

York  
Returns  
As  
Basketball  
President  
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VOL 13 NO. 88

Friday August 29, 2003

U.S. 50 CENTS/NAF. 1.--/EC\$ 1.-

St. Maarten-Willemstad relations soured...

## Central Government closes money faucet

PHILIPSBURG—Relations between St. Maarten and the Central Government soured Thursday, reportedly as a result of statements attributed to Finance Minister

Ersilia de Lannooy. She was reported as saying that the Central Government would not be releasing some three million guilders it had undertaken to provide St. Maarten.

This latest development is being seen as a consequence of St. Maarten's decision to pull out of the Central Government coalition.

It reportedly prompted the Island Government of St. Maarten to convene a meeting late yesterday with all its social partners and St. Maarten's three representatives in Parliament to discuss what Leader of Government Commis-

sioner Sarah Wescott-Williams referred to as "the lack of actions and statements made by the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles."

In a terse press release last night, Wescott-Williams said that as a result of yesterday's meeting, St. Maarten's three parliamentary representatives - William Marlin, Marcel Gumbs and Maria Buncamper-Molanus - would hold a press conference this evening.

The press conference will be held by the three MPs "for the purpose of making known their joint position in

Continued on page 4

## Voges resigns, Cova takes over

WILLEMSTAD—Russell Voges of the Democratic Party (DP) of St. Maarten, sworn in on July 22 as Minister of Internal and Constitutional Affairs, has tendered his resignation, as have State Secretary Johan "Janchi" Leonard and Deputy Plenipotentiary Minister in The Hague Henri Brooskon.

Prime Minister Mirna Godett informed Acting Governor Van der Pluym-Vrede (Governor Goedgedrag is abroad) of the latest political developments following the departure of the DP-St. Maarten from the federal coalition. The acting governor accepted the resignations.

For now PLKP leader and Minister of Economic Affairs Errol

Continued on page 4

## Civil servant arrested for scam in selling Govt land

PHILIPSBURG—The police have arrested a man M.F.I. for illegal practices with regard to the sale of land. He was employed by the St. Maarten Government in the department of Domein Beheer, which deals with the sale of Government land.

"The suspect was detained after

we discovered at least one case where he had collected money for land sale, withholding it from Government," Chief Prosecutor Cor Merx said Wednesday.

Authorities suspect that there have been more cases in which the

Continued on page 3



## Depression #10 becomes Tropical Storm Fabian

PHILIPSBURG—Satellite images yesterday indicated that Tropical Depression #10 had intensified to tropical storm strength.

The center of Tropical Storm Fabian was located at 5:00pm yesterday near latitude 15.2 North, longitude 39.2 West, or about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) West of the Southernmost Cape Verde islands.

Fabian was moving toward the West near 22 mph (35 km/hr) and this general motion was expected to continue for the next 24 hours

with a gradual decrease in forward speed.

Maximum sustained winds were near 45 mph (75 km/hr) with higher gusts. Gradual strengthening was forecast during the next 24 hours. Tropical storm force winds extended outward up to 70 miles (110 km) to the North of the center.

The estimated minimum central pressure was 1004 mb (29.65 inches).

### IN BRIEF

#### Philipsburg MARLIN ON MOMENTUM

St. Maarten shouldn't lose the momentum that was created in Wednesday's meeting with Dutch Parliamentarians and should move on to the next step to achieve separate status, said National Alliance Leader William Marlin Wednesday. Page 3.

#### Philipsburg DON AGAINST BOARDWALK

Stopping the Great Bay Boardwalk Project is the driving force behind the newly formed "Save Our Great Bay Beach Foundation," headed by Philipsburg property owner Don Hughes. Page 3.

#### Philipsburg ST. MAARTEN FLAG RETURNED

Almost eight years after the island's national ensign was torn from the Administration Building during Hurricane Luis, four Dutch Marines brought it back from Holland and presented it to Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards. Page 9.

## Man wanted by police

PHILIPSBURG—Local police have now released a photograph of the Jamaican national who escaped from the Philipsburg police station last Friday.

They have also released his name: Baldwin Ryan Lewis (21). He is wanted in connection with a burglary in the Philipsburg area. He was last seen running through the bushes at Cay Bay, wearing a white tank-top and short blue jeans.

Several officers searched for him in the Cay Bay area on Wednesday after receiving information that he had been hiding out there. He was cornered and after a long chase managed to evade the police. He has been on the run now for one week.

Police Deputy Chief Commissioner Richard Panneflek stated that anyone having information on the whereabouts of the suspect should immediately contact the police station.



Baldwin Ryan Lewis

He said all information would be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

The suspect jumped from one of the top windows on the side of the police station that faces the Government Administration building. He was apparently being interrogated at the time of his escape.

# The Daily Herald

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ST. KITTS  
466-8609

**Today:** Generally partly cloudy, with possibly a few lingering isolated showers, mainly during the morning.

**Winds:** East to Southeast, weakening to 5 to 10 miles per hour.

**Sea conditions:** Light to moderate.

**Wind force:** 2 to 4, occasionally 5 in and around showers.

**Waves:** 2 to 4 feet, 3 to 6 feet near showers.

**Swells:** East to Northeast, 2 to 3 feet over the offshore waters, no significant height near coastal areas.

**Barometric pressure:** Above normal.

**Barometric tendency:** No significant change.

**Forecast high:** 31°C, 88°F

**Forecast low:** 25°C, 77°F

**SYNOPSIS:** A mid-level disturbance over the area is providing an increasing moisture air flow across the region. Showers will develop periodically. A weak high pressure over the Atlantic will continue to provide a light to moderate mainly East trade wind across the local waters.

**HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK:** None.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

A large area of showers over the Northwestern Caribbean is associated with a tropical wave moving West. There is no sign of development at this time.

A tropical wave located yesterday about 1,000 miles East of the Eastern Caribbean was moving West-Northwest about 10 miles per hour. Conditions did not appear to be favorable for development, but may improve in the next day or two.

Tropical Depression #10 developed into Tropical Storm Fabian yesterday. It was centered at 5:00pm yesterday near 15.2 degrees North and 39.2 degrees West, or about 1,000 miles West of the Southernmost Cape Verde Islands. Fabian was moving toward the West near 22 miles per hour and this general motion was expected to continue, with a gradual decrease in forward speed. Maximum sustained winds were near 45 miles per hour, with higher gusts, and gradual strengthening was forecast. Elsewhere, tropical storm formation is not expected through the forecast period.

**Outlook until Saturday midday:** Partly cloudy skies, with no significant potential for rain and a weak South east wind.

**Rainfall probability:** Periods of showers.

**Rainfall potential:** 10 to 20 mm.

**Sunrise:** 5:57am; **Sunset:** 6:29pm.

SMART PLAY	SXM DAILY NUMBERS	CURAÇAO
9419	77887	7183
7710	23069	9129
2475	01863	4722

## CRUISE SHIPS IN PORT TODAY

Vessel	Place	Arrival	Departure	Agent
Adventure Of The Seas	Pier 8,00	17:30	S.E.L. Maduro & Sons	

## ST. MAARTEN

POLICE STATION  
Philipsburg tel. 542-2222

HOT LINE 108

Open daily 10 am - 6 pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

tel. 542-6001 or 120

HOSPITAL

Medical Center, Cay Hill

24-hour Emergency Service

tel. 543-1111

AMBULANCE

Philipsburg tel. 542-2111

Red Cross Building 545-8083

Open daily tel. 577010. Patients of Dr. Dalemé, Dr. Fockens, Dr. Herles, Dr. van Oech and Dr. Tjalling, please call tel. 577007. Patients of Dr. van der Wisp, please call 57044. Patients of Dr. Aboedij, Dr. Dennoua and Dr. Gumbs should contact their own doctor.

ANIMAL AMBULANCE TEAM

542-0600/558887 CRIME

STOPPERS ANONYMOUS TIP LINE:

543-TIPS(8477)

TELEPHONE INFO

Tel.: 542-2111

Open daily Colobar: 542-4100

Cole Bay Community Council: meeting 1st, Thursday of month at Sun Power

Kinder Garden School, Union Rd. Cole Bay at 7:30pm

SERVICE CLUBS

ROTARY meeting at Olive Little Bay Beach Resort, every Wednesday at 8:00 am. Rotary Midlife meets every Tuesday 6-8 pm, The Doll Surf & Turf Restaurant. Maho Plaza 2nd level.

LIONS meeting at the Upper Ricos Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm.

ST. MAARTEN Leo Club meeting at Jubilee Library 1st, 3rd Friday every

## Agenda St. Martin / St. Martin

month at 8:30 pm.

KIWANIS Club at Wilfrid Building on Thursday each month at 7:30 pm.

Kiwanis Key Club of the St. Maarten Academy meeting at the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1:30 pm.

KIWANIS SOUTALIA 1st & 3rd Monday 7:00pm Holland House

JAYCEES meeting at the Wilfrid Building every 1st Thursday of the month 8 pm.

ST. MARTIN MUSEUM

Front Street / Philipsburg tel. 542-4917

Opening hours from March 1st:

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Sundays, closed.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the P.L.C. Fellowship Hall (Philipsburg) at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, 6pm, Red Cross, Airport Road. Saturday and Sunday at Muller Bay beach next to restaurant.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS: Sun 9:00am, Tue 7:00pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thu 7:00pm, Sat 4:00pm.

ADSCORDINATORS Shannavan Ear tel. 542-0709 Health Department, e-mail: health@stmartin.net

NATURE FOUNDATION ST. MARTIN

Box 68, Marina, St. Martin #1 P.O. Box 863, Philipsburg, Tel. 542-0287. Fax: 542-0282. Email: natursem@metropic.com

PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY tel. 542-2199

Dr. C.W. Jonker, tel. 542-5287

## Full disclosure

The first backlash from the DP St. Maarten's decision to pull out of the Central Government has surfaced with statements by Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy (PNP) that the island can forget about 3 million guilders that is still due, because certain conditions have not been met.

Any temptation to react drastically by, for example, boycotting tax payments to the federal coffers, should be resisted, at least for the moment. If indeed promises were made with which St. Maarten has not complied, the public has a right to know what they are and what can be done about it. One can argue that the minister would not have been as stern had the DP-St. Maarten still been part of the Central Government, but on the other hand, a deal is a deal.

The minister said an advance had been given pending actions by St. Maarten to comply with certain financial obligations, which did not take place. In fact, DP-St. Maarten leader Sarah Wescott-Williams had already mentioned that the 3 million might become a problem once the party pulled out. An urgent meeting was reportedly held with the social partners yesterday to discuss the problem. The Central Government has also been deducting what St. Maarten owes certain federal institutions from the island's share of the turnover tax.

To maintain the unity shown in the past few days against what has been termed the abuse by the Central Government, it is important that clarity is provided on what promises were made and not kept, as well as exactly what St. Maarten owes to whom and vice versa. Only full disclosure and openness on the true financial picture of the Island Territory can provide the basis of trust needed to continue the joint struggle for more autonomy. Anything less would affect the island's credibility and undermine the current efforts.



12:30/4h.3h. Tel. 49. 36. 91.

WOMEN'S DESK, Frontstreet 141 (opposite Tel-Cell, Monday - Friday 9am-5pm. Tel. 542-7940. Fax: 542-7941.

EMAIL: womendesk@stmartin.net

SAFE HAVEN providing shelter and support to victims of family violence. P.O. Box 636, tel. 333

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, E.C. Robinson street 11c, tel. 542-1005/1006; Fax: 542-1001

FRENCH HONORARY CONSUL, P.O. Box 803, Philipsburg, Tel. (00590) 879859. Fax: 542-0000 (879693). E-mail: consular@stmartin.net

Stannias GRARE (w/wardo) 8

LEGAL AID CENTER, law clinic, open every Saturday 10am - 12.00 noon. Fee advice on personal legal matters. Administration Building, tel. 942237

Coastguard NAAA (24hrs) 113

ST. MARTIN RED CROSS, (24hrs), #34 Airport Road Simpson Bay, Tel: 542-6630/6294. Fax: 94-9255

EMAIL: redcross@stmartin.net

DIABETES INFORMATION CENTER, A.H. Ligas Road (behind Destopka building) Free blood-glucose testing every Thursday from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

USO St. Maarten, St. Martin (USA military), corner Jinet Lambert 579763 or 0629 59

2944-06

SKULLCROSS ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN meets 1st Tuesday of the month. For location call 542432 (Lammer).

GENDARMERIE tel. (00590) 590 87.50.04

FIRE DEPARTMENT tel. (00590) 590 87.72.00

AMBULANCE Office tel. (00590) 590 87.74.14

HOSPITAL tel. (00590) 590 87.72.00

8 am - 3 pm, tel. (00590) 590 87.50.93

DISPENSARIE Orliens

8 am - 3 pm, tel. (00590) 590 87.37.21

C.R.O.S.S.I. Center, Research, Organization, Rescue, Security is on standby 24 hours at (0696) 703932.

SERVICE CLUBS

ROTARY meeting at Flamboyant Hotel, 10:00 AM every Thursday at 8:00 pm.

Nations First and Third Tuesday at Lido's Bar, St. Maarten.

MUSEUM ST. MARTIN

Facing the grand parking at Marina Royale - Margot. Open from 9am-11pm.

3pm - 7 pm, (00590) 590 87.22.84

## Utilize opening in Dutch standpoint, says Marlin

PHILIPSBURG—St. Maarten shouldn't lose the momentum that was created in Wednesday's meeting with Dutch Parliamentarians and should move on to the next step to achieve separate status, said National Alliance Leader William Marlin.

According to Marlin, the speech by St. Maarten Democratic Party (DP) Leader Sarah Wescott-Williams, who spoke on behalf of the three local leaders, and the addi-

tional statements had a positive effect on the faction leaders of the Dutch Parliament.

"We were able to sensitize them for the first time on this issue. Finally they showed willingness to exchange thoughts," he said.

"An opening has been created for the next step. We have to set the stage today for the game to begin. It is up to us to put the ball in play. We shouldn't lose the momentum that was created and (should)

right away follow up what the next concrete step should be to press forward to achieve our goal," Marlin stated.

Marlin explained that he had suggested to only address constitutional matters in the meeting with the Dutch, instead of the original seven agenda points. St. Maarten's quest for constitutional change and the problems with the Central Government all tie into that.

Also tied to that subject are developments in the European Union (EU). As such, St. Maarten requested the Parliamentarians to "give clarity" on the passage in the governing accord of the Dutch Government to strive to make the Antilles Ultra-Peripheral Territories (UPTs) of the EU, explained Marlin.

As for the move of the DP to withdraw its support from the Central Government, Marlin suggested that the party give some clarity on what exactly the situation was on federal level. He said it was also unclear what the positions were of Minister Russell Yoges, Stats Secretary Johan "Janchi" Leonard and Acting Minister Plenipotentiary Henry Brookson in Holland. The DP, in Marlin's opinion, should in the first place confirm that it is out.

Marlin confirmed that there was currently no discussion between his party and the governing FOL party or former "formateur" Ben Komproe.

According to the National Alliance leader, the DP is to blame for its decision to pull out. "What we have warned against has happened," he said. He pointed out that the FOL had negotiated from a position of weakness after the elections in 2002. However, after the 2003 elections it could negotiate from a position of strength, as it now had 10 seats.

St. Maarten and the rest of the Windward Islands should then have taken the lead by forming one block and speaking with one voice, said Marlin. "That has been ignored and the DP has basically created for themselves the situation they are in. FOL can talk back tough, because at the end of the day Antillean politics is island politics."

ers who want to build this boardwalk."

Visitors are asked by the foundation to sign the letter of protest or send their personal sentiments in favour of the protest to the Island Government.

In a press statement, Hughes "strongly warns" Environmental Development and Property Management Commissioner Roy Marlin "against destroying Great Bay Beach," adding that it clearly appears that Marlin has now taken over where Commissioner Theo Heyliger left off in 2001. (See related letter in Opinion Section).

The first phase of the boardwalk project is slated to begin next week with the driving of the first test piles, according to Philipsburg District Improvement Team Management Company (PDM) Managing Director Joseph Richardson. The project should be in "full swing" by the end of September.

## Don leads signature drive against Boardwalk Project

PHILIPSBURG—Stopping the Great Bay Boardwalk Project is the driving force behind the newly formed "Save Our Great Bay Beach Foundation," headed by Philipsburg property owner Don Hughes.

The foundation is collecting signatures from residents and tourists to be added to its letter of protest to government. The heading of the petition to visitors states that it is a pleasure to serve and accommodate their vacation experience at the naturally beautiful and environmentally clean Great Bay Beach, an area the foundation wants to maintain for a long time to come.

It further states, "Nevertheless, there are some unscrupulous private developers with public collaborators who want to spoil this beach with a boardwalk that will take away a major part of the lounging areas of the beach, and we appeal to you to help us save this Great Bay Beach from selfishly motivated develop-

## Land scam

Continued from page 1

ment was involved in the illegal practice.

Mexr explained that the suspect appeared to have been offering his services primarily to fellow Government employees who were interested in purchasing land.

Once the interested parties had paid for the necessary paperwork to be processed, M.F.I. would then charge US \$2,000 for the actual land. In one case a female from whom he had collected the US \$2,000 found out that the

money had not been paid to the appropriate department. After confronting M.F.I., he paid only US \$300 in reimbursement of the US \$2,000.

Mexr said that along with the criminal case to be brought against M.F.I., the victim, in this case the person who tried to buy land, would come to his office on Wednesday and make the necessary arrangement for the authorities to help her get her money back.



Economic Affairs and Tourism Commissioner Theo Heyliger (left) meets with the board of the Indian Merchants Association (IMA), headed by President Dayal Alwani (right), to discuss the upcoming FCCA conference.

## Indian Merchants to sponsor FCCA lunch

PHILIPSBURG—The Indian Merchants Association (IMA) will be sponsoring a lunch at Maho Beach Resort on October 9 for the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association's tenth annual conference and trade show participants.

This contribution to making the conference, being hosted by St. Maarten for the first time, a success was disclosed after a meeting between the IMA board, headed by President Dayal Alwani, and Economic Affairs and Tourism Commissioner Theo Heyliger yesterday.

Heyliger had called on the business community and other sectors of the community that benefit from cruise tourism to help in whatever way they could to make the conference a success. The IMA was approached to make a contribution. However, it first wanted to discuss with the commissioner the different forms the contribution could take.

Heyliger is delighted with the sponsorship from the Indian Merchants Association and is looking forward to more businesses and individuals pitching in to help with the conference hosting. St. Maarten Taxi Services and Dutch Tours, amongst

others, have already committed to providing all the ground transport for delegates.

The FCCA conference and trade show will be held at Maho Beach Resort October 7-10. The conference is being coordinated jointly by

the Dutch and French Tourist Bureaus.

This forum will help to showcase the island to a large number of cruise executives who are responsible for cruise ship itineraries and other aspects of the cruise industry.

## Customs strikes twice, two bolita swallows detained

PHILIPSBURG—Chief Prosecutor Cor Mexr stated yesterday that the Customs Department, acting on information from reliable sources, had arrested E.J.R. of Santo Domingo for possession of bolitas on Wednesday, August 27.

Mexr declined to disclose where the suspect had been detained.

Chief Customs Officer George Martis stated that Customs officers had arrested a man M.M.M., born January 17, 1956, after he was found to have swallowed a considerable number of bolitas.

Martis said the suspect had been detained at Princess Juliana International Airport while attempting to leave the island for Europe on board a

KLM flight. Martis said, "Today he was supposed to fly, but it was a bad day for him."

M.M.M. is said to have arrived in St. Maarten from Curacao a week ago and remained on the island until yesterday, when he was detained. No information was given on where he had stayed while on the island.

## UTS reduces its international dialing rates up to 54 per cent

PHILIPSBURG—United Telecommunication Services (UTS) has announced a cut in its international calling rates of up to 54 per cent, effective Wednesday, September 3. UTS General Manager Glen Carty stated yesterday that a long process of negotiation with suppliers had resulted in a cut in the cost of purchasing that he believed "would be well appreciated by his customers during these difficult financial times."

Carty said, "One year ago, UTS reduced international rates and received very good responses from our custom-

ers, forcing our competitors to follow suit."

He noted that based on the feedback from the customers and research that was collected by Sales Services and Marketing Manager Christina Sprock and her team, UTS St. Maarten had made a proposal to UTS President Julio Constantia, who immediately approved it.

The reduction will be seen when calling Anguilla, Antigua, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Lebanon, Marfinique, Suriname and Venezuela.

Carty said, "Our rates have always been competitive and the most important thing about UTS is that what we advertise is exactly what we charge. We do not add any turnover tax or any other fees to the posted cost of your call." "This rate reduction will be great for those who pre-extended UTS for international dialing and for those who manually selected UTS," he said. He also noted that new customers could simply do the math and figure out for themselves which choice was best for international dialing.



The clients of Sister Basilia Center sing at the service at South Reward Catholic Church yesterday.

## Sister Basilia Center anniversary celebration ends with pool party

PHILIPSBURG—Sister Basilia Center held a week-long series of activities to mark its 19th anniversary on Thursday, August 28.

The week of activities ends today with a pool party for its clients' staff, which will include several surprise games and will start at 9:00am.

Department Manager for the Center Loyola Seymonson told The Daily Herald the center is looking forward to celebrating its 20th year and had already planned a cruise for its clients.

She said a series of fundraising activities, including a tea party, barbecues and car washes, would be held.

The anniversary celebrations commenced on Monday, August 25, with an opening prayer by Mary L. Melinda and the official opening of the celebration week by Department Manager Seymonson.

At 9:30am the clients and staff decorated the building and grounds of the center.

The clients went on a field trip to the Butterfly Farm and Princess Juliana International

Airport on Tuesday, August 26, participated in a "Personal Care Day" that consisted of self grooming procedures on Wednesday.

The clients and staff attended a church service at the Catholic Church in South Reward on Thursday and later during the day held an open house for visitors to see the operations at the center. They also had a talent show with performances by the clients of the center.



From left: United Telecommunication Services (UTS) Technicians Leo Cocks and Patricia Gumbs, Sales Services and Marketing Manager Christina Sprock and General Manager Glen Carty, Airspan Vice President of Sales Dick Lee, UTS Engineer Raphael Cargy and Airspan Engineer David Lauderdale, at the signing of the agreement between Airspan and UTS for Wireless Internet service.

## UTS signs agreement with Airspan for Wireless Internet, phase two

PHILIPSBURG—Airspan and United Telecommunication Services (UTS) have joined to make phase two of the UTS Wireless Service "Phase 2 Deluxe" with a new system from Airspan, scheduled to arrive on September 1.

The system is said to be state-of-the-art and, according to Airspan, it is the first of its kind in the Caribbean. The signing of the agreement sealed the deal between the two companies and positions UTS to offer a new package with a product that has up to two megabyte download capacity.

The announcement of the

new phase of the Wireless Service was made yesterday at UTS's Training and Development Center (TDC), at which point the contract between Airspan and UTS was signed. Signing on behalf of Airspan was its Vice President of Sales Dick Lee, while General Manager Glen Carty signed for UTS.

Lee said the new system added a great deal of flexibility to the UTS Wireless service and would give it as much bandwidth capability as the market demanded.

According to Carty, "Based on requests from intended and present customers, we opted to upgrade our band-

width capacity."

He noted that the new equipment from Airspan was set up to handle voice and data and had been the foundation of investment when UTS launched its local voice (local telephone) service.

Carty told reporters, "We launched Wireless Internet last October simply as an added value service to our customer, because we want to and are becoming the preferred 'one stop' supplier of telecommunication service in the Caribbean."

He said, though, "We encountered a bandwidth problem and corrected it, but had no intentions of investing more in Wireless based on what the market looked like."

He said St. Maarten would now have 98 per cent coverage with Wireless Internet and noted that those persons in Pelican, St. Peters and others who before could not receive the service now had the opportunity to apply.

## St. Maarten-Willemstad relations...

Continued from page 1

view of new developments." It will take place at Princess Juliana International Airport and will start at 6:30pm.

The press release gave no further details and did not specify what "actions" the Central Government had failed to take and what statements had been made or by whom.

However, according to reliable reports reaching The Daily Herald, there was much concern within government circles Thursday about the statements attributed to the Finance Minister.

De Lannooy said St. Maarten had reneged on certain promises made when it received an advance late last year, and that another 3 million guilders still due. He said money will now not be given, she added.

She said agreement had been reached on a repatriation of tax revenues, but St. Maarten was to restore order by taking care of certain financial commitments it had made.

De Lannooy said that while Holland had demanded financial order be restored before giving extra aid, which never came, the Antilean Government had given St. Maarten an advance pending actions it was supposed to take, but did not.

The minister also referred to the DP-St. Maarten's complaint that the decentralization of tax assessment and collection, as well as the

island's right to borrow, were not sufficiently reflected in the governing accord.

She said the Islands Regulation ERNA, which gave Curaçao the right to borrow as the only Antilean island with that right, also gave it different obligations. It means Curaçao can borrow, but cannot turn to the Central Government for financial assistance.

The other islands cannot borrow, but their deficits are covered from the federal treasury. In addition, while they can keep their income and profit taxes, Curaçao has to give part of them to the Central Government.

"St. Maarten wants only the sweet and not the bitter. If the island wants to borrow on its own, it cannot expect the Central Government to help cover its deficit, when it is not contributing at the same level. With rights come responsibilities."

In addition, she explained, St. Maarten wants to be able to acquire loans in foreign exchange. "That entails exchange rate risks."

She said that St. Maarten had been told since June 1991 it could only be given the authority to borrow if it moved from title 3 to title 2 in the ERNA, which would also mean giving up direct tax revenues like Curaçao. "Once the advice is in from the Director of Personnel Affairs, the Cen-

tral Bank and the Court of Justice, the change in the ERNA can be handled in Parliament," she added.

The decentralization of the entire tax operation is simply not possible, the minister argued. This would mean the Central Government would have no control mechanism, while it would be held accountable if international agreements were not complied with by an Island Territory.

Another example is the Social Insurance Bank SVB premium. If the island determines its level, the Central Government is still responsible for the functioning of the fund. "I'm not going to do things against the interest of the country," De Lannooy concluded.

## Voges resigns

Continued from page 1

Cova (also deputy prime minister) has taken over Internal and Constitutional Affairs.

Reacting to the departure of the DP-St. Maarten, ex-FORMATEUR Ben Komproef (FOL) called it regrettable, "but so be it."

His party leader Anthony Godtett stated earlier that the door remained open for St. Maarten, "but whether they are in government or not, Curaçao is always bigger."

### TRAINING AND SOCIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE FOUNDATION EVENING COURSES

Training & Social Education Institute Foundation will be conducting its new session of adult education courses in Cay Bay. French (level 1, 2, 3) Dutch (level 1, 2) Spanish (level 1, 2) English (level 1, 2, 3)

Classes focus on Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Registration will start on August 25 to September 3rd. Courses will start on Wednesday September 3rd from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

For more information and/or registration call us at: 5420074 / 5579921 / 5570303

## Law enforcers meet to discuss cooperation

PHILIPSBURG—Local authorities met at the office of Chief Prosecutor Cor Merx on Wednesday to discuss the combined effort of all uniformed groups of law enforcers in St. Maarten and to find ways of enhancing it to better serve the community.

The meeting was convened during the afternoon hours and present were Attorney General of the Netherlands Antilles Dick Piar, Police Deputy Chief Commissioner Richard Panneflek, Chief Customs Officer George Martis, Voluntary Corps VKS Commander Major Jean Illidge and Lieutenant Drost of the local Coast Guard.

It was the second of these meetings, which Merx said are set to occur twice a year. The joint operation was attempted for the first time last year and Merx said it had been very successful, especially considering the lack of manpower in the various departments.

Merx said, "The recent drug bust that netted 400 kilos of marijuana was a prime example of the good that can come from the cooperation between the departments in law enforcement."

During the meeting each department gave an update on the progress with the co-operation and suggestions on areas of improvement.

Merx said, "We only can do the job well if we all come together. The intention is to meet with each other twice annually and evaluate the co-operation so that changes or improvement can be made where necessary."

## Lions present book on safety

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Maarten Lions Club will present a special booklet to all Day Care Centers and Kindergartens on the island today. It is called "Safety in the Home."

The presentation will be held at the Lions Civic Center (Lions Den) in Sucker Garden at 4:00pm.

The book deals with specific safety aspects to which children, their parents, and their teachers should pay attention. It was written by local writer Sheila Williams.

The presentation is another part of the St. Maarten Lions Club's "Service towards the youth, our future."



White and Yellow Cross Foundation Chairman Frans Mulder holding a sample of the specially-cut ashlar stone with the birth date and name of a person born at the former hospital.

## "Remembrance Plaza" to honour births at old St. Rose Hospital

PHILIPSBURG — Prompted by a newspaper article urging remembrance of all St. Maarteners who were born at the former St. Rose Hospital, St. Rose Arcade Developers will be laying a special "Remembrance Plaza" in the new shopping mall on Front Street. The plaza will feature specially-cut ashlar stones with the birth dates and names of persons born in the old hospital.

The developers have secured delivery of special floor tiles from an overseas company that will also engrave the name and birth date of the applicant on each stone for US \$150. Contractor Licom N.V. will lay the stones for free once they are delivered on the island.

"Ever since the idea was first mentioned several weeks ago, there has been growing interest in the laying of the birth stones, to the point where we are putting together a list of names for the first order from our supplier," Emeaunde Consultants Spokesperson Denny Goossens said in a press statement.

Applicants for stones can contact Emeaunde Consultants N.V. at telephone 542-5103 for further information.

For the fee of US \$150, 25 five letters and/or characters are allowed and an additional fee of 12 euros will be charged for each additional letter or character in the personal birth message.

Members of the White and Yellow Cross Foundation,

which ran St. Rose Hospital, are excited about the birth stones idea, and the "Remembrance Plaza" for the new shopping arcade.

"I think it will be a good talking point for visitors and for our own local residents who were born at the old hospital," said White and Yellow Cross Foundation President Frans Mulder. He expects as many as 300 names to finally grace the specially-laid floor of the arcade.

"Since we can only order the birth stones in batches of 100 at a time, we will go ahead and lay the regular floor and replace the regular stones and tiles with the new stones bearing the birth information of those who want their or their relatives' names placed in the Remembrance Plaza," Goossens stated.

Along with the stones, a special plaque will be placed in a prominent position in St. Rose Arcade, giving a short description of the history of St. Rose Arcade and an explanation of the significance of the Remembrance Plaza birth stone inscriptions.

Licom N.V. is on schedule to finish the 26,000-square-foot St. Rose Arcade by November, in time for a December official opening.

The project features unique terraces and a surround-sound installation for public gatherings. It will be home to a number of tourist-oriented stores and services.

## NOAA ship departs with seven new scientists

POINTE-BLANCHE—After taking on board a fresh batch of seven scientists, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship Ronald H. Brown left St. Maarten yesterday, en route to the Puerto Rico trench to carry out an ocean exploration project.

The research ship stopped at the island for the first time last Friday for shore leave and to collect scientists representing NOAA from several universities and countries who were flying to St. Maarten to join the vessel.

Its new project entails the mapping of a small section of the eastern side of the Puerto Rican trench, Commander Wade Blake told The Daily Herald before the vessel departed. This exercise should take three days to complete. The ship then heads to the Equatorial Pacific for research lasting about six weeks.

As one of the primary ships in NOAA's fleet, the Ronald H. Brown spends an average of 246 days at sea annually and some 276 days away from its home port of Charleston, South Carolina. After its stint in the Pacific, the vessel and

its complement of six officers and 20 crew members will head to the home port.

Following the maintenance period, the next project on the agenda is a Sahara Dust study on the Atlantic, starting mid-February 2004.

NOAA carries out ocean, atmosphere and fisheries studies worldwide and is responsible for the collection of

data and production of geological maps. NOAA's hurricane hunter aircraft help the United States and the Caribbean in tracking tropical disturbances and storms.

The Ronald H. Brown may return to St. Maarten next year. The island's fairly new pier and other amenities for vessels such as this one are an attraction for future stops.



Commander Wade Blake displaying a part of the research apparatus used in the deep ocean research. Several of these units are aboard the ship and enable scientists to study various aspects of the ocean.

## AGENDA

**ST. EUSTATIUS**  
Police Station 182333  
Emergency 111  
Hot Line 188  
Fire Department 120  
Hospital 182211/182371  
Landsraad 182210  
Post Office 182207  
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288  
Winair Office 182362  
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport  
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.  
Coastguard NA&A 113

## SABA

Police Station  
The Bottom, tel. 4163237  
Emergency 111/112  
Hospital  
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289  
Fire Department Airport  
Flat Point, tel. 4162210  
SA TEL  
The Bottom, tel. 4163211  
WINAIR, Airport  
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713  
Taxi Service Airport  
Flat Point, tel. 160  
Administration Building  
The Bottom, tel. 4163511/  
4163312/416313  
Tourist Office  
Windwardside, tel. 4162231  
Cultural Office  
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294  
Saba Marine Park  
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295  
Nature & Hike Guide  
James Johnson  
The Bottom, tel. 4163307  
Service Club  
Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.  
Coastguard NA&A 113  
Red Cross  
General meeting every 1st Monday, 6 p.m., Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

## ANGUILLA

EMERGENCY  
Police 911  
Fire 911  
Ambulance 911  
Hospital 497 2333  
Hospital 497 2551  
Dental clinic 497 2343  
Radio Anguilla 497 2218  
Tourism Department 497 2759  
Crimstoppers 0800 7777777  
AIRLINES  
American Eagle 497 3501  
Winair 497 2748  
Liat 497 5000  
Tyden Air 497 2719  
Air Anguilla 497 2643  
Trans Anguilla 497 8600  
COURIER SERVICE  
DHL 497 3400  
Federal Express 497 2719  
UPS 497 2259  
SERVICE CLUBS  
Rotary Club of Anguilla  
Roy's Restaurant 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Every Thursday.  
Soroptimist International  
Day Care Centre  
4:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in each month Tel: 497 3509  
Lions Club  
The Valley Primary School  
1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Tel: 497 6259  
National Council of Women Arts and Craft Centre  
4:30 p.m. 1st Monday in month.  
Interact Club of Anguilla  
Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Abena Lake Ridge Comprehensive School  
Alcoholic Anonymous meetings every Sunday at 8:30 am and Monday at 5:00 pm on Shoal Bay picnic area.

## Student artists supported by community, gallery elated

PHILIPSBURG—Twenty of the 52 paintings and sketches created by participants in the Art Students Mentoring Programme have been sold. This is a good experience for the young artists, Nanette Bearden Fine Arts Gallery Director Dorothé Dow told The Daily Herald yesterday.

Today is the last day of the gallery. The exhibition has been ongoing since the beginning of the month, after the students completed nine months of intense study with

four well-known local artists.

Of the sold paintings, only two are going overseas, Dow said. "Two pieces were bought by tourists and the rest were bought by members of the community and parents. Quite a number of persons also visited the exhibition, giving the students more exposure."

The money generated from the sales will be divided between the gallery and the artists. The gallery will receive 40 per cent and the artists will collect 60 per cent. The paintings were priced between US

\$50 and US \$200.

More than 200 persons were present at the exhibition's opening and an average of 15 persons visited the gallery daily.

The gallery will be closed in September. Gallery officials and seven local artists will be in Washington DC for a tribute exhibition to African-American Harlem Renaissance Artist Romare Bearden. The reopening is pegged for October 4, with a display of photographs by Deborah Jack.



Arrival of the Parliamentarians at Saba's Juancho Yrausquin Airport.

## Dutch Parliamentarians visit Unspoiled Queen

SABA—D66 faction chair Boris Dittrich, a member of the Dutch delegation of Parliamentarians that visited Saba on Thursday, told the Daily Herald that in his opinion the trip, originally intended to be an information-gathering event, had become politicized by events in Curaçao.

Dittrich said it had been very

valuable to experience firsthand St. Maarten's feelings and emotions regarding the perceived dominance of Curaçao. "There is a blame game going on, so nothing gets done," he related.

It was Dittrich's first time in Saba, but he said he was considering returning next year to stay in the Saba cottage of a friend to work on his second

book, a thriller.

Lt. Governor Antoine Solangier and Commissioners Will Johnson and Lisa Hassell welcomed press and parliamentarians and then accompanied the delegates to a closed luncheon meeting with the Island Council at Campus Crown Restaurant. The agenda included discussions on the constitutional status, relations with the European Union and financial-economic affairs, including the solidarity fund.

Dutch Parliamentarians F. Weisglas, M. Verhagen, W. Bos, J. van Aartsen, M. Vos, B. Dittrich and A. Rouvoet were in Saba together with their Antillean colleagues Etienne Ys of Curaçao, Marcel Gumbs of St. Maarten and Joppi Abraham of Bonaire.

A large Dutch media contingent that included newspapers, radio, and television, enjoyed lunch at Lime Time Restaurant in The Bottom.

After lunch, press and parliamentarians joined up for a tour of Saba University School of Medicine given by Dean Vincent Knight. An extended visit to a classroom delayed the group so that the tour of Fort Bay and a visit to the Every Home for the Aged were abbreviated.

The group then proceeded to a short reception at Swinging Doors in Windwardside, to which the press was invited.



Saba Commissioner Will Johnson in discussion with Dutch Parliamentarian Marijke Vos.

## Steve Hassell no-show for meeting with Parliamentarians

SABA—Leader of the opposition Saba United Democratic Party Steve Hassell did not attend the meeting with the members of the Dutch Parliament in Saba Thursday, despite having been officially invited to attend the lunch, the meeting and the visit to several places on the island, the Saba Government Information Service (SGIS) said in a release Thursday.

The release added that, "according to reliable sources," Hassell claimed that he had not received an invitation, which SGIS denied.

Leader of Government Commissioner Will Johnson said it would have been a good opportunity for Hassell to voice his opinion about placing Saba under higher supervision, which Johnson called a "non-sensical statement."

Johnson added, "I hope that the people of Saba will take this matter seriously, as this is the man that is out there telling people all sort of misleading things about the government of Saba and now that he had his opportunity to tell the Dutch Parliamentarians of his concerns he stayed away."

According to Johnson, Hassell stayed away because "the meeting was conducted in Dutch and he would not have been able to follow the

meeting and he did not have a translator at his disposal."

Johnson said he had questioned Lt. Governor Antoine Solangier at the start of the meeting concerning the absence of the opposition and was told that only Lucia Woods had excused herself, as she was off-island for family matters.

According to SGIS, Hassell's absence was an insult to the faction leaders in the Second Chamber and to the Kingdom.

The WIPM faction was duly represented at the discussions by Commissioners Will Johnson and Lisa Hassell and Chairman of the Domestic Committee Rolando Wilson, the release stated.

When questioned about his absence from the meeting with the Dutch Parliamentarians, Hassell maintained that he had not received an invitation.

He said he had expected the invitation and a full agenda to be dropped at his house, fitting the dignity of the Island Council. He had wanted an agenda to prepare properly for the meeting.

Instead, he had been phoned to pick up the invitation, events schedule and agenda at the Administration Office and had refused to do so, he told The Daily Herald.

## Large number of nurses leaving medical center

PHILIPSBURG—A large number of nurses are leaving St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) recently because of uncertainties about the SMCC's financial situation, which leaves doubts as to whether they will be paid at the end of each month, the Windward Islands Medical Workers Union Association told The Daily Herald Thursday.

Union President Julian Lynch and SMCC General Director Dr. George Scott said this trend was worrying because it was difficult to find qualified nurses in St. Maarten. Lynch said while nurses and other categories of workers resigned from time to time, a particularly high number of nurses had been turning in resignations recently.

Some six nurses have left the medical center over the past two months and the union is convinced that it's the financial situation and uncertainties of salaries at the end of each month that prompt nurses to leave. "Nurses are qualified and there are a lot of opportunities out there for them. So if things are bad here they will pick up and go," Lynch said.

General Secretary of the union Brunilda Illidge and

her colleague Christina Jacobs said the situation was putting additional pressure on the remaining nurses at the hospital. At the moment SMCC has a total of 41 nurses who juggle three different shifts in the Pediatric Ward, Obstetrics OBGYN Ward, the Surgical Ward and Medical Ward. If the trend continues, Illidge said, the quality of service offered by nurses will eventually be affected as well.

Scott noted that this development would hamper the future plans of the hospital to increase its services. "It is easier to find, for example, an administrator than a qualified nurse," he noted. "It's putting more pressure on the remaining nursing staff and management can't hire more people, because we don't have the prospects that we will have adequate funds to sustain additional staff."

The medical center is cash strapped and has requested "structural changes" to make ends meet. Government will be starting discussions for structural subsidy for the hospital sometime next month and Health Commissioner Franklin Meyers has said the hospital will receive a temporary 3-month subsidy beginning this month.



Iona Dorothea

## Radio Shack sales manager honoured

PHILIPSBURG — St. Maarten Radio Shack Sales Manager Iona Dorothea was recently awarded a 20 year service pin by Radio Shack International for her dedicated service to the local franchise.

The pin was presented to Dorothea during her trip to Radio Shack International headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, where she attended various sales seminars along with other international dealers. In addition to her 20 year pin, Dorothea also accepted Radio Shack International's Bronze Level Sales Award for the local store.

She also viewed Radio Shack's "Holiday Preview" of new products and toys for the

upcoming Christmas holidays, during her trip.

Dorothea started working at the local Radio Shack franchise as a cashier in August 1983 and quickly worked her way up to the position of Sales Manager. Everyone on the island associates Radio Shack with good service and a smiling staff, led by the energetic Dorothea, according to franchisees Barbara and Diederick Cannegieter. They also attributed much of the success of their business over the years to her.

"We congratulate Iona on her 20 years' dedication to her job and we thank her for her continuing enthusiasm and hard work over the years," the Cannegieters said.

## Sundial working out timetable, classes should resume Monday

PHILIPSBURG—The management of Sundial School is putting together a timetable that is expected to eliminate some of the concerns of students, who abandoned classes at the school on Wednesday and Thursday over insufficient classroom facilities to accommodate the 346 students there.

The timetable, details of which were unavailable yesterday, is expected to be completed in time for Monday, when students are expected to return to school. Head of the Foundation for Secondary Education SVOBE Koos van Kampen told The Daily Herald Thursday.

Van Kampen said the foundation was to have updated teachers on the details of the construction of seven classrooms at the school yesterday. The additional classrooms are expected to eliminate the present overcrowding at the school. He criticized School Principal Angela Drijvers for failing to start the school year with a practical timetable.

Reports reaching this newspaper suggested that the majority of the students had stayed away from school again Thursday, protesting the insufficient classrooms and other pressing concerns.

The action began on Wednesday when students abandoned classes from around 11:00am and stood outside the school premises demanding the immediate intervention of government and calling for a speedy solution to the problem. The students also wrote several letters to the SVOBE venting their frustration with the situation.

The problem of inadequate

space has been compounded by the 70 form one students who were transferred to Sundial School from Milton Peters College (MPC) at the beginning of the new school year to alleviate overcrowding there.

Fourth and fifth form Sundial students currently shuttle back and forth between University of St. Martin (USM) and their school for classes. They are not too pleased with this situation and complain that they miss out on "valuable" classroom time.

Van Kampen said a new schedule would eliminate this problem. He suggested that the schedule be structured in such a manner that students take classes at USM for lengthy periods, probably three hours, in the morning and be given enough time to return to school during their morning break period.

Van Kampen had said that the classrooms could not be constructed until several mechanisms were put in place. He said the school board would have a meeting with an architect today to determine the type of foundation needed to sustain the seven classrooms, which will have two levels, following which the cost to construct the classrooms would be determined and one of the local banks contacted for a loan to finance the project.

He speculated that the project wouldn't start for the next two to three months and estimated that construction time would take an additional two to three months. For the seven rooms to be constructed, two of the existing rooms will have to be torn down to "make space."



Consul General of Venezuela at the Netherlands Antilles Martin Pacheco Murillo (right) paid a farewell visit to Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards on Thursday. Murillo and Richards, as is customary, exchanged gifts and views on current developments and discussed possibilities to extend the ties between Venezuela and St. Maarten. Murillo will be taking up his new post as consul in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, shortly.

# VACANCIES

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## Marines return St. Maarten flag eight years after Luis

PHILIPSBURG—A very special act of respect for our flag and for the St. Maarten people, and a true symbol in commemoration of Hurricane Luis. This is what Lt. Governor Frankly Richards said in his office on Thursday to a team of Dutch Marines who presented him with a neatly folded St. Maarten flag.

Almost eight years after the island's national ensign was torn from the Administration Building on September 5, 1995, by the monster that ravaged the island, four Dutch Marines brought it back from Holland, where it had been kept, to the island where it belonged.

"I am very glad to receive this flag. It is of such a high quality that even a force five hurricane has not torn it to pieces. I am sure that the flag we have now would not have survived this," the Lt. Governor said.

He told The Daily Herald the flag was a symbol that would have a place of honour among the many trophies in the cabinet of the Lt. Governor's Office. "Maybe it will be flying from the Administration Building during very special occasions," he added.

Marine Sergeant Karel Boon and Corporal Ruud van Pelt of the Rear Link team said they had been present in Sep-

tember 1995 when this St. Maarten flag was found amidst many other objects lying in layers of mud amidst enormous amounts of debris near Great Salt Pond.

Boon, returning here for the first time since Luis, had found the St. Maarten flag at the Naval Base in Den Helder and, together with Corporal van Pelt, set to work to bring it to St. Maarten.

"We were flown in on a plane just after September 5. There was no communication at all with any of the three Windward Islands and our task was to restore the links on the island and with Curaçao, where at the time the crisis centre



Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards and Sergeant Karel Boon of the Dutch marines show the St. Maarten flag that was recovered after Hurricane Luis. Other marines in the photo are Corporal Ruud van Pelt (far left), Geert Pietersma and Joost Zandstra (far right).

was located. After communications had been restored, the hurricane crisis centre moved to St. Maarten." Sergeant Boon reminisced.

Since the onslaught of Hurricane Luis many things have greatly improved in St. Maarten in the sense of better

infrastructure, safety of homes, information to residents, establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre and more, Lt. Governor Richards said.

Also in the sense of communications, the Marines added, talking appreciatively about

the cooperation and friendliness they encounter everywhere on the island, as well as in Saba and Statia, whenever people see them in the streets in their battle dress.

"It's something you never forget," they said.

## Mighty Dow rocks the party at Carifesta

P A R A M A R I B O . Suriname—St. Maarten's own Isidore York, better known as "Mighty Dow," and his Ebony Steel Orchestra are a great attraction at the Caribbean Festival of Arts Carifesta currently being held in Suriname's capital Paramaribo.

Dow and his band have raised the roof at various locations almost every night since Monday. Henry Idoe, a spectator at the festival, said he was amazed at the music of Dow and his band. "The music they play and the way they play it makes you want to dance," he said.

Caribbean music is one of the main attractions at Carifesta. Steel pan, reggae and dance hall music bands have built a great atmosphere throughout Paramaribo for the past week.

Another Caribbean great played with "See Sharp," a band of music students from Jamaica, and pleased a crowd of several hundred in Palm Tree Garden in Paramaribo Wednesday night. Ibu Cooper, member of the legendary reggae band Third World, and "See Sharp" paid a tribute to Bob Marley by playing a number of his hits.

Cooper, who today leads the music division of Edna Manley College for Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica,



St. Maarten's Chief of Delegation Neville York being crowned chief for the day when the St. Maarten delegation visited an indigenous village and participated in the Carifesta VIII programme. (GIS photo from Pedro De Weever)

said he was enjoying the Carifesta atmosphere. He and the band had a busy schedule playing at four different locations on Wednesday. The band played in Coronie, 120 kilometers west of Paramaribo, on Wednesday. "It has been great. We played in the district of Coronie and the people loved it, man. Carifesta is definitely a great festival," Cooper said.

Several Caribbean artists

jammed until late in the morning in the historic Waagbuilding in Paramaribo. The crowd enjoyed the spontaneous bands of crafty musicians, who played everything from Jazz to Reggae.

One spectator said he was already saddened by the idea that the festival would end on Saturday. "Man, if it is up to me they could stage Carifesta in Suriname every year. It is a wonderful festival!"





*Students of the nautical course of Curaçao's professional education institute Fefjik held a spectacular rescue exercise from aboard the cruise ship Freewinds, lowering the vessel's lifeboats into the water below. After that they held a rowing competition in the harbour. Freewinds has made available a space on board where the students can receive training when the ship is in port for 24 hours every week.*

## Detectives to probe Prosecutor's Office

WILLEMSTAD—The Antillean detective agency ("Landsrecherche") with the help of the Prosecutor of Aruba, will conduct an investigation at the Prosecutor's Office, based on many complaints by various law firms and other entities.

That's what was decided in the Council of Ministers, announced Justice Minister Ben Komproue (FOL). In consultation with Attorney General Dick Piar, it was deemed a good idea to ask Aruba's Prosecutor to help guide the investigation and quickly bring clarity to speculations and comments that have surfaced concerning the integrity of the prosecution.

Piar was asked to draw up a plan of action for the probe by the detectives, who also investigate complaints against the police. Komproue said the decision was based on many media reports in the last weeks.

The original draft governing accord of the FOL-led federal coalition included the plan to prosecute in a structural manner prosecutors and judges who "deviate from the norm." At the insistence of, among others, the DP-St. Maarten, which later abandoned the coalition, that was changed.

Several high-ranking FOL members, including party leader Anthony Godett, are suspects in corruption cases.

## Man stabbed to death in Aruba

ARUBA—An employee of the Papillon snack truck on the plaza in front of the Post Office in Oranjestad was stabbed to death.

Police received word of a robbery Thursday morning around 2:00am. When they arrived they found the body of the employee, who had been stabbed to death.

The robbers took the evening's earnings and fled. The victim's name has not yet been released. The investigation continued.

In unrelated news, a detainee N.E.V.S. being questioned at the police station

in Oranjestad managed to escape. While he was tied to a chair with both hands shackled, he somehow freed himself and fled through the ceiling when left alone for a while.

The escapee was part of a group of Colombians recently held by the robbery squad in a home in Noord. During the operation a large number of weapons and ammunition were confiscated.

The fugitive is considered dangerous and could be armed. A manhunt is in progress.

## Holland still waiting for profile of Aruba governor

ARUBA—The Netherlands is still waiting for a profile for the function of governor. According to the Dutch representative in Aruba, it was agreed that Aruba would formulate this first, before the nomination of a candidate.

The Dutch Representative took note of Aruba's announcement about the nomination of current MEP Education Minister Fredis Refunjol as the next governor. "But an agreement is an agreement and we stick at it," said the Dutch representative in Aruba Leo Harteveld.

On inquiry with the Aruban government it appeared that the Administrative Office didn't know about this agreement. Cabinet secretary Peter Davids could not find anything in writing about this. Spokesperson for govern-



Fredis Jose Refunjol

ment Manolo Giel cannot trace the origin of such an agreement with The Hague and Prime Minister Nelson Oduber was not available for comment.

However, Harteveld indicated that he had spoken numerous times about formulating a profile. "They did

this last year during the visit of then-Minister of Kingdom Relations Johan Remkes and again in June of this year when current Minister of Kingdom Relations Thom de Graaf was here in Aruba," said Harteveld.

He continued saying that also on an official level it had been mentioned as a reminder. It was necessary to specify this because there are no legal regulations about the procedure for the nomination of the governors of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

There is a procedure for whereby the nomination is discussed in the Kingdom Council of Ministers and, if approved, the Minister of Kingdom Relations presents it to the Queen. Her Majesty makes the official appointment.

## National Dialogue slow, Technical Committee in

ARUBA—The National Dialogue, the consultation body in which the government and its social partners look for solutions to existing problems within the Aruban society, has slowed down.

A technical committee has been put to work on three subjects: the economic development, social security and the government bureaucracy. Lydia Emerencia, the current dean of University of Aruba, was appointed as the president of the committee.

The social partners representing the employers, the workers and government met again on August 11. After approving the appointment of the committee, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Nilo Swaen gave a presentation on the current financial situation in Aruba.

"As was expected, this was not rosy," indicated Stephen Daal, chairman of the Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA), who is the spokesperson for the employers.

After that, they discussed the items on the agenda of the technical committee. The commercial sector first wanted to deal with the financial situation, and social security only after that. They finally agreed that both items had to be dealt with.

As soon as they start dealing with subjects that concern social security, the commercial sector will exchange their financial persons in the technical committee. Franklin de Kort and Randall Croes, for experts in the social field.

The members of the Na-

tional Dialogue determine the agenda and the priority for the technical committee, which consists of two members representing the unions, two representing the commercial sector and four representing government.

## Discussion on second phase foundation based education

BONAIRE—Bonaire's education department SEK, representatives of the education partners and the representation of the Netherlands in the Antilles met with the Internal Experts who supervise projects financed with development aid about the decision of the Dutch Ministry of Kingdom Affairs to approve an amount of 2,119,770 guilders for the second phase of the foundation based education project.

The decision is the result of an agreement between the Minister of Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Development Cooperation, signed on October 2, 1987, and of the meeting between the state secretary of Interior and Kingdom Affairs and the Minister on charge of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands Antilles on December 11, 2001.



Bonaire Day on September 6 will be celebrated this year in Nikiboko, where there are several historic buildings. Commissioner Burney Elhage fears it may be too late to restore this monument and blamed previous governments for not doing enough in this area. He hopes the celebration will focus more attention on the culture and history of the districts and the island in general.

## SVB allowed to apply lower rates in Bonaire

BONAIRE—The National Medical Charges Decree also applies to SVB insured who are treated by the Bonairean health care institutions run by Mariadal Foundation.

The judge decided this in a court case that Mariadal started against the Central Government and the Social Insurance Bank SVB. The consequence of this verdict is that the Bonaire hospital will have to charge the lower national rates for patients insured by the SVB.

Mariadal went to court because it wanted to force SVB to pay the higher rates that

were set by the Island Government. The demand was for the National Medical Charges Decree to be declared non-binding.

This decree is derived from the national Health and Accident insurance ordinance, which regulates the employee's right to compensation for medical treatment and medical care in case of sickness or accident.

It establishes maximum charges, while keeping in mind cost control for SVB's health and accident insurance. But according to Mariadal, these two definitions are at odds with each other, while the Central Government is also not authorized to set maximum charges for medical care.

With this, the foundation refers to the National Deed of Transfer Ordinance of 1991, where the authority to regulate prices for goods and services was transferred to the different Island Governments.

Judge Peter Veling didn't argue with the association, but indicated in his verdict that Mariadal, registered as a contributor to SVB, had to charge the SVB insurers treated by it the lower rates mentioned in the decree.

Furthermore, the Islands Regulation ERNA stipulates that the regulating of social insurance is a national affair that cannot be transferred to the several Island Governments.

## Schools close due to smoke

ARUBA—It's true that Aruba lies outside the so-called hurricane belt, but the island doesn't escape the influences of hurricanes and tropical storms that pass through the region during the hurricane season.

A tropical wave in the area of Puerto Rico changed the direction of the wind temporarily on Tuesday, causing a lot of nuisance in some parts of the island from oil refinery smoke. Two schools had to temporarily close their doors, because the nuisance was too much.

The tropical wave caused the wind direction in Aruba to change to East-Southeast and later to East. According to meteorologist Marck Oduber, the wind force was below normal during the past few days and it was very warm. When the wind increased, the temperature didn't actually change, but it felt much more pleasant.

Part of Aruba had a lot of trouble during the time that the wind was blowing from the different direction with the smoke that comes from the Castal refinery and Colegio Sagrado Corazon in Savaneta decided to send the students home earlier.

It happens more often that they have an odor nuisance caused by the refinery, but

Tuesday it was too much. Many students complained that their eyes were burning, some had headaches and were coughing.

A great number of students suffer from respiratory prob-

lems and other allergies due to air pollution. Also a lot of them have skin problems, but because no scientific investigation has been done, these problems cannot be pinpointed on the refinery.

## BSAF to organize regatta this year

BONAIRE—The Bonaire regatta was placed in the hands of Bonaire International Sailing Regatta Association in 1987. The association was established by the late Niki Tromp, who also organized the yearly regatta.

It started as a playful competition between local fisherman Ibo Domacassé and stranded sailor Don Stewart. The success of these two and the enthusiasm among the population gave then-chairman of the Lions Club the late Ad Michel the idea to organize the regatta on an annual basis.

That's when the Sailing Regatta Bonaire started and it became very successful, especially in the 1970s and '80s. At the suggestion of Tromp, the Executive Council decided to place the event in the hands of an association. Tromp signed for the Tourist Bureau

and Djo Winklaar for government.

The sailing regatta of Bonaire was a week of festivities every year and the participants were mostly Dutch teachers based in Curacao and locals from Bonaire. Also Venezuela was involved with the regatta from the beginning.

The organization was not perfect and they were constantly working on improving it. Placing it in the hands of an association didn't help. Government attracted professionals to take over the regatta, but this, of course, cost a lot of money, especially after a special enterprise like the Bonaire Sailing Foundation took over the organization.

Government has signed a contract with BSAF for the organization of the 2003 regatta, which is being held for the 36th time October 5-11.



Newly inducted members of the Nevis chapter of the Offshore Institute. Mark Brantley, President, is seated in the centre. Premier Amory is on the left, back row.

## Nevis chapter of Offshore Institute being launched

NEVIS—Director of Development and Marketing Department in the Nevis Financial Services Dr. Agatha said on Thursday that by launching a chapter of the Offshore Institute, Nevis had distinguished itself as being a leader in the international financial services industry.

"Nevis is sending a clear message to the world that it is committed to the education of its operators involved in the financial services sector, as well as reaffirming our commitment to maintaining the highest standard of integrity with respect to a proper regulatory regime, ethical codes, in collaboration with other relevant bodies and organisations in the international arena," she observed.

Jeffers-Gooden has been

instrumental in the formation of the new chapter.

The launching ceremony took place during the opening session of the two-day first Nevis International Financial Services Industry Conference 2003 at Four Seasons Resort and was conducted by President of the Isle of Man-based Offshore Institute Samuel M. Lohman.

Including Nevis Premier Vance Amory, 18 members were inducted into the newly launched Nevis chapter of the Offshore Institute. Two members, Dr. Agatha Jeffers-Gooden and Rawlinson Isaac, by virtue of having been members of the (international) Offshore Institute, also joined the new chapter, thus bringing its initial membership to 20.

After they had been presented with their certificates of membership, the newly inducted members elected Charlestown attorney Mark Brantley as president and businessman John Terry as vice president.

Ten of the new inductees were full members: Colin Dore, Mark Brantley, Neville Cadogan, Vance Amory, Laurie Lawrence, Ernie Stapleton, Clevelan Williams, Giselle Clarke, Dexter Bowrin and Robin Cottrell.

The other eight, Elsa Wilkin-Armbrister, Geoffrey Romany, Vioence Prentice, John Terry, Lord John Titley, Andrew Titley, Disshern Libard and Heidi-Lynn Sutton, were inducted as associate members.

## Delta may stop Curaçao flights

WILLEMSTAD—Delta Airlines may stop flying to Curaçao by January 4, 2004.

According to the airport company Curanta, the American airline has not announced a final decision yet.

Delta's weekly connection from Atlanta to Curaçao is

not yielding the expected result. For a feasible operation, the airline must have at least a 70 per cent average occupancy rate, while presumably the flights are currently booked at a mere 50 per cent on average.

Experts blame the meager

result on insufficient marketing efforts by Delta Airline itself, combined with its reluctance to appoint a local sales agent on the island. Also, one weekly flight is considered to be a very limited option for most travellers.

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# Whole new ball game with St. Maarten out

Analysis by Marjo Nederlof (Amigoe)

WILLEMSTAD—The remaining federal coalition parties (with 14 of the 22 seats in Parliament) will have to fill in the gaps left by the DP-St. Maarten's exit.

There are several possibilities, considering the current portfolio allotment. FOL (5 seats in Parliament) holds the functions of General Affairs (prime minister), Justice, Transport and Communication and Plenipotentiary Minister in The Hague.

PNP (3 seats) has two ministerial posts: Finance and Public Health. PLKP (2 seats) has one minister for Economic Affairs and one state secretary of Labour. The UPB of Bonaire (2 seats) holds the functions of Education Minister and state secretary, plus the second deputy plenipotentiary minister. Saba's WIPM and St. Maarten's DP (both 1 seat) have one state secretary each, of Finance and Development Cooperation respectively.

A new distribution of functions should duly reflect the balance between representation in Parliament and the ministerial posts, the position Curaçao would want to maintain in relation to the other, smaller islands and the availability of potential candidates from the respective parties.

Also, it is not clear whether the coalition partners will want to reset the existing division of functions.

A hypothetical assumption: If PLKP were to prefer Internal and Constitutional

Affairs over Economic Affairs and would exchange the position of deputy plenipotentiary minister, then maybe Saba and St. Maarten could assume the latter function jointly and the portfolio of Economic Affairs would then go to FOL, with PNP getting another state secretary.

However, it is improbable that PNP or PLKP would want to relinquish another ministerial post to the FOL, since that would give the party too much leverage in the coalition. PNP and PLKP together have five seats in parliament, equaling FOL, which would then have four ministerial posts against the PNP/PLKP's three combined. The balance at the moment is equal at 3-3, with FOL having the extra control of a premier's veto in case of a tie in votes.

On the other hand, it is improbable that FOL would concede to dividing three posts among the other parties without keeping anything for itself.

In that case, a scenario where St. Maarten's National Alliance (1 seat) were to join the coalition would offer better options for reshuffling. Such a scenario would imply that the governing accord was opened to discussion again, which none of the coalition parties seems to want. It would be political suicide for the National Alliance to join a coalition where it has had no say in the governance agreement.

Things would look even more different if the DP-St. Maarten and/or WIPM were to

claim the function of minister, which is quite probable considering that without St. Maarten in the coalition, several issues of importance to the other Windward Islands will probably not be tended to.

This raises the question whether the smallest islands had fully realized this before signing the last version of the governing accord, instead of opting to support the DP-St. Maarten. That would have forced the Curaçao parties to consider the Windward Islands, since together they would then have represented four of the 16 seats in the coalition.

Maybe WIPM and DP-St. Maarten did not oppose in order to claim their long coveted ministerial post. Who knows? If they don't get what they want, these two can still follow in St. Maarten's footsteps and abandon the coalition, leaving it with the minimum majority of 12 seats.

All in all, valuable time will again be spent during the next couple of days in renegotiating the constellation of the Cabinet, issues having nothing whatsoever to do with governing the country. Even worse, no government is possible without a policy programme, which has yet to be made.

The whole muddled, unfathomable, contradictory and virtually madcap political situation has one big advantage: the Dutch senators currently visiting the islands get a firsthand taste of the unfeasibility of the Antillean constellation.



Participants in the conference pose for a group picture.

## Financial services sector internationally recognised

NEVIS—President of the Isle of Man-based Offshore Institute Samuel M. Lohman said on Thursday that Nevis' financial services sector had the infrastructure that made the jurisdiction internationally recognised.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the first Nevis International Financial Services Industry Conference 2003 at Four Seasons Resort, Lohman commented that even though he had been on Nevis for only three days, the local practitioners he had met and the infrastructure in place had impressed him.

"You have achieved success by virtue of putting Nevis in the game," he said. "Nevis is a jurisdiction that is recognised. Whether you are sitting in New York, Geneva, or Prague, Nevis has established itself for many different reasons."

He said Nevis and the practitioners on the island had impressed him most for their attitude, their willingness and their desire to remain competitive to protect the assets

they had created. He singled out Director of Development and Marketing Department in the Nevis Financial Services Dr. Agatha Jeffers-Gooden for special mention.

He said: "She is an unrelenting diplomat, promoting the benefits of Nevis not only by advocating the product that you have to offer, but by advocating integrity and by analysing the international financial services industry in an intellectual way, by being able to present a historical perspective and the significance of the industry..."

Jeffers-Gooden and Lohman are co-chairpersons of the two-day conference being held under the theme "Strategies to Ensure the Fu-

ture of the International Financial Services Industry" and has attracted 120 delegates from around the Eastern Caribbean, including the British Virgin Islands (BVI), St. Lucia, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts-Nevis. There are 13 internationally renowned speakers and facilitators - nine from Europe, North America, the BVI and Barbados, and four from Nevis.

The conference is organised by the Nevis Island Administration in collaboration with the Offshore Institute and, according to Jeffers-Gooden, it will be an annual event.

Premier Vance Amory delivered the keynote address.

## Anguilla Chamber of Commerce introduces team of professionals

ANGUILLA—The Anguilla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACOCI) is moving to another gear, according to Executive Director Calvin Bartlett, with the introduction of a team of professionals to the Board of Directors.

He introduced Melinda Goddard, Kim Straubing and Barbara Owen at a press briefing on Wednesday, August 27. Goddard is a consultant who has her own business. She said she hoped to assist Anguillian businesses in retaining their customers and clients and give customer satisfaction. Her aim is to help organizations take care of their businesses, so sales and profits can take care of themselves.

Kim Straubing is another new member of the team who will help as a free-lance assistant for correspondence with members of ACOCI and with activity planning. She told the press she was excited to help out and her primary focus would be to create a newsletter for members.

Barbara Owen, Manager of All Island Cable Television, has agreed to contribute some of her spare time and will assist when possible with advice and planning of ACOCI office management. She said she would help develop procedural activities within the office and wished the Chamber much success.

Bartlett said the aim of the ACOCI was to have every licensed business in Anguilla as a member of the Chamber. There are presently 40 members out of some 800 possible members. He says there are many benefits to membership, including education to bring business to a higher level and an attractive business environment that will provide opportunities for economic growth. A future plan that is likely to take place at the end of this year or the beginning of next year will be a trade show, the first of its kind in Anguilla.

An additional member of the team is Sabra Richardson-London, who will be provid-

ing financial technical assistance to small to mid-size businesses on the island and assisting in converting fiscal records presently kept on paper to a computer-generated report.

John Benjamin is President of ACOCI, with Louis Bardfield and Courtney Devonish as vice presidents, Wilma Vanterpool as secretary and Cossilda O'Loughlin as treasurer. The aim of the Chamber is to enhance, promote and support the Anguillian business community by offering economy-stimulating initiatives, innovative advice and professional expertise.



Standing: Calvin Bartlett and Louis Bardfield. Seated, left to right: Courtney Devonish, Wilma Vanterpool, Kim Straubing, Barbara Owen and Melinda Goddard.

## Craft products make a big impact at Carifesta

P A R A M A R I B O , Suriname—Products being sold at the St. Kitts booth at the Carifesta VIII Grand Market are in high demand.

General Manager of the St. Kitts Craft House Austin Weekes stated that the T-shirts and coconut and cattle horn products are doing fairly well.

"I am delighted," he said. "I

think the spirit I have seen from the visitors (booth patrons) is very encouraging. Many visitors have never seen cattle horn work or banana leaf dolls. Plus our variety of coconut craft products is very attractive."

Also on sale are stools created at a leather workshop that was held at the Craft House. Two experts from

Santo Domingo conducted the course.

A variety of colourful designs is printed on the tops of the stools. The pictures depict folklore groups, drawings from the early Carib inhabitants of the island and the Carifesta VIII logo.

Weekes said the logo had been added to commemorate the importance of the regional

cultural festival.

Minister of Culture Jacinth Henry-Martin toured the booth and expressed pleasure with the developments. She said it was wonderful to see that the workshops held at the Craft House could produce such high quality products that could be displayed and sold locally and internationally.



Ralston Hyman (left), financial editor of the *Sunday Herald*, holds the attention of Zain Issa-Nakash, vice-president of SuperClubs; while Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) president, Desmond Richards, looks on, following Wednesday's media briefing at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The PAJ announced plans for the observance of its 60th anniversary. (Jamaica Observer Photo by Wayne Chin)

## PAJ to revise code of conduct for journalists

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) intends to introduce a revised code of conduct for journalists, which would make them subject to professional accountability.

The association's president, Desmond Richards, who made the announcement Wednesday, also said the PAJ intended to "withdraw persons who use journalism as a cover".

He was speaking at a press conference at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, where he outlined plans for the association's 60th anniversary celebrations.

"It is time to rehabilitate the PAJ," said Richards.

At the same time, the association plans to broaden its membership base to include those engaged in the technical aspects of the profession such as broadcast technicians

and studio engineers, as well as journalism students and trainees.

Richards also announced that the PAJ plans to convert its assets into income-generating instruments, will be improving the association's headquarters to facilitate work and research by journalists, as well as relaxation; publishing a 60th anniversary magazine; and organise a series of seminars to educate journalists on libel reform.

During Journalism Week, to be observed from November 30 to December 6, the PAJ will honour 60 stalwarts of the profession. The public will be invited to nominate candidates. In addition, the association will also be introducing three new awards this year - the Hector Bernard Award for electronic reporting; Theodore Sealy Award for print; Raymond Sharpe

Award for sports reporting (print); Hugh Crosskill Award for sports reporting (electronic) and the Morris Cargill Award for opinion writing. The awards are all named in honour of late outstanding journalists.

Six scholarships will also be offered to members of the profession, tenable at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

The PAJ, Richards said, will be having a fund-raising drive, aimed at raising \$1 million to fund the 60th anniversary activities.

Meanwhile, he reiterated proposals to improve the welfare and working conditions of journalists, as well as assist retired members of the profession who had fallen on hard times. (Jamaica Observer)

## CUT Wants better deal for Caribbean teachers

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent—Immediately past president of the Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT) Colin Greene, has made a passionate plea for improved working conditions for school teachers in the region.

Greene made the call as he delivered the feature address at the official opening of the 31st biennial conference of the CUT held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently.

Speaking before a large audience at the Methodist Church Hall in downtown Kingstown, Greene outlined many of the woes faced by teachers in the region and called on policy makers to initiate the necessary changes. Greene also hit at policy makers as he said, "what is written on paper, is not reflected in practice".

He said many schools across the region were plagued by adverse, yet solvable, environmental problems. The outgoing president said that often issues relating to teacher's health and safety were "greatly overlooked". Poor air quality, influenced by conditions that contain a host of pollutants including laboratory chemicals, cleaning supplies, chalk dust and moulds were of major concern to teachers, he said. Apart from these, there is noise pollution, a problem in many schools across the region.

Additionally, he said, we must consider the security of our schools. He called on policymakers to develop comprehensive plans where school security was concerned. He said: "Over the past two years across the region, we have had teachers' lives threatened; secondly, teachers and students were killed on the school compound. Neither students nor teachers can perform at their best if they do not feel safe."

In his wide ranging address Greene added: "I wish to point out that common sense tells us that the most effective teacher is one that is alive. Research done by the Civil Society Network for Public Education in the Americas shows clearly that the stress of teaching is killing some of our teachers. High blood pressure, heart disease, frequent colds, throat and larynx problems are all too common among our teachers."

He said too, that the issue of teacher remuneration and teacher migration were both interrelated and must be taken seriously in the Caribbean. He said we must be aware that a number of industrialised countries were trying to resolve their teacher shortage problems by seeking to recruit teachers from the Caribbean.

"Governments must realise that if we are to keep our teachers, then there must be a resolve to im-

proving the conditions within the profession," he said.

He said there was always great difficulty where the negotiation of contracts were concerned as is the case in Guyana, Jamaica and Bermuda.

Worst of all was the situation in Guyana. Greene said: "Though the cause of the teachers was just, we believe that some of the government's response threatened some of the fundamental rights of unions. The government discontinued the deduction of membership dues on behalf of the union. The intent of such action must be taken seriously."

He said the CUT considers such actions as vindictive, mean-spirited and solely directed at destroying a union that has made its contribution to that country. He said governments must realise that teachers' unions must be treated with dignity and that, "we are involved in the process of collective bargaining not collective begging."

"It will be difficult to convince teachers who live at or below the poverty line, who are constantly vilified by the media or by government officials, who receive little respect from parents and students that they must accept their lot in life when there appears to be green grass on the other side." (Daily Nation)



Horace Dalley (left), Minister of Labour and Social Security, peruses the 2003 Jamaica Employers' Federation (JEF) salary survey with Alvin McIntosh (centre), his Permanent Secretary, and Herbert Lewis, president of the JEF, following the official launch of the study at the Terra Nova Hotel, St. Andrew, yesterday. (Jamaica Gleaner photo by Ian Allen)

## Govt to announce increased minimum wage by next week

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The Government is to announce next week the increase in wages and benefits it has granted to security guards and other workers paid at the level of the National Minimum Wage, as well as when the new rates will become effective.

Horace Dalley, Minister of Labour and Social Security, said Cabinet has approved the increases and he would be making an announcement next week rather than await his presentation to the ongoing Sectoral Debate,

which started in July. The Gleaner understands that the Minister will make the announcement at a press briefing next Wednesday and that the increase is likely to be in the order of 10 per cent to 12 per cent.

Mr. Dalley also criticised trade unions which were seeking the renegotiation of wage agreements based on recent cost of living increases.

"I don't believe that just because there is a shift in one quarter, this should be used as a reason to renegotiate all wage agreements," he told The Gleaner.

One of the major findings of the Jamaica Employers' Federation (JEF) salary survey is that this year, there has been an overall average of 10 per cent increase in the salaries of non-unionised workers in the categories examined.

It also found that the average annual salary of supervisory personnel in the services sector has, for the first time since 1999, surpassed those in the manufacturing sector. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## Thugs unleash terror in search of cocaine

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—A reign of terror has been unleashed on the village of Moruga in the wake of the estimated TTS30 million cocaine find some which have washed up on Gran Chemin beach and other beaches.

Thugs have begun paying house to house visits in their search for the cocaine dishing out what one villager called, "licks like fire."

Among the victims was housewife Carla Maharaj. Yesterday she related how she pulled a kitchen knife on six cocaine hungry men, ready to die in defence of her eight-year-old son Shaquille who they intended to kidnap for a cocaine ransom.

Another villager Earl Sandy was dragged into the forest and battered for sev-

eral hours by a gang demanding the cocaine he did not have.

Both were victims of gangs which came to Moruga Tuesday night after learning of the 24 kilo grammes of cocaine which washed up on the Gran Chemin Beach and was taken away by villagers in a mad grab for the illegal drug.

The cocaine, valued at millions of dollars, is part of a larger consignment which has been floating up on Trinidad's east and south coasts since Saturday.

Another three kilo grammes washed ashore in Toco on Tuesday evening. The cocaine in Toco was picked up by a group of Hare Krishna devotees who were renting a house near to the beach. Members of the group collected the narcot-

ics which numbered a total of three packages and took it to the Toco Police Station.

The group told reporters they believe it was divine intervention which led them to the packages so as to keep it out of the hands of those with less than honest intentions.

Two decaying bodies found off Manzanilla have been linked to the mystery finds. Up to late Wednesday, none of the cocaine grabbed by about ten men off the Moruga beach had been recovered, despite house to house searches and road-blocks by police.

Investigators believe none of the drug has yet hit the market and that the price for a "rock" (of cocaine) is still TTS10. (Trinidad Express)

## Dad dies after burying his son

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—Parasram Durbal Dass died Wednesday after burying one son who was killed in a harpoon attack and seeing another taken away to prison for the murder, all within five days.

Daughters of the 59-year-old former Caroni Ltd worker said he died from grief and a broken heart.

Dass was the father of Carlos Santos, 30, who was stabbed through the chest with a harpoon at his Carli Bay, Couva, home last Friday morning.

Dass's youngest son, 24-year-old Mesh Durbal



Parasram Durbal Dass

was charged with the murder and appeared before a Couva magistrate on Monday.

He is due back in court on September 4, and police said yesterday there was no chance of him be-

ing allowed to attend his father's funeral.

Both brothers were fishermen and lived together.

Dass, who collected his voluntary separation of employment package cheque from Caroni two weeks ago, had been staying at the home of his nephew Balliram Narine, since his son's death.

He was found dead in bed at around 6.45 a.m. Wednesday. (Trinidad Express)

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## North Korea sends mixed signals at joint talks

WASHINGTON—North Korea sent mixed signals about its nuclear program during six-party talks in Beijing, speaking both of conducting nuclear arms tests and winding the program down, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

The White House called Pyongyang's comments on arms tests typical inflammatory rhetoric and instead sought to stress North Korea's isolation by lauding cooperation at the talks between the United States, China, Russia, South Korea and Japan.

"The assessment from our team that's on the ground in Beijing is that this is a positive session," White House spokesman Claire Buchan told reporters.

"We believe there's been excellent cooperation in the talks," she said, stressing she was referring to the five parties other than North Korea. Asked about reports that the North indicated a determination to test nuclear weapons, she said: "North Korea has a long history of making inflammatory comments that serve to isolate it from the rest of the world."

After four hours of talks on Thursday, the six parties expect to meet again on Friday, Deputy State Department

spokesman Phillip Reeker said. He told a news briefing there were no decisions about future meetings.

After months of frantic diplomacy and accelerating North Korean nuclear activity, China—North Korea's closest ally—arranged the talks this week to defuse a crisis over the isolated communist regime's nuclear program.

The United States says Pyongyang has one or two nuclear weapons and is nearing the capability to produce more. North Korea, which U.S. President George W. Bush has named part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran, maintains it has a right to a nuclear deterrent to fend off what it regards as American hostility.

U.S. officials told Reuters the North Koreans talked about their willingness to demonstrate their nuclear capability during an informal conversation with the head of the U.S. delegation, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, on the margins of the Beijing meeting. "They certainly are talking about it—but it was not part of their formal presentation," one official said.

The officials said the North also "used words like 'dismantlement.'"



U.S. soldiers arrest an Iraqi man (C) for a possession of a handgun near the town of Faluja, on Thursday.

## U.S. makes opening move on joint forces in Iraq

WASHINGTON—The United States, in seeking to stabilize Iraq, has opened up the possibility of a U.N.-sponsored multinational force, but no one underestimates the difficulties of reaching agreement with the Pentagon as well as with other countries.

U.N. diplomats and other experts said on Thursday they saw the proposal—articulated this week by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage—as an

opening gambit in negotiations that could have many different resolutions.

"I'm not sure that's the way it will go," said one Western diplomat. "I suspect that what Armitage was suggesting is a step too far for the Pentagon."

There is some "creative thinking going on in Washington (but) the real question is what is achievable in terms of (U.N.) Security Council politics and what is actually useful," the diplomat said.

"The goal is to bring practical results in terms of greater international involvement without undermining the effectiveness and coherence of the (existing) arrangements in Iraq. It's not an easy balance to strike," he said.

Armitage, in an interview made public on Wednesday, said a multinational force under U.N. leadership, but subordinate to U.S. military commanders, was under discussion as the Bush administration seeks to give the United Nations a greater role in the Iraqi occupation in return for expanded international forces there and more support for the U.S.-led peacekeeping mission. The idea presages a shift in policy for an administration that has insisted until now that all military, economic and political matters in Iraq remain under U.S. control.

White House spokes-

woman Claire Buchan stressed that was only "one of many ideas" under consideration and that while the United States welcomed more international involvement in Iraq, "we won't have artificial deadlines" in coming up with a formal U.N. resolution.

In the face of daily deadly assaults on U.S. troops, violent crime and instability, the administration has been under pressure to expand the 136,000-strong American military presence in Iraq and to encourage more countries to contribute to the 13,000-member international contingent. That pressure has grown since the truck bombing last week that devastated the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing the chief U.N. envoy and almost two dozen others.

Key countries, including India, France and Germany, have insisted on a new U.N. mandate as a condition for their participation and some demand a role in decision making. Whether the Americans, especially the Pentagon, would be willing to share control in any meaningful way is unclear.

"It's an interesting approach, but so far it just restricts itself to the security side, and we have always said that security, politics, economics—they are all interlinked," said Germany's U.N. envoy, Wolfgang Trautwein.

## Americans held by Colombian rebels shown on video

BOGOTA—Colombian rebels have allowed a journalist to videotape three U.S. Defense Department contractors they captured in February, showing them apparently in good health, U.S. officials and the mother of one of the men said on Thursday.

Hostage Marc Gonsalves sent a message to his family in the tape, which also shows the other men.

The rebels call them "gringo CIA agents" and "prisoners of war" and want to swap them for guerrillas held in Colombian jails. The three civilians were seized by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish initials FARC, when their Cessna plane crashed on a rugged hillside on a mission to check out drug crops used to make cocaine.

The tape was made by an unnamed journalist who six weeks ago approached Gonsalves' mother in the United States, offering to deliver a taped message to the FARC guerrillas holding her son. The journalist was then allowed to videotape a message from the hostages—the first proof that the men were alive—and took it to the United States.

The FBI recently acquired the video, which shows the three Americans clean-shaven and apparently in good health inside what seems to be a house, said a U.S. official who asked not to be identified.

Gonsalves' mother, Jo Rosano, speaking to Reuters from her home in Bristol, Connecticut quoted her son as saying in the tape, "Thank you for getting the tape down to me. I love you and I am being strong, we're not being treated bad."

"I also saw the other two Americans there and they would comfort my son when he would start crying, because he does miss his family and he worries about us," said Rosano.

## Texas man wakes up after operation, penis missing

DALLAS—An out-of-court settlement has been reached in the case of a North Texas man who woke up from bladder surgery only to find that doctors had amputated his penis without permission, lawyers said on Thursday.

Terms of the out-of-court settlement were not disclosed but Hurshell Ralls, 67, had been seeking over \$5 million in a civil suit he filed in Wichita Falls, Texas, against the two doctors who removed his penis. They did not admit to any wrongdoing in the settlement.

The hospital where the surgery was performed was also named in the suit.

Ralls' attorney Steve Briley said that his client was having surgery in 1999 to remove a cancerous bladder,

which would likely include the removal of his prostate gland. He contends that doctors removed Ralls' penis after they mistakenly thought the cancer had spread to the male sex organ.

He charged the doctors—John S. Dryden and Farid Khoury—with not seeking consent for the penis amputation and negligence. He also said a pathology test indicated that Ralls' penile tissue was not cancerous.

Joel Steed, the attorney who represented the doctors, said Dryden had informed Ralls that his penis might have to be removed to treat the cancer he had in his bladder. He also questioned the results of the pathology tests on the amputated pe-

nis.

Steed said during surgery the two doctors saw tissue indicating the cancer spread from the bladder to the urethra, and they felt removing the penis would provide the best chance for Ralls' survival.

Hearings in the case before a jury of eight men and four women had started earlier this week and were underway when the out-of-court settlement was reached.

Ralls and his wife have not been able to recover from the anger and shock they felt after the surgery, his attorney said. "Mr. Ralls was not informed that he was going to wake up and not have a penis," Briley said.



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Mr. REGINALD JOHAN PETERS**, a businessman residing at Back Street, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, N.A., hereby makes known to the public, that, by deed of prescriptive rights to be executed by J.P.G.H. Schaeplman, civil law notary on Sint Maarten, or his substitute, he intends to acquire the ownership of the following parcel of land:

*A parcel of land situated in the district of Little Bay, near the Bush Road, Sint Maarten, N.A. having an area of 665m<sup>2</sup>, and described in certificate of 051/2002.*

Anyone having valid claims towards said property or having valid objections against said prescriptive rights, is hereby requested to lodge such claim or objection, in writing, before September 24th, 2003, with said civil law notary, at the office of Speetjens and Associates, Frontstreet 5, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten. (tel. 599 5422339, fax. 599 5422439, email: speetjens@speetjens.com)

**SPEETJENS AND ASSOCIATES**

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mrs. **ROSETTA MATHILDA WILLIAMS** and Mrs. **SYLVIA VERONICA EDWARDS**, both residing on Sint Maarten, N.A. in their capacity of heirs of the late **JOSEPH WILSON**, herewith make known to the public, that, by deed of prescriptive rights, to be executed before J.P.G.H. Schaeplman, acting civil law notary on Sint Maarten, or his substitute, they intend to acquire the ownership of the following parcel of land:

*A parcel of land with an area of 1050m<sup>2</sup>, and described in certificate of admeasurement number 175/2003.*

*A parcel of land with an area of 525m<sup>2</sup>, and described in certificate of admeasurement number 176/2003 situated on Sint Maarten, N.A., in the district of Cul De Sac.*

Anyone having valid claims towards mentioned properties or having objections against said prescriptive rights, is herewith requested to lodge such claim or objection, in writing, before September 10th, 2003, with said civil law notary, at the office of Speetjens and Associates, Frontstreet 5, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten. (tel. 599 5422339 - fax. 599 5422439 - email: speetjens@speetjens.com)

**SPEETJENS AND ASSOCIATES**

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

ISLAND TERRITORY  
OF SINT MAARTEN*The organization:*

The Island Territory of Sint Maarten has decided to commence preparations for starting up the St. Maarten Institute of Technology and Hospitality, a school for Secondary Vocational Education.

**SMITH:**

The Sint Maarten Institute for Technology and Hospitality will be a school for secondary vocational education on Sint Maarten. The project is presently in the preparatory stages, which must result in a project file and implementation plan. Therefore the Island Territory is seeking candidates for the function of:

**PROJECT MANAGER**

*Place in the organization*

The project manager is accountable to the Executive Council and is guided by the SMITH Steering Committee.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Researching the need expressed in the amount of students, the demand from the Labour Market and contents of the curriculum;
- Making overviews of costs per student at the SMITH and those who go to study abroad;
- Making an inventory of the amount of available teachers and management;
- Initiating cooperation agreements with other institutes;
- Calculating the operational costs of such an institute;
- Setting up a business plan;
- Setting up a promotion campaign;
- Setting up a policy plan.

**QUALIFICATIONS:****The ideal candidate**

- Must have experience in managing educational institutes as well as experience in leading innovations and setting up new systems in the educational field;
- Must have a minimum educational background of a Master Degree or Doctorandus, or a combination of training and experience equivalent thereto;
- Must be knowledgeable of educational structures on St. Maarten, in the Netherlands and the United States;
- Must have a good command of the Dutch and English languages in writing as well as the spoken word, and good contact and editorial skills;
- Must be accurate, critical, creative and service oriented;
- Must be computer literate;
- Must be able to work under stress.

**JOB CONDITIONS:**

- A contract for 1 year
- The legal status of government workers is applicable
- The monthly salary offered is NAF. 6,130,- (scale 13).
- With an additional 16.3% of the salary as Windward Islands Allowance

**APPLICATIONS:**

Your application, with curriculum vitae, must be sent within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement to the Executive Council of the Island Territory of Sint Maarten p/a Government Administration Building, Philipsburg St. Maarten (mention the job vacancy "SMITH Project Manager" on the envelope).

It is the policy of the Island Territory of Sint Maarten to employ Antilleans. Qualified Antilleans are urged to apply. A background investigation and a psychological test may be part of the selection procedure.

**Contact Information:**

For a more elaborate job description please contact the Insular Department of Education. Mr. Wyclef Smith or Mr. Quincy Harrigan. Tel. 599-542-2363 / 542-3718 / 542-4097 / 542-6608. e-mail wsmith@sintmaarten.net

## PUBLIC AUCTION

On Friday, August 29th, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. the undersigned Bailiff/Marshall shall proceed to sell upon request of the Public Prosecutor, to the highest bidder or bidders the following:

**Sail Yacht Duna**

35ft. length, fiber glass hull

The auction will be held at Bobby's Boat Yard at the Airport Road in Simpson Bay, St. Maarten. Boat may be viewed and examined 30 minutes before the auction at the aforementioned place. The boat will be auctioned "as is where is", cash or certified bank check only.

**The Marshal/Bailiff, Karl R. Arndell**

## VACANCY

**NETWORK  
ENGINEER**

Extensive knowledge and experience with Windows based networks and systems.

**SOFTWARE  
ENGINEER**

Extensive knowledge and experience with data base systems in use with accounting and Point of Sales software.

*Please apply in writing to:*  
**Antek, P.O.Box 805, Philipsburg,  
Sint Maarten** or: [leo@anteksxm.com](mailto:leo@anteksxm.com)

# Half million hit by London power cuts

LONDON—A half-hour power cut paralysed London on Thursday with up to half a million commuters trapped in travel chaos that hit the evening rush hour.

In scenes reminiscent of the blackout that hit North America earlier this month, passengers were trapped on underground trains, railway stations were closed and

thousands of frustrated travellers took to the rain-soaked streets.

"There's no indication of any terrorist involvement but it is an absolutely horrendous

position because it has caught the rush hour," said London's mayor, Ken Livingstone.

"It is an absolute disgrace," said the mayor, a left-winger long critical of state sell-offs of utility companies.

National Grid Transco, the privatised company, which runs Britain's main power lines, said the fault had been quickly rectified and power was restored to all customers. "At this stage we are investigating the cause and cannot speculate on what happened," National Grid said in a statement.

Livingstone called for an inquiry. "We have got to look urgently and seriously at the National Grid. The grid should never go down for that length of time," he said.

National Grid's U.S. business Niagara Mohawk was among those hardest hit by the blackouts in North America. Livingstone complained to Sky News: "It is so similar to what happened in New York. We just don't invest in the way the French and Germans do and we suf-

fer because of it."

"We have lost hundreds of millions of pounds for the economy because we are a 24-hour, seven-day a week city. It makes us look as if we should be a Third World country," he fumed. "The fact it has also happened in New York doesn't really give us any excuse. It is a failure of the English-speaking world's mentality to underinvest, to cut corners, to scrimp."

London's roads were hit as heavily as trains with half the traffic lights knocked out in the south of the city of eight million. "When the power went out, it caused complete chaos in the whole of central London," said a spokesman for the Automobile Association, the leading support organisation for motorists.

But the British stiff upper lip reigned supreme amid commuters resigned to struggling to work on Britain's screaming infrastructure. Trains have been plagued by delays and accidents. Commuter Stephen

Davis said passengers in his stalled railway carriage remained calm while they waited and described the atmosphere as "stoic and British".

South London commuter Caroline Deeds described the scene at Victoria station. "There were hundreds of people rushing around trying to get onto buses and share cabs to get home. It was all quite calm, but crammed with people everywhere."

Network Rail said hundreds of trains and hundreds of thousands of commuters had been affected on its overground tracks. A spokesman for the London Underground rail system said 60 percent of the "Tube" was affected by the power cuts.

Earlier this month, one of the largest power outages in North American history blacked out New York and other major U.S. and Canadian cities overnight, disrupting life for millions of people and trapping thousands in lifts and on crowded subways.



Commuters wait outside a closed Victoria underground railway station after a power outage hit parts of south and central London, and southeastern suburbs, on Thursday.

## Bodies pile up in Iraq as murder rate soars

BAGHDAD—Grieving women wailed and beat their heads at the back door of the Baghdad coroner's office on Thursday, waiting for the bodies of their murdered loved ones to be released for burial.

At regular intervals, the blue metal door creaked open and another corpse was handed over to be laid in one of the rough wooden coffins strapped to the roofs of waiting taxis. Inside, amid the stench of death, coroners worked flat out, their daily caseload more than tripled by postwar Iraq's violent crime wave.

The bodies of some 35 Iraqis who met violent or suspicious deaths passed through Baghdad's Institute of Forensic Medicine on Thursday, a typical daily toll in the capital since the U.S.-led war which deposed Saddam Hussein in

April. Most of the bodies had gunshot wounds in a city where law and order has broken down and automatic rifles or pistols are must-have items in nearly every household.

"Before the war, we would see maybe 10 cases a day," said the institute's director Dr Faik Amin Bakir. "Now it is three or four times that and nearly all because of shootings. It's a new situation, a terrible situation."

Armed gangs of looters roam the streets, killing those who stand in their way. Revenge killings are also common as people settle old scores in the knowledge that murders are likely to go unpunished.

Some Iraqis have been shot dead by American soldiers, and some by their own police. Baghdad's murder rate eclipses that of other major cities.

New York, whose former police chief Bernard Kerik is tasked with revamping the Iraqi police force, last year recorded around 48 homicides per month, barely more than the daily murder rate in Baghdad. Even notoriously violent Rio de Janeiro cannot match Baghdad for murders, averaging 12 a day last year.

The city's police say they are trying their best in the most dangerous of circumstances. Ghazwan Whalid came to collect the body of his colleague Lieutenant Ahmed Haider, killed with another policeman on Wednesday while trying to apprehend a gang of robbers on a busy Baghdad street.

"Every day a policeman is killed in Baghdad," he said. "Every day I say goodbye to my wife and fear I will not see her again."

# Blair survives Iraq test, trust problem lingers

LONDON—Tony Blair's assured courtroom performance on Thursday should ensure the British premier escapes blame for an Iraq weapons expert's suicide but analysts predict an uphill battle to win back voters' trust.

Tackling the toughest test of his six-year rule, Blair defended a contentious pre-war dossier on Iraqi weapons with barely a stumble as he gave more than two hours of unfruffled testimony at the Royal Courts of Justice in central London.

The former lawyer, accustomed to rowdy weekly grilling in front of parliament, also encountered few hurdles to his account of the government's treatment of scientist David Kelly. Kelly

slashed his wrist last month after being drawn into a furious row between Blair's government and the BBC over the public broadcaster's report that Blair "sexed up" the dossier.

Blair's appearance helped calm anxious currency traders and even won grudging praise from political critics accustomed to his smooth shows before parliament and monthly news conferences. Sheila Gunn, spokeswoman for Blair's predecessor John Major, said Blair gave "an extremely polished, extremely professional performance, which of course he's been rehearsing for six days."

Blair trounced Conservative premier Major—the only other British prime minister summoned before a ju-

dicial inquiry in 1997 elections which brought Labour to power after 18 years in the wilderness. "I think he will survive this," Gunn said.

Sterling gained against the U.S. dollar after traders judged Blair's testimony to have passed off better than expected. "There were fears it would be more damning, and it wasn't," said Lee Ferridge, head of global currency strategy at Rabobank.

"But always the problem with this government is the gap between the rhetoric and the facts," said Gunn, adding the three-week inquiry showed a series of government officials had all passed on responsibility for decisions to their colleagues.

Blair faces an uphill struggle winning back the

trust of British voters who handed him two landslide election victories. His ratings have plummeted in recent weeks, fuelled by questions over his motive for war, the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq after Saddam Hussein's overthrow, and his government's handling of the Kelly affair. A poll in the Sunday Telegraph showed 67 percent of those questioned thought his government had deceived the public.

Opposition Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy said the public was losing faith in Blair following a probe that has laid bare the inner workings of the establishment as never before. "The prime minister's evidence has raised as many questions as it answers and a worrying picture has emerged of how Downing Street operates; in particular, its overly presidential system which is at the expense of collective government," he said.

The dent in Blair's popularity could have a wide-ranging impact. Campaigners for British membership of the euro fear that it will make him even more cautious about trying to win over a sceptical public to the benefits of the single currency.

Even before the inquiry into Kelly's death, which has revealed how a single radio broadcast could dominate Blair's political agenda, his government faced accusations it was obsessed with "spin" and media image. That perception will not



An anti-war protester wearing a mask depicting Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair awaits Blair's arrival at the Royal Courts of Justice on day 11 of the Hutton inquiry into the death of government weapons expert Dr. David Kelly on Thursday.

have been changed on Thursday.

"Obviously a lot of people are so convinced in their minds that what he says, or what Number 10 (Downing

## France to boost Corsica security after bombing wave

PARIS—France pledged on Thursday to tighten security on the Mediterranean island of Corsica after an upsurge in bomb attacks raised fears of a bloody new phase in a decades-old separatist campaign.

Police stations, prisons,

French holiday homes and other symbols of French rule have been attacked almost daily since proposals to offer Corsica greater autonomy were narrowly re-

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## Londoners turn out to prime minister squirm

LONDON—The hottest ticket in London on Thursday was a yellow scrap of paper letting the bearer into court to see British Prime Minister Tony Blair fight for his political life.

Scores of people camped overnight on the street hoping to win one of only a handful of courtroom passes to see history being made in the Royal Courts of Justice. The British love standing in line—witness established ritual at the Harrods store sale and Wimbledon tennis tournament—and punters began staking their places the evening before.

"We're all here to see Blair squirm," said pensioner Janet Sproule, who arrived by bicycle at dawn in an oil-skin coat and was rewarded with ticket number 57.

"Hopefully Blair will tell us how he lied about getting us into the war," she added. "But it won't happen. He's too slick."

When Blair took the stand mid-morning, he became only the second sitting prime minister to be hauled before an independent judicial inquiry. Senior judge Lord

Hutton is inquiring into the death of government scientist David Kelly, who killed himself after he was named as the source for a new story that said Blair's government hid intelligence to justify war on Iraq.

The hearings have not been broadcast, and most Britons have had to make do watching actors on television perform reconstructions by reading out the transcript.

Just ahead of Sproule, 21-year-old history student David Vaiani said he had stayed up all night after arriving at the courthouse at 3 a.m. His jacket and tie were wrinkled, he needed a shave and was "stiff" more than anything" from squatting all night on the pavement. But it was worth it.

"It's an historic day in this country's history," he said, clutching an umbrella—"just in case"—and a copy of the right-wing establishment newspaper the Daily Telegraph.

Only the first ten members of the public won seats in the court, but about 70 others were allowed to watch the hearings on closed-circuit

TV in a separate room. Scores more were locked out, but waited anyway, just in case.

Outside court the show belonged to demonstrators. Hundreds of anti-war protesters chanted "Tony Blair criminal!" and brandished placards ridiculing the British leader as a "most wanted" fugitive from the Wild West.

Some banners morphed Blair's name into "B.Liar" as mud from the Iraq furor threatened to stick to a man clefted six years ago as an antidote to the sleaze that helped topple his Conservative predecessor.

# Israeli missile obliterates Hamas leader on donkey cart

GAZA—Israel killed a senior Hamas militant with a helicopter missile strike on a donkey cart he was riding on Thursday after his radical Islamic faction fired a rocket into a large Israeli city for the first time.

Palestinian medics identified the militant as Hamdi Kalakh, the eighth Hamas man to be slain by Israeli helicopter missiles in the past week. They said three Palestinians were wounded, including a four-year-old boy who was in critical condition.

The Hamas rocket that crashed into an industrial zone in the Israeli Mediterranean seaside city of Ashkelon, nine km (5.5 miles) north of Gaza's boundary, caused no casualties or damage. But Israel suggested the attack crossed a "red line" threshold for escalating an offensive against Palestinian militant groups who called off a truce critical to a U.S.-backed peace plan aimed at ending almost three years of blood-

shed. "I think that it is clear that the heads of terrorist organisations Hamas and Islamic Jihad cannot feel secure any more on their way to the barber's shop, grocery store or mosque, and also on their way back. These people engage in terror, and therefore they are legitimate targets," deputy Israeli army chief of staff Major-General Gabi Ashkenazi told army radio.

Palestinian bystanders collected parts of Kalakh's body from the ground, wrapped them in white cloth and carried them on a stretcher to a hospital in the Palestinian city of Khan Younis, in the south of the densely populated Gaza Strip. The donkey lay dead on the ground next to the smashed cart.

An Israeli army spokesman said Kalakh was eliminated as he was preparing to fire mortar bombs into the Jewish settlement bloc of Gush Katif next to Khan Younis. "Army helicopters thwarted an attempt by terrorists to

fire mortars towards Gush Katif. Hamdi Kalakh, a Hamas terrorist and explosive expert, was killed," an army spokesman told Reuters.

"We note a sharp rise in mortar fire (at settlements), more than 50 in the past six days," he added.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said both sides had to advance the U.S. backed "road map" to peace which envisages a Palestinian state by 2005. "We have to be clear that both sides need to do more to advance the process. But the main problem remains terror and violence, and the fact that there are still those who fail to understand that there will never be a viable Palestinian state built on terror," a spokesman told a news briefing.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said after the rocket crashed into an Ashkelon industrial zone that Israel's army would take "all necessary measures" to suppress Qassam attacks.

"Today (brought) another escalation in the terrorist activity of the Hamas movement when for the first time, they launched a rocket into a town in the southern part of the country, Ashkelon, making an effort to hit a strategic target that is one of our largest power stations," Sharon said.

In an initial response, five Israeli tanks, three troop carriers and two bulldozers swept into the northern Beit Hanoun area of Gaza and levelled foliage used as cover by Hamas men who launched the makeshift rocket into Ashkelon. The armoured unit, which operated in an area around 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) from a residential zone withdrew later, according to an army



American embassy staff photograph and inspect a makeshift rocket along with an Israeli policeman in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, on Thursday. The Qassam rocket slammed into an industrial zone in the coastal city of Ashkelon, nine km (5.5 miles) from the Gaza Strip, the army said. It was the furthest a Qassam had been fired into Israel since a Palestinian uprising for statehood began in 2000.

spokesman.

The rocket strike into Ashkelon, a Mediterranean seaside city of 116,000 was

the farthest a Qassam had been fired into Israel since a Palestinian uprising for statehood began in 2000.

## France should train its own imams, says minister

JOUY-EN-JOSAS, France—Paris should open a seminary to train imams as part of a national strategy to fight the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the country, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said on Thursday.

Sarkozy, the driving force behind the creation this year of a council to better integrate France's five million Muslims into society, said two-thirds of the 889 imams in France lived on welfare and more than 60 percent

did not speak French.

He said there ought to be in Paris "a training institute for the imams of France, who speak French, who are imbued with our culture," Sarkozy told a business leaders' forum outside the capital.

In April, French Muslim groups elected for the first time a French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM), aimed at fostering a better understanding of Islam in a secular but traditionally

### CORSICA

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jeeted in a July 6 referendum.

Some incidents have occurred in daylight, prompting fears that separatists were no longer favouring night attacks to limit casualties and were set on emulating Spain's Basque separatist group ETA, western Europe's most active guerrilla force.

"We have to tell people there that the state will ensure that law is enforced and that the people who live in this part of France have recourse to justice," Justice Minister Dominique Perben told France Inter radio. He said he would travel to the island next Monday to discuss with local officials tighter protection targets including the Casabianca prison in northern Corsica, badly damaged by 100 kg (220 lbs) of bombs on Monday.

On Thursday, unknown attackers sprayed machine-gun bullets at the law courts in the northern town of Bastia. There were no casualties. Three bombs were defused close to a police office at the airport of Ajaccio, the island's main city, police said.

Roman Catholic state.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin told the body's inaugural general assembly that the Republic expected the CFCM to be the "enlightened voice of Islam" which would combat currents that could threaten the country's social cohesion. French security officials say that they see radical Islam as one of the major threats to the French state.

The CFCM council is headed by Dalil Boubakeur, head of the moderate Grand Mosque of Paris which is favoured by the government. But his group only came third in last April's voting, behind the fundamentalist Union of Islamic Organisations in France (UOIF).

That group, whose doctrines are close to the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, has gained ground in recent years in poor suburbs where disaffected youths, many born in France, have increasingly turned to Islam for identity and values.

## Amnesty:

## Police killings in Brazil's Rio soar

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Police have killed hundreds of civilians in Rio de Janeiro's poor shantytowns this year, justifying their brutal tactics by the need to fight crime, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

The London-based human rights watchdog characterized police behavior in Rio's poor communities as violent, repressive and often corrupt. Killings by police routinely went unpunished, it said, and statements by politicians excusing them as an unavoidable part of a crime crackdown gave officers a "green light."

"Increasing numbers of unarmed civilians die at the hands of the city's police forces each year. The city's poorest communities are the victims of a violent and discriminatory public policing policy," Amnesty said.

In the first six months of 2003, a record 621 civilians were killed by police, it said, citing official figures.

Though famed for its spectacular setting and beaches, the city of six million is blighted by teeming slums, or favelas, where crime is rampant. Many are controlled by drug gangs that openly challenge authorities by shutting roads, attacking police posts and ordering shops and businesses in tourist areas to close.

Damian Platt, of Amnesty's Brazil team in London, said it recognized Rio suffered from endemic crime, but it was still

the authorities' responsibility to protect all citizens. "The situation is extremely complicated and it did appear to get out of control in February," he said.

Although many of the victims were suspected criminals they also had a right to life, he told Reuters.

Research showed many were shot in the back or at close range, indicating summary execution even though official reports registered them as resisting arrest. "They always say it's a drug dealer," Platt said.

Amnesty said growing numbers of innocent civilians had been killed and police tended to treat everyone in the favelas as potential criminals. "When they come into the favelas, it's a military operation, an invasion. When they talk about security, it's really for the Zona Sul (wealthy beachfront districts of Ipanema and Copacabana). In the poor communities, it means an invasion usually resulting in deaths," he said.

Last year, Rio state police shot dead around 900 people. Asked to respond to the Amnesty report, a top official in the state Public Security Secretariat, Colonel Jorge da Silva, said: "I don't know where they got their information from about the civilian deaths. They didn't speak about the 100 or more policemen killed by bandits in the first half of the year."



Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo (R) holds up a copy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, alongside commission president Salomon Lerner, at the government palace in Lima, on Thursday.

## Peru doubles estimate of political war deaths

LIMA, Peru—In a chilling final report, Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said on Thursday 69,000 people—twice the previous official estimate—may have died in two decades of rebel and state-sponsored violence that ripped this poor Andean nation apart.

"The last two decades of the 20th century were marked by horror and dishonor for Peruvian society," the commission's president, Salomon Lerner, told a ceremony in government palace. He was in tears as he handed over the nine-volume report.

Peru was shattered by par-

allel wars by the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas seeking to impose communist rule. In response, the military and police committed widespread human rights abuses.

"The most likely figure of victims in these 20 years is more than 69,000 who died or disappeared at the hands of subversives and forces of the state," Lerner said. "We used to say that in our worst forecast, the violence cost 35,000 lives. What does this say about our politicians now that we know that 35,000 more of our brothers were missing and nobody noticed?"

A Truth Commission official said the report estimated 69,280 people had died or disappeared. The commission identified 23,900 dead—

54 percent of whom were killed by Shining Path and 30 percent by security forces.

The remainder were presumed to have died at the hands of civilian defense groups or guerrillas of the MRTA. The bodies of the missing have not been found and they are presumed dead.

Three-quarters of the victims were native speakers of the Andean Quechua language and most died in the region of Ayacucho, which translates as "corner of death."

"The report we are handing over expresses a double scandal—murder, disappearance and torture on a mass scale, and indolence, ineptitude and indifference on the part of those who could have prevented this human catastrophe, and did not," added Lerner.

## Menem cleared in Argentina arms-smuggling investigation

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—An Argentine court dropped an arms-smuggling probe against former President Carlos Menem during which he served five months of house arrest in 2001, court officials said on Thursday.

Domingo Cavallo, economy minister under Menem and former President Fernando de la Rúa, was also cleared of involvement in illegal arms sales to Ecuador and Croatia between 1991 and 1995, a source from Judge Julio Speroni's court chambers said. Cavallo spent two months in jail last year in connection with the case.

Corruption scandals rocked Menem's 1989-99 presidency, contributing to his poor performance in May's presidential contest. Menem dropped out of the race to avoid certain defeat in the runoff, paving the way for Nestor Kirchner to become president.

Argentine authorities are investigating Menem on accusations he took a \$10 million bribe to cover up the deadly 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish community center and that he has secret Swiss bank accounts. The former president denies both allegations.

He was released from house arrest in November 2001 for lack of evidence, but Speroni had kept investigating him.

## UN replaces Del Ponte as Rwanda court prosecutor

UNITED NATIONS—The U.N. Security Council voted on Thursday to replace Carla Del Ponte as prosecutor for the Rwanda genocide court but to retain her as chief prosecutor for the Balkan war crimes tribunal.

At present she holds both jobs for a four-year term, which expires on Sept. 14. The Security Council, in a resolution adopted unanimously, decided to split the posts for the sake of efficiency.

Others say Del Ponte was replaced because of protests from Rwanda after she pursued possible prosecutions of its army, dominated by Tutsis, who control the government. But the council's U.S.-drafted resolution said such investigations should continue.

Her spokeswoman, Florence Hartman, said Del



Del Ponte

Ponte would accept a second four-year term for the war crimes court on the former Yugoslavia, where she is prosecutor in the marathon trial of ex-Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic. Her confirmation that she would stay in the post ended speculation that she might quit the Hague court after protesting earlier this month at her immi-

nent removal from the Rwanda tribunal.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan immediately appointed Hassan Jallow, 52, a former Gambian Supreme Court judge and solicitor general, as prosecutor for the Rwandan court. Jallow is currently an appeals judge for a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone and served as a judge on the Yugoslav tribunal.

The council in the 1990s created two ad hoc tribunals, which it wants to close by 2010. One was to try war crimes in the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands. The other, based in Arusha, Tanzania is prosecuting the perpetrators of genocide in Rwanda, where militant Tutsis in 1994 killed 800,000 people, most of them Tutsis.

## Indian bridge crumbles, 22 children die

AHMEDABAD, India—At least 22 children were killed and 20 others were feared dead after a road bridge across an inlet in western India collapsed on Thursday, sending vehicles plummeting into the water.

"So far 24 dead bodies have been recovered and 22 of them are children," Gyanendra Srivastava, the administrator of Daman district, about 200 km (125 miles) from Bombay, told Reuters by telephone.

He said local residents had reported that about 20 children, who had to cross the bridge on their way home from school, were still missing. Officials said a school bus and other vehicles carrying children were among several vehicles that plunged into the water when the bridge collapsed.

Hundreds of people gathered at the scene in the evening and shouted slogans blaming the authorities for the collapse of the dilapidated structure, witnesses said. "We will not spare the administration. We have been complaining repeatedly about the bridge, but nobody heard us. Now we have lost our children," local resident Umesh Patel told Reuters by telephone.



Members of a medical team led by Dr Xu Lin perform an operation to remove the third limb from 15 month old baby girl Qing Qing, at the Dongzhimen Hospital in Beijing, China, on Thursday.

## Doctors remove baby's parasitic third leg

BEIJING—Surgeons in Beijing said on Thursday they had successfully operated on a baby born with a leg of her undeveloped twin protruding from her back after the third limb deprived her of nutrients she needed to live.

For weeks Chinese newspapers have tracked the ordeal of 14-month-old Qing Qing, discovered abandoned

on the streets of the capital in March and later adopted by a woman farmer.

Three anaesthetists, four surgeons and four nurses toiled for six hours at Dongzhimen Hospital to remove the curved, tail-like parasite, said one of the surgeons, Yu Xing.

"The operation was very smooth and satisfactory," he told Reuters. "She was in

dangerous condition, and even faced death, had we not operated in time. After the operation, she can now lie down. We hope she can sit in the near future. If her nervous system recovers well, and some other small operations succeed, she can even walk some day."

Yu said the hospital had performed the surgery free of charge.

## Japan man to hang for killing 8 kids

TOKYO—A man was sentenced to hang on Thursday for stabbing to death eight children in a Japanese elementary school in a rampage that shocked the nation.

The attack on the school in western Japan two years ago was unprecedented in scale and severely shook the national sense of security, already battered by a series of senseless crimes.

Mamoru Takuma, 39, an unemployed man who had previously received treatment for mental illness, pleaded guilty to the killings and to injuring 13 other children and two teachers at Ikeda elementary school near Osaka. Seven girls and a boy between the ages of six and eight were killed by Takuma in June 2001 when he burst into their classroom and started slashing at random with a long knife.

"I think my daughter in heaven will be relieved by the verdict," one child's father said at the court.

Presiding Judge Masayuki Kawata, quoted by media as saying the crime was one of the most heinous in Japanese history, added: "He was frustrated economically and

socially, and turned this anger on society."

When Takuma was told to stand for sentencing, he burst out: "Since I'll get the death penalty, let me speak one last time. I've been quiet up to now," NHK television said.

The judge ordered him removed from the courtroom before the sentence was read, and Takuma shouted at the families in the gallery as he left.

"I cried when I heard the verdict," said Yosuke Kawakami, the teacher of five of the eight children killed. "I thought 'I can now tell the children that a bad man will be put to death.' But the fact that I was unable to do anything (to help them) is a burden I will have to live with."

Takuma's lawyers later told a news conference they were considering an appeal, but that it would depend on consultations with him. Takuma told an earlier court hearing that he wanted to pay for the crime with his life. More recently, he was quoted by the Nihon Keizai newspaper as saying: "I am not afraid of death."



## Saudis to court Russia to stay on OPEC's side

DUBAI—In the murky world of oil, few know Russia, the world's second biggest crude exporter, better than its top competitor Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi has managed to crack the ice with Moscow, where he heads next week to sign an historic energy cooperation pact and persuade this independent producer to side with the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"The only way you can use persuasion is to have contacts and relationships," said

Gary Ross, chief executive of consultancy PIRA Energy. "This is a major accomplishment for the minister."

The oil price boom of the past four years has allowed Russia and other independent producers to erode OPEC's market share.

Naimi has also convinced the royals of OPEC power Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, of the importance of building bridges with Russia—where

output is rising steadily. Crown Prince Abdullah, the kingdom's de facto ruler, will

be the first Saudi head of state to visit Russia when he and several key ministers including Naimi travel on September 1-4.

"This smacks of an attempt to persuade Russia to become an associate member of OPEC," said Julian Lee, senior energy analyst at the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies. "But Russia doesn't really have any interest in limiting its production."

For their part, Russian officials may try to soothe Riyadh's concerns over the country's surging output and pay lip service to maintaining price stability.

"Russia is likely to say its output growth is unlikely to be dramatic and will also promise to keep monitoring the market very closely to have prices at \$20-\$25 per barrel," said Valery Nesterov, oil analyst at leading Russia brokerage Troika Dialog. "But as usual it will take no real steps."

In concert with OPEC, Moscow agreed to cut supplies in the first half of 2002, but pumped full blast and boosted supplies further after the deal ended in July 2002.

But even a hollow Russian pledge might be enough to boost oil prices if OPEC needs to call upon Moscow



Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi arrives for an informal meeting of OPEC ministers, in a Vienna hotel, in this July 31 photo.

to cut output. "In this industry, what you say is sometimes even more important than what you do," said PIRA's Ross.

Russia's oil output is soaring for the fifth straight year and the biggest producer outside OPEC is fast closing in on Riyadh, now pumping some 8.7 million barrels daily versus Moscow's 8.3 million.

Naimi's relationship with Russia got off to a rocky start when prices fell after the September 11, 2001, attacks. He refused then to back price-supporting cuts until Moscow joined an alliance with OPEC to curb exports.

With that experience still

fresh in his mind, Naimi may take the opportunity next week to warn Russia of the consequences of failing to cooperate with OPEC. Naimi has told non-OPEC states in the past that a lack of coordination with the cartel and a large price drop could force high-cost producers to curb output.

While Saudi Arabia boasts the cheapest production costs in the world of \$1-\$2 a barrel, Russia, heavily dependent on oil revenues, has costs of up to \$7 a barrel. "Russia does not want to find itself in a price war with OPEC," said a senior Middle East oil industry official.

Investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia's massive natural gas sector are also on the agenda. Russia's gas giant Gazprom, the world's top gas producer, is keen to gain access to new markets and Riyadh has re-launched a gas investment opening after it cancelled projects with Western supermajors in July.

But some analysts say investing in the Saudi gas sector may be of little interest to Moscow, which for now is focusing on Central Asia's upstream and Europe's downstream.

## Snow to try quiet diplomacy in Asia

WASHINGTON—U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow gets a chance to try his favored "quiet diplomacy" on Asian giants Japan and China next week, but most bet he will make scant headway in changing their currency policies.

U.S. manufacturers and policy-makers asloft as Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan claim currency manipulation in both countries is a key culprit behind American job losses and trade deficits, lending Snow's visit to Tokyo and Beijing some domestic political urgency.

"For the Bush administration and for Mr. Snow personally, it's important that they at least give an appearance of doing something that recognizes the interests of U.S. manufacturers and placates them," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo Bank of Minneapolis and a frequent Asia traveler.

"Sitting and doing nothing is not an option," he added, a day after the National Association of Manufacturers highlighted China as a root cause for the loss of 2.7 million American manufacturing jobs since mid-2000.

"China should be pressured to allow its currency to be set by the marketplace and end its practice of keeping its exchange rate hugely undervalued," NAM said in a toughly worded report. China has kept its renminbi, or yuan, pegged at around 8.3 to the dollar since 1995. U.S. manufacturers claim

this is as much as 40 percent undervalued, giving Chinese-made goods a huge and unfair advantage against American products. U.S. authorities want China to move to a more flexible system, in which market forces of supply and demand determine exchange rates, as quickly as possible.

Japan is a different case, though it too has drawn complaints for not allowing the market to govern its currency. Chinese authorities have been selling the yen heavily to keep its value down against the dollar in the type of aggressive intervention the United States and other developed countries officially deplore. Estimates are Tokyo spent over \$117 billion worth of yen in July alone on currency interventions.

At the moment, China's yuan policy is capturing more global attention than Japan's interventions, likely because Japan's economic growth is still robust while Japan has been in on-again, off-again recession for most of the past decade.

Snow got an earful about China during a swing through the suffering factory towns of the U.S. Midwest last month, with workers protesting that Chinese competition was draining jobs. This is an uncomfortable charge with U.S. presidential elections looming in November 2004. Snow promised to take up the issue of widening the yuan band with Beijing—though he has expressed a preference for persuasion over force.

## United States business chief calls for more Mexican workers

MEXICO CITY—The United States needs millions of legal Mexican workers to fill new jobs over the next decade as its economy recovers, a top U.S. business leader said on Thursday.

Thomas Donohue, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, told Reuters that regulated migrant labor in the form of a "guest worker" program could help fill 22 million U.S. jobs he forecast would be created over the next 10 years.

In 2001, President George Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox hoped to reach an immigration accord to legalize the status of some Mexicans working in the United States. But security concerns over the two countries' porous 2,000-mile (3,200 km) border after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the

United States put the issue on a back burner.

Made by Mexicans, Hispanics led up the largest ethnic minority in the United States. About 3 to 5 million undocumented Mexicans work there. Many who cross the border illegally die in the attempt, drowning or succumbing to extreme heat or cold.

Speaking at a business forum in Mexico City, Donohue said the chamber would "vigorously encourage a common sense program" that allows Mexicans

to work in the United States. While the United States must take extra care over security, "we cannot let the economy suffer unreasonably because of it," said Donohue, whose chamber represents 3 million U.S. businesses and lobbies on their behalf.

He said a "guest worker" program to mostly fill manual jobs U.S. workers don't want would benefit both economies.

In July, three Arizona Republicans, Sen. Jon Kyl, McCain and Reps. Jim

Kolbe and Jeff Flake, introduced a bill to create the program. Conservatives say it offers migrant workers too much protection. Liberals say it does not go far enough.

Donohue said such a bill would pass when the U.S. public realizes how much the country needs migrant labor.

"We need to be realistic about the extraordinary number of Mexicans that are now working full-time in the United States," Donohue said. "And we need to make them legal workers."



## Who is to blame? pit bull? Owner? Government!

This pit bull situation is getting out of control. Who is to blame? Who will be next or how severe will it be next? No, the pit bull is not to blame, of course. They are specially bred to be aggressive, impressive and scary. Owners are to blame, but there are no laws to stick to, so the situation can continue.

What can the police do, or what will the police do if there are no laws to stick to? So it can continue. What can the police do, or what will the police do if there are no laws to protect us from these dangerous animals? So this leaves us to blame Government.

We all know that we are in desperate need of some updated and new laws. I am not into the laws, so I have no idea of how difficult it is to just have one new law added, which sounds like, "No pit bulls on St. Maarten."

Is there nobody that can put such a law together, have it approved and make it work? Don't we all agree by now that it is time to ban pit bulls from this so-called friendly island? Ban them to protect us, please, for the sake of our children and other animals that will be attacked in the future, if nothing is done.

Nothing has been done for too long. It is time to do something about it now! The next casualty might be fatal and then we might all hold Government responsible for not having done anything. What is Government waiting for? Hurry up.

We all know you guys are always busy scratching each others backs and talking too much and scratching and talking. Fighting over this and that with your huge egos. Swallow your pride roll up those sleeves and for once do something good for the big public. Just e-mail your colleagues in the states or Europe and try to learn from them, or just copy their laws. But do something, and do it fast.

Mr. Governor or Mr. Judge or Mr. Prosecutor, please, put your teeth into it like a pit bull might want to put its teeth in possibly

your kid next time. Or do you lawmakers and seekers want to give your leg or arm? If you do not have the time to put your teeth into this problem, then let someone else do it for you. You guys have enough people on the payroll, so make them do something for their money instead of scratching backs and talking. Time is running out.

This issue is becoming a time bomb. In Simpson Bay more and more of those pit bull puppies are being bred. The poor animals come into the wrong hands. Mostly they fall into hands of people who do not know the difference between good or bad. People that like these kinds of breeds are mostly aggressive people that worsen the aggressive attitude of these breeds. We do not need more of this aggressive breed. Stop breeding the pit bulls and get rid of the ones already here.

We islanders cannot

even handle the stray dogs that roam around, which is in my opinion also Government's fault. I do not like to blame Government for everything. Of course the people should do more themselves. We all should put more effort into learning how to treat animals. But the big public is not aware of how to treat animals. A lot of people are not even aware how to treat or approach other human beings, so imagine how they will treat animals.

Government should make the big public aware of how important it is to interact and respect all living creatures.

We need to be taught first how to interact with people and animals. This is simply called manners. We need to learn manners. And if we do not know where to learn our manners, because we did not learn them at home, because mom and dad have two different jobs to make ends meet, or mom

and dad are never home but hanging out in a bar or playing domino, then government should provide those youngsters with classes in manners, respect for nature at schools. I can go on and on like this. It all boils down to Government.

Maybe this is a bit harsh and emotional, but I hope to wake and shake it up a bit in the hope for some positive action. I love kids and animals. (Who does not?) To see them in harmony together is even better. Now these two girls are traumatized for life and these three dogs will have to die. What is so positive about that?

Let us all learn from it and let us tell Government we do not want pit bulls. Write to them or to the newspapers or whatever, but do something positive.

AvO

## Nothing wrong with our prepay

Earlier this week, we read that Mirna Godett, as Prime Minister of the Antilles, had set a price ceiling on prepay cellular calling rates. Although we all love cheaper cellular rates, let us not lower ourselves by supporting this type of government price fixing in telecommunications, and instead, laugh at how silly this measure is for a progressive island like St. Maarten.

Where did she pull the figure of 70 guider cents out from? With free incoming calls and the ability to receive calls after a prepay account has been depleted, our prepay service is much better than prepay in the USA, and by far the best in our region.

These relatively low rates were a result of competition and deregulation, not government's communist-like control. Let the market take its course for prepay. The government's role in a competitive telecommunication environment should be to enforce to accuracy and transparency of billing practices and the publishing of accurate rates.

A phone user

# For the future of our children

I would like to bring to your attention the extreme situation that I find the students of Sundial School are being submitted to. The tempo-

rary "solution" that administration has come up with (no school) is not an acceptable solution at all. As a very concerned par-

ent, I would like to point out the following:

1. Some classes have been relocated to SXM University. What allotments have been made for the time it takes to walk from building to building? Will students be penalized for late arrivals to classes?  
2. During this walk from the Sundial campus to the University has anyone considered the traffic situation? How many hit and run accidents must occur before our child's safety is considered? Who will be responsible in

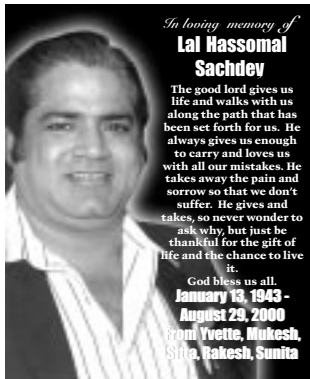
the event that an accident may occur? Administration cannot simply take for granted the fact that students can move without any supervision from campus to campus.

3. No School? Is that really an option? This is only the third week since school has reopened for the School year 2003-04. Most schools have a curriculum that must be completed and achieved during each school year. By having no school, how will the students fully complete their requirements

for the year? Will my daughter be penalized at the end of the school year for not completing her courses, because they were not taught and b) the proper school environment with materials were not provided on time for the new school year? Isn't there any long term planning being conducted by administration to determine the needs of each school prior to the beginning of each school year? Why should Administration's lack of vision completely affect the outcome of my

daughter's education?  
4. Who is responsible for this situation and what is being done to remedy it? At the meeting held last night the School Board did not even show up! How will things get resolved if the administration responsible is not even interested?  
5. Finally, how can the Government happily announce new projects every day, such as the new government building project or the boardwalk in Great Bay, knowing that the island's children are being absolutely neglected and deprived of their right to a complete education?

Wanda van Spanje



## In loving memory of Lal Hassomal Sachdev

The good lord gives us life and walks with us along the path that has been set forth for us. He always gives us enough to carry and loves us with all our mistakes. He takes away the pain and sorrow so that we don't suffer. He gives and takes, so never wonder to ask why, but just be thankful for the gift of life and the chance to live it.

God bless us all.  
January 13, 1943 -  
August 20, 2000  
from Yvette, Mukesh,  
Sita, Rakesh, Sumita

asked to announce the death of a  
father, brother, and friend



## Charles Bernard Duzant better known as Baho

way peacefully at his home  
rter on August 25th at 12:20  
of 93.

**Left to mourn:**  
**Sister:** Aida Allen of French Quarter.  
**Granddaughter:** Deniela Hook (Holland)  
**Grandson:** Curtis Brooks (Holland)

oma London  
rie Dorset London (USA)  
arant Duzant and fam.  
on Boasman and fam.  
bert Duzant and fam.  
leste Duzant and fam.  
land Connor and fam.

mourn other nieces and  
mention. His good frien  
Helliger, Marylyn Richar  
n, Yvonne Cox, Rita Du  
ldge, Nell Ellis and Nell V  
Serena Glasgow and fa  
mber of the Tabernacle

the Duzant, Allen, Hool  
n, Glasgow, Cocks, J  
Hyman, Nelson, David

Funeral service will be held at the T  
Methodist Church in French Quarter  
August 29th. The body will lie in state from  
- 3:00 p.m. for viewing. Service will be  
at 3:00 p.m., then to the cemetery where inte  
take place.

"And behold there are last which shall be first,  
and there are first which shall be last"

—Luke 14 verse 30



It is with deep regret  
that we announce the  
death of our beloved  
Son, Brother, Hus-  
band, Father, Grand-  
father, Uncle and  
Friend

## KURT HARRY KRETSCHMANN

1 May 1951 to 22 August 2003

### He Leaves to Mourn:

**His Mother:** Erika Kretschmann (Germany)

**His Wife:** Lucinda Kretschmann-Lake

**His Children:** Nadja Kretschmann  
Rainer Kretschmann

**His Grandson:** Kevin Rodney

**His Sister:** Christal Pagel (Germany)

**His Sisters-in-Law:** Ethel Lake and family  
Lena Richardson and family (USA)

**His Brothers-in-Law:** Harold Lake and family (Anguilla)  
James Lake and family  
Lucian Lake and family  
Daniel Lake and family (USA)

**Godson:** Roger Lawrence

**God daughter:** Latoya Murray

**Nieces and Nephews too numerous to mention**

**Close friends too numerous to mention**

He was related to the Goetze, Kretschmann, Pagel,  
Lake, Richardson, Brooks, Fahie, Pierre-Louis,  
Rodney, Rey, Hodge, Lammar, Lawrence, Will-  
iams, Alexander, Vanderpool, Gumbs, York and  
Peterson families.

The service will be held on Saturday 30  
August 2003, at the S.S. Simon & Jude,  
Anglican church, Backstreet. Viewing of  
the body will be from 1:00 p.m. Service  
will start at 2:00 p.m. Interment at the  
Cul-de-Sac Cemetery.

"The Lord Giveth and the Lord taketh away"  
With deep sadness we announce the passing  
of our beloved wife,  
daughter, god-mother, granddaughter, sister,  
aunt, niece and friend



## Mrs. Marie Ange Theodore- Eduard

who passed away at the  
tender age of 52 on Tues-  
day, August 26, 2003 at the St. Maarten  
Medical Center.

She leaves to mourn her:

**Husband:** Hubert Larry Theodore  
**Cynthia Fleming**  
**Step-father:** Neville (Pats) James  
**Grandfather:** Nathaniel Davis a.k.a. "Tanny"  
from Tanny and the Boys  
**Step-daughter:** Larisha Theodore  
**Sisters:** Janelle James (Holland)  
Maritza Edouard (USA)  
**Brother:** Mark Edouard a.k.a "Bear" and fam.  
**Mother-in-law:** Judith Etienne  
**Sisters-in-law:** Dawn Belsom  
Shanta Ellis  
Dale Etienne  
Kevin Ellis  
**Brothers-in-law:** Joycelyn Fleming a.k.a "Joycie" and  
fam.  
**Special Aunt:** Ardette Davis and fam.  
Carmen Lloyd-Davis and fam.  
Dulin Brooks and fam.  
Veronica Brooks and fam.  
Yancy Brooks  
Elaine Hughes and fam.  
George Davis and fam.  
Lesley Fleming  
Franklin Davis and fam.  
Louis Richardson and fam.  
**Aunts:** Lesley Fleming  
Joycelyn Davis  
Eddy Lloyd  
**Uncle-in-law:** Blondell Cannegieter  
**God-parents:** Father Irad Hodge  
Wilfred Bender  
**God-brother:** Juvanka Edouard  
**God-children:** Lark Hubbard and Shanass Horne

Nieces, Nephews, Cousins too numerous to mention.  
Her colleagues of the Island Government Personnel Af-  
fairs Department.

**Close friends:** Magda Jack, Rose-Marie Gibs,  
Juliana  
Wan, Jeanine Garty-Henry,  
Sherry and Cheryl  
Emilia Thomas-Libury  
**Her best friend:** Magda Jack, Rose-Marie Gibs,  
Cynthia Fleming, David Brooks, Hughes, Bells, Saunders, Hodge,  
Lloyd, James, Connor, Rombley and Verwoerd.

The Thanksgiving service will be held on Monday, Sep-  
tember 1, 2003 at the Philipsburg Methodist Church.  
Viewing and tributes: 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Service starts at  
3 p.m.

Interment will take place at the Mount Pleasant Metho-  
dist Cemetery in Philipsburg.

# It's time for good governance!

As a new island government, our Island Council must insist that its Executive Council members become more accountable and transparent with their decision-making. Gone are the days when our Commissioner ran his or her portfolio as if they were a gov-

ernment onto themselves. They either set their priorities within an island budget framework, or they will be forced to answer questions posed by members of the island council.

Now more than ever, the St. Maarten island council must

depend on revenues that it generates from taxes earned from productive activities on the island, and, rather than depending on aid or subventions from a Central Government, it will have to create its own incentives for businesses to invest into pri-

vate developments that will create jobs for our unemployed or underemployed inhabitants.

Government owned companies should no longer be used as "cash cows" to supplement the workings of our island government. Therefore, our members of the Island Executive Council should act as responsible managers of the people's trust, rather than as "personal benefactors" of the public's ignorance.

Our Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards, who is the arm of higher supervision, clearly has not been doing his job by allowing these renegade Commissioners to continue to do what they want when elected into office.

As a member of the newly formed Foundation "Save Our Beach Foundation" and a concerned member of the Philipsburg Community, I strongly warn the Commissioner of Public Works against destroying Great Bay Beach. It clearly appears that Commissioner Roy Marlin has now taken over where Commissioner Theo Heigler left off in 2001.

This new method of project development must be stopped. As a public manager

of the public trust, we demand that all details pertaining to the Boardwalk be handled in a proper fashion in the Island Council.

Commissioner, it's time for a change. The sooner you realize this reality, the better for your efforts to achieve your many public projects!

Great Bay Beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in the Caribbean and should not be destroyed, just to please a few foreign developers, who are in this just for the money. We will not sit by idly and allow history to repeat itself.

If they believe that they can continue these projects without getting the proper approvals, we would like to warn them, that things are changing in St. Maarten. We will take our issues to the man in the street, to the tourists and to the highest offices, until we get transparency in these government projects.

We have already prepared letters to be handed out to all tourists visiting Great Bay Beach. This letter is as follows:

**Dear Visitor,**

As our visitor it is a pleasure to serve and accommodate your vacation experience at

our naturally beautiful and environmentally clean Great Bay Beach, and we want to maintain this pleasure for a long time to come.

Nevertheless, there are some unscrupulous private developers with public collaborators that want to spoil this beach with a Boardwalk that will take away a major part of the lounging areas of the beach, and we appeal to you to help us save this Great Bay Beach from selfishly motivated developers that want to build this Boardwalk.

Should you agree with our just cause and want to enjoy this naturally beautiful beach whenever you visit the island again, please sign our letter of protest to the Island Government, or send us your personal sentiment in favour of our protest to:

Save Our Great Bay Beach Foundation  
P.O.Box #31,  
Back Street, Philipsburg  
St. Maarten, Netherlands  
Antilles  
Email address:  
Saveourbeach@yahoo.com

We thank you for your concerns and support,

**Don Hughes, President.**

# Police priorities

In Tuesday's paper there was a very well written "Letter to the Editor." This articulate letter addressed the "traffic controls" being conducted on the Dutch side. I too (and many of the folks I speak to), have made the same observations and have the same concerns as the author of this letter.

I was told, not so long ago, that the traffic controls were, in fact, a search for illegals. Well, I do not find that a plausible explanation. Illegals would be identified almost immediately and the appropriate action taken.

Rather, I have personally witnessed what the author of the letter described: innocent law abiding citizens being pulled over, harassed and cited for non-existent violations. And always, as the author stated, there are multiple officers and police cars doing these "controls." And as the

author correctly reminded us, the island is becoming more unsafe by the minute.

I find it intriguing and interesting that the very next day after this letter appeared, there was a front page article reminding us that the police want us to lock our doors due to the increase in crime on the island. (Now isn't that a nice headline for arriving and visiting tourists to read).

By the way, locking our homes will not prevent all the armed robberies and hold ups on the streets and in resort areas. The onus of this plea from the police is that a citizen to reduce crime. And to do that we must lock our doors.

If this article and its mentality were not so sad, it would be comical. Sure, we citizens have a responsibility not to invite crime. However, the police and island authorities have a responsibility to pro-

tect and serve its people and visitors. Is anyone connecting the dots here?

The police, especially during periods of high crime, must be dedicating their resources and energy doing patrols and preventing crime to ensure a safe island, rather than stopping innocent folks in the effort to raise money via, say, if not fictitious, citations.

Furthermore, the author of Tuesday's letter described that control as right at the Simpson Bridge Police substation (at 9 o'clock tonight). Isn't it ironic that right down the road at the curbs before the airport, routinely there are serious accidents due to high speed? If the police don't want to go out fighting crime (and catching criminals), the least they can do is sit further down the road and prevent serious injuries and deaths.

**Jan Nelson Haddix**

# My outgoing message

It was with a great sense of pride that I was President of the DP Youth Wing from October 2001 to August 2003.

I have made a report for my tenure as President of the DP Youth Wing of St. Maarten. This is the first time a report from the DP Youth Wing has ever been created.

The membership of the Youth Wing, along with myself, has carefully looked at the hurdles facing this island. Soon a new DP Youth Wing board will take office for a new term. I will not be seeking re-election as President, because I would like to become President of the University of St. Martin's Student Government. However, I will stand behind my party and can be called on when needed.

Today marks a historical day for several reasons. Thanks to my guidance and my membership, the DP Youth Wing has soared to even higher heights. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of my DP Youth Wing members.

Many persons have criticized and focused on bringing the DP Youth Wing and my person down. However, I, along with my membership, can be proud of the accomplishments we achieved while serving the DP Youth Wing.

I was elected to the position

of President in October 2001, with a membership of approximately 13 young people like myself. Today the DP Youth Wing has an official e-mail account address, an official Website, partnerships with several organizations, a structure, proper accountability and sound transparency among others. Many of you have seen me on TV newscasts, newspaper articles and on other countless occasions, working for the DP Youth Wing.

I would like to thank Leader of the DP Mrs. Sarah Westcott-Williams, members of the DP Youth Wing, the board of the DP, the members of the Executive Council, DP members of the Island Council, Parliamentarians, candidates, the press and anyone else who contributed to making my membership.

As some would say, there comes a time to give up the ranks to allow others to grow within certain roles in our community. Surely, I will continue to be active in my community and will continue to look out for St. Maarten's concerns.

When a young person takes a bold stance on a political level, he is faced with many debacles. A person must be able to handle such and know

how to effectively respond to any misleading rhetoric. For the record, I will not be terminating my support and advice to the DP Youth Wing.

For too long we have seen people here on St. Maarten not allowing young people to take control of youth organizations, which truly belong to us. There are many challenges facing this island and we must be able to look at how we can effectively tackle those problems.

Soon, I will be establishing the Youth Link Foundation. This foundation would serve as a stepping-stone for young people and will be helping them to become more involved in their community.

On a political level, we must continue to work St. Maarten's behalf collectively. Young people's issues must be placed on the front burner and not on the back burner. Young people need more encouragement, which would help them to excel better in life.

To the young people of St. Maarten I say: "A challenge is only a small hurdle for a better conclusion that will follow afterwards."

**Stuart A. Johnson**  
President of the DP  
Youth Wing of St. Maarten

## Depp and Hayek descend on Venice in shower of bullets

VENICE, Italy—El Mariachi—a guitar-toting gunslinger played by Antonio Banderas—took the Lido by storm on Thursday

in Robert Rodriguez's latest action epic, "Once Upon a Time in Mexico".

The south-of-the-border adventure staged its world

premier at the 60th Venice Film Festival, pitting the melodichero against Johnny Depp, a corrupt CIA agent, and Willem Dafoe, an evil drug baron, after the death of his sweetheart, Salma Hayek.

Moviegoers were transported back to the dusty streets of Mexico and over-the-top gunfights that put Rodriguez on the cinematic map before he more recently directed the "Spy Kids" series.

Depp dominates as Sands, the devious CIA agent who tries to control the fate of Mexico from a cell phone and alternates tacky tourist T-shirts with glitzy cowboy outfits. "It's the first time I've ever asked at the end, 'are you sure there's nothing else we can shoot?'" a scruffy-looking Depp said at a press conference in Venice. "I had a ball."

"Once Upon a Time", showing out of competition, is one of 145 titles that will screen in the lagoon city during the 11-day festival. Twenty films are vying for the prestigious Golden Lion, to be awarded on September 6.

With its exploding buses,



U.S. director Robert Rodriguez (center/rear) and Actress Salma Hayek (C) pose with children wearing 3D glasses at Venice Lido, on Thursday. They went to a special projection for children of the latest film in the "Spy Kids" series directed by Rodriguez.

kitschy dialogue and mind-boggling number of guitar-and-pistol tricks, the movie won applause from action fans but didn't please all the critics at its preview showing in the small hours on Thursday.

The one-liners also prompted lots of laughs. At one point the arrogant Sands demands of one of his henchmen: "Are you a Mexi-can or a Mexi-can't?"

"El Mariachi", a low-budget cult favourite shot in Spanish, catapulted Texan director Rodriguez to fame in 1992. It also won him Hollywood backing for the

English-language sequel "Desperado", starring Banderas and Hayek as his feisty girlfriend. Now Banderas is back and out for revenge in part three of the saga.

"I have a background as a

cartoonist, so all my movies have a fantasy level to them," Rodriguez told reporters. The latest chapter is also a tribute to the "spaghetti westerns" made famous by Sergio Leone.

### Channel 15 (local) St. Maarten Cable TV

Local time	Programme
Friday, August 29	
8:00am	Replay AVS News
7:00pm	GIS Bulletin
7:30pm	AVS News
8:00pm	Sharing the Vision
9:00pm	Crime and the Law
9:30pm	Western Union Football
10:00pm	St. Maarten Lottery
10:35pm	AVS News

U.S. actor Johnny Depp poses during a photo call at Venice Lido on Thursday. Depp is at the Venice Film Festival to present his latest movie "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" directed by Robert Rodriguez.

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# Girl director almost barred from own film

VENICE—The 14-year-old Iranian girl, Hana Makhmalbaf, whose first feature film debuted at the 60th Venice Film Festival on Thursday, was almost barred from attending her own premiere.

Under Italian law, minors cannot see movies which have no rating—even if they directed them. But organizers of the Venice competition obtained last-minute permission to let Makhmalbaf, who comes from Iran's leading filmmaking family, hit the red carpet at the Lido's Palazzo del Cinema and watch the official screening.

"It makes me laugh considering I've been going to the Cannes festival since I was about three," Makhmalbaf told a news conference.



Makhmalbaf

Makhmalbaf's 73-minute documentary "Joy of Madness" is one of 145 films screening at the Venice Film Festival. It is competing for the award for best debut film.

Organisers said they had never had to deal with the age limit issue before since

Makhmalbaf is the youngest director to turn up on the Lido. "The world should be seen from various points of view—from a little girl's to a grown man's," she said.

Her sister, Samira, is also a critically acclaimed young director. They inherited a passion for film from their director-writer father, Mohsen.

Makhmalbaf's film follows her sister in Afghanistan as she shoots "At Five In The Afternoon". The film won the Jury Prize at Cannes this year for her portrayal of life in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

But critics on Thursday described the documentary as much more than just about the making of a film. She also took the opportunity to talk to Afghans.

"I just showed the pain of the people of Afghanistan," the young director said, shyly adjusting her loose, black headcover. "The first days when I saw women all covered up, I imagined no one was under there. But I slowly discovered they were people and learned about them on different levels."

Makhmalbaf's first short film was shown at the Locarno film festival when she was a mere eight years old. "Joy of Madness" is just one of a string of movies being screened at the Lido which tackle Islam and social repression in Muslim countries.

## BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV Channel 46 St. Maarten Cable TV

Local times	Programme
Friday, August 29	
10:00am	NOS Journal
10:05am	Tik tak
10:10am	Sesamstraat
10:25am	Kip
10:30am	De Sonnetjes
10:55am	Grote boze wolf show
11:10am	Madame Baba, laat je buik dansen
11:15am	Het klokhuis
11:30am	Wizy & Woppy
11:35am	Jong
12:00pm + 6:00pm	NOS Journaal
12:20pm + 6:20pm	Twec vandaag
12:40pm + 6:40pm	Lingo
1:05pm + 7:00pm	VRT Journaal
1:50pm + 7:50pm	1000 zonnen en garnalen
2:00pm + 8:00pm	Studio NL
2:30pm + 8:30pm	NOS Journaal
2:50pm + 8:50pm	Weerbericht
2:55pm + 8:55pm	Film: Daens
5:10pm + 11:10pm	Nova
5:30pm + 11:30pm	NOS Sportjournaal
5:50pm + 11:50pm	Nachtgedachten

# French reality television offers live-in politicians

PARIS—French families are to eat, sleep, work and play with their own live-in politician in a new reality TV show that triggered controversy on Thursday even before its first airing in October.

Seeking to narrow the gap between the French and their often remote political rulers, "36 Hours" will follow a volunteer for nearly two days as they go about their usual lives with a top politician in tow. First up is a midwife in a working class suburb of Paris who is joining a pilot episode by Deputy Justice Minister Pierre Bedier, a close party ally of President Jacques Chirac.

"Politics in itself is already reality. This debases politics rather than elevates it. I will not be taking part," said Francois Hollande, leader of the opposition Socialists.

Socialist deputy Arnaud Montebourg was also unimpressed. "What makes them think that politicians are different from the people they represent?" he told Le Monde newspaper. "We don't need TF1 to invite us to a farm or to show us what hard work is."

But their party colleague and ex-Culture Minister Jack Lang said he was all in favour of what he called "a new adventure". To the dismay of the country's intelligentsia, the French have lapped up a succession of reality shows. Formats have included women battling to seduce a young millionaire and the trials and

tribulations of life at a fame academy for young singers.

France's top commercial broadcaster TF1 rejected criticism that the programme was a dumbing down of politics. "There's nothing undignified about them spending two days with a family. That's their job. You won't be seeing them in pyjamas or in the bathroom," said TF1 vice-president Etienne Mougeotte.

Bedier told France-Soir daily his stay with the unmarried

Parisian midwife included a trip to a pizzeria and a meal with her family.

Other candidates for the show have not been named yet. But Interior Ministry Nicolas Sarkozy said he would decline if asked.

"If it meant being away from my desk for a day and a half, no way," he told Le Monde. "In any case, the number of phone lines I would have to install would be inconvenient for my hosts."



Hollywood actor Tom Cruise (R) poses with his Japanese co-star Ken Watanabe during a promotion for their film "The Last Samurai" in Tokyo, on Thursday.

# Tom Cruise sings Elvis duet with Japan's PM

TOKYO—Actor Tom Cruise had nothing but praise for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Thursday—including the leader's musical talents.

"He's really an extraordinary man—and a pretty good singer. We sang Elvis together," Cruise told reporters after meeting Koizumi at his official residence. "I think he's a charismatic and

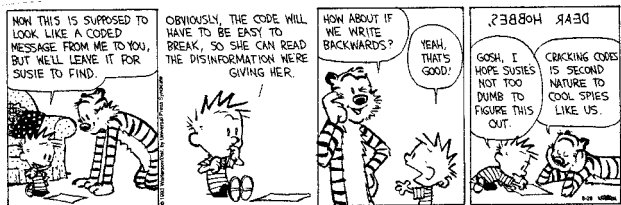
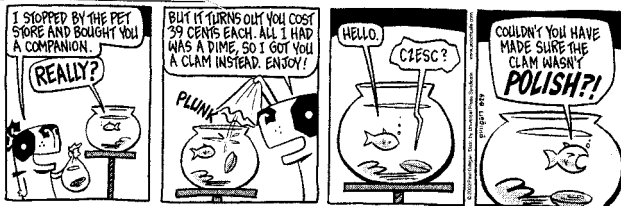
very intelligent man."

He declined to reveal which of the hits of rock 'n' roll legend Elvis Presley he sang with Koizumi, an eclectic music lover whose favourites also include Wagner. But the prime minister said later it was "I want you, I need you, I love you", the first song he had ever learned in English.

Cruise was in Tokyo to promote his new movie, "The

Last Samurai", in which he plays a fictional U.S. military officer hired by the 19th century Japanese government to train its army in modern warfare.

The actor said he had invited Koizumi—who faces a party leadership race in a few weeks—to the premiere of the movie, part of which was filmed in Japan. It is due for release in December.



By Linda C. Black

**Today's Birthday (Aug. 29).** You're willing to put in the extra work, and so is your excellent team. This is good, because there will sure be some. Don't worry - you're thorough and smart.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** - Today is a 6 - Just when you've given up and think that life is a dreary routine, a person appears with a smile and offers a hand for no possible reason at all. It's impossible for you to refuse.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Today is an 8 - The bliss of true romance can lead to a project or two. Love energizes creativity, so this is normal. Get busy.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** - Today is a 6 - Schedule your date for tomorrow night, because you still have a few things to do first. Your sense of humor should be coming back, and not a moment too soon.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** - Today is a 7 - You've been using more energy than you realize. Do something special for yourself tonight. The privacy of your own home is best for whatever you choose.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Today is a 6 - It's a good time to get your accounting straight, so make that a priority. Later, curl up with a good book.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Today is a 9 - You could start getting benefits from a rather unlikely source. If you do the work, the profits and/or savings will come rolling in.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Today is a 6 - You've been doing a lot of thinking lately. However, don't get so bogged down in the thought process that you can't move when you should. Catch an opportunity.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Today is an 8 - Don't push yourself quite so hard. You need a while to let things sink in. As you know, a little more planning never hurts.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Today is a 6 - Try to remember exactly what you hear, so that you can pass it along to your friends. This is a good skill to acquire. Practise.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Today is a 7 - It's important to be respectful now, especially if you're winning. Don't get arrogant. Remember, you're not doing it by yourself.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Today is a 5 - You've almost completed the most difficult part of the learning curve. Set time aside for a change of scenery and some intellectual refreshment.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Today is a 7 - Evaluate a recent project, so that you'll do better next time. That's always possible, even if this latest project was close to perfect.



**SEND LETTERS TO R.O. BOX 328**

**Dear Queenie,**

I recently received an invitation to an anniversary party that specified "no gifts" and suggested instead a donation to a certain charity.

The charity they suggested was not one I know or care much about. Would it have been proper for me to make a donation to my own favorite charity in their name or was I obligated to donate to the one they specified?

Use this more and more these days, also when somebody dies.

Queenie, what is correct.—**Uncertain**

**Dear Uncertain,**

It is never incorrect to make a donation in someone's name to any worthy cause, unless you know person in whose name you make the donation (the honouree) would not approve of the recipient.

However, it is always more meaningful to the honouree if you make a donation to his/her favourite charity. If you don't know what it is, ask the honouree or someone close to him/her.

In the case of a death, you can ask the family of the deceased for their preference or, if you know the cause of death, make the donation to a related cause.

Only notices of fundraising events, non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column.

**Events**

**Friday, August 29**

**WORKSHOP FOR LEADERS OF NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS**

organised by the St. Maarten/St. Martin Navy League Council and the Blair Beach Hotel. Topic: Managing Non-Profit Organizations. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Place: Blair Beach Hotel

Time: 9:00-5:00pm

Price: Free

Please request your reservations by e-mail: gonay@sinmaarten.net or call tel. 548-3211 no later than noon on Friday.

**Friday, August 29**

**PROJECT WRITING COURSE**

made possible through FAJ. Facilitators Rodney Davis and Winifred Jurkules.

Registration: Tuesday-Thursday, August 19-21, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Place: Carl's Unique Inf conference room, Cole Bay (upstairs the deli).

Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm, with break with complimentary lunch and small coffee break.

Price: NAf. 54 or US \$30

**Saturday, August 30**

**FLEA MARKET, PLANT SALE AND DOG WASH-A-THON**

organised by Animal Welfare Foundation. Quality household goods, clothing, books, potted plants, games, sports equipment, music, at moderate prices. Food and drinks available.

Place: Reggae Cafe, beside great Bay Marina.

Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Dog bath price: US \$5 per dog.

For more information, call AWF, tel. 559-8887.

**Saturday, August 30**

**FUND-RAISING BBQ, FLEA MARKET**

organised by St. Martin Home.

Place: St. Martin Home, St. John's Ranch #6.

Time: 11:00am to 4:00pm

Price: NAf. 10 or US \$6

**Saturday, August 30**

**GRAND FUND-RAISING BINGO NIGHT**

organised by Junior Chamber (Jaycees). Snacks and drinks will be on sale.

Place: Sundial School

Time: 8:00pm to 12:00 midnight  
Price: NAf. 18 or US \$10

**Saturday, August 30**

**FUND-RAISING DANCE** organised by St. Maarten Cultural & Activities Foundation, to raise funds for the Senior Citizens cruise in November. Music by DJ Niels and Hildo El Sonero Mayor. Snacks and drinks on sale. Place: Celebration Palace  
Time: 9:00pm to 3:00am  
Price: NAf. 10 or US \$5  
Tickets available from Patsy Flanders and other members, tel. 559-1646 or 542-4064.

**Sunday, August 31**

**HERITAGE FOUNDATION HIKE** organised by St. Maarten National Heritage Foundation. A moderate 3-hour hike from Anse Marcel to the garbage dump on the French side, with a visit to the beautiful cactus field and the isolated beach at North Point, where we will rest and swim (bring swimwear). Good shoes are recommended. Bring enough drinking water. You hike at your own risk. Meeting point: The small parking lot at the French garbage dump (before the hill to Anse Marcel turn right along the school. At the end of (dirt) road you find the dump). From there we share cars to drive to the start of the hike. Meeting time: 7:00am  
Price: Free for members who can show their 2003 membership card; non-members pay a donation of US \$5. You can become a member for 2003 by paying US \$20 (family) or \$10 (single) at the museum or during the hike. For more information, visit the Museum or call tel. 542-4917 during opening hours.

**Sunday, August 31**

**FUND-RAISING BBO, FOOTBALL KNOCKOUT** organised by St. Maarten/St. Martin Veterans Football Club in celebration of its 20th anniversary. Also betotte, dominoes, food and drinks on sale, music by DJ Patrice. Place: Marigot ball field.  
Time: 10:00am until

**Sunday, August 31**

**GRAND YOUTH RALLY** organised by Youth Department of St. Peters Methodist Church. Place: MAC School parking lot, Betty's Estate  
Time: 6:00pm sharp

**NOTICES**

certificates or would like to obtain their HAVO diplomas "oude stijl" are asked to contact Claudina Ellis at the Ministry of Education, Section Windward Islands, Brooks Tower, Harbour View #7, Philipsburg, tel. 542-3296 or 542-3458, from now through Thursday, September 4, 8:30-11:30am and 2:00-4:00pm

**Navy League Announcements**

All Navy League members are invited to attend a casual dinner meeting at Boardwalk Restaurant at Blair Beach Hotel Friday, August 29, 7:00-10:00pm. Bill Waylett, internationally recognized consultant specializing in developing and managing non-profit organizations will be the guest of honour. Cost: \$30 per person by advance registration or \$35 at the door. Please request your reservations by e-mail: gonay@sinmaarten.net or call tel. 548-3211 no later than noon on Friday.

Waylett will hold a workshop for Navy League leaders on "Building Navy League Councils and Other Non-Profit Organizations" at Blair Beach Hotel Saturday, August 30, 8:00am to 1:00pm. Refreshments will be served. Participants are asked to donate \$20 to help offset administrative expenses. Space is limited and reservations are requested. Please request your reservations by e-mail: gonay@sinmaarten.net or call tel. 548-3211 no later than noon on Friday.

**Vaccination Awareness Week**

Sector Health Care Affairs announces Vaccination Awareness Week, now to Friday, August 29. Parents are urged to visit Section Youth Health Care at the Vineyard Building, the White and Yellow Cross, their pediatrician or family physician, to make sure their children ages 0-17 are up to date with their vaccinations. For further information, call Youth Health Care, tel. 542-2078, 542-

2079, or 542-2059.

**Adult Education Evening Classes**

Training and Social Education Institute Foundation's new session of adult education courses in Cay Bay, Level 1, 2 and 3 French and English, Level 1 and 2 Spanish and Dutch, will start Wednesday, September 3, 7:00-9:00pm. Focus is on Listening, speaking, reading and writing. Registration now to Wednesday, September 3. For more information and/or registration, call tel. 542-0074, 557-0303 or 557-9921.

**DP Youth Wing Ball Elections**

The DP Youth Wing will hold ball elections in a meeting at DP headquarters in Madame Estate, Friday, August 29, 4:00pm sharp.

**Motance Dance School Registration**

Motance Dance School registration for the school year 2003-2004 will be held at L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium on Longwall Road, Friday, August 29, 4:00-7:00pm and Saturday, August 30, 9:00am to 2:00pm. Registration fee: NAf. 18 or US \$10. Classes begin Monday, September 1, at Juliet's Gym and Philipsburg Cultural Center while awaiting completion of John Larmonie Center. To avoid inconvenience, please collect all necessary information at the Sports Auditorium during the hours mentioned. For more information, call tel. 551-1500.

**BGNAA Appointments**

Two board members of Bond van Gepensioneerden Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba (BGNAA) will visit St. Maarten to speak to members and all interested persons concerning pensions and related questions, and to collect annual contributions, at Holland House, Front Street, Friday, August 29, 4:00-6:00pm, and Saturday, August 30, 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Other appointments can be made via the Holland House front desk.

**Pony Baseball/Softball League Meeting**

All board members, coaches, managers, representatives of Pony Baseball/Softball League teams and persons interested in forming youth baseball/softball leagues in the Eastern Caribbean Region are invited to a general meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Region at Dutch Quarter Community Center, Friday, August 29, 8:00pm.

**ChuChubi Foundation Meeting**

ChuChubi Foundation invites all Arubans and those who have Aruba at heart to its general membership meeting concerning activities planned for the rest of the year and Aruba's Carnival in February, 2004, at the Senior Citizens Recreational Center, Hope Estate, Friday, August 29, 7:00pm.

**ABC Busby Dance Center Classes**

ABC Busby Dance Center Saturday dance classes for children ages 3-5 and 6-8 will resume August 30. For more information, call 522-1481.

**Services, Studies With Surinamese Theologian**

The public is invited to services and studies conducted by Surinamese theologian Dr. Jabini at New Testament Baptist Church, Sunday morning and evening, August 31.

**Crafters Cottage Industry Courses**

Maarten Crafters Cottage Industry Foundation started back-to-school courses in sewing for beginners, doll making, basket weaving, tie, dye, macramé, handbags, belts, slippers, sandals, wallets, etc., on Monday, August 25. For more information, call tel. 556-9667.

**Jamaica Social Foundation Meeting**

Jamaica Social & Heritage Foundation St. Maarten/St. Martin will hold its next general meeting at the WIFOL Building on the Pondfill, Tuesday, September 2, at 7:00-9:00pm.

**Society Orientation Course**

St. Maarten Community Learning Institution following the SCOLIN, Van Buren Drive, off Union Road in Cole Bay, is accepting applications for persons interested in following the Society Orientation Course (English, Dutch, math, history, geography, social studies and introduction to basic computer) which starts on Monday, September 1. For more information and registration forms, call tel. 544-3888.

## No Limits ground Flyers, tie Celtics for second

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Peters No Limits grounded the Nagico Flyers in the 15 to 19 division of Junior District basketball yesterday.

The No Limits defeated the Flyers of Betty's Estate 69-60 at the L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium. The win preserves the No Limits hold on third place in pool A of the competition. The 15 to 19 division is divided into two pools.

With less than a week left before the end of regular season the No Limits are now tied with the Cay Hill Celtics for second place with an improved record of 11-3. The Flyers are 8-7 and in

fourth place. The Cole Bay Razorbacks lead group A and are in first place overall with a 15-1 record.

In pool B the Top Shattaz are in first place with a record of 13-2. The Rug Rats are second at 12-3 and the Project Boys are 6-9 in third place. The Middle Region Vipers are in the fourth position at 5-9.

The No Limits dominated the game yesterday. They outran and outshot the Flyers.

The Flyers with their tall man Marvoo Cooks controlled the boards but were unable to capitalize on second chances. By the half

the No Limits were up by 10 points. The score was 33-23.

The No Limits continued to rack up points in the second period. As the clock wound down, they shifted gears. Instead of playing hard and trying to cause turnovers, the No Limits resorts to shooting practice. The team took turns shooting three-pointers.

Micha Duzon and Gerschwin Thomas both hit for 16 points each to lead the No Limits offense. Rudolph "Jungle" Sampaime was good for 14 and Kenny James hit for 10. Rounding out the top five

was Donnelly Dodge, who added nine points to the winning tally.

Edison Hodge was the top scorer for the Flyers. He posted 25 points on the scoreboard. Cooks had 15 and Mark Hylton added 13 to the losing cause.

The 12 to 15 division playoffs continue today. The Ebenezer Street Ballers are just one game away from clinching a spot in the semifinals. They face the St. Peters No Limits. The Middle Region Vipers have already clinched their ticket into the semi-finals. They went 3-0, as the Dutch Quarter Snipers did not have enough athletes to field a team.

The Rug Rats defeated the Junior Cats of Sucker Garden. The Rats advance to the next round with a 3-1 record in the best of five series. Still to be decided is the contest between the Cay Hill Celtics and the Cole Bay Razorbacks. Their series, which continues Tuesday, is tied at 2-2.



The Nagico Flyers tall man Marvoo Cooks is almost called for goal tending as he tries to block a shot in the 15 to 19 division Junior District game against the No Limits yesterday.

## Pony League organizes trip to see Cubs, Marlins, Expos

PHILIPSBURG—Sammy Sosa is returning to the Caribbean. He will be playing Major League Baseball in Puerto Rico.

St. Maarten baseball fans will once again have the opportunity to see major league teams play in the Caribbean next month. The Florida Marlins and the Chicago Cubs will both be travelling to Puerto Rico to take on the Montreal Expos in September.

The Marlins will face the Expos in a three-game stand September 5 to 7. The Cubs, led by Number 21 Sosa, will travel to Hiram Bithorn Stadium and play ball September 9 to 11. Registration for either trip is due by August 31.

The St. Maarten Pony League has put together two separate travel packages for local fans to witness the games live. The first trip will depart St. Maarten September 5 and return September 8. The second excursion will leave the Friendly Island September 9 and return September 12.

The Pony League organized a small trip to see the Texas Rangers face the

Expos back in June. Five young Pony League ballplayers and three adults went to see two games. The trip was a success.

Now the local Pony league in collaboration with the Pony League Caribbean Zone Headquarters is running two more trips. "In an effort to bring the best in baseball education to St. Maarten, the Pony League is again offering to take people to a Major League game in Puerto Rico," said Gabriel Brown. The trip is open to both adults and children.

The package will include airline tickets, airport taxes, transportation, three nights at Diamond Palace Hotel in the Condado strip and tickets to see three games.

The Expos are in financial trouble. Major League Baseball executives had considered disbanding the team. Currently the league is looking to move the franchise to a more profitable market. Puerto Rico is one venue being considered. As a test, the Expos will play six teams in "home games" at the Caribbean venue.

The Expos first played in

Puerto Rico back in April. More than 13,000 fans came to watch the Expos open against the New York Mets.

The Expos later played the Atlanta Braves (April 15-17), Cincinnati Reds (April 18-20) and Anaheim Angels (June 3-5).

The Expos average attendance at a game last season was 9,000 in a stadium that holds nearly 40,000. Other locations being considered as a possible home for the Expos are Washington D.C., New Jersey and Mexico.

For more information about the trip, contact the Pony League at 24-22121.

## Tigers wake up, pounce Vikings

CUL-DE-SAC—The seemingly sleeping Intermar Tigers of Cay Hill roared to life in the bottom of the third inning to score nine runs and take the tie in double A baseball last night.

The Tigers went on to pounce the Atlantis Casino Vikings 17-1 at the John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark.

The game was close until the Tigers found their make and began making the rounds of the bases. The Tigers scored seven more runs in the fourth inning and did not need to go to the plate in the 15 runs as they led by more than the 15 runs and thus had essentially won the game.

The Tigers scored one run in the first inning. The Viking responded and tied the game in the top of the second. The Viking scored one run

## Young shooters prepare for pool competition

PHILIPSBURG—Young pool shooters continue to practice in preparation for the first parent and child 8-Ball competition at the FX Bowling Center this weekend.

Shooters age 12 to 17 years will be joined by one parent in the Family House 8-Ball Pool Tournament.

The competition, designed to get more parents involved

in their children's after school activities, is open to any combination of parent and child. A father can team up with a daughter. A mother can team up with a son.

To encourage the moms to come out, the first five to register will receive special recognition. The tournament is set to begin Friday, August 29 at 6:00pm. Play will continue

Saturday at 4:00pm and the finals will be Sunday starting at 1:00pm. In addition to the pool tournament, a family barbecue is planned for Sunday.

For more information about the Family House contact tournament organizer Rudolph Hyman at 25-28816 or stop by the Bowling Center.



The Vikings pitcher Calson Charles gave up just one run in the first two innings he worked against the Tigers in Double A baseball last night. However, in the third and fourth innings the Tigers scored a total of 16 runs to win the game.

total of seven innings and gave up seven earned runs. He had an ERA of nine. Double A baseball will continue this weekend. The Raiders will take on the defending

champions, the Island Concrete Stars Saturday beginning at 4:00pm and the Dodgers will take to the diamond against the Vikings beginning at 8:00pm.



## Williams sisters target 10 more years of domination

GREAT BAY—Divi Little Bay Beach Resort has been booked to host the 2003 Sunfish World Championships from October 10-19 due to the closure at that time of the original venue Great Bay Hotel for renovations, Robbie Ferron confirmed yesterday.

St. Maarten is hosting the world championships here for the first time. Racing takes place off Fort Amsterdam and the St. Maarten Yacht Club and International Sunfish Class Association (ISCA) are host club and organising authority respectively.

Race Officer for the event is Tom Duggan from Sandwich, Massachusetts, a US Sailing and ISAF official.

To date 53 entries from 7 countries have registered though the championship can accept up to 96 entries. Normal qualification procedures are now being waived to encourage more entries and the Sunfish Association stipulates that sailors applying now must be 2002 and 2003 members.



Seven time Sunfish World Champion, Eduardo Cordero, from Venezuela.

"Divi is a super spot and in a sense that is a bit of an upgrade for us," Ferron added. "I think this event will be a tremendous opportunity to focus on our marine industry and water sports leisure in general."

Brand new Sunfish boats are being shipped to St. Maarten in two 40 ft containers for the event, half of which will be purchased by Budget Marine and made available to buy after the championships. At this

point in time, no St. Maarten sailors will be competing.

Asked why the Sunfish did not seem to be a boat of popular choice here, Ferron said: "It's a class that requires less athletic requirement and tends to attract a particular group of people. The strongest islands in the Caribbean for Sunfish sailing are Curaçao, Bonaire, and Martinique."

While most entries for the world championships will be unknown to St. Maarten, there will be at least one familiar face in the fleet. That of Cor van Aanholt who is well known to St. Maarten sailors for his involvement with the Heineken Regatta, both in a judging and competitive capacity. Curaçao-based van Aanholt won the Sunfish World Championships in 1980.

There was no news yet about definite sponsors. However organising committee member, Miriam Leffers, said the Island Government was willing to help out and expressed hope the Government would host the opening and closing ceremonies.

The current Sunfish World Champion is 31-year-old Eduardo Cordero from Venezuela. Not just your average champion, Cordero has won the Sunfish World Championships 7 times and although he had not yet registered, he is fully expected to go for his eighth title.

Cordero first won the title in 1993 in the British Virgin Islands. He was beaten in 1994, 1995 and in 1998 but had an unbroken run from 1999. He recently won Gold in the Sunfish at the Pan Am Games.

"To have won my championship 7 times is quite something. I wouldn't be surprised if this is a world championship record," Ferron remarked. (Robert Luckock)

## New swim association forming in September

PHILIPSBURG—A St. Maarten Swimming Association will be formed September 15.

Members of all swim organisations on the Dutch side of the island are invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the association at the Raoul Ildige Sports Complex beginning at 7:00pm.

On the agenda will be the postulation and election of a board.



The St. Maarten Bowling Federation Fall Handicap Bowling League began Tuesday. The Afof X-Men swept their opponents to win 11 points and are in first place after one night of play at the Fx Bowling Center.

## Athletics sweep Orioles to go two games clear atop AL West

MADAME ESTATE—The Afof X-Men are in first place after one night of bowling.

The X-Men lead the just begun St. Maarten Bowling Federation Fall Handicap Bowling League. The X-Men are in first place with 11 points after sweeping their opponents on the lanes at the Fx Bowling Center Tuesday evening.

The teams play three games

each evening. One win is worth three points. Three wins equal nine points.

An additional point is awarded to the team that rolls the highest individual game and a second point is awarded for the team that scores the most pins in the three game series. A perfect night of bowling yields 11 points.

Intermar Next Generation's Bernardo Velasquez rolled the high

game of the night. He bowled a 241.

Carlo Talkari of the Intermar Master Bowlers rolled the high series. He totaled 595 pins.

Eleven teams are competing in the league. Games are played once a week for 12 weeks on Tuesday evenings. Warm-up begins at 6:30pm and the competition starts rolling at 7:00pm.

## Kayaker get muddy during Sunday paddle

PHILIPSBURG—Local kayakers expect to get covered in mud Sunday. The Friendly Island Kayak Association will host a fun paddle to Tintamarre, also known as Flat Island.

Once the paddlers have negotiated the five-kilometer of open water they will meet Charli Etchegoien on the island and hike to the mud baths. The kayakers will have the opportunity to enjoy the "rejuvenating" properties of the mud before returning to the Friendly Island.

The kayakers will meet at French Cul de Sac at 9:30am and depart for Tintamarre at 10:00am.

Each kayaker is responsible for their own food and drinks. While most of the kayakers have adequate stowage space for lunch kits Malcolm Maidwell of the association reminds paddlers to wrap their food in waterproof containers.

"I found sucking on sea soggy sandwiches, not very appetizing," joked

Maidwell. Sunday's paddle is not for beginners or children. Kayaks may be rented from Tri-Sport and arrangements can be made to have the vessels

## Green light objects to fly over Mullet Bay

MULLET BAY—Once again eerie green glowing spheres will be seen flying around the Mullet Bay area of the island as the St. Maarten Golf Association hosts their annual Moonlight Tournament. This year the competition will be held Wednesday, September 10th.

"I've received several inquiries from golfers who wonder why we can't switch the tournament from Wednesday to a weekend," said competition chairman Tom Smith.

"There's a simple answer," he joked. "I can do a lot of things, but moving the full moon isn't one of them!"

Players will tee up by the

dropped of and picked up from Cul de Sac providing the athletes make arrangements in advance. For more information contact Tri-Sport.

## Green light objects to fly over Mullet Bay

light of the full, silvery moon. Using balls that give off a green glow the golfers will arm themselves with flashlights to back up the moon and stars.

Teams of players will get underway as darkness falls and the moon begins to rise over the lagoon. To help player's point in the right direction when they swing, small glowing discs will be placed on each of the holes and on each tee.

The Moonlight competition is one of the local association's most popular tournaments of the year. Registration has begun. Golfers can sign up at the Mullet Bay course.



Tennis Pro Philippe Alonso will be giving lessons at the Caravaners Tennis Center. The youth training program for children ages five to 14 begins September 13.

## Capriati flies, Hewitt struggles at US Open

BEACON HILL—The Caravaners Tennis Center starts their youth training program September 13.

Children ages five to 14 will learn the fundamentals of the game with tennis professional Philippe Alonso. The class will be conducted every day from 4:00 to 7:00pm. The children will be divided into groups based on their ability to ensure each athlete makes progress, according to Alonso.

To register see Alonso on the court Saturdays from 9:00am to noon or call from St. Maarten 590.690.390299.

The Tennis Center also offers Saturday Fun and Sports Day from 9:00am until 4:00pm. Children from six to 12 will participate in tennis, soccer, mini golf and swim in the pool.

The program cost US \$40. The athletes must bring their own sunscreen, towel, cap, lunch and drinks.

## Capriati flies, Hewitt struggles at US Open

NEW YORK—With the MTV Music Awards warming up across town, Jennifer Capriati put on a show-stopping New York performance of her own at the U.S. Open on Thursday night.

Whether she had an early night in mind or perhaps an invitation to P.Diddy's post-awards party tucked away in her racket bag is anyone's guess. Either way, the sixth seed did not hang around.

The floodlights barely had time to reach full power before she was off court, a 1-6, 1-6 winner over Slovak Martina Sucha. "I'm missing being on the top, playing good tennis," the American told reporters, leaving no doubt on her goals for this fortnight.

The one-sided manner of her win suggests she could well be back on top come finals day. Capriati's cake-walk put Leyton Hewitt and Mary Pierce in straits in context, the two former grand slam winners dragging on all their experience to advance.

Sixth seed Hewitt, who has battled indifferent form since his shock first-round loss at Wimbledon, recovered from a sluggish start as he grunted and growled his way past South Korea's Lee Hyung-taik 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

"For me the first few rounds are toughest," said Australian Hewitt, the 2001 U.S. Open champion. "But I know what you have to do to win slams. I'm through to the third round, I can't complain. Obviously Wimbledon was a hiccup and I'll try to bounce back at the last major."

Men's 11th seed Paradorn Sirichaphan of Thailand had a much easier passage, brushing past Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, while 33rd seed Juan Ignacio Chela tamed Tomo Berdych of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Argentine Chela will next face claycourt king Juan Carlos Ferrero. The third-seeded Spaniard suffered a brief hardcourt hiccup before recovering his composure to move into the third round with a 1-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Jurgen Melzer of Austria.

Eleventh seed Elena Dementieva elbowed past Ukrainian Tatiana Perebylnia 5-7, 6-4, 6-0. A semi-finalist here in 2000, the Russian next faces American Amy Frazier. Frazier received a walkover in her second-round match when France's Nathalie Dechy pulled out with a wrist injury.

## Juventus keeper Buffon takes top UEFA award

MONTE CARLO—Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was named Europe's Most Valuable Player of last season at UEFA's annual gala awards night on Thursday following his fine performances in the Champions League.

The 25-year-old, who became the world's most expensive keeper when he moved from Parma to Juve for \$45.9 million in 2001, was also named the best goalkeeper in the competition. Buffon won that award even though he could not prevent AC Milan winning the Champions League final on penalties at Old Trafford in May.

One of the outstanding moments of his European season came when he saved a crucial penalty in the semi-final second leg against Real Madrid. If Figo had scored Real would have gone level on aggregate in the match but in the end Juventus won 3-1 to win the tie 4-3 and reach the final.

Just as important was his last-minute save from Figo in the first leg in Madrid, which stopped Real from taking a 3-1 lead to Turin. But probably his most impressive display in

last year's Champions League run was in the quarter-final second leg at Barcelona as 10-man Juve won 2-1 in extra-time.

Real Madrid's Brazilian international left back Roberto Carlos was named defender of the season while Pavel Nedved of Juventus was named the best midfielder. Road van Nistelrooy of Manchester United, who scored 12 goals in the Champions League, was named best attacker.

Paolo Maldini, who captained AC Milan to victory in the Champions League final, was handed the President's Award for his outstanding contribution to soccer in his 17-year career, which shows no signs of ending yet. He is the first player to win the award.



Leyton Hewitt of Australia jumps for a smash to Lee Hyung-taik of South Korea at the 2003 U.S. Open in Flushing, New York, on Thursday. Hewitt defeated Lee 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

## Williams sisters target 10 more years of domination

NEW YORK—Serena and Venus Williams are not contemplating retirement and will return to action as soon as their injury problems clear, the sisters have said.

Both were forced out of this week's U.S. Open through injury but are in New York to fulfill television commitments, including Serena's appearance at Thursday's MTV Video Music Awards.

Despite rumours that fitness concepts and dwindling motivation may force them to re-think their careers, 23-year-old Venus told reporters: "I'm not going away. I'm not retiring before 33. I've thought about it already—I'm not giving up my job. I'm blessed and I love being out there."

Serena, the 21-year-old U.S. Open champion, added: "I'm going to be a better player when I come back."

Serena, who has won five of the last six grand slam titles, withdrew from the hardcourt major after undergoing knee surgery earlier this month. "My knee will be better than it's ever been in my career, which is really exciting, and I'm going to be mentally relaxed," she explained. "I'm going to be stronger and I'm

going to be angry." But both former world number ones did not specify a date for their comebacks.

Four-times grand slam winner Venus, who withdrew from the Open last week, is still suffering from a stomach muscle strain that has troubled her since May. She is entered in the WTA Tour tournament in Moscow on September 29. Serena's return may not be until the new season in January 2004, and she plans to take advantage of the free time by pursuing one of her other passions—acting. She has a part in an American television show called "Street Time", playing a reforming gang member who has been

## Expos catch Phillies in frantic wild-card chase

MONTRÉAL—Javier Vazquez tossed eight shut-out innings and Vladimir Guerrero homered for the third time in four games to help the surging Montreal Expos blank the slumping Philadelphia Phillies 4-0 in the National League Thursday.

The Expos completed a four-game series sweep with their fifth consecutive victory but Philadelphia's hold on its NL wild card has vanished after losing for the sixth straight game.

A matinee crowd of 20,030 was on hand in Montreal, where the Expos have a 36-17 record. The series attracted 83,145 fans to Olympic Stadium and they saw the home team catch the Phillies in the frantic NL wild-card chase.

Vazquez (12-8) allowed

four hits while striking out 10 and walking three to stretch his scoreless innings streak to 26. Luis Ayala completed the four-hit-ter with a perfect ninth.

Guerrero belted a two-run homer, his 20th of the season, in the first as the Expos grabbed an early 3-0 lead. Brad Wilkerson had two hits and drove in a run while Orlando Cabrera drove in the other run.

Amaury Telemaco (1-2) took the loss, giving up four runs on seven hits in six innings.

In Denver, Preston Wilson cracked a grand slam home run to lead the Colorado Rockies to a 6-1 win over the San Francisco Giants.

Wilson had five RBI while Jay Payton added three hits and one RBI as the Rockies ended a five-game losing streak. Jason Jennings (11-12) went seven innings for the victory, allowing one run on six hits with 10 strikeouts and one walk.

Kevin Correia (1-1) gave up two runs on four hits over five innings and took the loss. Pedro Felix had two hits for the Giants, who were again without Barry Bonds.

In Cincinnati, Bill Hall stroked a two-run homer in the top of the 10th inning as the Milwaukee Brewers edged the Reds 4-3. Geoff Jenkins homered for the fourth straight game and for Milwaukee. But he later suffered a broken thumb and may be out for the season.

Valerio De Los Santos (3-3) seized the win with two innings of scoreless relief before Danny Kohn allowed one run on two hits in the 10th to record his 13th save of the season.

## Athletics sweep Orioles to go two games clear atop AL West

OAKLAND—A d a m Melchre cracked a three-run homer to inspire the Oakland Athletics to their sixth straight win, a 6-4 decision over the Baltimore Orioles in the American League Thursday.

Oakland, which has won 10 of its last 12 outings, has a two-game lead over the Seattle Mariners atop the AL West after completing a series sweep of the Orioles.

Scott Hatteberg led off with a homer to highlight a four-run first inning for the A's. Mark Ellis and Ferrerice Long both added two hits and one RBI to the Oakland attack while Miguel Tejada scored two runs.

John Halama (3-4) allowed two runs on six hits over 6 2/3 innings for the victory. Keith Foulke gave up a run and hit in the ninth but still earned his 35th save of the season.

Rodrigo Lopez (6-9) was rocked for six runs on eight hits in three innings to take the loss. Brian Roberts and Larry Bigbie homered for Baltimore.

In New York, Mike Mussina won his 15th game of the season and Ruben Sierra drove in two runs as the Yankees avoided a series sweep with a 7-5 triumph over the Chicago White Sox.

Mussina (15-7) was helped by five-run first as he pitched

six innings, allowing three runs on eight hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Mariano Rivera picked up the last four outs of his 29th save while Alfonso Soriano had two hits and drove in a run for New York.

Rookie Neal Cotts (1-1) only recorded one out and was charged with five runs on three hits with four walks. Carl Everett had four hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs for Chicago.

American League	
Angels	- Twins 1-6
Mariners	- Rays 2-3
Indians	- Tigers 8-3

National League	
Pirates	- Marlins 5-0

## White's win took every ounce of strength

PARIS—Kelli White's historic 200 metres win at the world championships took every ounce of strength she had.

White, the first American woman to complete a world sprint double and only the third ever, destroyed the field in the final to win in the year's fastest time of 22.05 seconds. But the effort left her without the energy to celebrate.

"I told (my coach) Remi (Korchemni) before I stepped on the track that I had no more energy left. I was totally spent," White told reporters. Before Thursday's final, she had already run four rounds of the 100 metres, taking the title on Sunday, and three in the 200 winning them all. "I've done eight races and I'm tired. I had no more energy to even celebrate," the Californian

said. "The start was all I had left, those 12 to 15 steps. It gave me enough to get off the track."

"Off the bend I was just hoping they weren't pushing it," added the 26-year-old, who was physically sick after the race.

White need not have worried. She dominated the race, finishing way ahead of Russian

Anastasiya Kapachinskaya and fellow American Torri Edwards. Silke Gladisch, competing for East Germany, won the sprint double in 1987 and Katrin Krabbe of Germany repeated the feat four years later.

White, the daughter of 1972 Jamaican Olympian Debra Byfield, sprang on to the athletics scene in 2001 when she won a 200 metres bronze and relay gold at the world cham-

pionships in Edmonton.

But a serious injury brought her 2002 season to a premature end and threatened her participation this year. She failed to make the U.S. team for the world indoors in February and then her foot began to cause her problems.

"In April I didn't think I was going to make the season as my foot started hurting again," said White.

"After Mt SAC (Mt San Antonio College Relays) my foot started acting up. I said to Remi I wouldn't be able to do the full season this year," she continued. "I went back into rehab hoping they'd be able to patch it up and hold it together for as long as they could, so this is a great accomplishment and showed how much courage I had to put

everything out there."

Asked how she felt about winning the double, White replied: "I don't know what this means yet. I guess when I go home I'll figure it out."

"Even just being the 100 metres world champion, it means more to the world than 200 champion does, so even that alone was going to make a change and I'm not even sure what that meant. Double title, even better," she concluded.

## Barcelona loan Riquelme to Villarreal

MADRID—Barcelona have loaned Argentine midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme to Villarreal.

"The deal is for one season with an option for a second if Barcelona decide not to recall him," the club said on its website on Thursday.

The arrival of Brazilian Ronaldinho from Paris St Germain in the close season meant that the 25-year-old playmaker had become surplus to requirements. Riquelme does not hold a European Union passport, which also counted against him, as Barcelona needed to offload non-EU players to keep within Spanish Football Federation rules. Riquelme arrived from Boca Juniors for 11 million euros (\$11.94 million) in July 2002 but never won a regular place in Barcelona's first team.

**MARTIN**

Continued from page 44.

Days like this do not come along too often these days for the world number 93 and Martin raised his eyes to the heavens after clinching victory on centre court. It was a victory which thrilled a partisan American crowd and Martin readily acknowledged the role the crowd played in his victory.

"It is our national championships and it is in New York. New York's got the most amount of energy of any city in the world and there's some substantial patriotism floating around these grounds," he noted. "I think that helps a lot. Recently we have had a lot of support from these guys. I'd hate to have it against me."

South African Wayne Ferreira or compatriot Robby Ginepri will be next up in round three for Martin.



Cuba's Yipsi Moreno competes on her way to win gold in the women's hammer throw final at the 9th World Athletics Championships in the Stade de France at Saint-Denis near Paris, on Thursday.

## Jana Pittman upsets Russian favourite

PARIS—Australian hurdler Jana Pittman provided the upset of the world championships on Thursday after Kelli White had clinched the first U.S. world 100-200 double.

White became only the third woman in the 20-year history of the championships to win the sprint double, a feat beyond even triple Olympic champion Marion Jones, who is not competing here.

Pittman overhauled world record holder Yuliya Pechonkina, after the Russian had appeared to take an insurmountable lead, to win the women's 400 hurdles title. The victory was similar to her compatriot Debbie Flintoff-King's in the same event at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and more than adequate compensation to the Australian team for Dmitri Markov's failure to retain the men's pole vault title.

As she had in the earlier rounds, Pechonkina got away quickly, settled into her stride pattern and appeared to have the victory sewn up as the field went into the straight. But the Russian, who broke Kim Batten's eight-year-old world record this month, tied up badly on the home stretch and Pittman seized her opportunity by moving up to her shoulder on the final barrier before surging away to win.

"I knew the eighth hurdle was her weakness so I really sped up over the seventh hurdle and I nailed the eighth better than I have ever nailed a hurdle in my life," she said. "She was miles ahead at 200 metres but that's just the way she runs. I knew I had a lot of strength in the last 100."

Pittman dedicated her victory to Olympic 400 metres champion Cathy Freeman, who announced her retirement this year. "She did so much for our sport and I love the fact I am filling her shoes. Everybody said 'well you be the next Cathy Freeman?' Hopefully, I am moving in that direction."

Pittman said she thought Pechonkina had shown her lack of competitive races. "I don't think she expected me to come up next to her and when I did she didn't fight at all," she said.

In another upset, Italian Giuseppe Gibilisco increased his personal best by eight centimetres to clear 5.90 metres and win the men's pole vault gold medal.

Gibilisco, who works with Sergei Bubka's former coach Vitaliy Petrov, failed twice at 5.75. He gambled by reserving his third attempt for an ultimately successful clearance at 5.80.

"That was a bit scary," he said. "But after I cleared 5.80 I knew I had a chance to win it."



Kelli White of the U.S. wins the women's 200 metres during the 9th World Athletics Championships at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis near Paris, on Thursday.

## Valencia reject Real Madrid bid for Ayala

MADRID—Valencia have rejected a bid by Real Madrid to sign Argentine international defender Roberto Ayala and plan to offer the player an extension to his present contract, club president Jaime Orti said on Thursday.

"He is a very important player for Valencia and he is going to stay at the club in the future," Orti told reporters. "Next week we are going to meet with the player and his agent with the aim of extending his contract. I just want to reassure the fans that the player will remain here and help Valencia attain more success in the future."

Earlier in the day Orti said that Real Madrid had made

an official bid for the 30-year-old centre back, whose present contract with Valencia expires in 2005. "We have received a formal offer and as such we are going to look at it carefully and then decide what to do to deal with the matter," he had told reporters.

Real have been scouring the market for a new centre back following their decision to discard captain Fernando Hierro at the end of last season. They were on the point of signing Argentine defender Gabriel Milito from Independiente in July, but the deal fell through at the last minute because of Real's concerns over the player's fitness.

Renowned for his tough and uncompromising approach to defending, Ayala has been one of Valencia's most influential players since he joined the Mediterranean club from AC Milan for \$4.3 million in September 2000. He has marshalled what has been one of the most effective defences in the Spanish first division and played a key role in the club's run to the final of the Champions League in 2001 as well as their victory in the 2002 domestic championship.

Ayala made his name in Argentina with River Plate, and had a three-season spell at Napoli before joining Milan in 1998.

# SPORTS ARENA



## Pierce clawing her way back to the top

NEW YORK—A battling Mary Pierce clawed her way into the third round of the U.S. Open on Thursday, taming 22nd seed Jelena Dokic 6-2 6-7 7-6.

Fighting back to fitness following two injury-plagued seasons, a beefy Pierce showed glimpses of the power game that helped her to win grand slam titles at the Australian and French Opens. Pierce put in a determined and draining two-hour per-

formance to edge out the Yugoslav on a sun-baked centre-court.

"I just felt like I was starting to scratch the surface of coming into myself and my potential and being the best that I can be," said Pierce, who next meets Japan's Shinobu Asagoe. "Since then I've had some injuries and I've been out for a while."

"I just feel like I haven't done everything that's in me to accomplish in tennis," she continued. "I just feel like I have more in me. I just want to continue and try to get back and be the best that I can and see where that takes me."

"When it's time to move on or stop or (do) something else, I'll know," she added. "I

had to start back basically from zero a year or two ago. I just want to be the best I can be and maximise my potential...whatever that is."

Having dealt with abdominal, back and ankle injuries over the last two years, the 28-year-old Frenchwoman appeared to relish her time back in the spotlight. Pierce cracked a shy smile when she broke Dokic with a cheeky drop volley to jump into a 5-2 lead on her way to taking the opening set.

But at 5-4 and serving for the match, Pierce could not close out the second set. She squandered a match point and allowed Dokic to level the contest after the Yugoslav dug deep into her reserves, breaking the Yugoslav twice

With Dokic storming to a 5-



Mary Pierce of France serves to Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia at the 2003 U.S. Open in Flushing, New York, on Thursday.

2 lead in the third and serving for the match. Pierce appeared to be on her way out. But the 64th ranked Pierce dug deep into her reserves, breaking the Yugoslav twice

and forced the match to a decisive tiebreak.

This time Pierce grabbed her opportunity, taking the tiebreak 7-5, when Dokic's return sailed wide and long.

"I just tried to stay calm and just told myself to just fight," said Pierce. "I kept repeating that word to myself. You never know what can happen in tennis."

## Martin zaps Verkerk in New York

NEW YORK—Greying around the temples and overlooked on the grand slam stage, Todd Martin proved he still has what it takes on Thursday, beating 16th seed Martin Verkerk 6-3 6-4 6-7 7-6 to reach the U.S. Open third round.

Now ranked just inside the top 100, former U.S. Open runner-up Martin had not been beyond the second round since reaching the semi-finals in 2000 but he proved too much of a handful for French Open runner-up Verkerk.

"I felt I could win that match. Without being presumptuous I felt like I would win it," the 33-year-old smiled. "I think experience helps in general. I think I know more about tennis than the next guy."

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AC Milan soccer players Andriy Shevchenko (L), Paolo Maldini (C) and Rui Costa (R) warm up prior to their training session at Monaco stadium on Thursday. Milan will play Porto today in the European Super Cup.

## Champions League Draw

# Ajax relishing chance to avenge Milan loss

MONACO—European champions AC Milan begin the defence of their title against determined old rivals Ajax in their opening group match of this season's Champions League following Thursday's draw.

Milan, crowned European champions for the sixth time with their penalty shootout victory over Juventus in May, met Ajax in the quarter-finals last season and squeezed through against the exciting young Dutch side by winning 3-2 in the San Siro after a 0-0 draw in Amsterdam.

The most famous game

between the clubs was in 1995 when a Patrick Kluivert goal gave Ajax a 1-0 victory over the Italians in the European Cup final in Vienna.

"We have a score to settle, said Ajax captain Rafael van der Vaart. "Milan start as the favourites, but we want our revenge for last season's elimination."

Umberto Gandini, Milan's general manager said: "It will be another big challenge as usual but we feel confident. It was very close against Ajax in the quarter-finals last season but we came through it. We also played Bruges many years ago and beat

them and went on to win the final itself and so I hope those are good omens for us again this season."

Celta Vigo and Club Brugge, who knocked out former European champions Borussia Dortmund in Wednesday night's qualifying round, complete the Group H quartet.

### Renewed Rivalry

Real Madrid, looking for a record-extending 10th European Cup victory, renew their rivalry with UEFA Cup

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