailed to parents, volunteers and city and school employees asking for help.

Eight girls have been raped on the way to or from school. Twenty-six girls have also reported attempts to abduct them, though police said they had substantiated only three of those cases.

The mayor wants parents and guardians to walk or drive children to and from school. When adults cannot escort their children, the kids would meet at designated places and walk together.

People in the neighborhoods around schools will be asked to turn on their porch lights and stand outside and keep watch.

City vehicles, volunteers, bus drivers, cab drivers, and corporate utility vehicles also will start patrolling the streets.

And additional police officers have been assigned to each school, with patrols increased at the beginning and end of the school day.

Police, meanwhile, have released drawings of two men sought in connection with at least some of the rapes.

Fear among many schoolgirls on their way home was evident Monday.

One pre-teen girl's scolding younger students home from Scripps Elementary refused to talk to a reporter and quickly led them away.

"Come on, let's go," she urged.

At Butzel Middle School, 13-year-old Priscilla Anderson joined several other neighborhood girls for their short walk home.

"Mama told me to look behind me every day, to never walk with my head down and to watch out," Priscilla said. "It's like we always have to watch over our shoulder."

She said she isn't satisfied with what the city has done to protect her and her friends. "They should have patrol cars on every corner," she said.

Police in Denver have warned parents because of two attempted abductions of girls this month. And authorities in the Atlanta suburb of Norcross reported that two teen-age girls have been raped and abducted there this year.

Rats leave SC food banks scrambling

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Just days before Thanksgiving, food banks across South Carolina scrambled Monday to replace 2 million pounds of canned pork and other items after rats' nests were found in a warehouse where the stuff was stored.

The U.S. Agriculture Department has recalled the government surplus food, but some of it had already been distributed through county programs and five large food banks. Families were told to destroy any USDA-labeled food they got through a food bank.

The 1,000 tons of surplus food was to be distributed to churches, soup kitchens, shelters, orphanages and other agencies across

the state.

"It simply puts pressure on us for the holidays as to whether we're going to have enough food," said Archie McRee, director of the Low Country Food Bank.

A radio station broadcast from the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia, urging people to bring food and cash. A local real estate developer pledged \$16,000 to help buy replacement items.

The recalled food came from the CRK Enterprises warehouse in Columbia, which contains rows and stacks of black-eyed peas, orange juice, baking mix, cereal, rice and pork.

USDA inspectors imposed a quarantine last Tuesday after finding rats'

nests and droppings at the warehouse. Canned items were affected because of fears that droppings could contaminate the contents if the cans were not washed properly.

Denise Holland, director of the Harvest Hope Food Bank, wondered why it took three days for the state to warn of the problems during the agency's busiest time of year. Activity at the food bank increases 40 percent in November and December, Ms. Holland said.

"That is the travesty of this," she said.

Jerry Adams, a spokesman for the state Department of Social Services, said the food banks were told as soon as the agency learned of the problem.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Provisions of 2 CMC 4141 et seq, the **PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987**, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the **Division of Public Lands (Division)**, under the **Department of Lands and Natural Resources**, hereby gives notice that the Division intends to enter into an exchange agreement involving the parcels of land described below. Concerned persons may request a hearing on any proposed exchange by contacting the **Division of Public Lands** on or by December 6, 1999. If so requested, hearing on the transactions listed below will be scheduled on December 9, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the **Division of Public Lands**.

Public Purpose	- LAND EXCHANGE
Private Land	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 018 B 132-R/W, located in Achugao, containing an area of 1,656 square meters.
Public Land	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 053 A 107, located in Marpi, containing an area of 5,197 square meters.
	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 144 E 02, located in Capitol Hill, containing an area of 2,030 square meters.

NUTISIAN PUBLIKO

Sigon gi probenshon siha gi 2 CMC 4141 et seq i **PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987**. (sino i tulaikan tano para proposhon publiko na akton 1987) si magalhe as Pedro P. Tenorio yan i segundo magalhe as Jesus R. Sablan, ginin i **Division of Public Lands (Division)**, gi pa'pa'i **Department of Lands and Natural Resources**, ma intenciona humalom gi kontratan atulaikan tano ni ha afekta i pedason tano siha ni mamadeskribi gi sampapa. Man interesante siha na petsona sina mamamaisen inekungok put mascha manu/hafa na priniponi put tulaikan tano. A'agang i **Division of Public Lands** antes pat osino gi December 6, 1999. Yanggen guaha inekungok marikuasta, i inekungok siempre para i sigiente siha na transakshon i fan makondakta gi December 9, 1999, gi oran alas 9:00 gi eggan gi halom i **Kuaiton i Konfrensian i Division of Public Lands**.

PROPOSITON PUBLIKO	- LAND EXCHANGE
TANO PRIBATE	- Sitio Numiru 08 B 132-R/W, giya Achugao, ya ha konsisite 1,656 metro kuadrao na area.
TANO PUBLIKO	- Sitio Numiro 053 A 107, giya Achugao, ya ha konsisite 5,197 metro kuadrao na area.
	- Sitio Numiru 144 E 02, giya Capitol Hill, ya ha konsisite 2,030 metro kuadrao na area

ARONGORONGOL TOW LAP

Reel ayleewal me bwangil 2 CMC 4141 et seq. **PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987**, nge **Division of Public Lands** e arongar towlap, lga e mangily ebwe liliwelo faluw lye e toolong faluw kka faa. Aramasye e tipali nge emmwel ebwe tingor ebwe yoor hearing, reel inaanwo liliweli falaw faa Aramasye e tinali nge emmwel ye re tinali reel kkanas faluw, nge rebwe aghuleey ngali **Division of Public Lands**, under the **Department of Lands and Natural Resources**, wool me ngare mmwal December 6, 1999. Ngare eyoor tingor bwe ebwe yoor hearing, nge rebwe ayoor reel tali faluw kka faa, nge rebwe tooto wool December 9, 1999, otol ye 9:00 a.m. mellol **Division of Public Lands Conference Room**.

AMMWELEER TOW LAP	- LAND EXCHANGE
LU'W PRIBET	- Saipan Tract/Lot Numuro 018 B 132-R/W, Achugao, lalpal bwuley yeel nge 1,656 square meters.
FALAWEEER TOW LAP	- Saipan Tract/Lot Numuro 053 A 107 Marpi, lalpal bwuley yeel nge 5,197 square meters.
	- Saipan Tract/Lot Numuro 144 E 03, Capitol Hill, lalpal bwuley yeel nge 2,030 square meters.



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Deadline to submit application/resume is November 26, 1999

PUBLIC NOTICE

11/24/99

PURSUANT TO 1 CMC §910, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO, LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS WILL COMMENCE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1999 AT 2:00 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ROTA COURT HOUSE IN ROTA.

THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE FROM DAY TO DAY UNTIL COMPLETED AND AS SUCH, THE MEETING WILL BE RECONVENED THE FOLLOWING DAY AND/OR ON MONDAY, AT A TIME TO BE DETERMINED, AT THE SAME PLACE, SHOULD THE BOARD CALL A RECESS OF THIS MEETING.

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call
2. Report of the Director
 - (a) Finance Report
 - (b) Hearing Officer - Status
 - (c) Managaha Island - Status
3. Public Comments
 - (a) Unfinished Business
 - (i) Bird Island Development Inc. - Request to waive certain lease requirements
 - (ii) Suvosa Corporation - Request for 15-year lease extension
 - (iii) Triple J - Request for waiver of 3% gross revenue
 - (iv) Bishop of Guam (San Vicente Church) - Request for 15-year lease extension
 - (b) New Business
 - (i) Public Land Lease
 - (j) Triple J - Estoppel Certificate
 - (ii) Land Exchange/Land Problem Issues
 - (a) Pending
 - (i) Maria D. Agnon
 - (ii) Antonio B. Cabrera
 - (iii) Joaquin C. Duenas
 - (iv) Nicolas C. Sablan
 - (v) Lucy T. Sablan
 - (vi) J.C. Tenorio
 - (vii) Estanislao T. Torres
 - (b) Land Claim
 - (i) Soledad D.L.C. Babauta
 - (ii) Thomas D.L.G. Blas
 4. Homestead Issues
 - (a) Deeds
 - (i) Melvin O. Faisao - Village Homestead Recipient
 - (b) Common Law Issues
 - (i) Designated Village Homestead Sites
 - (ii) Titiyan Village Homestead - Status
 5. Miscellaneous
 6. Adjournment

/s/MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ

Chairman, BPL

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Lands & Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Management

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM APPEALS BOARD

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Coastal Resources Management Office are hereby giving notice that a meeting of the CRM Appeals Board will be held on Monday, November 29, 1999, 1:30 pm at the CRMO conference room, 2nd floor Morgen Building in San Jose, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MGM/DIORVA GARMENT FACILITY
- III. RETAINING WALL - REGINA DLG. CUSHNIE
- IV. ADJOURNMENT

/s/PETER J. BARLAS
Acting Director
Coastal Resources Management

Suits plague Microsoft

NEW YORK (AP) — A growing wave of private lawsuits against Microsoft Corp. suddenly has the company fighting on several legal fronts at once, raising the stakes in its antitrust battle in Washington and intensifying pressure on Microsoft

to settle with the Justice Department. At least seven suits, including one filed Monday in a state court in San Francisco, have been filed on behalf of computer users in response to a judge's Nov. 5 finding that

Microsoft is a software monopolist that routinely bullies high-tech rivals. The finding provided grist for allegations by computer users that Microsoft's monopoly gave it substantial leeway to overcharge for its Windows software program.

Microsoft is viewed as rich enough and legally savvy enough to weather a continued onslaught of private actions, which may be consolidated any way into a federal suit. Among the world's most profitable companies, Microsoft is sitting on a cash hoard of about \$19 billion and has no debt.

But legal experts say the state and federal lawsuits, filed so far in Alabama, California, Louisiana and New York, could create a short-term coordination challenge at Microsoft as it tries to ensure its legal arguments and trial maneuvers are consistent across different jurisdictions.

Moreover, the suits are likely to reinforce pressure on the software giant to reach an out-of-court settlement with the Justice Department, particularly after the judge in the trial appointed a mediator last Friday to oversee voluntary negotiations. A settlement would make it far more difficult for private plaintiffs to use the judge's findings to build a foundation for a case against Microsoft.

"As more of these lawsuits are filed, you have to assume that Microsoft will look for some way to try to prevent the trial from going to conclusion," said Richard Thomas Delamarter, an expert on corporate monopolies who teaches antitrust history and technology at Yale University.

"These private cases only add to the pressure."

Indeed, the appointment of a mediator and a prospect for a Microsoft settlement offset any concern by investors on Monday that Microsoft may get swamped by lawsuits. The company's stock was sharply higher, rising more than 4 percent, or by \$3.81 1/4 at \$89.81 1/4, as of the 4 p.m. EST close of trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

So far, consumers have filed three cases in San Francisco; one in Orange County, Calif.; and one each in New York; New Orleans and Birmingham, Ala. They all seek class-action status, potentially on behalf of millions of consumers.

The suits in Alabama and Louisiana are federal cases, while the ones in New York and California are in state courts. New York and California are among more than a dozen states that make it easier for consumers to sue for allegedly overcharging for products.

Regardless of the eventual outcome of the antitrust case, the broadened legal assault could compel Microsoft to tone down its aggressive behavior in the computer industry.

Consider the long-running antitrust case against International Business Machines Corp., another famous computer industry monopoly. IBM had to defend itself not only against a Justice Department suit, but also against competitors and private individuals whom the government's action prompted to file similar complaints.

Although the government eventually dropped its case in 1982, and although most of the private lawsuits were decided in IBM's favor, the combined weight of the litigation compelled IBM to play it safe in the computer business, allowing rivals to move in on the company's long-held markets and leading to a protracted decline at the world's largest computer company.

"You'll end up with a better behaved Microsoft," said Delamarter, also the author of "Big Blue: IBM's Use and Abuse of Power." "It's the analogy — you drive more carefully when you have a police car behind you."

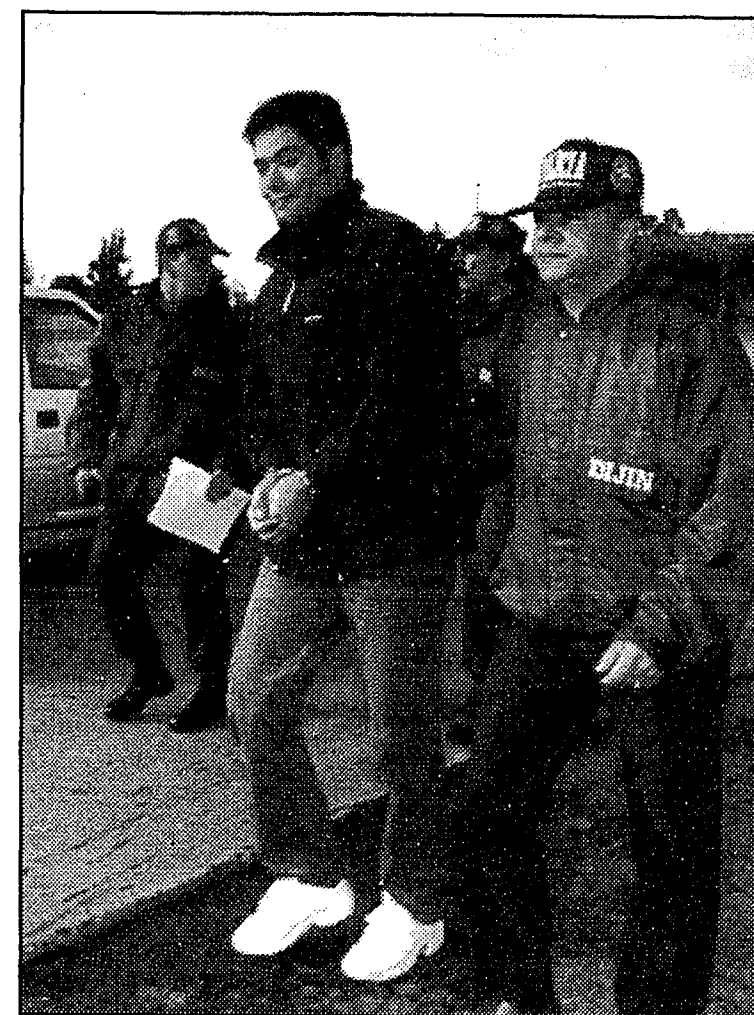
The reverberations in the Microsoft case, though, may take some time to reach Wall Street. Even though the private lawsuits may seek billions of dollars in damages to compensate for Microsoft's alleged overcharges, investors for the time being remain focused on the company's robust profits.

"The stock is in the midst of a bull market," said Brian Belski, chief investment strategist at George K. Baum & Co., in Kansas City, Mo. "It's just too much of a risk not to own the stock."



People's Assembly organizer Ace Saturay (CQ) leads a protest in front of Seattle City Hall Monday. The People's Assembly protested their denial of a permit to rally in downtown Seattle during the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting Nov. 29th. AP

US extradites drug lord



Accused heroin trafficker Jaime Orlando Lara is escorted onto a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency plane headed for Florida on Sunday in Bogota, Colombia. The handover of Lara to the D.E.A. is the first time in nearly a decade that Colombia has turned over one of its nationals to stand trial in the U.S. AP

BOGOTA (Reuters) — Colombia's extradition of a suspected heroin smuggler to the United States on Sunday has raised expectations that Washington will revive a long-standing bid to put the country's undisputed cocaine kings, the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers, on trial in a U.S. court.

Colombia banned the extradition of its citizens in 1991 after Pablo Escobar, the late head of the Medellin drug mob, waged a war of bombings, kidnappings and murders. But Congress scrapped the ban in late 1997 under intense U.S. pressure.

Jaime Orlando Lara, accused of shipping heroin to the United States, became the first Colombian to be sent for trial in a U.S. court since 1990 on Sunday.

He appeared in a Manhattan federal court on Monday and was ordered held without bail. His attorney said Lara would enter a plea of not guilty when he is arraigned on Wednesday.

Up to 50 others are on a list of relatively low profile drug smugglers who could be extradited. But a former Colombian anti-drug crusader said on Monday he believed the United States had its eyes on the big prize — Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, jailed heads of the notorious Cali drug mob.

"The United States has for some time been working (toward the extradition of the brothers)... They are the capo of capos and achieving their extradition would raise the profile of the U.S. justice system," said Gen. Miguel Maza, former state security chief during Escobar's campaign of terror in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"The U.S. would present them as the people behind the major (drug) consignments," he told Reuters.

Colombia rejected a U.S. extradition request for the Rodriguez brothers in mid-1996. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Bogota said he was not aware of any current extradition request for the pair.

At the time of their capture in 1995, the brothers were said to be responsible for 80 percent of the world's cocaine supply. Under lenient Colombian laws both will probably serve terms of less than 10 years, according to judicial sources.

In the United States, punishment for drug crimes is much harsher and can include multiple life sentences.

Under the new extradition law passed by Congress, no trafficker convicted of crimes committed before December 1997 can be sent for trial to the United States.

U.S. authorities have, however, argued that the Rodriguez brothers still run their smuggling empire from behind bars.

Fernando Jose Flores, an alleged Venezuelan trafficker arrested last year and likely to be extradited from Colombia this week, said he believed U.S. authorities would force him to implicate the Rodriguez brothers in more recent crimes.

"With threats, psychological torture ... I will sign whatever they put in front of me so that they get what they want — the extradition of the Rodriguezes," Flores, nicknamed "Fat Man," said in an interview in this week's edition of the leading magazine Semana. Colombian police say Flores

visited the Rodriguez brothers in Bogota's top security la Picota prison at least nine times between mid-1995 and 1998.

Last year, National Police chief Rosso Jose Serrano commented, "If Flores implicates the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers in illicit activity they too could be

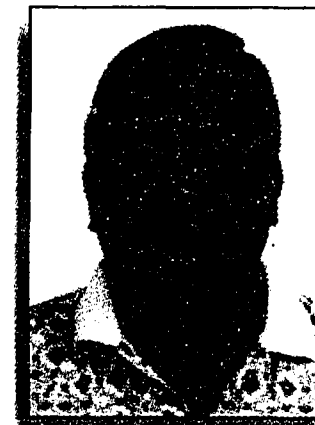
extradited."

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Rubin hailed the extradition of Lara and said: "We regard this as a very positive sign that demonstrates the courage and commitment of the Pastrana administration in the battle against narcotics traffick-

ing."

Rubin said the United States and Colombia had a "very close working relationship" and that he hoped more suspects would be brought to justice. "It is our view that bringing narcotics traffickers to justice is an important deterrent."

Message of Appreciation



My wife, Tonie, the Committee to Re-elect David M. Apatang, our family, friends and I wish to extend our utmost and profound appreciation and Si Yu'us Ma'ase to all my supporters in Precinct I for your continued trust by giving me your vote of confidence on November 6, 1999.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

To show our profound gratitude, my family, and the family of newly elected Councilman David A.

Indalecio, would like to invite all of our relatives, friends and supporters islandwide to join us in celebration of Thanksgiving Day/Appreciation Get-Together on Thursday, November 25, 1999, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at PakPak Beach (near the playground), south of PIC in San Antonio. Please come and join us. Bring the whole family!!!

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank You, Olomwaay and Maraming Salamat Po

**REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MUNDO APATANG
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US envoy tours Timor camps

MOTAAIN, Indonesia (AP) — East Timorese refugees are living in squalid camps that should no longer exist, but are terrified of returning home. U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke said Monday.

Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, visited a refugee camp in Atambua, West Timor. Although 70,000 refugees have returned home, an estimated 150,000 remain in the camps.

"The camps are appalling. They shouldn't exist at all more than a month after the fighting ended, and the people in them are intimidated and scared to leave," he said.

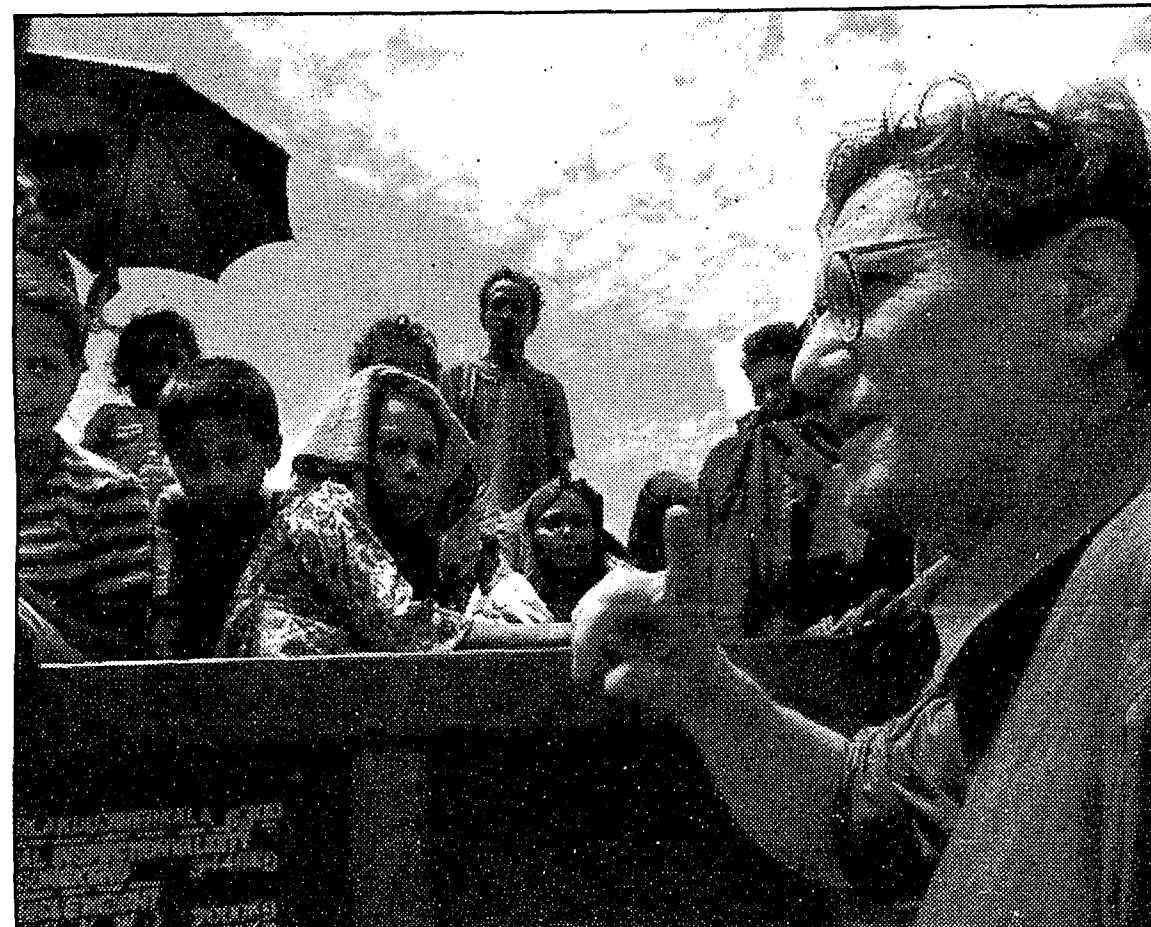
In an attempt to change that, Indonesian generals sat down with members of East Timor's international peacekeeping

force Monday to sign a U.S.-brokered accord on speeding the return of the refugees.

The military commander of East Timor's Falintil independence movement attended the gathering — a move Holbrooke called "a symbol of the potential for reconciliation."

For Taur Matan Ruak to sit side by side with generals of an army he fought for 24 years was an attempt "to begin to put the past behind us," Holbrooke said.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and this year allowed East Timor to vote for independence or continued ties with Jakarta. After a vote overwhelmingly in favor of independence, militias backed by



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke (right) speaks with East Timorese refugees on trucks returning home in the border town of Atambua, West Timor Indonesia Monday. Holbrooke is investigating claims of anti-independence militiamen intimidation in the refugee camps. AP

the Indonesian military went on a rampage.

They drove a large part of the population into hiding or forced refuge in West Timor, on the other half of the island.

Indonesian investigators implicated top army generals Monday in the violence. Senior commanders — including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, now a Cabinet minister — will give evidence regarding human rights abuses, said Munir, a member of the government's investigative commission.

"They were told beforehand (of impending violence) and did not try to stop it, so we allege they were involved in this orgy of destruction," said Munir, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

Peacekeepers moved into East Timor on Sept. 20 to restore order. Indonesia later ceded control to the United Nations, which will lead East

Timor to self rule, perhaps in three years.

U.N. officials have accused militiamen, who withdrew to the Indonesian side of the border following the arrival of the peacekeeping force, of terrorizing refugees in the camps and hindering their repatriation.

Monday's meeting in a tent at an Indonesian military post close to the border with East Timor — near where Indonesian and peacekeeping troops clashed last month — was called by the Americans to get Indonesia to sign a border security accord.

On Oct. 10, Indonesians fired on an international patrol. An Indonesian policeman was killed and two were injured in a shootout. Since then, Indonesia has ignored several requests from Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove, the Australian commander of the peacekeeping force, for a meeting with West



Wiranto

Timor commander Gen. Adam Damiri.

But both attended Monday and the two sides signed a border security accord, said Ellen Glynn, a spokeswoman for the U.S. delegation.

Glynn said they agreed to avoid further disputes over where the border lies and to establish a Joint Border Commission that would work to curtail militia activity.

Tamil rebels attack military base

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil Tiger rebels and government soldiers battled near a key seaside military base Monday, and six rebels were reported killed in fighting nearby.

A military spokesman said the troops used artillery and mortar fire to fend off a rebel attack against the west coast base of Talladi, 135 miles north of the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

The rebels also fired artillery shells at Murunkan, 12 miles southeast of Talladi, the military said.

"We are taking all military measures to counter the terrorist attack," said Defense Minister spokesman Brig. Sunil Tennekoon.

Though rebel shells were fired at the camp, "there is no threat to the base and we are holding fine," he said.

Tennekoon said six rebels were killed by army fire as they moved into Adampan, a town three miles from Talladi.

The Defense Ministry gave no casualty figures for Talladi, but other military officials said several soldiers were wounded.

The rebels have been fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east for the past 16 years. Tamil minority leaders accuse the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination in education and jobs. The government denies the charge.

The rebel onslaught that began without warning earlier this month wiped gains that the military had made over the last four years.

The army blamed the rebels for Saturday's artillery attack on Madhu, 130 miles north of Colombo, which both sides had considered a war-free zone. But the Tigers denied responsibility for the deaths of 44 people on Saturday night, including 13 children.

The rebels accused the military of using the refugees as human shields. More than 3,500 people had taken shelter in the church compound to escape the fighting between the government and the rebels.

Church officials said they don't know who fired the shells.

As Japan air force jet crashes

Tokyo hit by blackout

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese air force jet ripped through a power line northwest of Tokyo on Monday, cutting off power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses and briefly halting some rail service.

The T-33 jet crashed in a dry riverbed near a junior high school, killing both crewmen. There were no reports of casualties on the ground, police spokesman Masami Yoshida said.

As many as 800,000 homes lost electricity in the Tokyo metropolitan area for about three hours after the jet severed the 275,000-volt power transmission line, said Yoichi Takeuchi of Tokyo Elec-

tric Power Co. Ltd.

The afternoon outage, which affected Tokyo and nearby Saitama prefecture, also temporarily stopped trains to the busy Ginza and Shimbashi districts of the capital and shut down ATM machines, Takeuchi said.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange suspended trading in futures on government bond options for about a half hour because of the power loss, Kyodo News agency said. Among many businesses, the Tobu department store in the Ikebukuro neighborhood was without electricity.

Nihon University Itabashi Hospital was without electricity for

about 20 minutes before emergency generators kicked in, Kyodo reported.

Defense Agency chief Tsumotu

Kawara apologized for causing so much trouble, the agency said.

Killed were Lt. Col. Hirofumi Nakagawa, 47, and Maj.

Yoshihiro Kadoya, 48, police said. They had been on a training mission from a Japanese base in Iruma.



Local firefighters stand near debris of Japan Air Self Defense Force jet trainer Lockheed T33 after it crashed and burnt in Sayama, northwest suburbs of Tokyo Monday. The jet snapped power cables before crashing into a riverbank, killing both crew and causing a blackout in Tokyo and its vicinities. AP

6 defectors arrive in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A South Korean prisoner of war and five relatives arrived in Seoul after escaping North Korea, the main government intelligence agency said Monday.

Park Hong-kil, 72, had been forced to work as a coal miner in North Korea since he was captured by communist troops shortly before the end of the Korean War, the National Intelligence Service said.

The defectors included Park's wife, his daughter, son, daughter-in-law and grandson, it said. The agency said they escaped the North in January and hid in a "third country," a term the government often uses in reference

to China, which is required by a treaty with North Korea to send defectors back.

It declined to provide further details, pending an investigation.

South Korea says more than 40,000 southern POWs were not returned at the end of the war, but the North claims all prisoners went home. Only eight POWs have escaped the North since.

More than 400 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since 1994, mostly through China.

With no peace treaty signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, the two nations are technically still at war.

Jiang optimistic on HK

BEIJING (AP) — Hong Kong has made it through a difficult period for its economy and Beijing is confident in its future, President Jiang Zemin said Monday during a meeting with Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

The Hong Kong government under Tung's leadership has helped the territory's people deal calmly with the impact of the Asian financial crisis, Jiang said, according to state media reports.

Hong Kong has been slowly climbing out of recession.

Jiang also said he believed the "one country, two systems" formula that has allowed autonomy in Hong Kong will work equally well for Macau when it returns to



Jiang Zemin

Chinese control on Dec. 20, state media reported.

Tung was making a routine visit to Beijing to report to the central government.

Former US senator Dole meets Taiwan president

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Former U.S. Senate majority leader Bob Dole met Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui on Monday and offered his support for the island's defense against China.

Dole told Lee that the United States should sell Taiwan more weapons and he wished to see Taiwan admitted into the World Trade Organization soon, according to

a Presidential Office statement.

Dole also conveyed concerns from U.S. senators about how Taiwan will reconstruct following a devastating earthquake on Sept. 21.

Lee thanked Dole for his concerns.

It was not known when Dole arrived in Taipei and the statement did not give the purpose of his visit.

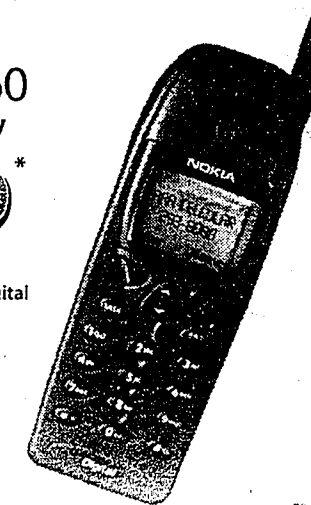
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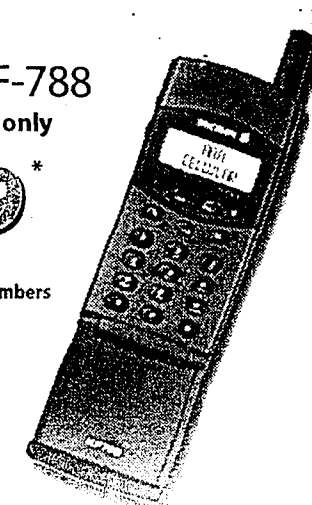
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PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP00-0015

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Director of Procurement and Supply, are soliciting competitive proposals from qualified individuals or firms conversant with governmental procurement and acquisition processes, for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, systems based, fixed asset management program.

The scope of work for the project may be obtained at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All proposals must be signed. One (1) original and two (2) copies for each proposal must be submitted to the Division of Procurement and Supply in a sealed envelope marked RFP00-0015. The opening will be on December 10, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Any proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- Technical Proposal
 - 40% Experience in similar or related projects
 - 25% Demonstrated understanding of requirements
 - 20% Technical expertise of principals and proposed staff
 - 15% Approach to the project

B. Cost Proposal

Price is also a factor for consideration and price will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposal. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any defects, if it is the best interest of the government. All proposals will become the property of the Division of Procurement and Supply.

Inquiries should be directed to Robert Florian, Executive Assistant to the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply at telephone number (670) 664-1514, fax number 664-1515.

A. LUCY DUG NIELSEN
Secretary of Finance

A. HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

Churches close in Holy Land

NAZARETH, Israel (AP) — The gates of churches across the Holy Land swung shut in protest Monday as church leaders made a final attempt to block the building of a mosque in the heart of Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood.

The two-day, Vatican-backed closure highlights the increasingly volatile relations between Christians and Muslims, as well as Israel's ambiguous — some claim politically tainted — role as mediator.

The dispute has also spilled over into Mideast peace talks, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat backing the Christians in Nazareth in hopes they will support him

when he negotiates the future of Jerusalem with the Israelis.

Saudi Arabia, the guardian of Islam's holiest shrines, supported Arafat's efforts, offering to pay for a new mosque at an alternate spot in Nazareth, away from the Basilica of the Annunciation, to avoid friction.

The church closures, just weeks before the last Christmas of the millennium, left many pilgrims disappointed. Some endorsed the protest, while others said Christians should set examples of tolerance and not block construction of the mosque.

"Nazareth should be a city for everyone," said Jozeph Wietsiers, 54, a Roman Catholic

who had walked more than 2,400 miles since May on a pilgrimage from his hometown in Oss, Holland, only to find the Basilica closed.

But the highest Roman Catholic authority in the Holy Land, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, said the Christians, a tiny minority of about 100,000, had to take a stand.

"We closed the churches so the world can hear, and the world did," Sabbah told a news conference in Jerusalem.

The dispute is uncharacteristic of Israel's Christians, who usually keep a low profile to avoid friction with Muslims.

Sabbah hinted that Pope John

Paul II's visit to Israel and the Palestinian areas, set for March, could still be called off if the Nazareth dispute was not resolved.

The argument began two years ago, when the city's Christian mayor, Ramez Jeraisi, announced plans to build a tourist plaza on a half-acre plot outside the Basilica to make the congested, noisy downtown more appealing to millennium visitors.

The city's Islamic movement said some of the land was Muslim-owned and set up a protest tent on the lot.

In a compromise brokered by the Israeli government, the mosque is to be built on one-third of the land, the plaza on the remainder.

Jeraisi reluctantly accepted the deal, saying he wanted to avoid more strife, but was overruled by Roman Catholic, Armenian and Greek Orthodox patriarchs who said a mosque near the church was unacceptable.

On Monday, a Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Ciro Benedettini, said the Holy See "clearly supports" the church closures, but stressed the decision was made by the various local authorities in charge of the churches.

Churches closed across the Holy Land, including in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the Galilee. Some neighborhood churches stayed open, including a Greek Orthodox church in Nazareth and the Ethiopian Orthodox-controlled section of Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Israel has denied allegations by church leaders that it favored the Muslims because they have more political clout. The vast majority of Israel's 1 million Arabs are Muslim.

On Monday, Muslims and Christians in Nazareth, who have long lived in harmony, said the dispute has left them suspicious of one another. Christians make

up only about 30 percent of the city's 60,000 residents, but until recently were dominant in politics and business.

Christian Nassim Mazzawi, who owns a jewelry store next to the Basilica, said he felt the Muslims were being rewarded for using threats and force.

A few yards down the road from his store, dozens of Muslims knelt in prayer on colorful carpets marking the spot where the mosque is to be built. In the area surrounding them, bulldozers leveled ground for the plaza, taking a break only for the duration of the prayer.

Worshipper Bilal Mitwali, 36, said he had expected his Christian friends to support his quest for a mosque. None did. "That proves that we are not really brothers," he said.

The cornerstone for the mosque was to be laid Tuesday, despite a last-minute appeal by the top Muslim cleric in Jerusalem, Ikrama Sabri, to postpone the ceremony. Sabri was apparently acting at the behest of Arafat, who is eager not to hurt his relationship with Christian leaders whose support he needs when he negotiates the future of Jerusalem with the Israelis.

The Palestinians hope to establish their capital in east Jerusalem, home to major Christian shrines.

The Israeli government, fearing a challenge to its sovereignty, has told Arafat to stay out of the dispute.

However, Sabbah, the Latin Patriarch, indirectly confirmed that church leaders had pressured Arafat to intercede with the Islamic movement.

"The issue of whether there is a relationship between Nazareth and Jerusalem, I say there is one," Sabbah said.

The patriarch said Arafat explained to the Islamic Movement that "if you win in Nazareth, we lose in Jerusalem."

Iran rejects posting of US official in Tehran

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Iran has rejected U.S. proposals to base American officials in Tehran at an office looking after U.S. interests, Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Monday.

"They (Americans) say some people have to come to Tehran and establish an office under the guise of protecting interests," Khamenei said in a speech broadcast on state radio.

"Americans do not have an interest office here. They have been...pressing for this for some time now. Our officials, on their part, have resisted and not allowed it," he told students at a Tehran university.

"In reality they want to set up an intelligence and political site in the center of Tehran," Khamenei added, without saying when the U.S. proposal was

made. U.S. media and an Iranian official said last year that Washington had proposed basing a U.S. official at Switzerland's embassy in Tehran, which represents U.S. interests in the Islamic republic.

The United States broke diplomatic relations with Iran after Islamic students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran following the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-Western shah. They held 52 Americans hostage for more than a year.

Bilateral ties have thawed somewhat since reformist President Mohammad Khatami took office in 1997.

But Khamenei, who outranks Khatami, has ruled out renewed relations, despite calls by some moderates for a review of Tehran's policy toward its arch-foe.

Clinton urges Yugoslavs

'Demand democracy'

SOFIA, Bulgaria (Reuters) — President Clinton joined Bulgarians Monday in a flag-waving celebration of the end of communism 10 years ago and urged the people of neighboring Yugoslavia to demand democracy.

Speaking in Nevski Square, site of popular demonstrations against communism as the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, he thanked Bulgaria for supporting NATO's air war last spring against neighboring Serbia and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

In talks with Bulgaria's leaders, he held out the prospect of their country joining the Western NATO alliance.

"I am told that during the recent war you could actually hear some of the bombs falling on Serbia in this square," Clinton told about 30,000 Bulgarians crowded into the square.

"Tonight I hope the people of Serbia can hear our voices when we say: If you choose as Bulgaria has chosen, you will regain the rightful place in Europe that Mr. Milosevic has stolen from you, and America will support you too."

The Bulgarian government's backing for NATO's air war, including opening up its airspace, was a difficult political balancing act and a sign of the strength of its desire to join the Western alliance with the next wave of hopefuls after 2001.

A senior White House official said that in talks with President Petar Stoyanov and Prime Minis-

ter Ivan Kostov, Clinton said that "in some ways after the Kosovo conflict there's a more compelling case that can be made for NATO looking toward the nations of southeast Europe in the next wave."

"Their decision to support NATO's action in Kosovo was really kind of a watershed for the way they think about the world," the official added.

In his Nevski Square speech, the high point of the first visit by a U.S. president to Bulgaria, he told the crowd:

"You stood with NATO. I know it was very hard for you to do. But I ask you to think about what would have happened if we had not stood up."

"This entire region would have been overrun by refugees and the message would have been sent to the rest of the world: Stay away from southeastern Europe, for here dictators still hold power by exploiting human differences and destroying human lives."

The crowd, waving American and Bulgarian flags, chanted "Clinton, Clinton" as he strode to the stage near the brightly lit facade of the grand Alexander Nevski cathedral.

"Dobar den," he replied — "Good afternoon" in Bulgarian.

Clinton's visit provided an excuse to revive celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the fall of communist dictator Todor Zhivkov, a date that passed relatively quietly two weeks ago.



U.S. President Bill Clinton greets Bulgarian women dressed in traditional costume after Clinton delivered a speech to the Bulgarian people on Alexander Nevski Square in Sofia, Bulgaria Monday. President Clinton, in on a 36-hour official visit to Bulgaria, and is scheduled to travel to Kosovo Wednesday. AP

First Death Anniversary

In Memory of our beloved Daughter, Sister & Mother

MAE ELAINE MARATITA GITOL

We, the family, wish to extend an invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us in the nightly rosary as we commemorate her first anniversary of passage unto eternal life.

Rosary will be said at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Vic N. Jgitol in

Tanapag Village beginning Thursday, November 18, 1999 through November 26, 1999.

On the last day, Friday, November 26, 1999, mass will be offered at 4:30 p.m. Santa Remedios Church. We invite you to join us for dinner which will be served immediately after the Mass at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Vic N. Jgitol.

Your prayers and presence are very much appreciated. Si Yous Maase!

Ainen J. Familia

PDi PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

DUE TO THE CELEBRATION OF OUR 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING OUR SERVICES IN THE CNMI, WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THAT OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL SERVICE AS OF 6:00 PM, NOVEMBER 24, 1999. NORMAL OPERATION WILL RESUME ON THE 25TH OF NOVEMBER.

BY MANAGEMENT

SI YU'US MA'ASE, OLOMWAAY, MARAMING SALAMAT PO,
KILISO FA'AFETAI LAVA, ARIGATO GOSAIMASU

Dollar dips vs yen, euro

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar fell Monday against the Japanese yen amid speculation that a key report on the Japanese economy will come in stronger than expected.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 104.83 yen, down from late Friday's level of 106.08. The euro rose to \$1.0314 compared with late Friday's quote of \$1.0302.

The yen's advance came after Japanese officials suggested that a report on third-quarter economic growth due later this week may exceed forecasts.

In other trading Monday, the

dollar was quoted at 1.5527 Swiss francs, down from 1.5560 late Friday, and 1.4615 Canadian dollars, down from 1.4617. The British pound rose to \$1.6200, up from \$1.6192 late Friday.

The currencies of the 11 countries participating in the euro are no longer traded separately and are tied to the euro by a fixed rate.

Based on Monday's euro rate, the dollar was worth: 1.8965 German marks, down from 1.8983 on Friday; 6.3605 French francs, down from 6.3667; and 1,877.50 Italian lire, down from 1,879.33.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

In Loving Memory of our
Dearly Departed Mother/Grand-
mother/Great-Grandmother

MARIA SANTA
MARIA MANIBUSAN
DIAZ-IGIBARA

We, the family, invite all relatives and friends to join us in the nightly rosary and daily mass commemorating the First Death anniversary of our beloved one.

Rosary is said at 7:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Fonia S. and Rosa M. Salas in Chalan Kiya, beginning on Thursday, November 18, 1999 thru Friday, November 26, 1999. Daily mass will be offered every 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, except Sunday, November 21 will be at 9:00 a.m. On the last day, November 26, 1999, rosary will be said at San Jose Church at 4:30 p.m. followed by mass of intention at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at the above residence immediately after the mass.

Si Yuus Ma'ase and Ghillisow

THE FAMILY



John Carpenter (left) of Hamden, Connecticut shakes hands with Kathie Lee Gifford on "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee" after collecting his "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" million-dollar check Monday in New York. It's the largest one-time cash prize in the history of American television, excluding lotteries, according to ABC. AP

Pepsi set to match Coke's price hike

NEW YORK (AP)—PepsiCo Inc. and its biggest bottler plan to raise their prices next year following similar increases by the industry leader, Coca-Cola Co.

One industry watcher, John Sicher of Beverage Digest, said Monday the moves may translate into an increase of 2 percent to 3 percent in the prices at supermarkets for brands like Coke, Pepsi, Diet Coke and Mountain Dew.

Sicher said retail prices for soft drinks already have climbed 2 percent to 3 percent this year, after falling in recent years. He said bottlers are raising prices in hopes of generating higher returns on their investments.

PepsiCo told its U.S. bottlers last week that it would boost its price for soft-drink concentrate by 6.9 percent effective in February. That was about the same increase as Coca-Cola earlier

announced to its U.S. bottlers. Soft-drink concentrate is only one of the ingredients that goes into soft drinks, however.

The Pepsi Bottling Group Inc., which accounts for 53 percent of Pepsi-Cola's sales volume in the United States, told analysts Friday that it may boost prices to the stores by 1 percent to 2 percent from current levels. The huge bottler boosted its prices by 3 percent last summer.

US sanctions Czech, Kazakstan companies



James P. Rubin

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has imposed sanctions against companies in Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic for exporting some 40 1960's vintage MiG21 jet fighters to North Korea, the State Department said Monday.

Because of their age, the planes are not expected to have a material impact on the balance of power on the Korean Peninsula.

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said sanctions initially were imposed against the government of Kazakhstan

but were withdrawn after authorities there cooperated in the investigation of the sale.

"The government candidly admitted that the transfers occurred, contrary to official government policy," he said.

The sanctions were applied against Kazakhstan government-owned Uralsk Plant Metallist and the private Czech firm Agroplast and against certain Agroplast officials.

The sanctions bar U.S. imports from these companies and as well as the export of U.S. munitions to them. Additional sanctions are being contemplated.

Rubin said the sanctions will remain in force until one year after the transfers of lethal equipment have ceased or until the U.S. government determines that a waiver is in the national interest.

When the sale was first reported in August, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev fired his defense minister and the national security chief.

Ruling . . .

Continued from page 3

"bribe," or the statement that any payment was in exchange for official acts.

Additionally, the justices said, Hiraga admits that the reader of the statements at issue need not conclude that the payments were bribes.

In his opposition to Sekisui's motion for summary judgment, Demapan and Atalig said, Hiraga stated "even if the loans were paid back that does not show that they were bribes."

"Furthermore, each of the statements at issue is either true or a permissible statement of opinion," they said.

"To the extent that the statements made by Sekisui are true, they are absolutely privileged and not actionable as a matter of law. Sekisui's motive is irrelevant," Demapan and Atalig said.

The justices said that to the extent Sekisui made statements of opinion, such as a "leopard not changing his spots," such expressions of opinion are defamatory only in the event that the opinion "implies the allegation of undisclosed defamatory facts as the basis for the opinion."

"Sekisui fully disclosed the facts upon which it based its opinion, and such a statement falls within the ambit of protected ex-

pression of opinion," the justices said.

In conclusion, they said, Hiraga's claims for intentional infliction of emotional distress is dependent upon the claim of defamation.

"The dismissal of the defamation claim also requires the dismissal of the claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress," they added.

Lizama on the other hand, concurred with Demapan and Atalig's reasoning on the issue whether the Superior Court erred in denying petitioner's motion for summary judgment.

Lizama also concurred with the reasoning and conclusion that dismissal of the underlying defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress claims is proper.

Lizama further noted that the motion for summary judgment could have been granted on the grounds that some of the statements at issue were privileged by virtue of the fact that they were also made "in-court," thus presenting a defense to the tort of defamation.

However, Lizama, citing several federal court rulings, noted that a writ of mandamus is a drastic remedy to be used only in extraordinary circumstances.

Also, he stressed, courts are "extremely reluctant to grant a writ of mandamus."

Over . . .

Continued from page 5

year, it was reported there were 30 to 40 percent decline in orders received by Saipan garment firms from mainland buyers due to the class action lawsuit against these firms.

At the same time, Mafnas said CNMI may have been receiving over 1,000 cargoes monthly even during the past years but some of them were not being accounted for due to a decentralized inspection process.

Of the total monthly shipments,

55 to 60 percent are consigned to garment companies. Shipment of construction and hardware materials, meanwhile, continue to go down.

When Customs centralized its seaport operations in June, the time it takes to inspect one set of cargoes has been reduced to 15 minutes at the least. Consignees used to wait for one to three days at the most before their containers could be inspected.

Moreover, Customs used to inspect one container at a time but that changed due to the centralization, as it can now inspect six to seven containers simultaneously.

Gov't . . .

Continued from page 8

participate with us and not litter trash along the road or in any other places where they can be seen by visitors or tourists. This

will benefit everybody," said Cabrera.

The clean up, is part of a three-month clean-up plan, which began in October.

Cabrera said that this project cannot be done alone by the government, hence the need for public participation.

Procurement and Supply CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO. ITB00-0011
FOR: JANITORIAL SERVICES
OPENING DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 1999 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS).

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Keep Saipan Litter Free!

FBI . . . Continued from page 3

conducted by FBI-CNMI Task Force led by Lt. Edward Manaili and other parties like the Alcohol Firearms and Tobacco in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Office.

According to the information, on or about last July 11 the three defendants took a 1992 Mazda pickup from Guo Qing Qu, a

farmer, "by force, violence and intimidation."

On the same day, the trio robbed the Jia Jia Store of \$500 cash "by threatened and actual force, violence and fear of injury to the persons and property" of store owners Fleming H. Ueda and Jia Jia Geng Ueda.

Jeffrey was also charged with felon in possession of a firearm

because he was carrying a .410 gauge shotgun during the incident. Jeffrey had previously been convicted of two counts of burglary, escape and theft of a vehicle in the Superior Court.

The three defendants along with four other persons have pending criminal charges in the Superior Court arising from the same reported crime spree.

YAS Signs System



VINYL SIGNS: For indoor/outdoor with colors, style and quality, on wood, glass, metal, plastic cloth and walls, designed in computer graphics, artistically drafted, composed with a lot of talent and knowledge, is now available at Younis Art Studio, Inc.

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Also hand painted signs and banners, artistically designed and colored on any material surface of all sizes.

DIGITAL PRINT: Signs for inside markets/stores/shops in full colors with print of the goods/merchandise on plastic sheets/boards or on transparencies on special paper or cloth for ceiling hang for display or above shelves, counters and merchandise stands, can easily be produced by the talented and capable sign makers at YAS Sign System.

Full color digital print for back light in shops window or special display in the outdoor, such as food items, drinks cosmetics, perfumes, jewelry and many more.

Vinyl signs are durable, colorful and guaranteed to last for five to seven years in all weather conditions and stands heat temperature 40-180 degrees Fahrenheit.

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234-9797 & 234-9272 or Fax No. 234-9271.

In Memory of our Beloved Mother

CECILIA ANESTA BRIGGEMANN FLORES BOYER

First Death Anniversary

To hallow the memory and bless the soul and to implore God's tenderest blessings.

We, the children, wish to extend an invitation to all our families, relatives and friends to join us in the daily memorial masses as we commemorate her first anniversary of passage unto eternal life.

The Daily Memorial Masses will be offered at San Roque Church as follows:

Wed., Thurs, Fri. & Sat.	Nov. 17-20	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	Nov. 21	7:30 a.m.
Mon., Tues & Wed.	Nov. 22-24	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Nov. 25	5:00 p.m.

On the last day, Thursday, November 25th, we invite you to join us for dinner which will be served immediately after the mass at the residence of her son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Pat Boyer in San Roque.

Your prayers and presence are very much appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
From the Children and their families

Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

01 (ASSISTANT) TEACHER-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
01 CLASSROOM TEACHER-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
Contact: CHINESE BIBLE CHURCH INT'L. INC. dba Eucon International School of Saipan Tel. 234-3203(12/1)W33518

01 COST ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY Tel. 234-6031(12/1)W33525

03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 CHEF DE PARTIE -Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARGARET'S DINER Tel. 234-2663(12/1)W33524

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING, REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: KIM'S GENERAL CORPORATION dba Kim's Tofu Factory Tel. 234-7191(12/1)W33527

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$4.75-5.75 per hour
Contact: GEORGE F. FLEMING dba FAS Moving & Storage Co. Tel. 322-6587(12/1)W44529

01 MECHANIC, MARINE ENGINE-Salary: \$4.80 per hour
Contact: ISLANDS CRUISE LINE (SAIPAN), INC. Tel. 233-2556(12/1)W33534

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,150.00 per month
Contact: DOLPHIN PACIFIC (SAIPAN), INC. Tel. 234-6331(12/1)W33533

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PUYAT & SON'S & CO., INC. Tel. 234-5708(12/1)W33531

02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIANA CORP. INC. dba Beach Garden Rest. Tel. 236-4021(12/1)W33530

02 WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HIP SHING (SAIPAN) Tel. 322-8999

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.69 per hour
Contact: ANTONIO S. CAMACHO dba Westpac Freight Tel. 322-1212(12/1)W33535

02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CITY CORPORATION dba CNMI Jook Restaurant Tel. 287-2878

02 PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINS. ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: EXPRESS MANUFACTURING, INC. Tel. 322-6743(12/1)W33520

01 (OPERATION) MANAGER-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
Plus \$50.00 housing allowance
Plus \$50.00 food allowance.
Contact: SHUN MA INT'L. CORP., LTD. Tel. 234-5790(11/3)W33122

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: D.L.Z. AMERICAN CORP. dba Xin Huan Mart & Xin Hua auto Tel. 288-1388(11/24)W33408

03 PACKER, HAND-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIAGE (SAIPAN) CO., LTD. Tel. 234-3481(11/24)W33411

01 AIRBRUSH ARTIST-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HANG YU CORP. dba Marianas Photo & Fashion Tel. 235-3028(11/24)W33413

01 BARBER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GENEROSO D. HUERTAS, SR. dba Gene's Barber Shop & Beauty Salon Tel. 233-6300(11/24)W33414

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JESUS T. ALDAN Tel. 234-8434(11/24)W33417

01 SUPERVISOR, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.70 per hour
Contact: MARCELO T. ADUCA dba Supana Hong Thai Rest. Tel. 323-2880(11/24)W33420

01 WAITRESS-REST. -Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ASIA PACIFIC OVERSEAS, INC. dba BJ Garden Rest. & Cafeteria Tel. 235-3879(11/24)W33418

03 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.90-5.00 per hour
Contact: J. SCOTT MAGLIARI & COMPANY Tel. 233-1837(11/24)W33424

01 COOK-Salary: \$600.00-810.00 per month
Contact: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH Tel. 234-6026(11/24)W33428

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARITA B. PUA dba Sadog Manis Laundromat Tel. 322-6171(11/24)W33429

01 HOUSE CLEANER KEEPING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AUSIA INT'L. INC. Tel. 288-2217(11/24)W33430

01 LANDSCAPE (GARDENER)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
09 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-BLDG. -Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 WAITER-REST.-Salary: \$ 3.05 per hour

06 WAITRESS-REST.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: J.E.T. HOLDING COMPANY dba Saipan Bowling Center Tel. 234-6420(11/24)W81541

01 MECHANIC (MAINTENANCE)-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$4.50 per hour
Contact: FLETCHER PACIFIC CONST. CO. LTD. (CNMI) Tel. 234-3301(11/24)W81547

03 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$800-2,400.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA TOURS, INC. Tel. 234-3913(11/23)T81521

01 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: BOBBIE'S AMUSEMENT CO., INC. Tel. 235-2624

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$530.00 per month
Contact: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST SDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Tel. 234-7326(12/1)W33522

01 MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA WOODCRAFT ENT., INC. Tel. 235-7631(12/1)W33521

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: CANDIDO M. MARTIN dba Topnots Audio-Video Shop Tel. 235-9490(12/1)W33508

02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: ROMA T. TUDELA dba Tudela Enterprises Tel. 235-2985(12/1)W33509

01 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$2,250.00 per month
01 MARINE, MANAGER-Salary: \$2,000.00 per month
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: MARINE TECH (SAIPAN) INC. Tel. 322-5079(12/1)W33510

01 TRAVEL AGENT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: INTER-KAM CORPORATION dba Inter-Kam Travel Agency Tel. 235-5554(12/1)W33511

01 INTERIOR DESIGNER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: CORAL OCEAN DESIGN, INC. Tel. 233-8880(12/1)W33513

01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DINO/LETTY A. JONES dba D/L Personnel Ser. Supply Tel. 322-5389(12/1)W33515

01 CHEF DE CUISINE-Salary: \$1,500-5,000.00 per month
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
02 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour

02 (ASSISTANT) RESTAURANT MANAGER-Salary: \$3.30-7.80 per hour
01 BARTENDER, (SENIOR)-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.30-7.80 per hour
01 CHEF KITCHEN-Salary: \$3.30-7.80 per hour
01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$3.30-4.80 per hour

07 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
04 HEADWAITER-Salary: \$3.30-4.80 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE LEAD SUPERVISOR, SENIOR-Salary: \$580.00-1,800.00 per month
01 PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$580.00-1,400.00 per month

01 SOUS CHEF-Salary: \$580.00-1,400.00 per month
01 SUPERVISOR, FLOOR-Salary: \$3.30-4.80 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311(12/1)W81679

01 CLAIMS ADJUSTER-Salary: \$600.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS INSURANCE CO., LTD. Tel. 234-5091(12/1)W81678

01 (GAMEROOM) ATTENDANT, ARCADE-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
Contact: TUBA ARCADE Tel. 235-4710(12/1)W

02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$955.00-1,300.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN PLANT CENTER, INC. Tel. 235-4710(12/1)W

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
Contact: J.M. & ASSOCIATES Tel. 235-4710(12/1)W81669

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.69 per hour
Bachelor's degree preferably CPA
Duties include: responsible for recording transactions, summarizing, analyzing & interpreting the result thereof. Pay close attention to the cash position and look primarily at the monetary assets & liabilities. Prepare monthly bank reconciliation general ledger trial balance & financial statement as a basis of preparing a budget for the coming year. Calculate CNMI taxes & others. Know how to use accounting programs such as Peachtree for windows and other programs.
Contact: ANTONIO S. CAMACHO dba Westpac Freight Tel. 322-1212(12/1)W33536

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Restaurant Photo Studio
B-B-Q San Antonio
San Jose (Garment Factory Center)
Tel no.: 235-2445

LOCAL HIRE ONLY
Waitress with bartending experience
Full time. Salary Negotiable based on qualifications
Oleat Beach Bar & Grill
Jerry 235-1756/1757

APARTMENT FOR RENT
• 2-Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
• Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
• Water, trash collection and sewer paid
• Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

LOST PASSPORT
Name: JIANG, MING
Chinese National
Date of Birth: August 27, 1967
If found, pls. call: Tel. 287-3229

MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE
Kangal - 1 Man, space for scuba equipment or cooler, paddle, 2 water light compartments, roof rack that fits any kind of car and easy to install, like new. \$450.00 (Cost \$100 + New)
Pick Up Truck - 1980 Nissan Sedan cab 4 WD, Great. AC, Ocean Interior, only 24K Miles, \$4,200
Beds for Sale - 2 Twin Beds (\$50 each), 1 Queen (\$100)
Baby Stroller - \$50
Baby Stroller - Black (1 Couch, 2 Chairs, Table, \$190)
Pictures & other Household items. Call 483-7343

FOR RENT
Nightclub/Restaurant/Barracks
Located along Beach Road,
Chalan Kanoa Tel.234-5520
(8:00 A.M. - 5:00)

FOR RENT
Two Bedroom Apartment
Located in Chalan Kanoa
\$300.00/month
For more information please call at 234-8000.

REDUCED TO SELL
STATESIDE-STYLE HOME w/ fenced yard;
4Bdrm/2Bath, 2-Car Enclosed Garage,
Central A/C with all major appliances,
Gas stove/water heater,
2000 gallon rainwater reserve,
Best water pressure on Saipan!
Oceanview and Breeze,
Quiet, Friendly Neighborhood,
Owner Financing, Available December
\$175,000 USD
Pls. call 233-3990 for appointment.

LOCATION! LOCATION!
2 SELECT COMMERCIAL SPACES
FOR RENT
ON BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN.
First Floor, 1,050 sq. ft. space
and Second floor, 1,100 sq. ft. space at \$1.10 per sq. ft.
Large parking area on site.
Call: 233-1837 or 233-0456 for information.

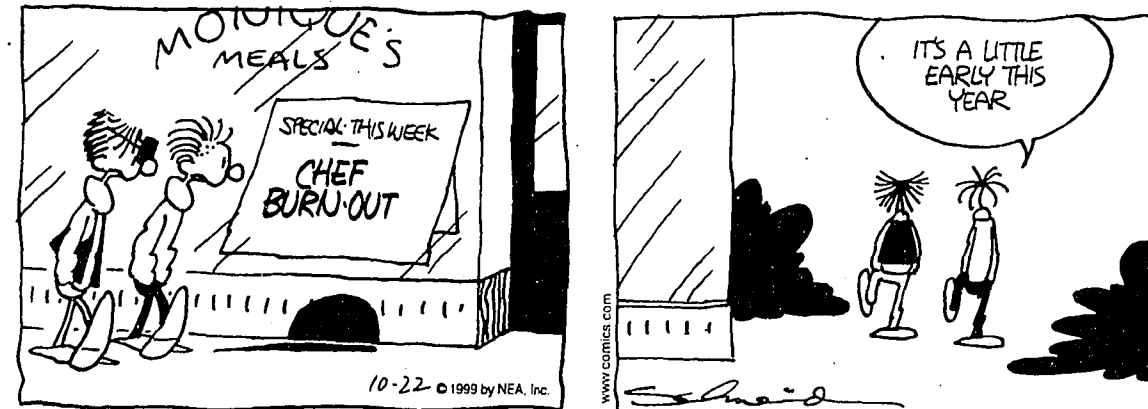
FOR RENT
2 bedrooms furnished apartment
Garapan close to Beach Road
Call 233-0510 or 234-7119

STUDIO APTMENT FOR RENT
Furnished studio
Located at Upper Navy Hill
New Split Air Con, Refrigerator & Range/oven
24 Hour water
Laundry facility on site
\$375 per month plus security deposit
(Power and water included)
For more information contact tel. no. 323-3606

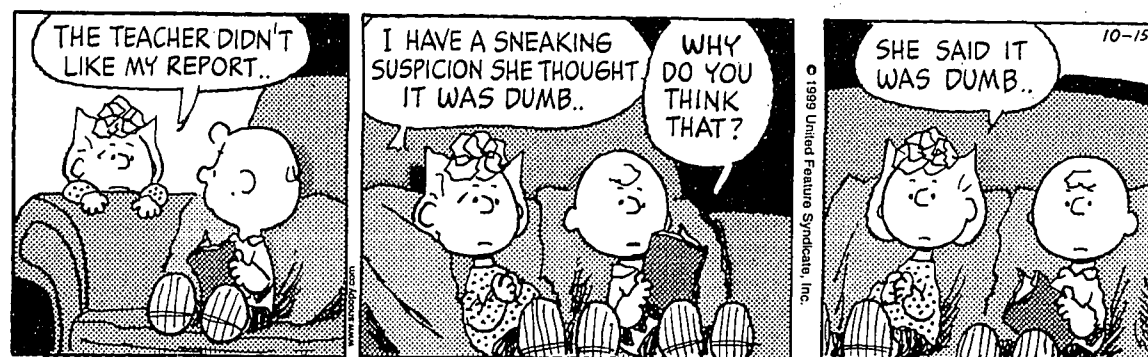
FOR RENT
2 bedrooms furnished apartment
Garapan close to Beach Road
Call 233-0510 or 234-7119

LET US KEEP CNMI LITTER FREE.

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER
YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you are destined to be front-and-center in almost any field you choose, provided you begin at an early age to focus squarely on your native talents and develop them to the fullest. You must be prepared to face many challenges throughout your lifetime. With preparation and hard work, however, you can overcome virtually any obstacle that stands between you and your chosen goals. There will be times in which you will enjoy tremendous support from others, but much of the time you will have to go it alone. Fortunately, you have a knack for doing your best work on your own.

Unlike most other Libra natives, you do not depend a great deal on being in the midst of others for your private contentment; indeed, though your home will always be open to friends and family, you will always prefer your own company to the company of others.

Also born on this date are: Tom Petty, singer, songwriter, musician; Dr. Joyce Brothers, psychologist; Mickey Mantle, baseball player; Bela Lugosi, actor.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the correspond-

ing paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Take time out of your busy schedule today to say or do something special for the one person who means the most to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You deserve a big pat on the back today, but for a while you may be the only person available to give it to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You mustn't let life's little inconveniences get you down today. Rise above the very things that others get caught up in and you're a step ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Your fear of being boring or noncommittal today is unfounded, so let loose a little and experiment with your own public image!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — An exciting excursion may turn into more of an adventure today as you take advantage of one unusual opportunity after another.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Are you certain that the conclusions you've come to over the past few days are really accurate, or even objec-

tive? You may want to think twice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Prospects are improving, and it's time for you to consider making a change which, in the near future, could bring you greater financial rewards.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone may be keeping you in the dark quite intentionally today, but never fear — something wonderful is going to be revealed very soon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take a rest toward mid-day and think back over recent decisions and actions. You can make a difference for someone else before nightfall.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You will need to shrug things off today. Remember that trying to change the things you cannot control will only result in increased frustration.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your intuition may be the only thing you have to go on today, particularly in matters of the heart. Do you really have enough to go on?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A financial issue demands a clear head, and a slow and deliberate approach today. Now is no time to make rash or hasty decisions.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Pale
6 Potatoes —
Orchestra
section
11 — Tower
13 One or the
other
15 Mr. Sullivan
16 " — Is
Born"
18 Heavy
weights
19 Morning
moisture
21 Minerals
22 I (Sp.)
23 Fatigues, for
example
26 Dutch airline
29 Hairdo
31 Baseball's
Hershiser
33 Des Moines
St.
34 Trilling
37 Actor Harvey
39 Negative
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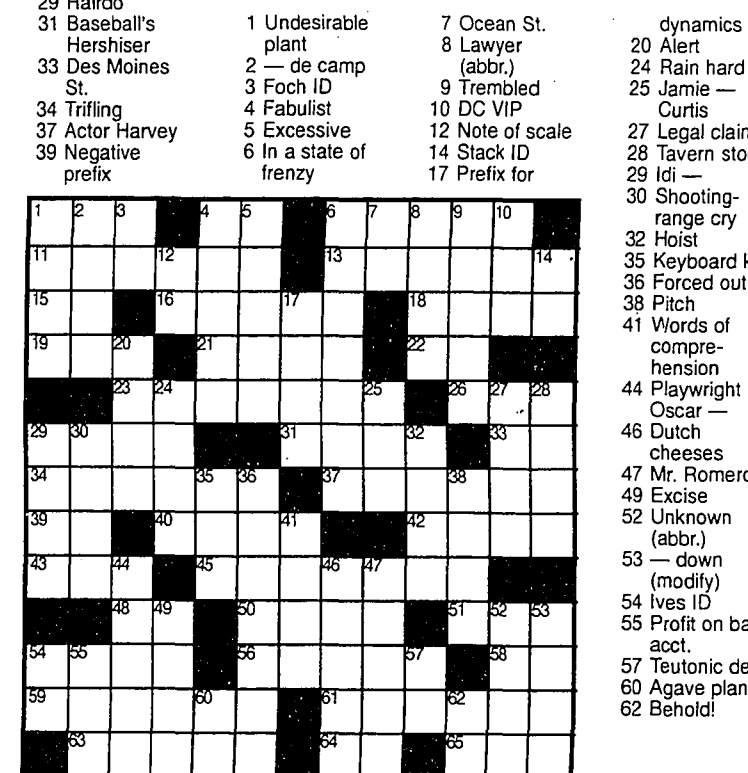
DOWN

40 — Shankar
42 Assortment
of type
43 Recent
45 Divides into
two equal
parts
48 Roman 99
50 Surrender
51 Took a chair
54 TV's Cosby
56 Plague
58 Refusal
59 Compose
61 Filmdom's
Stanley
Kowalski
63 Lukewarm
64 Grad.-to-be
65 Individual

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PAL CYCLE RES
IRA AARON OUT
TIM BREW ECRU
PRIDE ID
SIF ONS ENSILE
ELA STRATEGIC
ROBE INS LENO
FABRICATE TEL
STREAK EVE SE
CN ARARA
EDIT FLED CHA
AID DODGE RIN
TIA CRAIGS EDS

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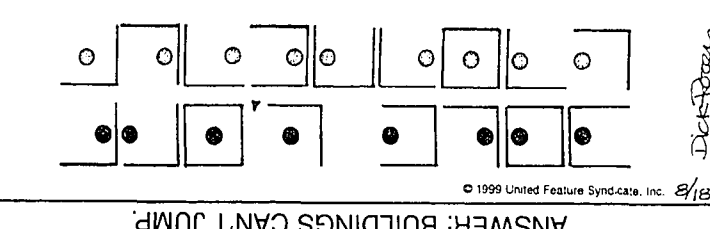
KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER

Here's a bet I always win. The bet:
"I can jump higher than a building."
Solve my puzzle if you need proof.

Each box contains three dots which stand for letters. You solve the code by figuring out which letter each dot stands for, by the box it is in and by its position.

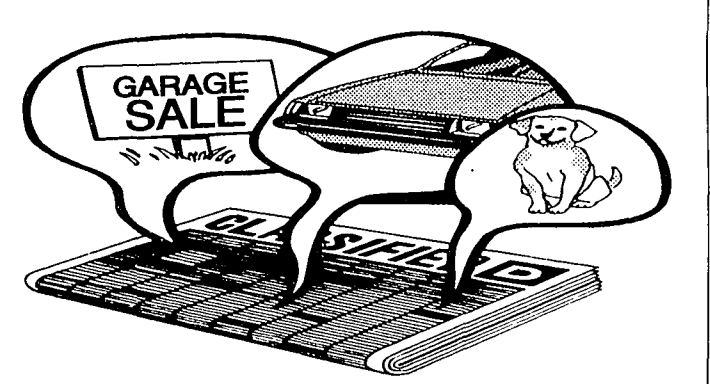
ABC DEF GHI
JKL MNO POR
STU VWX YZ



ANSWER: BUILDINGS CAN JUMP

Marianas Variety

"You Can Get What You Want"



AIMING TO GET A NEW JOB? GIVE THE CLASSIFIED ADS A SHOT!

US eyes control of IBF

NEWARK, N.J. (Reuters) — The U.S. government continued to move aggressively against the International Boxing Federation (IBF) on Monday, filing a civil suit that seeks to remove its leaders from power less than three weeks after it indicted them on bribery charges.

In its suit, the government said it was asking the court to appoint an independent monitor with broad powers over the East Orange, N.J.-based organization's operations and finances, as well as requesting that it permanently block current officials from running the

IBF.

"This lawsuit constitutes a devastating one-two punch that we hope will knock out the cycle of corruption that has plagued the IBF virtually since its inception," First Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Cleary told reporters at a news conference.

Cleary said prosecutors felt compelled to take this course to preserve the IBF and to ensure that boxers get their ranking and their fights honestly.

IBF officials were not immediately available for comment.

The suit comes less than three weeks after the government indicted IBF President Bob Lee,

65, his son Robert Lee, Jr., 38, Donald William Brennan, 86, and Francisco Fernandez, a Colombian, for bribery, charging that they ran the IBF — one of the sport's key sanctioning bodies — as a racketeering enterprise.

The indictments dealt another blow to professional boxing, which has come under increasing examination for alleged corruption following a hotly disputed decision that American Evander Holyfield and Briton Lennox Lewis drew their heavyweight title bout in March.

In a rematch this month, Lewis beat Holyfield on a unanimous point decision.

U.S. District Court Judge John Bissell was set to decide on Tuesday whether to appoint a monitor who in effect would run the IBF in Lee's place.

"Between the monitor and the court they are in essence going to be running the IBF," said Cleary.

The government is proposing to appoint Zachary Carter, former U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn, as the monitor. Carter is now in private practice.

The judge was also set to hear a motion on the government's request for a temporary restraining order that would block the defendants from spending IBF money and from destroying IBF records.

Cleary said he did not know if Lee and the other officials had already destroyed records or spent IBF funds, but this was a stop-gap measure to prevent any future loss.

The complaint said that Lee was "likely to commit future violations" and that he "has

shown no sign of resigning his position."

"Without judicial intervention, Lee, Sr., would likely remain president of the IBF or in some other position permitting him to exert control and influence over the IBF," it said.

The judge may also set a date to hear a motion for preliminary injunction to permanently bar Lee and the others from having any official role in the IBF, or any other boxing organization, and to divest themselves of any ownership interests in the IBF.

Cleary said it would not constitute a government takeover of the IBF because the monitor would be appointed and overseen by the court and not by federal prosecutors.

"The government is not taking it over, we're wresting control of it," Cleary said.

The suit is the first in the 20-year history of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act to be filed against a sports organization, Cleary said.

Brothers... Continued from page 32

marks, followed by the keynote speech of former mayor Frank M. Diaz, and closing remarks by vice-President Juan V. Diaz.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team members who participated in the South Pacific Games this year.

Also given awards were the Division of Sports & Recreation, Frank M. Diaz, Mike White, outgoing President Abner Venus.

DEQ... Continued from page 1

over their records because these chemicals were brought in during the period of the trust territory, according to Cabrera.

Agent Orange was used in defoliation operations by U.S. forces to expose their enemies.

MVA... Continued from page 1

the governor; three MVA Board members including Board Chairman David M. Sablan, and three MVA staff led by Managing Director Perry Tenorio, the governor's son.

MVA, Berg added, will also shoulder conference fees for Senate President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Saipan), Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), Rep. Bernadita Seman (R-Saipan) and a representative from the Rota Mayor's Office who, still according to Berg, may all be going for the trip.

Transportation fares of the lawmakers and the Rota representative will not be paid for by MVA. The governor, said Berg, will be using his own funds traveling home with his wife, as he is scheduled to stop over Guam.

At least 14 CNMI-based companies will likewise be sending representatives to the event at their own expense.

The Japan Association of Travel Agents will be holding its conference in Tokyo from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3. The event is meant to explore ways to develop tourism in the region and to strengthen ties with those involved in the industry.

Tenorio said he is going because he "also likes to join (MVA) in promoting the CNMI."

He said he may also spend time with Japan Airline (JAL) officials to see whether they can commit more flights into Saipan.

"I will be meeting with some of the tour agents and, perhaps, I will also be meeting with JAL to continue asking them for support in increasing flights... to bring in more people," said the governor.

Tourist arrivals from Japan posted a 25-percent increase from 24,753 in October 1998 to 31,045 for the same month this year.

"We saw an increase in arrivals. (But) we still have a lot of work to do to promote the CNMI," said Tenorio.

The JATA conference is being held every two years.

Happy 1st Birthday ABBY
Nov. 24, 1999
From Mom & Dad

In ATP Tour opener

Agassi faces Sampras

HANOVER, Germany (Reuters) — Andre Agassi faces the man he replaced as world number one, Pete Sampras, in the first round group of the year-ending ATP Tour world championship which begins on Tuesday.

Sampras relinquished top spot after a record six years, having missed much of the season through injury, but will have the opportunity to prove a point against the Las Vegas in the eight-player event.

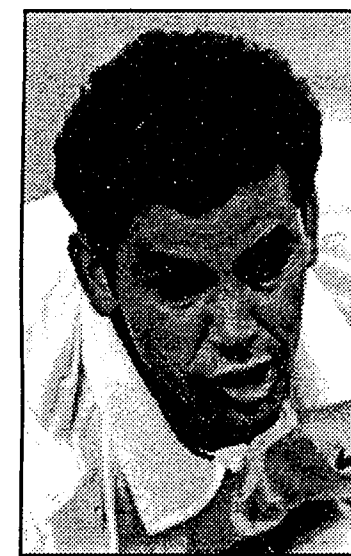
Agassi said on Monday he was also relishing the opportunity of taking on Sampras, now ranked fifth, on Wednesday or Thursday.

"Playing Pete will be special," he said. "It always is. It's impossible not to have enormous respect for what he has achieved."

Agassi is looking forward to battling for supremacy next year with Sampras.



Andre Agassi



Pete Sampras

"Tennis needs rivalries," he said. "Every sport needs it. Me and Pete, you know, it's what people want to see, what makes

this year's event for the 3-2 win over Britain.

Captain John McEnroe said: "I know I can count on Agassi, I hope that Pete will play. He must see if his back injury improves a little."

Agassi opens his Hanover title bid on Tuesday against Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti. Sampras will then take on Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in the other red group match.

The French and U.S. Open champion continued: "It has been a great year but a win here would cap it nicely. We have the world's top eight players here and it's a nice event."

"It's second to the grand slams but it's definitely second. Winning it would be a good way to end the year and to start the next one."

Agassi, who won the tourna-

ment in 1990, was 141st in the world and sweating on the unglamorous Challenger circuit at this time of the year in 1997.

"I remember, I was playing in Las Vegas and I was watching this on television," he said. "I thought 'Jesus, those guys are playing great!'"

Two years later, he is number one again and looks stronger than ever.

Agassi declined to answer personal questions about his new love Steffi Graf but added that the seven times Wimbledon champion, who has recently retired from tennis, could teach him a thing or two.

"You'll always learn from a great champion," he said. "I can learn from her."

World number two Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Thomas Enqvist, Nicolas Kiefer and Todd Martin are in the white group.

Celtics to replace floor for 1st time in 53 years

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics have said they will replace the parquet floor they have used for 53 years — but only until the usable scraps of wood can be salvaged for a new high-tech floor that will resemble the old.

"We want people to walk into the FleetCenter and know that they're still seeing the Celtics," said Randy Randjelovic, a technical manager from Connor Sports Flooring Corporation, which is making the new floor.

The Celtics will retire the old floor on Dec. 22, giving it a ceremony usually reserved for retiring greats and championship banner-raising. The new floor is expected to be in place for their first game of the new year, on Jan. 3 against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Indiana Pacers coach and former Celtics star Larry Bird, who played his Hall of Fame career on the old parquet, said be-

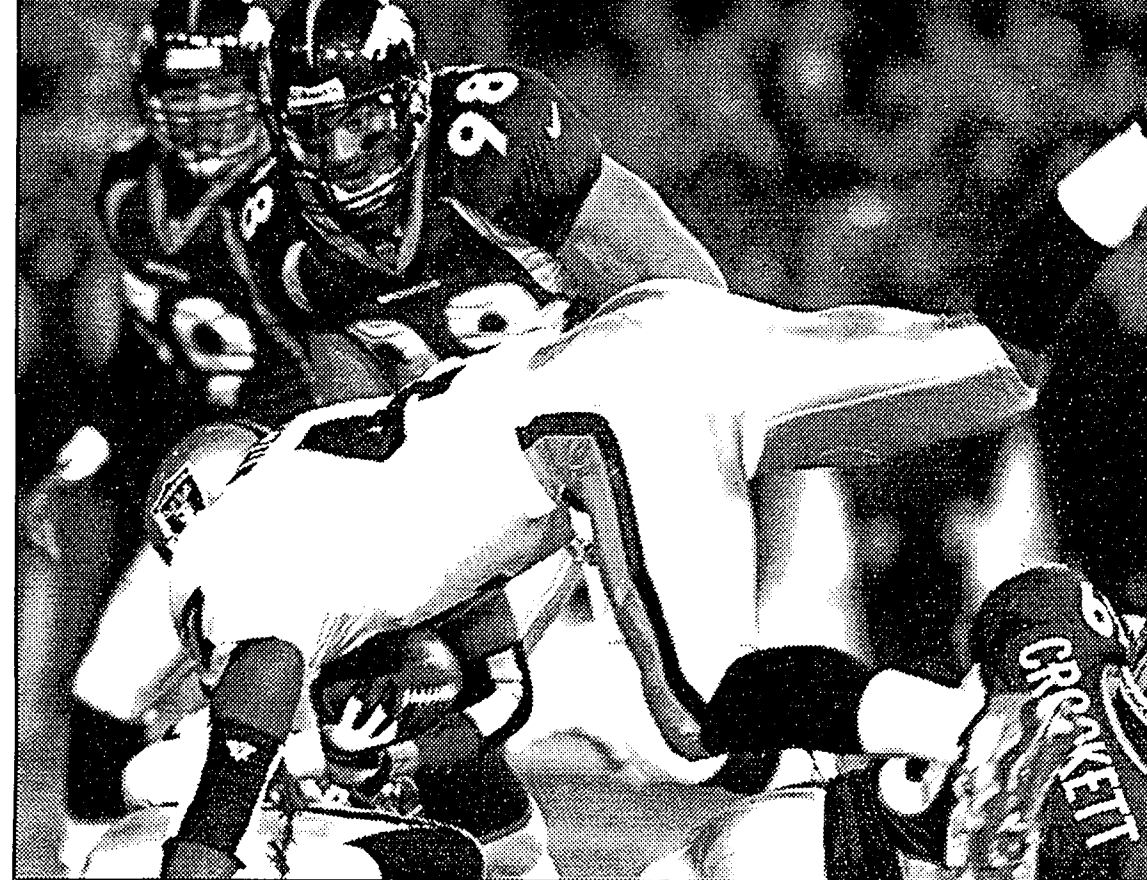
fore Monday night's game against the Celtics that he wasn't sentimental about the surface.

"Now, if they replaced the rims, it would be a little bit different," he said.

The old floor, which cost \$11,000, was a distinctive feature of the Boston Garden, where the Celtics played until they moved to the FleetCenter in 1996.

The floor's uneven surface and dead spots were believed by some to give the home team an advantage, and legend had it that Celtics players would direct opponents to dead spots and then swipe the ball when it took a bad bounce.

Because of a wood shortage caused by World War II, the floor was made with short boards of red oak of varying lengths and widths with the grains still showing.



Oakland Raiders running back Tyrone Wheatley (front) is upended by Denver Broncos cornerback Ray Crockett (back right) as Broncos defensive tackle Maa Tanuvasa (back left) closes in from the side in the first quarter in Denver's Mile High Stadium on Monday. AP

Collins Giants' starting quarterback

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (Reuters) — New York Giants head coach Jim Fassel, hoping to shake up a sluggish offense, said on Monday he was benching quarterback Kent Graham and handing the reins to Kerry Collins.

"This is not an experiment. Kerry is the starter," Fassel said at Monday's media briefing.

Collins will try to get the Giants (5-5) back on track against the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

Collins replaced an injured Graham and led the Giants to their only two sustained scoring drives in Sunday's 23-13 loss to the Washington Redskins. The loss dropped the Giants one game behind the first-place

Redskins in the NFC East.

Graham suffered his second concussion of the season in the second quarter of Sunday's game. Before the injury, he was in danger of being replaced, anyway, since he completed just 3-of-10 passes for 36 yards with two interceptions.

Collins stepped in and engineered a pair of 71-yard scoring drives, but he also fumbled the ball away twice and was intercepted once. Overall, he completed 13-of-21 passes for 221 yards.

When Collins signed a four-year, \$16.9 million contract with the Giants in February, it was believed he would quickly move ahead of Graham. But Graham kept his job and started the first four games, but suffered a concussion in an Octo-

ber 3 game against Philadelphia.

Collins started his first game the following week, but failed to get the Giants in the end zone in a 14-3 loss at Arizona on October 10.

Graham returned as the starter the following week and led the Giants to three straight wins before a 27-19 loss to Indianapolis on November 14.

Collins, 27, has completed 46-of-78 passes (59 percent) for 553 yards and no touchdowns with three interceptions in four games this season.

Graham, 29, who is the final year of a two-year, \$3 million contract, is 160-of-271 (59 percent) for 1,697 yards and nine touchdowns with nine interceptions.

Stewart's death casts a shadow on Grand Slam

POIPU, Hawaii (AP) — This was supposed to be a celebration, a \$1 million culmination to the PGA Tour season.

Instead, the PGA Grand Slam of Golf has turned somber.

The tournament, which starts Tuesday at the Poipu Bay Resort on Kauai, is designed for the winners of the year's four majors.

There's Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal, British Open winner Paul Lawrie and PGA winner Tiger Woods.

The fourth spot is reserved for the U.S. Open champ, but Payne Stewart was killed in a plane crash in South Dakota last month.

Davis Love III, the alternate based on his performance in this year's majors, will take over for

his late friend.

"I'm not trying to replace him," Love said Monday. "His spot will never be taken. None of the four can replace Payne. Hopefully, while we're here, we can focus on him and carry on his mission for his love of the game of golf."

And Stewart's memory will be everywhere. His portrait, draped in a lei, has a place on the scoreboard. He will also be an integral part of the tournament program and television plans a tribute during its prime-time telecast.

The four participants were part of this year's Ryder Cup in which the United States rallied to win the trophy on the final day.



Tennis players (from right) Andre Agassi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Gustavo Kuerten, Tomas Enqvist, Pete Sampras, Nicolas Kiefer, Todd Martin and Nicolas Lapentti watch the draw for the ATP tennis world championships in Hanover, northern Germany Monday. AP

Another... Continued from page 1

agents.

Sources also said two other persons, including a former federal security officer, were likewise placed under FBI custody. The third person sought by FBI is be-

lieved to be currently in Hawaii. Mendiola is now out on bail, the same sources added.

As of press time, it was not clear yet whether the two other persons taken to court managed to post bail.

Mendiola, a Democrat, served as congressman in 1980 to 1982. He became mayor of Tinian from

1990 to 1994.

The FBI had earlier investigated a bribery case, resulting to the filing of charges against several persons, including another former Tinian mayor and senator Herman M. Manglona.

Manglona entered a guilty plea last September. His sentencing was set for Dec. 21.

"is to look at some tax relief for businesses particularly the airline and tourism industries so that they will be able to offer more incentives to attract more tourists."

Hofschneider said members are mulling the possibility of giving hotels relief on the occupancy tax "and other taxes that impact them directly."

The 12th Legislature will also look into giving a 10-year tax reprieve to investors provided they hire local U.S. citizens.

"Primarily, we are looking at the cost of doing business in the CNMI," Hofschneider said, adding that small- and medium-scale business establishments in the CNMI "are suffering because of some internal business burdens" like permitting fees.

The 12th Legislature will have

its inaugural session on the second Monday of January next year.

Hofschneider said there will be no "division nor partisanship" in the House, saying such practice "has been done away with."

He also called for unity among the members, adding that he will "treat everyone accordingly and fairly."

He added, "If they propose an idea, I will be willing to listen and work with them. I am willing to sit down and talk and put our differences aside."

Hofschneider said committee chairmen will be free to choose who among the members will serve on their committees.

He said he will also discuss committee membership with the House minority leader, a position currently held by Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan).

Caucus... Continued from page 1

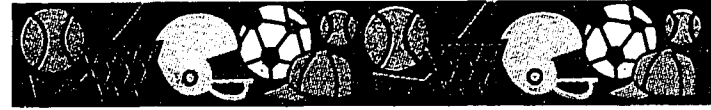
Apatang (Saipan) will continue to chair Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Hofschneider said the leadership of the Committees on Commerce and Tourism, Judiciary and Governmental Operations, and Labor and Immigration will be "reserved" for Babauta and Fital. Babauta currently chairs Commerce and Tourism.

Hofschneider said high on the 12th Legislature's agenda is a review of current policies restricting business in the CNMI.

"There is a lot of work cut out for the 12th Legislature," he said. "On top of the list," he added,

SPORTS



BANMI league off to rousing start

Brothers, Saipan Stars win

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Northern Mariana Islands year 2000 season got off to a rousing start Monday with defending champions APC Brothers and the Saipan Stars winning against separate opponents at the Ada Gym.

The Brothers sponsored by Luis Crisostomo beat Pacific Trading Co.-sponsored Lite Beer, 91-82 in the first game of the evening's double-header.

Top scorer for the champs was Jess Dela Cruz with a night-high 29 points, 15 of them made in the first half.

He was adjudged best player of the game.

Ed Diaz and Steve Rasa contributed 20 and 19 points, respec-

tively.

Tom Alegre led Lite Beer's scoring sock with 16 points, followed by Elias Rangamar, Winsor Peter, Randy Argonado and Junior Renguul, each contributing 10 points in a losing cause.

With the much-daunted combination of Ed Diaz, Jess Dela Cruz, Steve Rasa, Ponce Rasa and Peter Sablan still intact, and former national team

coach Jack Diaz being replaced by coach Patrick Tudela, the Brothers roster can run the entire 40 minutes of the game.

Badly missing the services of its standout players, Ric "the

steady hands" Alegre on the injured list and Peter and Abong Camacho, playing coach Elias Rangamar tried their best to keep close with the Brothers, to no avail.

In the second game, the Saipan Stars, sponsored by Reps. Karl Reyes and Manuel Tenorio, proved too much for the Ol' Aces, sponsored by Ben Fitial, 79-70.

Ex-Toyota Wheels standout Jorge DeGuzman had 19 points to lead his team to victory over the younger, up-and-coming team.

Mike Dodge, Ray Duenas, and Casey Cummins also contributed 18, 13, and 12, respectively, for the winners.

For the losers, David Sablan was leading scorer with a game-high 22 points followed by Taula Peter's 12 points and Romeo Iginoef's 12 points.

It was a close game from the

start with both teams exchanging baskets.

With 10 minutes remaining in the ballgame Saipan Stars Ray "Spud Webb" Duenas made three consecutive steals to give his team a 6-point lead. Duenas, the shortest player in the league, showed why he was chosen as one of the players to the national team for the last South Pacific Games.

Ol' Aces is seen as a team to watch with a roster that boasts speed and stamina. It also has such standouts as Jason Rafael, who was MVP for the Rotary Club Youth League, and Dave Sablan a national team mainstay who is seen as dangerous and explosive in offense.

Jorge DeGuzman, was selected as the player of the game, not only for leading his team in scoring but also for controlling the boards.

The game was a fitting night-cap to a glittery opening kickoff led by Rep. Karl Reyes who made the ceremonial toss.

Also present were Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo and first mayor of Saipan Frank M. Diaz.

After the parade and introduction of the participating teams, the Marianas High School JROTC Color Guards came in for the raising of the flags. Local recording artist Gus Kaipat sang the National Anthem.

Master of ceremonies Abner Venus then introduced the new BANMI Board of Directors, as follows: Ray Lizama - president, Juan V. Diaz - vice president, Mike White - secretary/treasurer, and Abner Venus - SIO.

Incoming President Ray Lizama delivered his opening re-

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San Antonio defends Cross Country title

ONE HUNDRED thirty runners from twelve elementary schools gathered at dawn Saturday for the All-schools Cross Country Championship at the airport course.

San Antonio placed ten runners in the top 19 to win the girls and boys divisions. It was the third consecutive All-schools running title for San Antonio.

SCS placed second and Tanapag placed third in both girls and boys divisions.

Melissa Coleman of Saipan Community School won the girls' mile with a time 6:50 and Karen Echon of San Antonio was second.

San Antonio was a 40-point winner in the girls division. Kathleen Magada, Bethany Maratita, Figure-eight Kepwe, and Siarra Babauta were the SAES team qualifying scores.

Macgregory Camacho of Dandan won the boys' mile in 6:25 with Andrew Perry Agulto finishing third for boys champions San Antonio.

Geovanni Sablan, Alvin Santos, Jason Apello, and Ronnaphop Indalacio were the other members of the SAES team.

The San Antonio runners will defend their All-schools track & field title in March

	Boys	Girls	Overall
San Antonio	53	62	115
SCS	108	102	210
Tanapag	134	115	249

Hit & Run keeps clean slate in fastpitch league

A COSTLY error in the bottom of the seventh and final inning gave Lite Beer Hit & Run a come-from-behind 8-7 extra inning victory over the winless CSI Hunters Monday night to maintain a clean slate in the Saipan fastpitch softball league.

The Hunters were on the verge of getting back into the season after dropping their first four games, leading 7-5 with one out

in the bottom of the seventh.

But the costly error by second baseman Frank Torres and a hit by pitch boarded the tying run.

Jester Garcia's single scored one run, before Ken Kalen's sacrifice tied the game at 7-all to force the extra inning.

With the winning run at first with two-outs, Bill Benavente then slapped a single to center scoring the winning run all the

way from first for the come-from-behind win.

Benavente led the undefeated Hit & Run going 2 for 4 with two RBI's offsetting Chris Palacios's three-run homer of the Hunters.

In the first game of the night, the Bad Boyz stopped the Sunrisers in five innings, 11-1, behind Mel Sakisat's three RBI's and John Diaz's 3 for 4.

After a scoreless first, the Bad

Boyz then exploded for eight big runs in the bottom of the second to take the lead for good, 8-0, highlighted by Mel Sakisat's two-run triple and James Diaz's RBI double.

Leading 10-1 with the possible game ending run at third with two-outs in the bottom of the fifth, Ben Hocog then slapped a single to center to stop the ballgame on a ten-run-rule, 11-1.



American golfer Tiger Woods tees off as galleries look during his golf clinic for children in the Nike Golf Tiger Woods Day in Narita, Japan Tuesday.

SAIPAN

P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797
Fax: (670) 234-9271
E-mail: younis@gtepacific.net
mvariety@gtepacific.net

Marianas Variety News & Views
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GUAM 99-990 PB85874 43
960 South Marine Drive, Suite 150
Tamuning Plaza, GU 96911
Tel. (671) 649-4678 • 4681-378
Fax: (671) 649-4687
E-mail: gvariety@ite.net

(FIRST CLASS MAIL)