4. An estimated 12,000 people in your city and surrounding area will be affected by the news. A chain of health spas called “Mr. Muscles” is closing. Its the areas largest spa, with 6 clubs located throughout the city. It closed without warning. The company is owned by Mike Canral of 410 South Street. Normally, the spas open at 6 a.m. and, when people went to them today, they found a simple notice taped to the doors at all 6 saying, “Closed Until Further Notice.” Canral was unavailable. His attorney, Jena Cruz, said the company is bankrupt and she doesn’t expect it to reopen. She said she will file a bankruptcy petition for the spas in federal court, probably early next week. Hundreds and hundreds of regular members showed up at the clubs today and found the doors locked, the lights out, and the equipment inside sitting unused. Employees, estimated to total 180 in number, were also surprised. They said they did not know the spas were in trouble and had no inkling they were about to close. Several said they are worried about whether or not they will be paid for their work during the last two weeks. They are paid every two weeks, and their normal payday is tomorrow. Some members paid up to $499 a year for use of the facilities. Some have paid for 3 or 5-year memberships. An undetermined number bought lifetime memberships for $3,999. The clubs have been open for more than 15 years. The state Department of Consumer Affairs is investigating the closing. Kim Eng, director of the department, said she did not know if any members could get refunds on their memberships but said if the company goes bankrupt that seems unlikely. Cruz said the clubs were losing a total of $3,000 a week. She added that there is no money left to return to members. The state attorneys office is also investigating members complaints. The company opened its first spa in 1981, then began an aggressive expansion program. Atty. Cruz said the company borrowed money to buy land for its spas and to build the spas, each of which cost a total of well over a million dollars to build and equip, and that it has not been selling enough new memberships in recent months to make the payments on all its loans.