Hard edged
Country musicians take a chance with new music.
Page 18

Getting down
J'Ouvert brings out a crowd in Frederiksted.
Page 16

Feeling better
Much maligned Jeff George wants what Aikman's had.
Sports

St. Croix Avis

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USVI 156th YEAR | FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2000, NO. 5 | 50¢



Alda Anduze

Armando Cerend, 6, receives a bag of candy from Balthasar during a Three Kings Day celebration organized by the Committee for the Betterment of Our Community in Malchuchal Thursday.

Three Kings Day

Malchuchal residents celebrate tradition

VINCENT BRYDON

ST. CROIX — Christmas has come and gone for most people in the territory. But some Virgin Islanders continue to receive gifts.

Members of the Committee for the Betterment of Our Community gathered in Malchuchal (aka Estate Profit) Thursday afternoon to distribute hot dogs, soda, candy and toys to dozens of children.

They were celebrating Three Kings Day, a holiday that committee member Maria Cruz said commemorates the biblical story of the three wise kings who traveled to Bethlehem

KINGS DAY, PAGE 2



Alda Anduze

Imary Sanchez, 4 (from left), Genesis Sanes, 5, and Joandra Perez share a bag of candy given out by members of the Committee for the Betterment of Our Community during their celebration of Three Kings Day in Malchuchal Thursday.

Southern Energy ups ante

Pledges incentives to attract investment

CHRISTIAN WADE

ST. THOMAS — Economic development, small-business incentives and fair treatment of employees would be part of a deal between Southern Energy and the VI government for the sale of the VI Water and Power Authority, a spokesman for the Atlanta-based utilities said Thursday.

Southern Energy Spokesman George Gray said if the proposal to buy 80 percent of WAPA is approved, the newly formed company will spend millions of dollars in economic-recovery funding initiatives and investment promotions.

While the negotiations for the sale of WAPA are somewhat behind schedule, Gray said he expects Gov. Charles Turnbull to submit a proposal package to the Legislature by Feb.

WAPA, PAGE 2

St. Croix cooks up a storm for food festival

JEREMY EKBERG

FREDERIKSTED — Roti, pate and other local culinary delights were much in demand Thursday as revelers and hungry patrons crowded the streets for this year's St. Croix Festival Food Fair at the Ann Heyliger Food Market.

Gov. Charles Turnbull cut a ceremonial ribbon with the help of this year's Festival Queen, Sherene Whyte, along with Prince Jose Navarro and Princess Shanequa Santiago. The action officially began the celebration, which also showcased local steel-pan talent and a lot of homemade wine.

Locals and cruise-ship visitors were found dancing in the streets between samples of tart, goat water, lobster and other victuals.

FOOD, PAGE 2



Alda Anduze

Residents portraying (from left) Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar preside over the Three Kings Day celebration organized by the Committee for the Betterment of Our Community in Malchuchal Thursday.

WSVI working to repair antenna

SCOTT FRANK

ST. THOMAS — St. Thomians who do not subscribe to cable television have been without the services of WSVI Channel 12 since Hurricane Lenny hit the territory. That is expected to change by the end of next week.

"As a result of Hurricane Lenny, we experienced damage to our main antenna which is located at Blue Mountain on St. Croix," station manger Kimberly Alexander said. "While we have been broadcasting on the cable stations and on low power, we've not been able to provide full service up to our normal capabilities."

She said that it took several weeks to ascertain the extent of the damage because the Blue Mountain facility did not have Water and Power Authority power for almost a month.

The station is currently awaiting parts to be delivered from the states and the arrival of a repair team from Texas, led by Walter Beaver, she said.

"Walter led the rebuilding efforts after hurricanes Marilyn and Hugo," Alexander said. "We do not expect that he'll have any trouble at all getting back up to full power. He's never not been able to fix it for us."

The station is current broadcasting on low power, approximately 100,000 watts, and should be able to return to its full 200,000 watts once the repairs are completed on about Jan. 11, she said.

"At our current power, we can reach St. Croix residents but not the residents of St. Thomas, the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico as we normally can at full power," she said.

In addition to the antenna, one of WSVI's satellite dishes was damaged during the hurricane but that was repaired almost immediately.

"The crews have worked very hard to ensure we've been able to broadcast and are working hard to complete the repairs so we can serve the entire territory," she said. "And the public has been very understanding and supportive of our efforts to resume broadcasting at full power."

KINGS DAY: Kids have a great time

FROM PAGE ONE

in search of the new-born Christ child two centuries ago.

According to Virgin Islands Puerto Rico Friendship Day vice president Vera Fulu, Three Kings Day is a holiday that has been celebrated in Puerto Rico since Spain colonized the island in 1493. The holiday is also known as the Epiphany, and Twelfth Day, and marks the baptism of Christ.

Fulu said the day was declared a holiday by the VI government in the early 1900s, when Puerto Rican residents migrated to the territory to work sugarcane fields.

The Malchuchal organization is dedicated to promoting positive events in the community, which had developed a poor reputation over the years due to the prevalence of crime.

In addition to receiving gifts and treats, children played games, including musical chairs, danced and listened to the sounds of Puerto Rican band Candela, who come from Naguabo.

Parent Yvette Perez escorted her children to Thursday's event.

She said her daughter Joandra, 5, and son Javier, 6, enjoyed themselves.

"It was fun for the kids to have a nice time," she said.

Senate President Vargrave Richards, who also attended the community fun day, said that he felt the group is doing a good job of including youth in community events.

"They're drawing the kids in and I think that's a good thing. It allows them to focus, develop and promote the young people in our community."

Vargrave Richards,
Senate president

"They're drawing the kids in and I think that's a good thing," he said. "It allows them to focus, develop and promote the young people in our community."

The event was sponsored by several St. Croix senators — including Anne Golden, whose office donated two brand-new bicycles that were raffled off — People's Drug Store, VIPR Friendship Committee.

The day began at 1 p.m. and committee member Martha Acosta said it would spill over into the night at the Village in Frederiksted where bands from Puerto Rico were scheduled to perform for Hispanic Night, in honor of Three Kings Day.

THANK YOU

Farrand Peary Bideau was an integral part of our family and we love him and miss him with all our heart. To our Family and Friends who loved us, nurtured and supported us during our time of bereavement, we say thanks. The outpouring of love and support we received is unmeasurable and we sincerely appreciate it. Special thanks to - Hovensa LLC, Hovensa Marine Department, Virgin Islands National Guard, Medical II and Nursery at the Juan Luis Hospital.

Peter and Kathleen Bideau
Parents of Farrand Bideau

WAPA: Southern says rate freeze would be put in place

FROM PAGE ONE

1. He said Southern Energy is currently offering an estimated $100 million for 80 percent of WAPA, a figure that could change in the final proposal.

Any deal between the VI government and Southern Energy would have to first be approved by lawmakers before a contract could be signed by the governor, he said.

"Both sides are taking time to make sure that all the technical issues are ironed out before we put a final bid on the table," he said. "If we don't do this, it just won't work."

If the final proposal is approved by lawmakers, he said, a contract for the sale of WAPA could be signed by mid-March.

Gray said the new company will not only provide better service for customers, but will spend millions on a three-part economic recovery-and-development program for the territory. He said Southern would "serve as an anchor" to attract investment by multi-national corporations.

Special funding initiatives proposed by the company include a $1 million line of credit for local vendors and suppliers, Gray said. Another $1 million would be contributed by Southern to provide financial support for new businesses and investment and expansion projects in the territory.

Southern would also make charitable contributions to support educational and vocational development, he said.

"Despite the current economic conditions, we believe there are tremendous growth opportunities here in the Virgin Islands," he said.

Although concerns have been raised in recent weeks over what sort of treatment WAPA employees could expect under a private-public partnership, Gray said there would be no layoffs and the company would maintain all existing union labor agreements. Southern would continue to offer Government Employee Retirement System benefits and would also offer workers incentive compensation and 401k retirement plans.

Gray said one of the differences customers could expect from the new company is a two-year freeze on water and electricity rates. Currently, WAPA rates are determined to large degree by the amount of outstanding bond obligations the company has, which are estimated at over $150 million.

After the two-year freeze expires, he said, electricity and water rates for customers would be determined by the level of performance and service the company gives consumers.

FOOD: St. Croix Festival to continue this weekend

FROM PAGE ONE

as calypso and steel-pan music filled the air.

"I love doing this," Theresa Davis, of Theresa's Homemade Delights, said. "I've cooked for a lot of festivals."

Davis has made wine for more than 12 years. Everything from pumpkin wine to guavaberry wine could be found under her tent canopy to go with her lobster dishes and salmon balls. One wine, called Turtle Bud, is said to be a natural alternative to Viagra and, according to Davis, really works.

Another spirits maker, LaVerne Bates, produces her Cruzan Guavaberry Rum in her home and sells it at events like the Food Fair. Cinnamon and sugar — along with secret ingredients — make for a rum she said gets better with age.

"I sell it year-round," she said. "I always have a wonderful time at things like this when everybody gets together."

The governor, sporting a blue island shirt and black slacks, also appeared to be having a good time.



Jeremy Ekberg

This year's St. Croix Festival Prince Jose Navarro (left) Queen Sherene Whyte and Princess Shanequa Santiago act as hosts during the Food Fair at the Ann Heyliger food market in Frederiksted Thursday.

"There is a time for everything and this is the time to jump up and be happy," he said in brief remarks to the audience. "This is a time to share, to share all that you have."

Festival activities culminate this weekend with a children's parade today and the adults' parade on Saturday. Both events are also scheduled to take place in Frederiksted.

DOE avoids lawsuit — for now

VINCENT BRYDON & SCOTT FRANK

ST. CROIX — The Department of Education temporarily avoided a major class-action lawsuit Wednesday.

DOE counsel Assistant Attorney General Joseph Ponteen, attorney Michael Joseph, Lt. Gov. Gerard Luz James II, education officials and senators met on St. Croix Wednesday to resolve problems plaguing St. Croix schools.

Last week Joseph threatened to follow through with a suit to be filed by students from seven schools if DOE officials did not agree to meet and address his clients' concerns by the close of the millennium.

But Wednesday Joseph said that Education Commissioner Dr. Ruby Simmonds said that she will conduct an assessment of the seven schools represented by his clients before the group reconvenes in a month's time.

Parents of Joseph's clients and PTA presidents will be invited to witness the assessments, Joseph said.

According to Joseph, Senate Education Chairperson Norman Jn. Baptiste said he would investigate ways of doubling a reported $5.3 million that Sen. Adelbert Bryan was able to locate for school improvement.

Joseph also reported that the lieutenant governor said his office will also search for more funds.

Joseph's decision to negotiate with the government was prompted, he said, by his desire to improve schools faster than a court case might allow.

"This office, through its litigation experience, thought that the education administration could solve these problems without litigation," Joseph said.

He said that his office is still ready to file the suit if DOE does not make good on its promise.

Some of his clients are students at Elena Christian Jr. High School.

Potential structural damage, fiberglass contamination and other health hazards worsened by the passage of Hurricane Lenny in mid-November had led education officials to close the school for repairs in early December.

Because repairs have not been completed, Simmonds said Elena Christian students will resume classes on a double-session schedule Monday.

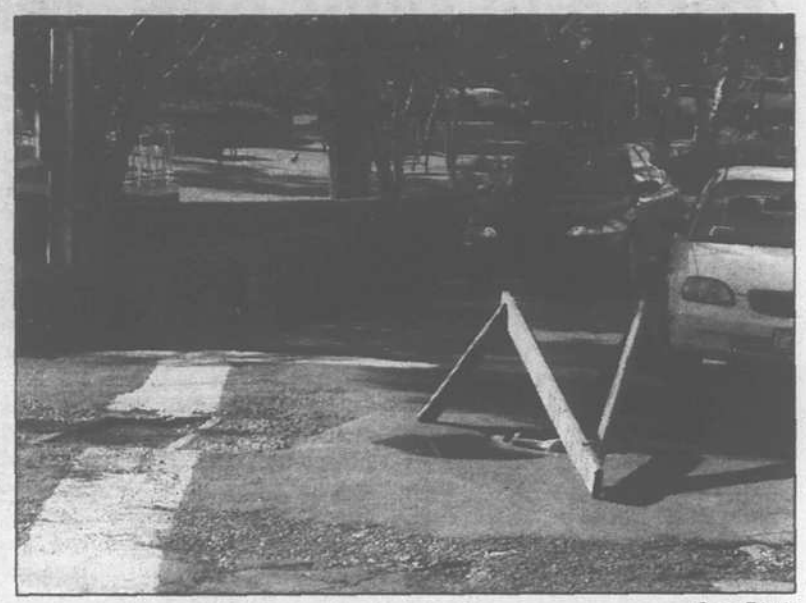
Simmonds, James and Insular Superintendent Terrence Joseph toured the school Thursday.

"She (Simmonds) is able to report that repairs are under way and that progress is readily evident," June Archibald, DOE spokesperson said.

"Seventh-graders will report to classes from 7:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and eighth-graders will attend classes from 12:45 to 5:30 p.m.," Archibald said. "Lunches for both grades will be served from noon to 12:40 p.m. daily. In addition, the bus company has been put on standby to transport the students at the appropriate times."

A final walk-though and inspection with the contractors has been scheduled for Sunday; they will then turn over to the department the portion of the school that is ready for occupancy, she said.

"We are asking that all parents of students of Elena Christian Junior High listen for media reports on Sunday for the official word on the double-session and any change of schedule which may occur," Archibald said.



Scott Frank

In addition to potholes, motorists in the territory have man-made obstacles, such as this uncovered manhole, to navigate. The state of the territory's roads will be addressed in a trio of Senate Operations Committee meetings scheduled for next week.

Chinese held as witnesses in deaths

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — Seven Chinese immigrants were sentenced Thursday in District Court to 10 days in jail for illegally entering the United States and were detained for 30 days as material witnesses in two drownings.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Resnick imposed the sentence agreed to by court-appointed attorneys for each of the Chinese and Assistant U.S. Attorney St. Clair Theodore.

They pleaded guilty to the charge through a Mandarin language interpreter. The maximum sentence for illegally entering the United States is six months in jail and a $5,000 fine. Resnick waived a fine because of the immigrants' economic situation.

They were among 25 Chinese, including a 17-year-old juvenile, picked up along the beaches on the East End on Dec. 30.

The other 17 adults pleaded guilty Tuesday to the same charges and were sentenced to the four days they had already served, plus another three days. Resnick also ordered them held for 30 days as material witnesses.

The juvenile's case is being handled administratively by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, immigration officials said.

Two other men who were among the group trying to sneak into the United States drowned before reaching shore, according to INS officials and VI police.

Their bodies were later recovered in waters off Point Udall — one on Dec. 30 and the other one on Jan. 2.

Willis Reeves, INS' assistant officer in charge, said INS and police want to question the aliens about the drownings.

"We are not convinced they drowned by themselves," he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Atkinson, supervisor of the St. Croix prosecution office, said the immigrants were all sailing together on a vessel and might have information about the deaths of the drowning victims.

Resnick also ordered that all the adult Chinese be turned over the the INS for further proceedings.

INS agent Vince Jahrman said the immigrants eventually will be taken to the U.S. mainland where they are expected to seek political asylum.

Mon Bijou man dies after being shot

JEREMY EKBERG

ST. CROIX — A St. Croix man was murdered Wednesday night after receiving a single gunshot wound to the chest as he got out of his car in the Mon Bijou area.

Melford Silkridge, 27, of Mon Bijou was pronounced dead soon after arrival at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital later that night. Police and paramedics arrived on the scene shortly after a call from a citizen was made at 10:21 p.m., reporting a homicide at someone's home, according to police records.

"The individual came home to his girlfriend's house and was getting out of his car," Deputy Chief of Police Novelle Francis said. "He was approached by a gunman."

The assailant then shot Silkridge once with a weapon police have yet to identify. No motive has been established and no suspect named or described, Francis said.

Members of the VI Police Department have recovered Silkridge's car and are looking for any fingerprints or other evidence that may lead to the capture of the gunman, Francis said.

Francis said he did not know the make and model of the vehicle, describing it only as a "small, black car."

"There may be clues there," Francis said. "We will continue to track down the individual until apprehended."

The territory's first homicide of the new year follows 27 homicides in 1999, 11 of which were on St. Croix, according to police officials.

Public-works issues focus of meetings on all islands

Sen. Bennerson calls for hearings

ST. THOMAS — The chairman of the Senate's Government Operations Committee has scheduled a trio of public meetings to look at the operation of the Department of Public Works and the way it is addressing myriad concerns.

"The time is now to hold a comprehensive public hearing of the Department of Public Works," Sen. Gregory Bennerson said in a written statement. "The approaches of trying to resolve the various adverse conditions affecting the general public is piecemeal at best."

Vendor payments, roads, sewage systems, garbage disposal and the state of the territory's landfills are just some of the issues that Bennerson has invited Harold Thompson, DPW commissioner, to address.

"There exists concerns about the status of the vendors' payments for those who have done work for the department and are still awaiting payment," the senator said.

"Also, our roads are in terrible condition. That concern needs to be addressed."

Bennerson said the territory's sewage system is on the verge of total breakdown and is a problem that affects all three islands. He also said issues at the St. Thomas airport, St. John's Enighed Pond and St. Croix's Sugar Bay, Mill Harbor and Estate Hope In Christiansted, along with the Lagoon Street Complex must be confronted.

"I will also request at these hearings the status of the garbage collection and disposal be addressed," he said. "It has been made clear by the Federal Aviation Administration that the landfill or dump needs to be relocated. Alicia Barnes and Associates, which has been contracted by the government to identify an alternate site for the landfill on St. Croix, will be asked to attend so a progress report can be given."

Because of the ongoing problems with fires the Bovoni and Anguilla landfills should have a fire plan in place and the residents of the Virgin Islands should know what that plan is should a fire erupt again, he said.

"There also exists concerns about the public transportation in the territory," he said. "Has Vitran done a route evaluation? What about the possibility of privatization? There are concerns that need to be addressed along with the status of the insurance for the employees."

The meetings will also look at the administration's reorganization plan for DPW and how it impacts the departments manpower and funding needs, he said.

The meetings will be held at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan 12, on St. John; 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 13, on St. Thomas; and 3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14, on St. Croix.

"All interested parties are invited to testify," Bennerson said. "Because of the complexity of these hearings; I would like those wanting to testify to call my office to be listed and to get additional information."

For the record

Two dollar amounts that appeared in education-bond reports on Jan. 4 and 5 were incorrect. The bond request referred to in Tuesday's and Wednesday's articles is actually an undetermined multi-million dollar figure. The bonded debt of the Water and Power Authority is about $150 million.

Turnbull signs bills, vetoes provision of bonding legislation

Governor also lauds Judge Verne A. Hodge and the late Earle B. Ottley

CHRISTIAN WADE

ST. THOMAS — Gov. Charles Turnbull signed several bills into law on Tuesday, but chose to veto a section of legislation which sought to change the way the VI government's recent $300 million bond issue would be distributed.

In a letter to Senate President Vargrave Richards, Turnbull said he vetoed one section of bill 23-0193, which was approved by lawmakers on Dec. 15, because it would have allowed individual government agencies to be "potential recipients of bond proceeds."

The vetoed section would have increased the amount for working capital from $74 million to $75 million and added language to allow for the payment of $1 million of the VI Housing Finance Authority debt. The provision would have also reduced the amount authorized for vendor payments.

"As written, the amendment reallocates bond proceeds and places no limit on the amount of money that could be committed to these entities," Turnbull wrote.

"Hence, in addition to the fact that the amount authorized for vendor payments has already been committed, this ambiguity creates a substantial change to the circumstances as they existed at the time we closed the bond deal.

"More importantly, the bond counsel has informed us that any reprogramming of bond monies or a change in the recipients would create a situation which violates the terms of the bond documents," he said.

"...Any reprogramming of bond monies or a change in the recipients would create a situation which violates the terms of the bond documents."

Gov. Charles Turnbull

Some $136 million of the bond proceeds will go toward tax refunds, $46 million to pay vendors, $30 million for bonding services and escrow, $30 million to pay Banco Popular and $15 million to pay the government retirement fund. The remainder of the bond money will be used to cover payroll and other operational expenses.

Turnbull also signed a bill, proposed by Sen. Judy Gomez, which honors retired Judge Verne A. Hodge with the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor.

Hodge, who retired last November as presiding judge of the Territorial Court — a position he held since the court was created in 1976 — was cited for his myriad accomplishments in the courtroom and the community.

One of his best known contributions was the creation of the VI Territorial Court Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra, which has won national and international recognition.

The governor also signed a bill posthumously honoring former Sen. Earle B. Ottley for his contributions as a legislator, journalist, labor leader and politician. Ottley died in August.

Finally, the governor signed a bill establishing a Board of General Contractors within the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs. Board members will approve and revoke licenses for all construction contractors in the territory, and will be the lead agency in investigating complaints against contractors, Turnbull said.

'Crucian Fruits' hailed as a success story for tourism

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — Producers of "Crucian Fruits," a cultural show created especially for cruise ship visitors, attained their goal.

"Carnival bought it," said Hugh Dalton of Dalton Associates/Harbour Night Cultural Productions. "It's an excursion."

The show premiered Dec. 22 in Fort Frederik, and won accolades from the Carnival Destiny captain, chief purser and hotel manager who were in the audience.

A number of cruise-ship passengers wandered in as the show progressed, lured by the music.

"Crucian Fruits" gave the visitors a glimpse of St. Croix traditions, such as mocko jumbies and masqueraders, and explained their origins.

"It was a good show," Dalton said. "The real reason for 'Crucian Fruits' is that we now in St. Croix have a revenue-generating product for the cruise lines."

Tickets to the show will be sold to cruise-ship representatives, who in turn will raise the price of tickets and sell them to passengers.

"It's a revenue-generating idea," Dalton said. "'Crucian Fruits' will probably yield more tour dollars than any other tour on St. Croix. Word in the industry will be passed around."

The first excursion is scheduled for Jan. 19. Dalton said "Crucian Fruits" will be performed twice nightly when cruise ships remain late in port.

Eventually, the show may be performed on the ship itself, according to Dalton.

St. John sets day for big trash pickup

Two sites will be open Tuesday for dumping old refrigerators, stoves, mattresses, furniture, etc.

JUDI SHIMEL

ST. JOHN — To lessen the burden on trash haulers, the head of Public Works on St. John says he's organizing a one-day island-wide collection of used furniture and appliances.

Deputy Commissioner Ira Wade said he'll have special receptacles set up in Pine Peace and in Coral Bay Tuesday, Jan. 11, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.. The Pine Peace collection site will be across the street from E&C gas station. Residents wishing to turn in their used stoves, refrigerators, mattresses or furniture in Coral Bay will find their receptacle near the intersection of Route 107 and Kings Hill Road.

Wade said the collection day was set up to allow for disposal of bulky household items at a time when the site normally used for disposal — the Susannaberg transfer station — is closed for repair. Since that facility was closed shortly before Thanksgiving the deputy commissioner said he's been finding furniture and appliances in and around the island's overflowing dumpsters.

Not only are St. John dumpsters looking fuller because of new demands on private haulers to take their collections off-island to the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas, he said, but also because of the population hike brought on by winter tourism.

"There's been some extra effort put into clearing of the dumpsters," he said Wednesday.

Wade said he planned the one-day collection drive after spending part of the pre-Christmas holiday season watching barges and ferries arrive on St. John bearing loads of new household goods. It's customary for Virgin Islanders to spruce up their homes and buy new furniture as they prepare to welcome holiday guests.

State of Territory address will air Monday

ST. THOMAS — Gov. Charles W. Turnbull is expected to deliver his second State of the Territory Address to the Legislature at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10.

The Revised Organic Act of 1954 requires the address be delivered on the second Monday in January. Government House has yet not commented on what issues the governor will address.

St. Thomas radio stations WVWI Radio One (1000 AM), WSTA Lucky 13 (1340 AM) and WIUJ (102.9 FM) plan live coverage of the address. St. Croix stations providing live coverage include WSTX (970 AM) and WRRA (1290 AM).

Public Television, WTJX, will also cover the address.

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Friday, Jan. 14 6:15pm
Shabbat Services
Friday, Jan. 21 6:15pm
Shabbat Services
ALL ARE WELCOME
Congregation B'nai Or
Herman Hill, Rt. 83



Angela Borchert

Professional piano tuner Mette Møller on Wednesday christened the new Sauter piano now in the Caribbean Dance Company's St. Croix studio.

Dance company gets new piano

Funds will now be raised here and in Denmark to pay for it

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — A Danish family with admiration for the Caribbean Dance Company has arranged for a brand-new, sweet-sounding Sauter piano to grace the CDC's St. Croix studio.

"You make quality here," Finn Møller told CDC director Monty Thompson on Wednesday. "You should also have quality."

Møller, his wife Reni and daughter Mette have been visiting Reni's sister Ruddie George on St. Croix every Christmas season for the past two decades. George, broker/owner of Re/Max of St. Croix, is a strong supporter of the Caribbean Dance Company.

"A couple of years ago I said, 'I'll find a piano for you,'" said Finn Møller, who owns Klaverstemmeren (The Piano Tuner) store in Denmark. He buys, sells, repairs and tunes pianos of all kinds.

The initial plan was to find the CDC a good, used piano.

But Møller decided, "If you're going to do it, do it right. It should fit what they are doing — not a good piano, a great piano."

Sauter is one of Germany's finest piano manufacturers, and the company has been owned by the same family since 1819, according to Møller.

However, George said, "The piano is here. It's not paid for."

To raise enough money to pay for the Sauter piano, valued at $10,000, the Møllers are planning a "Crucian Night" for May 4 at an arts institute in Aalborg, Denmark.

The fund-raising event will feature authentic Crucian recipes with all the proper spices, and music by a steel pan band.

"We love the island and the people here," Møller said.

George said plans are also in the works for a "Danish Night" on St. Croix. Proceeds will help finance the piano, and will further benefit the Caribbean Dance Company.

Owner of the Sauter company is also pitching in, according to George.

"We know there's nobody else like Caribbean Dance," she said. "It's very important for this little island."

More STT workers laid off

19 workers lose jobs at Bluebeard's

JONATHAN HENRY

ST. THOMAS — Nineteen workers at Bluebeard's Castle Hotel's terrace restaurant lost their jobs Wednesday, as the hotel decided to lease the eatery to outside interests. They are represented by the local United Steel Workers of America union.

The action by the hotel marks the second time this week that local USW workers have been hit by layoffs. On Wednesday, this newspaper reported that 45 employees of VI Cement and Building Products had been fired after the company's St. Thomas operation had been purchased by local businessman W. Kemble Ketcham and Tortola businessman Ashley Ritter.

USW staff representative Randolph Allen said that the move by Bluebeard's is a result of Equivest, the hotel's current owner, having difficulty in making a profit.

"The present owners are leasing out the restaurant because they're not making any money," he said.

Calling the decision a tough one, and saying that "it had absolutely nothing to do with the individuals" to be fired, David M. Rice, director of operations at Bluebeard's, said that the restaurant's transfer of management was the result of a directive by the owner that they cannot operate departments at a loss.

"This restaurant has been operated for the last three years by us," he said. "We managed the restaurant, and had considerable losses each year."

He said the two other restaurants on the property are now managed by outsiders, and both are successful.

Rice said he expected at least some of the staff to be rehired.

— Police Blotter —

Assaults:

6:30 p.m., Wed., Anna's Hope.

12:54 a.m., Thurs., Diamond Tony Wrecker Yard.

3:50 a.m., Thurs., Strand Street, Frederiksted.

11:19 p.m., Thurs., Holy Cross Methodist Church, Frederiksted.

Grand Larceny:

1:13 p.m., Wed., Estate Two Brothers.

7:17 p.m., Wed., La Grande Princesse.

7:27 p.m., Wed., Frederiksted Beach.

7:30 p.m., Wed., Two Brothers.

Burglary:

2:18 p.m., Wed., Estate Whim.

Other:

4:19 p.m., Wed., a hit and run was reported at Sunny Isle.

4:45 p.m., Wed., a hit and run was reported in Clifton Hill.

5:44 p.m., Wed., destruction of property in Sion Farm.

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Now's the time to plan for next year



Peter L. des Jardins

Leisure

So how are we doing so far? One week down, 51,999 to go until the next millennium. Has it been good for you too? Up 'til now, we haven't had time to do anything wrong.

Now is the time for us to start planning for the 2000-2001 tourist season. Basic marketing must be done a year or two years in advance.

To have beautiful ads ready to run when people have already made their travel plans is not the way to succeed in the advertising biz.

While the possibility of letting the private sector take over our tourism department is a positive move, we can't wait until a new structure is in place to start getting ready for next year.

We also need to have competent people in our travel offices to represent all of the Virgin islands. For the third year in a row I have talked to visitors who got in touch with our Chicago office and could get no information on St. Croix. Someone there tried to steer them to St. Thomas.

Is this what I'm spending my tax dollars for? It would not be tolerated if the private sector was running things.

Tim Duncan? Wonderful. We need the coverage now. We need the ads to be run while he is in front of the nation's consciousness. Too late? Let's start planning for next year. Sammy Sosa is giving the Dominican Republic a bigger push than the United States Virgin Islands has gotten in the past decade, but those commercials were made last year.

What's the bottom line? Can we get promotions people who will put their paycheck where their mouth is? We need people on the front line who will work for a guarantee against a percent. A minimum draw against a hefty reward for measurable results? Bonuses for increases in tourism? Eventually, some in government might be making obscene salaries, but it will be because of accomplishment, not because of nepotism.

Flu snags theater plans

Y2K? How about the old-fashioned flu? The first major virus to disrupt St. Croix in the new millennium has hit. The Caribbean Community Theater's production of Neil Simon's "Proposals" has been canceled this weekend because of a bug that has been passed around among the cast and crew. They have postponed the opening until next weekend and even gone so far as to postpone final rehearsals until enough of the crew recovers to give it their best shot.

Richter's back on keyboards

Keyboard wiz Greg Richter is back, with a new edition of "Hamilton's Disciples" performing at the Usual Suspects this week. For the musical heritage of Jimmy Hamilton, embodied by many of the musicians who played with him on St. Croix, catch this combo.

New-old band seeks name

A remnant of the Barracuda Blues ensembles will be playing at the Lost Dog on Sunday at 7ish.

"We want a new name, since Charlie Thanas is stuck in New England and the band isn't the same without him," said Lynn Nelson, sax player for the group. Former guitarist Thanas spent New Year's Eve as stage manager for the Boston Pops.

Meanwhile, the band isn't the same, it's different. Come on out Sunday night for the blues.

Wreck Bar goes techno

Rave music has a phenomenal following worldwide, but has yet to find a home on St. Croix. This past Tuesday it raised its techno head at the Wreck Bar. Could this become a regular thing?

Poetry in Paradise

Plan ahead. It helps when you have to fit a rhyming word at the end of a phrase. There will be a poetry open mike at Club Comanche next Friday (Jan. 14) from 6 to 7:30, with Lolita Paiewonsky, Marty Campbell, Richard Schrader, Bully Petersen, Issachar, Gabrielledi Lorenzo and anyone else who wants to bust a rhyme in the New Year.

Island-inspired art show

Also next Friday from 5, Luca Gaspari will have an opening of his latest art at the Maria Henle Gallery above Indies in Christiansted. Luca is back and living on island again, so I'm expecting more island-inspired artwork from one of my favorite painters.

Parades at West End

Meanwhile, don't miss the parades and the village in Frederiksted.

I know that for many of us the West End is a long way off, but it's worth the drive. They'll be keeping the customs checkpoints mid-island open late this weekend, so you don't have to worry about getting back home.

Harbour Days to change

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — Cruise-ship passengers who visited St. Croix last month were greeted by music and vendors as they wandered onto Strand Street.

"Harbour Day," the tourist-centered block party coordinated by Dalton Associates, was the daytime version of "Harbour Night," which caters to cruise ships that remain in port until midnight.

The business-hours event was hailed by some and attacked by many.

"They just have to evolve in a different manner. We just have to rethink."

Hugh Dalton, Dalton Associates

According to Hugh Dalton of Dalton Associates, opposition came primarily from taxi drivers; Frederiksted merchants who felt hampered by the additional vendors; and Christiansted merchants who complained about losing business.

As a result, Harbour Days were suspended.

"I wouldn't say they were canned," Dalton said. "They just have to evolve in a different manner. We just have to rethink."

Robert Merwin, of Robert L. Merwin Company, who owns a number of Strand Street properties, suggested moving the Harbour Day event inland to the Ann Heyliger Vegetable Market so other Frederiksted businesses could benefit from strolling tourists.

St. Croix Hotel and Tourism Association President Peter Ross said more discussions are needed to find a viable alternative.

"Analyze what is the best for everyone so that it doesn't just benefit a few, but so it takes into consideration the overall impact of every concerned business — be it taxi, vendor, or rent-paying, mortgage-paying businesses," Ross said. "It's not just something that can be decided by one."

Ross suggested giving cruise-ship visitors a number of options when they arrive on St. Croix, rather than overloading them with vendors.

Dalton noted that Harbour Day was a pilot program. "The objective was to give a good first impression for passengers to St. Croix," he said. "And to keep more people in Frederiksted.

"The passengers were very, very, very elated," Dalton said. "We got good feedback from the cruise lines themselves, from the ships' agents."

Options are brewing, and Dalton offered a few details of Harbour Day's potential evolution.

"We have to get together as a group and greet our visitors with steel pans, mocko jumbies, rum punch on the pier," Dalton said. "Promotions. Tours. I think the taxi drivers need to do tours.

"Harbour Day will come back in a different format. It's not dead. It may come back as an excursion or a tour or a promotion, or whatever. Rest assured, the concept of Harbour Day is good. It can be prosperous. It can be very, very good for St. Croix as a whole. Cruise lines are looking for value-added packages for their customers."

CARIBE Do-it center

CARIBE DO-IT CENTER
WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2000
TO CELEBRATE
THREE KINGS' DAY

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To Wish Our Customers A Fun Filled Day
And Look Forward To Seeing You Sunday,
January 9, 2000 At 7:30am

SERVICE – QUALITY – SAVINGS – HONESTY

STORE HOURS
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Sunday 7:30 am -1:00 pm
Tel. 778-5280 Fax 778-5572

VI gets lots of publicity

USVI — The territory received stateside media coverage reaching nearly 5.5 million viewers with an estimated advertising value of $58,000 in the days prior to the new year, for its millennium activities, according to the USVI Department of Tourism.

Through its stateside marketing firm, Martin Public Relations, the department worked with an on-island production company to take footage of St. Croix during the festivities for video news releases.

The footage was featured in more than 30 major media markets across the continental United States and was broadcast on several news stations.

"The Millennium Committee did an excellent job organizing this once-in-a-lifetime event," acting Commissioner of Tourism Monique Sibilly Hodge said.

Miami marchers protest US decision to return Cuban boy

Reno unlikely to reverse INS ruling returning Elian to his father's care

MIAMI (AP) — Hundreds of Cuban-Americans chanting "Liberty! Liberty!" blocked intersections and cut off access to the Port of Miami on Thursday to protest the U.S. government's decision to return 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba.

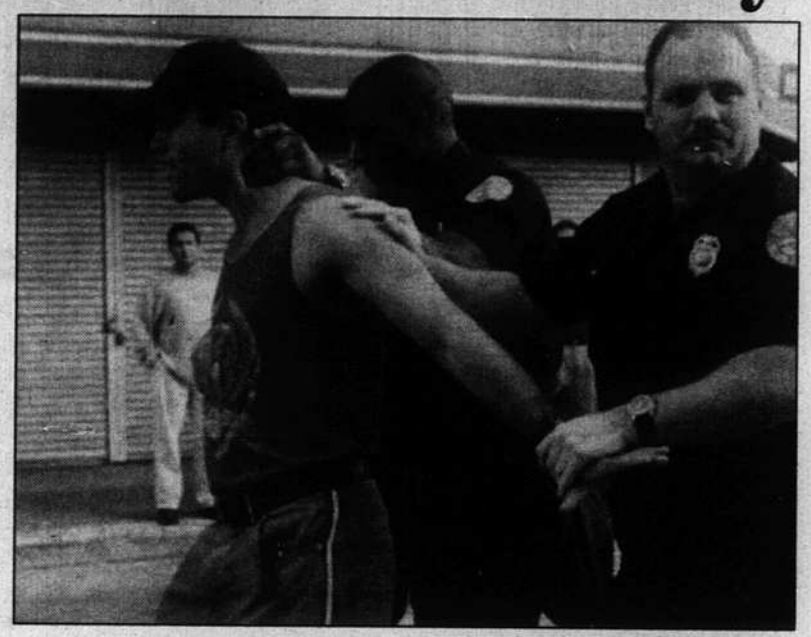
Police arrested about 80 people, including two prominent Cuban exile leaders, for refusing to disperse. One police officer working crowd control suffered broken bones when he was hit by a motorist trying to get home.

In Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno essentially ruled out any chance she will reverse Wednesday's decision by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to send the boy back to the communist island.

For the past six weeks, Elian has been the subject of protests in Florida and Cuba — and in the middle of an international debate over where he belongs. Fidel Castro kept up the pressure with another government-orchestrated demonstration Thursday in Havana.

The boy was found Thanksgiving Day clinging to an inner tube at sea after his mother, stepfather and eight other people drowned while trying to reach Florida by boat. He has been living in Miami with his paternal great-uncle and great-aunt.

Elian, whose whereabouts were kept secret after Wednesday's decision, arrived back at his relatives' home Thursday afternoon. His great-uncle hoisted Elian on his shoulders and the boy smiled and waved to cheering supporters outside the house.



Associated Press

Fabian Alonso is led away by Miami authorities following a demonstration that stopped traffic in downtown Miami Thursday, protesting the Immigration and Naturalization Service's decision to return Elian Gonzalez to Cuba.



Reno



Elian

A source close to the family said Elian's relatives told him he may be returning to Cuba and he said he did not want to go. Lawyers for the boy's American relatives asked Reno to reverse the decision and planned to request a restraining order from a federal judge.

But Reno said she had consulted with INS Commissioner Doris Meissner and agreed with the decision. "Based on all the information we have to date, I see no basis for reversing," Reno said Thursday.

The INS said the boy must be returned to Cuba by Jan. 14.

In Miami, several hundred protesters gathered outside a downtown federal building, pushed back police barricades and marched several blocks to the Port of Miami, where most of the arrests were made.

Demonstrators shouted "Clinton! Coward! Miami hates you!" They carried posters in English and Spanish and waved U.S. and Cuban flags.

American officials had suggested that Elian's father come to Florida to get his son. The U.S. National Council of Churches said the boy's relatives in Cuba want the organization to bring the boy back.

Bahamas hangs murder convict

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A man who stabbed a German couple to death was hanged Thursday, the fourth execution since the Bahamas resumed capital punishment in 1996.

David Mitchell, 27, was convicted in the stabbing deaths of Horst and Traude Henning on the island of Abace, where they had lived for many years.

No motive was ever established for the 1994 killings, which occurred as the couple was sleeping.

Three hangings had been scheduled Thursday, but a second person convicted won a stay of execution and the third, 51-year-old John Higgs, committed suicide Tuesday night.

Higgs apparently slashed his wrists with a razor blade even though there was a suicide watch and heavy security at Nassau's Fox Hill Prison ahead of the proposed hangings.

A death notice for Mitchell was posted on a wooden board and hung from the prison's gate.

More than 300 people turned out for his burial, some crying, some cheering, as Mitchell's casket was lowered into the ground at a Nassau cemetery.

Two freshly dug graves on either side, intended for the other men who were to be executed, stood empty.

Higgs was convicted of the 1993 murder of his wife, Joan, whose body was found buried under a staircase in an unfinished apartment building in Nassau.

The Bahamas executed its first convict in 12 years in 1996, becoming the first of several Caribbean countries to resume hangings in a bid to deter increasing and more violent crime.

Twenty-five inmates remain on death row.

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No charge for paid-up members of the Republican Party

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Miguel Harry Crispin
Sept. 11, 1980 Nov. 7, 1999

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Mom & Dad,
Fernando Crispin
Mercedes Rosa

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EDITORIAL:

The Internet and free speech

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects free speech, in whatever form it appears. That speech may be published in a variety of ways, proudly signed by its author, with a false name or passed around anonymously.

Either way, it's free and legal. It must remain that way, even if the speech is on the World Wide Web.

Attempts to regulate speech on the Internet by requiring that it not be anonymous deserve to be turned back. For one thing, they are inconsistent with the guarantees of the Constitution.

Proponents of Internet legislation are now calling for an end to anonymity on the World Wide Web, saying that printed speech — such as letters, leaflets or books — differs from electronic speech. However, they have been unable to prove that difference. Backers of the legislation say Internet speech is similar to that on radio and television, which has been regulated.

But, while airwaves belong to the public, which opens the doors to government regulation, the Internet is not publicly owned. Broadcast operators need licenses from the government to set up stations and use the public airwaves. Anyone with a computer can set up a Web page and purchase space on a server, just as anyone can purchase a press or other copier and begin printing pamphlets and pass them out on street corners.

Granted, the Internet reaches a much larger audience — an international one — but audience size should have no relation to legality. Should newspapers or books, available far and near, be any less free in their speech than a handwritten letter which goes to only one reader? Not at all.

Free speech is not always pretty. It can be hateful and ugly. It may not even be true.

That's why there are laws against libel, pornography and other forms of communication deemed illegal. Indeed, courts have ruled that the sickos who distribute child pornography on the Internet can and should be punished, just like those who do it the old-fashioned way.

Much the same is true with Internet fraud. A ripoff is a ripoff, no matter if it occurs person-to-person or through a dot-com. It's in the public's interest to pursue the crooks, no matter where or how they do business.

But clamping down on an American's right to free speech, even for noble intentions, is overkill. America has a tradition of political speech written anonymously because the writers feared for their lives and liberty. Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense" under the pen name of "An Englishman," while the "Federalist Papers" were attributed to "Publius."

Even the essays on liberty published by John Paul Zenger, "Cato's Letters," were written anonymously by someone using the pseudonym "Cato." Those letters, by the way, were the basis for seditious libel charges filed against Mr. Zenger in 1735. His acquittal was the basis for our free-speech protections today.

Problems on the Internet with child pornography, fraud and hackers are real and must be addressed. But the best way to tackle these problems is by coming up with better technology, not stripping away freedoms.

Look at how China and other repressive societies have clamped down on Internet communication they see as threats to their existence. Such repression cannot be allowed to limit the freedoms we know, cherish and must maintain for a healthy democracy.



Letters to the Editor:

Just what is going on with our money?

Dear Editor:

Just wondering, but did anyone else find a difference in their most recent Cable TV bill? It seems that Mr. Prosser decided that if we subscribed to a certain level of coverage then we would be charged 25 percent more than what we had been paying. For this 25 percent we would receive five new channels — a channel with movies (all made before I was born) another sports channel (we already have the two best), a cartoon channel (I stopped enjoying them around 30 years ago), Court TV (no thanks), and Bravo, a channel with an occasional interesting movie.

All this was not presented as an option but as a new policy for which we had only one recourse, to downgrade to a package where we would lose channels we once had enjoyed before the unwanted upgrade.

When called about this, the cable company, to add insult to injury, also informed us that we would have to go to their offices to complete the downgrade: You can't do it over the phone.

Of course, that call was possible only if your phone was working, but that is another tale of another utility belonging to Mr. Prosser.

All of this would be analogous to a shopping trip to Plaza Extra, getting to the checkout counter and having the cashier add five cans of sardines to your bag and charging you for them because they felt you needed them. If you refused the sardines then you would not be allowed to purchase some of the other goods in your basket.

If Mr. Prosser found that he needed to raise the cable rates he should have dealt with the appropriate regulatory process and not done an end around by giving us something we didn't want for 25 percent more than what we had been paying.

In these non-inflationary times this should alert some government agencies— Industrial Development Commission, Public Services Commission or our honorable Senate — to investigate just what is going on with our money.

Michael A. Monagle
St. Croix

Genius of 21st Century is rocking the world

Dear Editor:

What a wonderful display of appreciation, celebration and love of self and life I received from the 21st Century top-of-the-line extraordinary performance group at Island Center on Tuesday night. St. Thomian "homies" Dion Parsons, Ron Blake, Reuben Rogers (student of Dion and Ron), along with three other very talented musical support from the U.S. What a show.

St. Croix missed the treat of the season. Was it lack of publicity? Was it just a full-packed season with too many activities? Whatever the reason, St. Croix, you missed the event of 1999.

This now, internationally known jazz group — our own Virgin Islands musical geniuses — is indeed rocking the world through their universal renditions of cultural sounds via jazz fusion. The next best thing to experiencing the music is to purchase their astounding CD, also titled 21st Century.

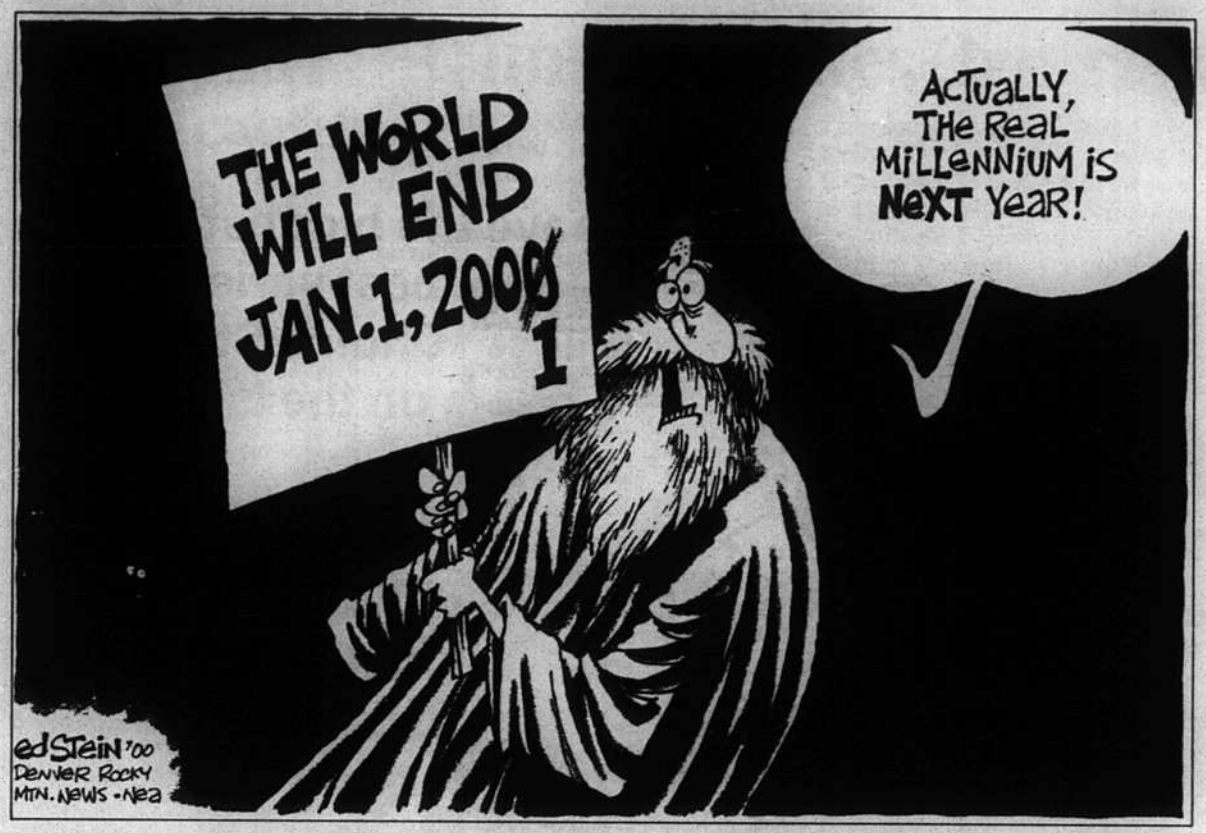
What I cherished most is that they understand, in their relatively young years, that they must reach back and give from which they were given. They demonstrated this as they awarded and acknowledged the outstanding talents and abilities of three St. Croix student drummers and their mentor-teachers.

Icing on the cake, Dion publicly announced that he is passing on his custom-made drum set that he played that night to the music department of Central High School before he leaves the territory!

Brothers, you have our sincere blessings and love and as you give to the world your gift of music. May those gifts be returned unto you multifold.

Barbara D. Knight
St. Croix

The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions submitted for publication.



Deprived/abused kids turn out violent

QUESTION: More and more, I keep hearing about children and teens being involved in shootings, stabbings and the like. What has caused many members of the younger generation to be so violent?

DR. DOBSON: Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in research to answer that question. The findings are startling. In addition to the violence children have seen on television and in the movies, and apart from the drug wars they have witnessed, the tendency toward violence is a function of the neglect and abuse so many have experienced. That is especially true of those raised in the inner city.

What has been learned is that millions of children, many of them born to drug- and alcohol-dependent parents, have been subjected to unimaginable deprivation. They were left in cribs for days with dirty diapers burning their buttocks and legs. Some were hit repeatedly, or they were scalded or starved. Many were sexually exploited from their earliest days — some even in infancy. If they survived, they grew up on the streets with no adult guidance and care. At night, they slept in bathtubs to avoid bullets sprayed by drive-by shootings.

If this description sounds exaggerated, talk to social workers or police officers who work every day in the slums of large cities. What does it do to a child to experience intense pain, fear and deprivation at a very early age?

The answers are beginning to come in. What has been learned is that kids who go through these traumas in the first year or two of life produce high levels of stress hormones, notably cortisol and adrenaline. Those



Dr. James Dobson

substances put the body on an "alarm reaction state" in order to cope with the crisis at hand. But in a small child, the brain is a vacuum cleaner for stress-related hormones. The human neurological apparatus is bombarded with chemicals that shouldn't be there in a child that age. The result is impairment of the boy or girl's thinking and emotional development.

What I'm saying is that many of today's abused kids can kill and destroy without pangs of conscience because they are literally brain-damaged. They don't feel what you and I feel. They can't empathize with helpless victims the way they should, because the emotion of compassion flows from cognitive functions that no longer operate.

I am not excusing their violent behavior, of course. The bottom line is this: We are paying a terrible price for the disintegration of the family and for the victimization of children. Any society that doesn't protect the most vulnerable in their midst can expect to suffer at the hands of those abused individuals when they get old enough to strike back.

So lock your doors and avoid eye contact when you drive through certain sections of your city. There are kids there who would just as soon kill you as to look at you.

QUESTION: Our junior-high son is the most disorganized kid I've ever seen. His life is a jumble of forgotten assignments and missed deadlines. What can I do to help him?

DR. DOBSON: Educational consultant Cheri Fuller considers massive disorganization to be the most common cause for school failure, above both laziness and poor study skills. Show me a student's notebook, Fuller says, and I'll tell you whether that individual is a B student or a D student. An achieving student's notebook is arranged neatly with dividers and folders for handouts and assignments. A failing student's notebook is usually a jumbled mess and may not even be used at all.

Some children are naturally sloppy, but most of them can learn to be better organized in the elementary school years. Once they enter junior high, students may have as many as five teachers, each assigning different textbooks, workbooks, handouts and requirements from various classroom subjects. It is foolish to assume that kids who have never had any organizational training will be able to keep such detail straight and accessible. If we want them to function in this system, we need to give them the tools that are critical to success.

You might consider having your child evaluated to see if he has attention deficit disorder or some temperamental characteristic that makes it difficult for him to organize.

When you've determined what he is capable of doing, work with an educational consultant or a school psychologist to design a system that will teach him how to live a more structured life.

The People's Pharmacy

Knowledge is crucial to using herbs safely

BY JOE GRAEDON & TERESA GRAEDON, PH.D.

Herbs are hot. They are one of the fastest growing segments in the health care industry, with products being sold in pharmacies, health food stores, supermarkets, convenience stores and on the Internet. Sales last year exceeded $5 billion, up from $200 million only a decade ago.

We are back to where we started at the beginning of the 20th century. Then, almost the only medicines available were herbs or compounds derived from plants. Traveling medicine shows crossed the country peddling tonics containing many ingredients that are now becoming mainstream again. From echinacea to black cohosh, Americans are falling in love with herbs.

Research is beginning to catch up to this trend. German scientists have been studying a wide variety of herbal products and publishing impressive results for botanicals such as stinging nettle, echinacea, milk thistle and St. John's wort.

American researchers are beginning to follow suit. A multicenter study is under way to determine the safety and effectiveness of St. John's wort in the treatment of depression.

This is an exciting development. Until now, most health care providers have considered such investigations fruitless. Training for physicians, pharmacists and nurses has generally ignored herbs and dietary supplements. As a consequence, patients have learned not to reveal their use of such products to their doctors.

A recent report to the American Society of Anesthesiologists confirmed that patients rarely discuss their use of supplements with their physicians. This could lead to disaster, especially during surgery.

Many herbs can affect blood clotting or interact with anesthesia. Ginkgo biloba, pau d'arco, ginger, garlic and feverfew may cause excessive bleeding. St. John's wort, valerian or kava-kava could interact with narcotics or anesthetics. St. John's wort also reduces levels of Lanoxin (digoxin).

Even if patients discuss their use of herbs with a health professional, there is no guarantee that this person will be knowledgeable about herbs. People who are interested in herbal treatments need to do their own homework. As effective as such products can be, they also have side effects and potential interactions with other herbs or medications.

We have received letters from people who suffered bleeding strokes or eye hemorrhage after combining ginkgo with aspirin or Coumadin. A woman contacted us to report that St. John's wort put her in the hospital with a serious bladder problem, while another reported eye damage while using this herb. One man ended up in a cardiac crisis when he stopped his valerian upon going into the hospital: The withdrawal reaction he experienced created an emergency situation.

To use herbs or dietary supplements wisely, it is essential to be well-informed. The U.S. Congress has prevented the FDA from regulating these products, and manufacturers are limited in the information they can put on the label. Consequently, dosing instructions, side effects and interactions are rarely described in any detail.

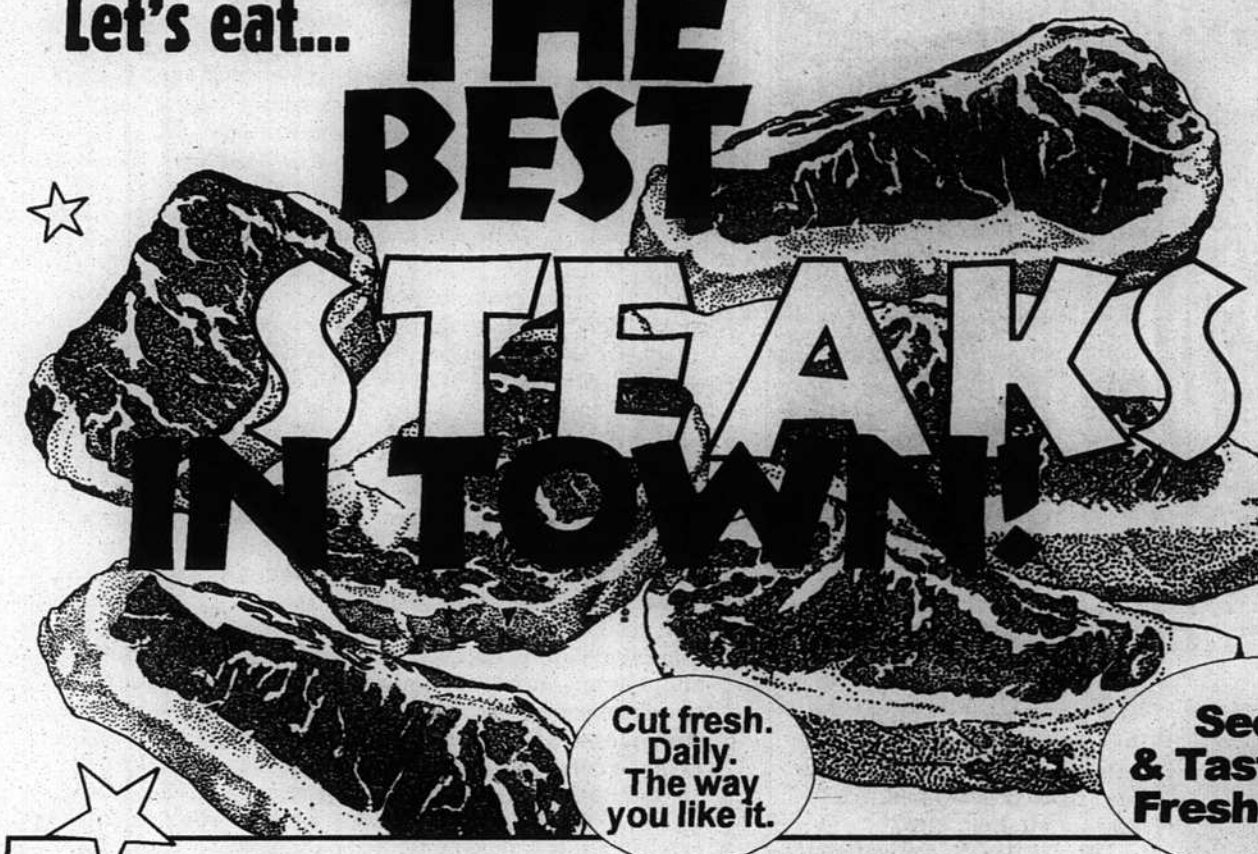
Our brand-new book, "The People's Pharmacy Guide to Home and Herbal Remedies" (St. Martin's Press), offers detailed information on many popular herbs. It is available from your library or bookseller.

Despite the growing enthusiasm for herbs, these natural products should be treated with respect. They are capable of doing great good, and also of causing harm. Knowing how to use them wisely can make the difference.

Joe Graedon is a pharmacologist. Teresa Graedon holds a doctorate in medical anthropology and is a nutrition expert.

The opinions on these pages are not necessarily those of the publishers, employees or advertisers of this newspaper. Readers are encouraged to contribute. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your name, place of residence and your phone number.

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Ass't Frozen FamPk Pork Chops $1.98 lb

3 lb Bag Yellow Onions 99¢

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PLAZA EXTRA

A "CUT ABOVE" THE REST.

Computer glitch causes flight delays

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration said a computer problem Thursday that caused flight delays of two or more hours across the eastern one-third of the nation has been fixed and is not believed to have been related to Y2K.

Flight delays began after a computer at the FAA's Washington center in Leesburg, Va. began experiencing problems transferring data about 6:15 a.m. EST, said Drucella Andersen, a spokesman at FAA's headquarters in Washington. Normal operations resumed at 9:49 a.m.

"These problems caused an overload in the computer so the center transitioned to a backup system," she said. "The exact cause of the failure is not known at this time. It does not appear to be Y2K-related."

Delays were experienced by passengers traveling to or from Boston, John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Raleigh-Durham, N.C., Reagan National, Dulles International and Baltimore-Washington International, the FAA said.

Clinton makes 3rd visit to sluggish peace talks

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — President Clinton plunged back into slow-moving Mideast peace talks as face-to-face negotiations between Israelis and Syrians ground to a halt.

The U.S. aim is a treaty that would exchange the Golan Heights, a strategic border territory Israel has held for more than three decades, for diplomatic and economic relations with Syria.

The State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said the talks, in their fourth day Thursday, were still "chugging along." But he said the American hosts were dissatisfied with the pace and would like to see it accelerated.

Clinton's intervention was his third of the week. On tap was a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa after conferring with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on her own 90-minute meeting with the Syrian official.

In Washington, the president's assistant for national security, Sandy Berger, told reporters to "not underestimate the degree of difficulty" in the negotiations being held near this oldest town in West Virginia.

"These are very difficult issues that divide the parties," Berger said. "They've been at war three times since the 1940s. There are very strong views on both sides."

In contrast to discontent within the Syrian delegation, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and his delegation appeared pleased that the negotiations were focused on peace terms and security measures, such as installing an early-warning system at the border and clearing it of troops.


Berger

An Israel source, insisting on anonymity, said the talks were likely to go into a second week — after a weekend break — and that Barak planned to stay on.

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

DIAMOND CINEMAS
778-5280

CINEMA I
"GALAXY QUEST"
Mon-Fri: 7:15, 9:20;
Sat.-Sun: 3:15, 5:20, 7:15, 9:20. "PG"

CINEMA II
"LOVE STINKS"
Mon-Fri: 7:20, 9:15;
Sat.-Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15. "R"

Sunny Isle Theatres
778-5620

THEATRE 1
"CLOSED"

THEATRE 2
"CLOSED"

THEATRE 3
"CLOSED"

THEATRE 4
"Snow Falling On Cedars"
Mon-Fri: 7:05, 9:15;
Sat.-Sun: 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15. "PG-13"

THEATRE 5
"STUART LITTLE"
Mon-Fri: 7:20, 9:15;
Sat.-Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15. "PG"

THEATRE 6
"DEUCE BIGALOW"
Mon.-Fri: 7:20, 9:15;
Sat.-Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15. "R"

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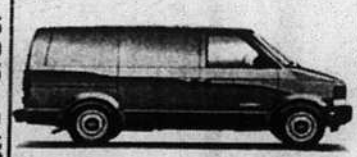
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Discount 4,347
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'90 Isuzu Trooper	$2,795	'95 Subaru Impreza	$7,995	'98 Ford Contour	$11,995	'96 Chevrolet K-1500	$16,995
'93 Ford Tempo	$2,895	'95 Geo Prism	$7,995	'97 Chevrolet Malibu	$11,995	'98 Toyota Tacoma	$19,995
'91 Saturn SE coupe	$2,995	'96 Pontiac Grand Am	$7,995	'99 Suzuki Baleno Wagon	$12,995	'97 Toyota T100 Ext 4x4	$19,995
'90 Lumina Van	$3,495	'97 Chevrolet Cavalier	$7,995	'98 Chevrolet Lumina	$14,995	'97 Nissan Maxima	$20,995
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Buchanan: Globalism threatens US sovereignty

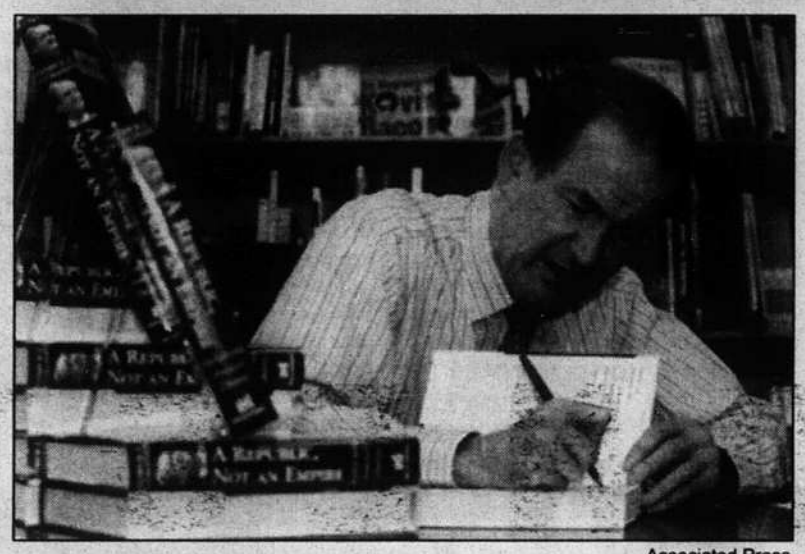
Former GOP gadfly challenging Donald Trump for Reform Party nomination as presidential candidate

DURHAM, N.H. (AP) — Pat Buchanan, seeking support for his fledgling Reform Party presidential bid, promised Thursday to lead a "millennial struggle" against an emerging world government "where all nations yield up their sovereignty and fade away."

In a speech to the Boston World Affairs Council, the former Republican said, "Loyalty to the New World Order is disloyalty to the Republic. In nation after nation, the struggle between patriotism and globalism is under way."

"If ever sovereignty becomes obsolete, we may expect America's involvement in endless wars until, one day, we pay the horrific price in some act of cataclysmic terror on our own soil," he said. "For interventionism is the spawning pool of international terror."

Buchanan, in his third run for the presidency, said the Clinton administration is allowing the United Nations to intrude on America's sovereignty. At the same time, he said, the United States is guilty of "trampling on the sovereignty" of other nations by injecting troops in internal conflicts, such as Kosovo.



Associated Press

Reform Party presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan signs copies of "A Republic, Not An Empire" Tuesday at a McLean, Va., bookstore.

campaign 2000

Buchanan left the GOP last year to seek the Reform Party nomination after his initial 2000 presidential bid as a Republican stalled. He blamed the Republican establishment for his failure, saying party leaders were lining up behind the front-runner, Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

New York tycoon Donald Trump also is seeking the Reform nomination.

Buchanan named politicians, journalists and Clinton administration officials who appear to embrace globalism over nationalism — proponents of the so-called "New World Order," a phrase Buchanan attributed to Bush's father, former President George Bush.

Buchanan's examples included President Clinton calling himself a "citizen of the world," and Vice President Al Gore — a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination — agreeing to a global environmental pact.

"Loyalty to the New World Order is disloyalty to the Republic. In nation after nation, the struggle between patriotism and globalism is under way."

Patrick Buchanan, presidential candidate

The United Nations is increasingly seeking authority over U.S. troops and control of the nation's borders, Buchanan warned.

"This then is a millennial struggle that succeeds the Cold War: It is the struggle of patriots of every nation against a world government where all nations yield up their sovereignty and fade away," he said.

"My vision is of a republic, not an empire — a nation that does not go to war unless she is attacked, or her vital interests are imperiled, or her honor impugned. And when she does go to war, it is only after following a constitutional declaration by the Congress," Buchanan said. "We are not imperialists; we are not interventionists; we are not hegemonists; and we are not isolationists. We simply believe in America first, last and always."

Briefs

Florida could OK lethal injection today

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Senate gave unanimous approval today to a bill allowing death row inmates to choose to die by lethal injection.

With electrocutions on hold in Florida, lawmakers hope to make moot a question the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to consider: whether death in the electric chair is cruel and unusual punishment.

The House was considering a similar bill, and both chambers have until this afternoon to work out any differences.

Flames have erupted during two electrocutions in the last decade, and the last condemned man, Allen Lee "Tiny" Davis, suffered a nosebleed during his electrocution.

Some senators didn't want to add an alternate method. But they said they were voting to give the condemned inmates a choice between electrocution and lethal injection because appeals have halted executions.

Clintons move into their New York home

CHAPPAQUA, N.Y. (AP) — After his first night as a New Yorker, President Clinton said Thursday he is going to make it even more official by registering to vote in the state in time to cast a ballot for his wife in her Senate race this year.

"I've got a particular interest in the election and I want to make sure my vote counts," the president said as he and Mrs. Clinton paused in front of their new home to talk with reporters.

The Clintons spent Wednesday night in the $1.7 million Dutch colonial house in Westchester County that will be their home after his term expires next January.

Clinton said the couple, unpacking boxes of belongings, were discovering possessions they hadn't seen in 17 years. "This is the first home we have had since January 1983, when we moved into the governor's mansion in Little Rock," he said.

Moderate quake hits southeastern Alaska

PALMER, Alaska (AP) — A moderate earthquake and two aftershocks early Thursday jolted much of southeastern Alaska, including Juneau, the state capital. There were no reports of damage.

Bruce Turner of the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.0. It struck 25 miles below the ocean floor about 95 miles northwest of Sitka at 5:43 a.m. EST.

The quake was felt strongly in Juneau, Sitka, Gustavus and Hoonah but caused no tsunami, or seismic sea wave, Turner said.

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From your Mother, Ena Hansen;
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and the entire Family.
We Love You.



In Loving Memory



Joshua Emmanuel Blake
AKA: "Jabbo, Fatman"
April 30, 1972 – January 7, 1998
You have been a part of every New Year that we have known. We can never fully express how much you meant to us and how your presence will always be missed. We want you to know that we often think of how rich our lives have been because of you. As we look forward with joy to another New Year, our sadness will be overcome with happiness because your spirit will live on within the entire family.
Happy New Year
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Come experience the place where
"Guests become Crucians and Crucians become Guests"

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N.Y. (AP) — nt as a New Clinton said oing to make it by registering e in time to is wife in her year. cular interest d I want to te counts," the he and Mrs. n front of their with reporters. pent in the $1.7 onial house in nty that will be his term uary. e couple, of belongings, possessions in 17 years. home we have y 1983, when e governor's Rock," he said.

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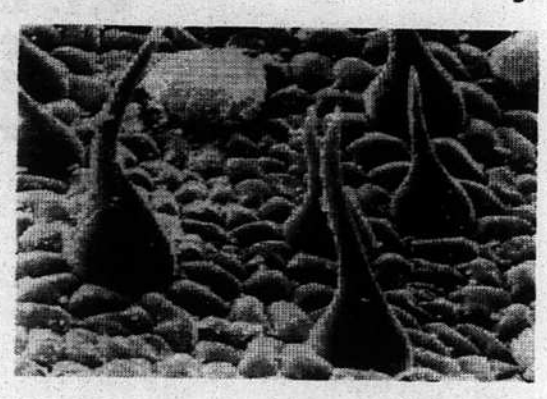
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f the Alaska g Center in uake had a itude of 6.0. It elow the ocean les northwest .m. EST. felt strongly in ustavus and ed no tsunami, ve, Turner said.

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This is where THC comes from. THC is the active ingredient in marijuana. It looks the same today as it did in 1960. The difference is how much of it is in marijuana today. Pot today is often grown hydroponically and can be genetically altered to produce more THC in each plant. The production of marijuana is a commercial industry that in many ways has created a drug much different than it was in the 70's.

Illegal drugs are estimated to cost America over $110 billion each year in treatment, enforcement, incarceration and social damage. **But what else could you buy for $110 billion?** Well, you could build 1,692 new hospitals. Or operate 632 universities. Or 3,667 national parks. You could hire 2,955,956 new high school teachers. Or you could put 758,620 new buses on the road. This message is brought to you by the Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free America®

China flouts Vatican, ordains own bishops

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In open defiance of Pope John Paul II, China's state-controlled Catholic church ordained five new bishops without Vatican approval Thursday — a ceremony timed to upstage the pontiff's elevation of 12 prelates in St. Peter's Basilica.

China and the Vatican broke formal relations in 1951, when the Communists kicked out missionaries and forced Catholics to sever ties with Rome.

China's officially sanctioned church does not recognize papal authority, including the right to appoint bishops, and it chose the Jan. 6 Epiphany holiday, the traditional day when the pope ordains bishops, for its own ceremony in Beijing's cathedral.

The Beijing government insisted the ordinations were an "internal affair" of the church in China and th ' China was willing to improve relations with the Vatican if the Holy See severed its ties with Taiwan.

John Paul made no direct reference to China's defiance during the nearly three-hour ceremony in St. Peter's, the latest in a series of lengthy public appearances that have tested the frail, 79-year-old's strength during the holidays.

But he spoke of the universal nature of the Roman Catholic Church and its tradition of the pope naming bishops.

Earlier this week, the Vatican expressed "surprise" and "disappointment" over China's ordination plans and said they would set back efforts for a normalization of Vatican-Chinese relations.

Vatican officials have made no secret of their desire for better ties with China, but say that all Chinese Catholics must be allowed to worship in freedom. Those Chinese Catholics who accept papal authority as part of an underground church loyal to Rome have been subjected to harassment and arrest.

In his remarks Thursday, John Paul stressed the oneness of his church wherever it is in the world.

"Here in Rome, according to a custom which I wanted to remain faithful to since the start of my pontificate, we celebrate this mystery consecrating several new bishops," the pope said.

The newly ordained bishops included American David L. Ricken, who was named coadjutor bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo., as well as clerics from Hungary, Angola, India, Italy, Poland and Romania.

John Paul told the new bishops that they "represent the universality of the church."

At one point, the new bishops lay face down on the red carpet in front of the main altar in a symbolic show of allegiance to the pope. Later, the bishops climbed the altar's steps one by one and knelt before John Paul, who placed his hands on their heads in a sign of conferred authority.

The pope's left hand trembled, a symptom of Parkinson's disease, but he seemed to hold up well during the long service. He conserved some of his strength by using a wheeled cart which was introduced to papal ceremonies during these holidays. Instead of shuffling up the football-field-long center aisle of the basilica as he had in the past, John Paul stood in the cart, gripping a bar with two hands, while two aides pushed it.

In Beijing, an official of the China Patriotic Catholic Association insisted the Chinese consecration had nothing to do with the Vatican ceremony. A church official, Liu Bainian, said: "We do these ceremonies according to the needs of our dioceses" to replace ailing or aging bishops.

V.I. Islamic Society presents
EID MUBARAK

Brothers and sisters, Asalaamu Alaikom. Eid Mubarak and may Allah bring it back each year while each and everyone of you the best of faith and health.

All thanks are due to Allah, Lord of all Creation and the Lord of the earth and heaven, who commands the sun and the moon to serve their purpose with precision. We witness that there is no deity worthy of worship save Allah and Muhammad is his servant and last messenger.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are now bidding farewell to a dear, generous guest that stayed with us for a whole month, the month of Ramadan. It seems that not long ago we were eagerly awaiting its arrival, but like every good thing it came and has ended. We feel sad for its departure and would rather have the whole year as Ramadan.

In this month, Muslims all over the world in every place they exist fast in the same period. They abstained from food and drink starting from dawn till sunset as well as abstaining from vice and lewdness, while intensifying their worship to their Lord and Creator. They come out of it stronger, both physically and spiritually, their will is stronger and so is their resolve. And they strengthen their faith by this fast and by performing good deeds and offering sincere repentance.

At the same time, they are most happy for the coming of Eid-Al-Fitr, the feast of breaking the fast, which comes right after Ramadan finishes. They are happy because they were successful with Allah's help in conquering their temptations and successful in disciplining themselves.

Eid-Al-Fitr is the first day in which Muslims go back to eat and drink after the period of fast. They start this day with worship to thank their Lord for his bounties, then they will embrace each other with affection, then they visit each other and congratulating each other for completing the fast. But, the most distinguishing thing that stands out on that day is the bonding and love communicated between all Muslims regardless of color, status, ethnicity, or wealth. They succeed in breaking down the barriers between them, whereas it would be very difficult otherwise to bond between such diverse people, being from different cultures and backgrounds.

No doubt, we should take lessons of love, loyalty, truthfulness, unity, and order from the month of Ramadan for the rest of the year.

We hope that all readers who are not of the Muslim persuasion come out with some knowledge about Islam from this message and may Allah help each and every body in these Virgin Islands to be prosperous. And may Allah spread over these islands peace and tranquility. *Brothers and sisters, Eid Mubarak.*

Briefs

French law restricts pit bull ownership

PARIS (AP) — Dogs may be man's best friend, but pit bulls have become France's No. 1 enemy.

A law that took effect Thursday requires dangerous dogs to be sterilized — a move aimed at eliminating pit bulls from France within 10 years.

Pit bulls have become status symbols in low-income districts around France where tough-looking young men often brandish their pets like switchblades.

Dog owners had been given until Thursday to make their pit bulls legal under the law passed in April 1998. In addition to sterilization, the law bans all importation, breeding, purchasing and sale of pit bulls and other dangerous dogs.

Owners of pit bulls must register their pets, carry special liability insurance and keep the dogs muzzled and on a leash when outside. The law is similar to one in effect in Britain since 1991.

Train engineers in Norway plan boycott

RENA, Norway (AP) — Searchers combing the scorched wreckage of two passenger trains at a crash site in the bitter cold forest recovered five more bodies Thursday as train engineers said they would boycott the line.

With the removal of the bodies — including one of the two engineers — the total recovered rose to 17. Several were still missing as the search resumed at the snowy crash site about 110 miles north of Oslo.

The head-on collision between a local shuttle train and regional express train Tuesday was one of the worst in Norwegian history. The National Railroad Engineer's Union said Thursday that Norway's 1,100 railroad engineers would boycott the Roeraas Line until safety measures were improved.

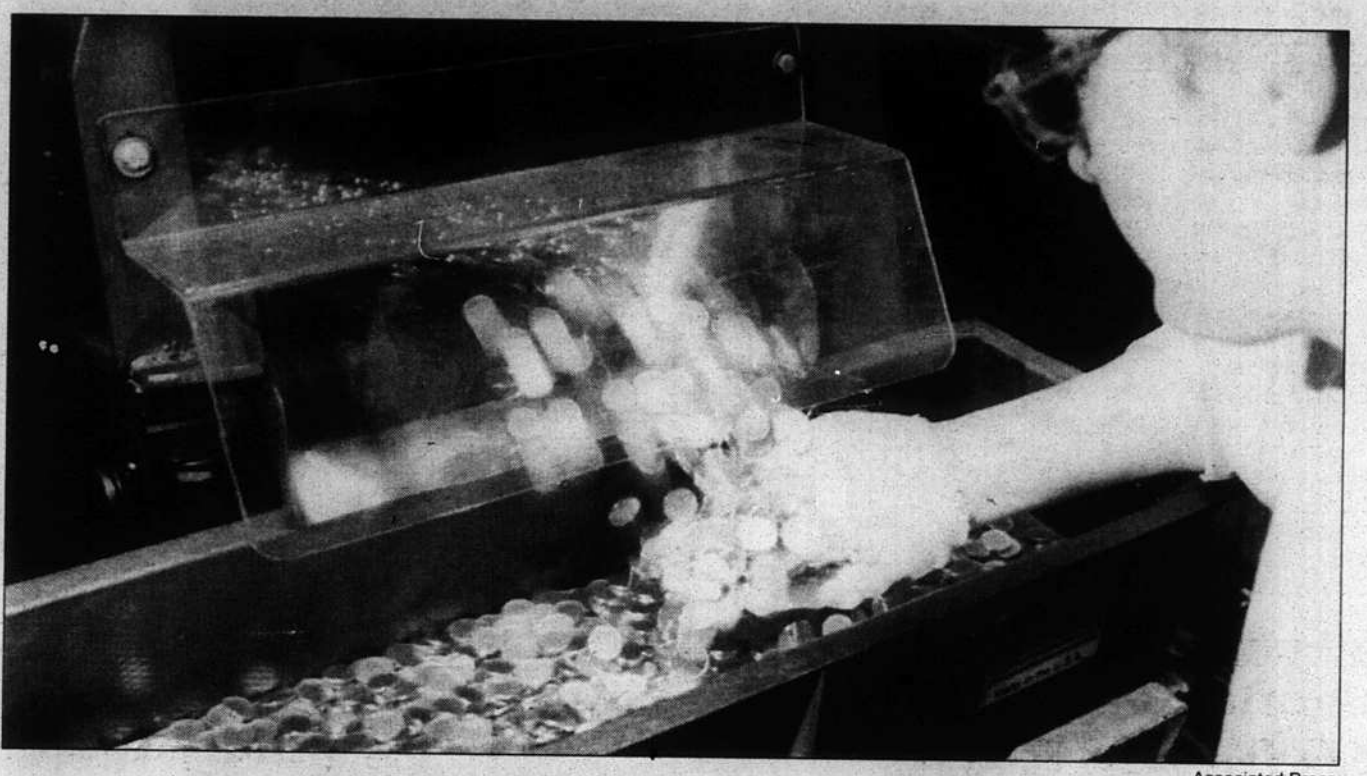
Rights group charges Iraq with executions

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Iraq has executed 40 military officers in a prison near Baghdad, a human rights group affiliated with an opposition party said Thursday.

The Center for Human Rights, which provided the names and military divisions of 10 of the alleged victims, said the executions took place last September at al-Failaq al-Rabe'a Prison.

It was not possible to verify the claims independently. The Iraqi government refuses to comment on such accusations.

The rights' group, which is linked to the Iraqi Communist Party, said it received the information about the alleged killings from party members in Iraq. No further details were provided.



Associated Press
Alltrista Corp.'s Zinc Products worker Carla Riggs checks blank pennies shooting from a dryer machine at the factory in Greeneville, Tenn., recently.

A penny saved . . .

Tennessee plant makes all the nation's pennies

GREENEVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Thousands of shiny copper-plated coins shoot from machines into wooden boxes, the clinking sound barely audible above the din at Alltrista Corp.'s Zinc Products division.

The factory in this northeastern Tennessee farming community produces blank coins which the U.S. Mint then stamps with Abraham Lincoln's face to make pennies.

What is chump change to some is big business for Alltrista, which makes all the pennies in the United States — about 13 billion last year alone. In 1999, the government ordered 30 percent more than 1998.

"When the economy is good, people actually hoard a little more of their change," Alltrista President Albert H. Giles said. "When things get tight, they start digging in their penny jars and spending it."

Parts of the Northeast reported penny shortages early last year, and the shortfall made its way to the Southeast by summer. The Federal Reserve even cut back deliveries to some banks.

People who toss spare change into jars, drawers and piggy banks don't realize they are contributing to the problem, which was made worse by concern the millennium bug would make money harder to get at banks and ATMs.

Whatever the reason for the shortage, Alltrista is happy for the extra business.

"We love the penny," Giles said. "It is not circulated as widely as quarters, so we're doing whatever we can to see that the utilization of the penny increases."

So is Americans for Common Cents, a group of business and charitable organizations fighting to keep the penny in circulation. The group formed in 1990 after Congress started studying whether to eliminate the coin.

Nearly 75 percent of people polled by the group in April favored keeping the penny, results similar to previous polls.

Most Americans want to keep the penny because they fear businesses will round up prices if the nickel becomes the lowest denomination, spokesman Mark Weller said. The group's research shows price rounding would cost consumers more than $600 million a year.

Giles said lobbying efforts to retain the penny have been successful but must continue.

"At least in the next three-to-five years, we feel the penny will be retained," he said.

And that's good news for Indianapolis-based Alltrista. The metal and plastics maker's products are used for roofing materials, bridge components and other products, but the penny is what put Alltrista on the map.



The process starts with silver bars of zinc, which are melted down and pressed into long sheets that stretch between heavy rollers. When the sheets reach the proper thickness, a machine stamps out the coins — some 22,000 per minute.

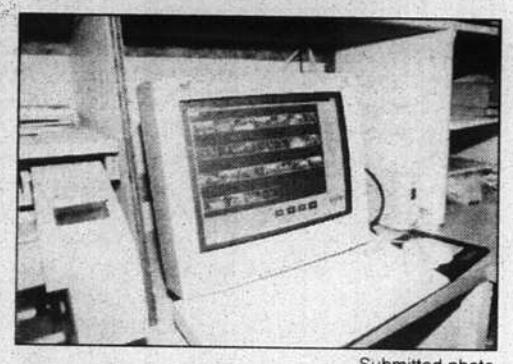
Another machine puts rims around the pennies, which are then placed in barrels and a thin coat of copper is applied. The shiny blank coins are then ready for shipment to the U.S. Mint in Denver or Philadelphia, where they are stamped.

Pennies were made of solid copper until the early 1980s, when the mint said the cost of making them exceeded their value. A copper-coated zinc penny costs about seven-tenths of a cent to make.

Alltrista also makes all of Canada's pennies and coins for Bermuda, Fiji, Panama and Lebanon. The company had 1998 sales of $244 million; the zinc division's sales range from $50 million to $100 million.

Alltrista does not have heavy security because the plant has had no problems with theft. Unlike a blank quarter, which could be used in vending machines, an unminted penny is difficult to spend, Giles said.

"There's not a major concern security-wise for the lower-denomination coins," he said.



Submitted photo
A proof sheet appears on the computer screen moments after a roll of Advantix film is popped into the machine.

St. Croix goes digital

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — Glenn Rogers dropped a roll of Advantix film into a computer processor and — voila! — moments later a series of crisp color images appeared on the screen.

Rogers, owner of Rogers Photography in La Grande Princesse, is currently the only photo finisher on island with the technology to process Advantix film.

He can digitize regular photographs and e-mail them anywhere in the world, or scan 35 mm negatives into the computer to produce a proof sheet. He can take a slide and put it on a CD, floppy or Zip disk and print it out. And making prints from a digital camera is no problem.

Prior to Dec. 1, Rogers shipped Advantix to St. Thomas for processing. Now he does it in-house.

Motivation to upgrade also came from tourists wanting to e-mail vacation photos back home. He couldn't do it without the hardware.

"I decided to bite the bullet and get it," Rogers said. "We just wanted to bring St. Croix up to par with technology before the end of the millennium so we can say St. Croix can do what the rest of the world can do — digitally speaking, that is."

By Easter time, Rogers plans to expand his skills into photo restoration, using digital technology to bring whole images out of damaged negatives.

A second-generation photographer/photo finisher and native of Anguilla, Rogers worked for 15 years managing a Kodak lab in Georgia. He moved to St. Croix in 1992 and worked at the Hess Oil refinery until seizing the opportunity to get back into his career of choice.

Five years ago he opened a small photo-finishing lab at Five Corners. Two years ago he moved to La Grande Princesse, where he continues to keep up with the newest trends in film processing.

The St. Croix photographer went to school in Virginia last September to learn the finer points of digital photo-finishing.

"It's easy," Rogers said. "Once you're computer literate, it's no problem."

Rogers Photography continues to offer one-hour film processing and other conventional photo lab services, he said.

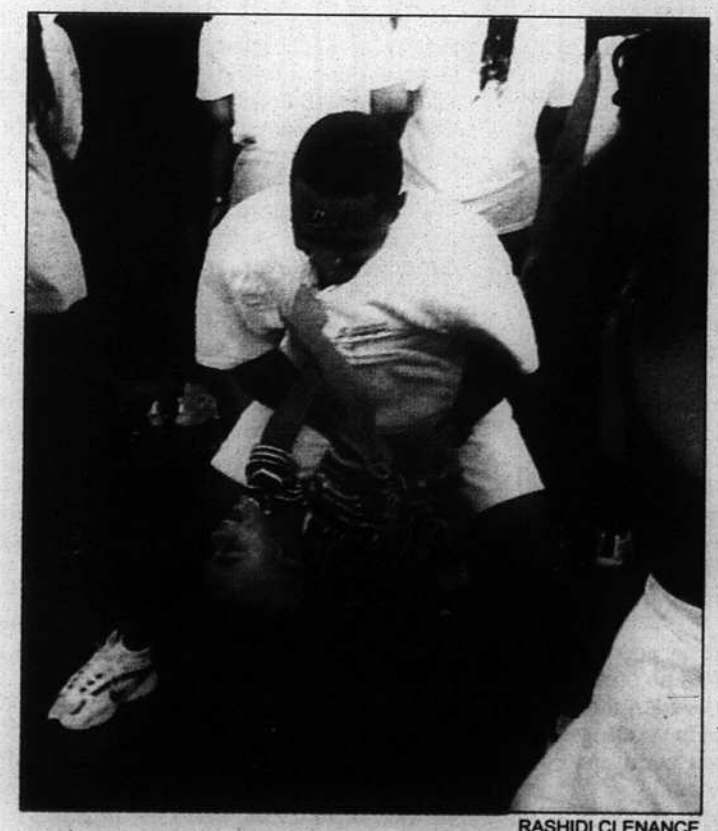
Rogers can be reached on line at rogphoto@viaccess.net, by fax at 773-5857 or by phone at 773-4114.



China Dan guitar player "Kumba" strums a tune as thousands follow his lead.

Rashidi Clenance

Dancing in the Streets



RASHIDI CLENANCE

Big kids and little kids got up and danced the morning away in this year's J'Ouvert in Frederiksted.

J'Ouvert packs a punch in Frederiksted

RASHIDI CLENANCE

ST. CROIX — In a society where many cringe at the thought of taking a walk to the corner store or — worse yet — getting out of bed for school or work, thousands of people took both waking up and walking to the extreme Thursday. The traditional early-morning aerobic workout known as J'Ouvert was held in Frederiksted.

In this aerobic class, capacity is however many people can fit on the street; the music is a rhythmic constant; and the drink of choice is not Gatorade or Powerade, but more often than not anything with alcohol in it.

Traditionally, J'Ouvert consists of several calypso bands vying for the attention of the thousands of people lining the street in the early-morning hours. This year China Dan had the street for themselves — they were the only band on the road.

There were rumors that St. Thomas' Jam Band with Nick "Daddy" Friday was going to take to the road with their mass appeal, but that never came to pass. Instead, China Dan led revelers in frenzied cheers and never-ending rhythm. The number of people in the usual J'Ouvert morning costumes was down, but nobody could miss the mud people.

In keeping with the Carnival tradition in Trinidad, there was a group of four men riding in the back of a red pickup truck completely covered in mud. The group followed closely behind the band and kept fresh mud on their bodies throughout the route from a bucket full of the man-made decoration.

Among other notable costumes were the death row inmates clad in orange jump suits and the scuba diver who was taking occasional pulls on the mouth piece attached to his scuba vest.

Despite frenzied China Dan fans jumping and pushing, wailing and waving, the nearly three-hour event went off virtually incident free. The Virgin Islands Police Department was out in large numbers ensuring the safety of all involved. The one potential threat to J'Ouvert only made it better. When the rain started to pour down on the local party-goers, they didn't run for shelter. Instead, they jumped higher and danced harder.

China Dan should be in the thick of things for the Road March title this year with tunes like "Congo" and the country spoof "Ho Down."

Thursday China Dan didn't win any awards, but they were the sole defenders of St. Croix culture — along with Mr. Courtesy's Meals on Wheels, of course. The mobile food van drew quite a crowd with the sounds from a live jam-band tape, along with the usual goodies to eat.

The Right VIBES

Stefon Harris is heir apparent in long lineage of jazz vibraphonists

BY CHARLES J. GANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Stefon Harris is one of the young musicians poised to play a leading role in jazz in the new century. It's remarkable how far he has come in such a short time. Harris, 26, didn't get into jazz seriously until he was in college.

He is the heir apparent in the lineage of jazz vibraphonists whose small ranks were thinned by the recent deaths of legends Red Norvo and Milt Jackson. Harris has absorbed their influences, but is now discovering his own sound, exploring all the sonic potential of an instrument that blends qualities of the piano (melody) and drums (rhythm).

Harris is also determined to make his mark as a composer, drawing on his classical training to emphasize melody over improvisation. His original compositions are predominantly featured on "A Cloud of Red Dust" (1998), chosen as the recording debut of the year at the 1999 Jazz Awards, and on his new album "Black Action Figure," released by Blue Note in September. This month, Harris received a Grammy nomination for best jazz instrumental solo on the standard "There Is No Greater Love" from his new album.

Unlike many of his peers, Harris had little early exposure to jazz. His mother, a Pentecostal minister, discouraged her son from pursuing a career in the arts while he was growing up in Albany, N.Y. But the prodigy earned a full scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., dreaming of becoming a percussionist with the New York Philharmonic.

After a classmate introduced him to jazz, Harris moved to New York to attend the Manhattan School of Music, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in classical percussion and a master's in jazz performance as a vibraphonist. He apprenticed in bands led by trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, drummer Max Roach, bassist Buster Williams and saxophonist Joe Henderson.

He now belongs to a small community of musicians who often play together and appear on each other's records, including saxophonists Greg Osby and Mark Shim, and pianist Jason Moran. Last year, they toured as the New Directions sextet to mark Blue Note Records' 60th anniversary, and their album is being released this month.

Harris said this group differs from the much-hyped Young Lions, who ushered in a retro neo-traditional movement in jazz. "We're all searching for our own voices," he said in a recent interview at Blue Note's offices. "We're really trying to be individuals in the great tradition of jazz."

1. Do you regret that you didn't get an earlier start in jazz?

Harris: I don't have any regrets. I would be a very different musician had I grown up in a situation like a Wynton Marsalis. I'm very grateful for the fact that I wasn't exposed to jazz at a young age. ... I was playing classical music, so I wasn't lacking in terms of a musical foundation and was fairly well prepared to learn jazz. ... I was playing in orchestras and percussion ensembles, and that gave me a different perspective. I played paper and rocks, and all types of sound, and that made me more open-minded about playing a lot of 20th-century music. ... Now that I've gone in the direction of jazz, I try to maintain that open-mindedness. I'm not afraid to try things. ... If you're growing up in a tradition where they say 'this is jazz and it must be that way,' that can be limiting.

2. What caused you to switch from classical music to jazz?

Harris: There was a Charlie Parker record, 'Now's the Time,' that a friend at college played for me. ... Charlie Parker just sounded so liberated. His imagination was just running wild. That type of spiritual liberation was very inviting for me. Also, I never enjoyed my classical writing. ... I had to use these rules and found myself very constricted. My writing was leaning in a direction of jazz, so for me to perform my own music, I would have to study jazz.

3. How did you end up choosing the vibes?

Harris: When I was a kid, I played something like 20 instruments. I taught myself to read music at the piano when I was very young. When I started to take lessons, I was a little bit more advanced than the other kids, so they would keep giving me different instruments — clarinet and trombone, tuba and flute. I just loved the music. It didn't really matter what instrument I played.

I ended up going to college as a percussionist because that was my strongest area. ... I won concerto competitions playing classical music on the marimba. So it was a logical transition from classical marimba to jazz vibes. ... 4. How would you describe your approach to playing the vibes?

Harris: I guess I'd have to compare myself to the other great vibes players to answer that. ... I really dig the way that Lionel Hampton always addressed rhythm with a certain intensity. He used very basic structures and was always swinging. He had a very percussive sound because he used very hard mallets and he had the motor spinning really fast.

5. Does "Black Action Figure" reflect a different side of you than your debut album?

Harris: They're two very different albums, which is a good thing because I've changed. 'A Cloud of Red Dust' reflected a young person coming to New York, being open-minded and trying to learn as much as I possibly could. I was performing in an African dance company, a salsa band, small opera companies, musical theater and a Latin jazz group. The album sort of captured my scattered brain. It has lots of African and Latin influences, and some classical influences.



Associated Press
Jazz vibraphonist Stefon Harris poses for a photo with his vibraphones at his home in Orange, N.J., on Monday. Harris, 26, is one of the young musicians poised to play a leading role in jazz in the new century and is the heir apparent in the lineage of jazz vibraphonists whose small ranks were thinned last year by the deaths of legends Red Norvo and Milt Jackson.

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Ambitious country

Dixie Chicks, Clint Black lead charge of edgier mainstream country music



Associated Press
The Dixie Chicks (from left) Emily Robison, Natalie Maines and Martie Seidel perform at the Country Music Association Awards show in Nashville, Tenn., last year. The success of the trio has given them the power to experiment with music that reaches well beyond the country music industry standard for an album.

BY JIM PATTERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Dixie Chicks and Clint Black are leading a small group of country music artists who are stretching the boundaries of the modern mainstream country album.

The industry standard for an album in Nashville is 10 carefully crafted songs designed to be radio hits. Breaking from that formula takes courage when lack of airplay can have a gigantic effect on sales — and country music radio stations are among the most stylistically and topically conservative in the United States.

So why would the Dixie Chicks risk their status as the latest darlings of radio programmers by including pointed songs about murder and sex on their new album, "Fly"?

"I guess after you sell 6 million records and counting, you get to kind of call more shots," Dixie Chick Martie Seidel says with a laugh.

They're not the only ones taking chances.

Garth Brooks is promoting an album of pop-rock music under the name Chris Gaines. The album will tie into "The Lamb," a movie set for this year, with Brooks playing Gaines.

Marty Stuart released "The Pilgrim" earlier this year. It's reminiscent of classic Willie Nelson concept albums of the 1970s like "The Red Headed Stranger."

Relative newcomer Gary Allan is having some success with "Smoke Rings in the Dark," a moody single recalling pop singer Chris Isaak.

And just out is "D'lectrified," Clint Black's "unplugged" album.

Black took the acoustic concept further than the "greatest hits on stools" idea begun by MTV. He used only acoustic instruments, but the album sounds as full and brash as an electric album since he used creative arrangements and horn sections.

Black's album has guest appearances by Waylon Jennings, Eric Idle, Edgar Winter, Kenny Loggins and Bruce Hornsby, and the songs are a grab bag of Black originals, old classics by heroes like Jennings, Toy Caldwell and Leon Russell, and three remakes of old Black hits.

Black, a pretty fair harmonica player, stretches out on the instrument a couple of times on the album.

"It sounds like a cliche, but really I want to learn," Black says. "I look at guys like James Taylor — his albums are better today than they ever were, after 20 or 25 years.

"I want to be able to have that said about me, and that's the only way that you do it, is if you reach for something that's just out of reach."

Commercial success of these gambles has been mixed, and many of the more far-out songs won't ever be released as singles.

Charlie Cook, who helps program more than 250 country stations as a vice president of the Westwood One Radio Network, thinks the radio industry should be more open to musicians taking risks.



Associated Press
Singer Garth Brooks arrives for his special appearance at GQ's fourth annual "Men of the Year" awards last year in New York. Brooks is going out on a limb by promoting an album of pop-rock music under the name Chris Gaines.

"We have been complaining about the sameness of the country artists over the last couple of years," Cook says. "I don't think you can on one hand complain, then on other hand not be willing to take a chance."

Sometimes, it's small things. Several songs on "D'lectrified" run more than 5 minutes, while most country singles run 4 minutes at most to encourage more airplay.

"I don't make an album with the hopes that every song is going to go to radio," Black says. "I stopped doing that a long time ago, and I think it makes for a more interesting album."

The album "Fly" by the Dixie Chicks features plenty of the soaring harmonies and energetic music that worked so well on their 1998 breakthrough album, "Wide Open Spaces." And the Chicks continue to use lots of Emily Robison's banjo, an instrument that once doomed the airplay potential of a single.

But they take their daring further on the new album. In "Goodbye Earl," two women poison a wife-beater's black-eyed peas, wrap the body in a tarp and take it to a lake to be dumped.

In "Sin Wagon," Maines sings about wanting to do some "mattress dancing," and declares: "I don't know where I'll be crashin'/But I'm arrivin' on a sin wagon."

Such messages could be troublesome to the parents of the legions of young girls who buy Dixie Chick records. But Seidel thinks the words will sail right over their heads.

"I remember singing 'Like a Virgin' when I didn't even know what a virgin was," Seidel says. "It was a song. It was Madonna. It wasn't too serious. I think a lot of our humor might go over the heads of kids that young.

"I would not be ashamed for my 5-year-old stepson to hear 'Sin Wagon' or 'Goodbye Earl.' That's how I gauge it."

Controversy over those two songs — neither likely to be a single — hasn't stopped "Fly" from quickly selling more than 2 million copies.

The Dixie Chicks' successful example might just galvanize other artists to take some chances. That would be fine by Seidel.

"I do think artists need to have a stronger voice with the music that's being produced on their behalf," she says. "I think the worst thing is if you think your chance was squandered with somebody else's bad production, or ideas that weren't representative of you.

"If anything, I hope other artists might see that we take a chance. And they might fight for something they believe in."

Yeltsin turns emotional at meeting with Arafat

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Breaking into tears over what he said was his joy at meeting Yasser Arafat in the Holy Land, Boris Yeltsin on Thursday wished his friend a bright future and expressed hopes for a Palestinian state.

"I want to tell my friend that he should believe in Russia and trust Russia," Yeltsin told Arafat as they met at Arafat's headquarters in Bethlehem, Jesus' traditional birthplace in a Palestinian-controlled West Bank enclave.

Arafat designed the meeting to showcase the Palestinians' statehood aspirations and their hopes that final status peace talks with Israel will culminate in statehood by September.

The session was held on the second day of a three-day private visit by Yeltsin to attend Orthodox Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, and less than a week after he abruptly stepped down as Russia's president on Dec. 31. Yeltsin's official schedule has provided plenty of breaks, apparently in deference to his health problems.

On Thursday, the former Russian leader was greeted by an honor guard and a military band as he walked along a red carpet with Arafat in the courtyard. Palestinian security guards brandishing Kalashnikov machine-guns swarmed around.

"A happy new road to you, my friend, and my dear Palestinian state," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin also assured Arafat that his successor, Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin, shared the same "special feeling" toward the Palestinians. He said he hand-picked Putin from among 20 possible candidates and was certain of his victory in the coming presidential elections.

Yeltsin shed tears at one point when he spoke about his friendship with Arafat, and used paper napkins handed by the Palestinian leader to wipe his eyes. Yeltsin said later these were tears of joy.

"Spasibo, spasibo, spasibo," Arafat said in Russian, thanking both Yeltsin and Moscow for their role in the Middle East peace settlement. He presented Yeltsin with a special "Bethlehem-2000" medal and a stone carving depicting the Church of Nativity, and gave a traditional Arab dress to Yeltsin's wife, Naina.



Associated Press
Former Russian President Boris Yeltsin wipes his eyes with a paper napkin given to him by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during a meeting Thursday in Bethlehem.

The two leaders embraced and exchanged kisses and clasped their hands together at the end of their hour-long meeting.



Arafat

The atmosphere at the meeting and a short dinner afterward contrasted markedly with the friendly but reserved ambiance at Yeltsin's luncheon earlier Thursday with Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

Weizman said Russia's turbulent ties with the Jewish people were filled "with many wonderful things, but also sorrows," a reference to centuries of Russian anti-Semitism.

Yeltsin said today's Russia was free of anti-Semitism.

"If you ask anybody today in the streets of Moscow or any other city how they perceive Jews, they will say, 'normally, as any other nation and human being,'" he said. Referring to anti-Semitism, Yeltsin said "we have put an end to this."

■ WAR IN CHECHNYA

Soldiers belie leaders' optimism

Battle-weary Russian troops predict long and arduous fight on mountainous terrain

BACHI-YURT, Russia (AP) — While Russian leaders make bold predictions of imminent victory in Chechnya, the weary paratroopers fighting rebels in the hills say the bloodshed is far from over.

"We know that we will have to go into the mountains, and very tough fighting is ahead," says Lt. Col. Mikhail Sukhovskoy, commander of a paratroop battalion. "We won't be able to defeat the rebels with aircraft and armor. We will have to go there on foot. And it will take a long time."

After overrunning the northern plains of Chechnya with little trouble, the Russian military now faces the far more difficult challenge of taking on the rebels in the southern mountains.

The military has relied on massive artillery and air bombardment during the current campaign, trying to avoid the heavy losses its forces suffered during the 1994-96 war, when poorly trained Russian infantry was outfought by the Chechens. But the tactics won't work in the mountains, which shelter the rebels.

Small units from both sides play cat-and-mouse in the forests covering the mountains and the surrounding foothills. The rebels are skilled guerrilla fighters who know the terrain intimately and can attack and disappear without warning.



Razeta Machiyeva, an 8-month-old Chechen girl held by her grandmother, plays with a toy gun Thursday in a refugee camp in Karabulak in the Russian region of Ingushetia.

Associated Press

For weeks, the Russian military has been sending some of its best units into the southern mountains to fight the rebels. The paratroop and commando units, draped in combat harnesses festooned with grenades, ammunition clips and combat knives, emulate the rebels' guerrilla tactics.

Officers and soldiers admit the fighting is exhausting and difficult. Patrols trek through the mountains for days, often catching no sight of the Chechens or seeing them only in fleeting engagements in the forests.

They often slog through deep snow on the steep slopes, and thick fog frequently enshrouds the mountainsides, leaving the patrols stranded for hours.

"The fighting is getting increasingly hard," Maj. Farid Shaikhullin said.

Although the Russian government says the war will soon be won, many of the soldiers on the ground say the Chechens won't stop fighting and that they can blend into the terrain or hide among the civilian population.





MEET THE CREAM OF THE CROP

Jay Schulberg, Executive Creative Director
of one of the world's largest advertising agencies, talks about
America's favorite ad campaign - The Milk Mustache Campaign.

Was it easy to get people to participate? How do they choose their celebs?
Whose idea was it? Who took the photographs? Does it work?

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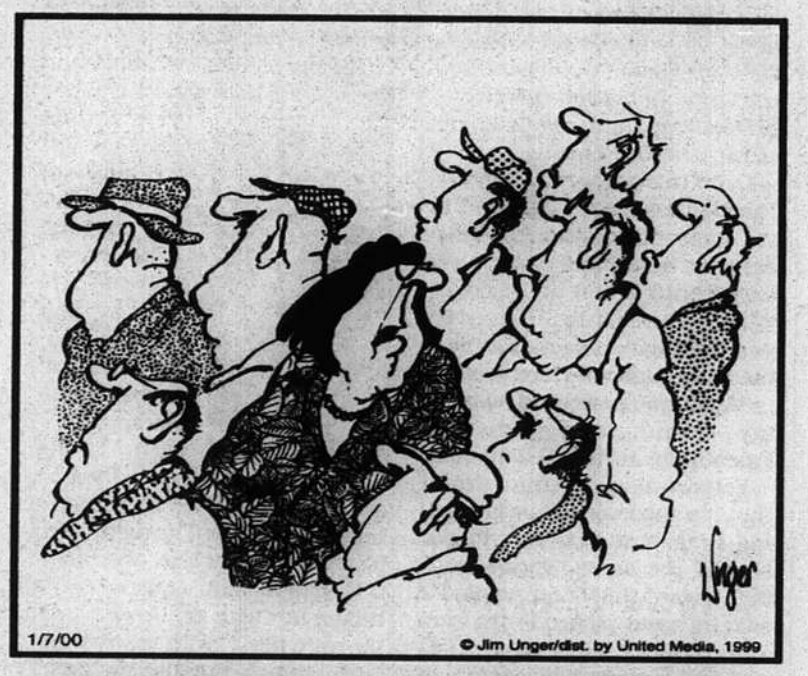
FRED BASSET By Graham



KIT & CARLYLE



HERMAN



"I wouldn't know a 'home run' if I saw one."

RIPLEY'S



Horoscope

By Francis Drake

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
With the Moon moving into the house of Aquarius, this is the perfect time to accomplish all of the goals that you've set for yourself recently. Competition beware!

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
This isn't a good time to get into power struggles with your boss, Taurus. Try to keep your mind focused on the end goal and remain objective.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
As the Moon moves into Aquarius, you could be easily influenced by other people's opinions Do your best to stand your ground on important issues.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Even though you're in charge, be sure to listen to what others in the group have to say. You might be able to learn something new from one of your co-workers.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
It's time to set your pride aside as the Moon moves into Aquarius. It won't do you any good to argue with an authority figure who has already made up his or her mind.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
As the Moon moves into Aquarius, it's a good time for you to organize your life. Taking care of bills and catching up on correspondence are good ways to start.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
An intellectual connection could lead to more as the Moon moves into the house of Aquarius. Watch for new opportunities to open up where you least expect them.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Your happy home may undergo some changes today, and there is very little you can do about it. You need to step back and figure out the problem before you try to solve it.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
As the Moon moves into the house of Aquarius, you can look forward to meeting someone new. Talking to strangers has its advantages.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
If you aren't careful, you may find yourself the victim of an elaborate scheme today. Avoid taking risks with your money, and be wary of people you've just met.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
As the Moon moves into your house, you finally feel like all is right with the world. Take advantage of that extra energy by doing something wild and spontaneous.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
You feel like reaching out to the world today, and there's nothing to hold you back. Helping others is a great way to spend your spare time.

YOU BORN TODAY Although other people don't think of you as particularly outgoing, you have a definite air of self-confidence about you. Your sure manner allows you to dominate both social and business events, and most people find themselves impressed by you once you have left their presence.

Grassroots campaign creates winners on Super Bowl Sunday



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago, you graciously told your readers about the Souper Bowl of Caring. Your column was a catalyst providing a great boost for this simple, but significant, effort of caring and unity.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a grassroots movement that encourages churches and synagogues to invite parishoners to give $1 each as they leave worship the morning (or weekend) of the big game, Jan. 30. Youth stationed at sanctuary exits collect the dollar donations in large soup kettles, then send the proceeds directly to a local soup kitchen, food bank or other charity chosen by that congregation. That's it!

Abby, we believe this idea is a gift from God. It was born of prayer and first kicked off by the youth of a single South Carolina church in 1990. Last year, more than 11,300 congregations together generated $2.5 million for worthy charities in communities across the country. The effort has raised an aggregate of $7 million for hungry and hurting people since it became national in 1993.

Organizers don't touch the money, nor do we tell participants where to send the funds. We ask only that someone from each participating group report the amount collected via www.souperbowl.org or by calling (800) 358-SOUP (7687) on Super Bowl Sunday, so that the grand total can be determined and announced to the media.

Our dream is to see 20,000 churches, synagogues and the like encourage members to join together in loving God and neighbor by giving $1 each as they leave services (or school) on Super Bowl Sunday, Jan. 30, 2000. — THE REV. BRAD SMITH, COLUMBIA, S.C.

DEAR BRAD SMITH: I love the concept — considering that the amount of each donation is such a small fraction of the amount of money that is going to be changing hands that day. I hope all my readers will encourage their congregations, schools, offices or businesses to participate. By giving $1, everyone will be a winner during Super Bowl 2000.

DEAR ABBY: While going through the papers of a recently deceased friend, Jim Heistercamp, a well-known San Francisco personality, I came across a number of barely legible newsletters dating back to 1934, from St. Joseph School in Menomonie, Wis.

On the first page of the January newsletter was printed the enclosed poem, whose message as we approach the new millennium could not be more timely. I hope you'll share it with your readers. — FRANK LEVIN, SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FRANK: The poem you discovered is a gem, and certainly deserving of space in this column. How generous of you to share it. Read on:

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To leave the old with a burst of song
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the thing that binds you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old,
To dare to go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOSIN

KRIPE

TONBEN

ISWUNE

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: A ○○○ " ○○○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ENVOY VAPOR MODERN EMBALM
Answer: Where the executives held their day-long conference — IN THE "BORED" ROOM

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Microphone is smaller. 2. Sign is different. 3. Paper is missing. 4. Back of chair is higher. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Hand is not showing.

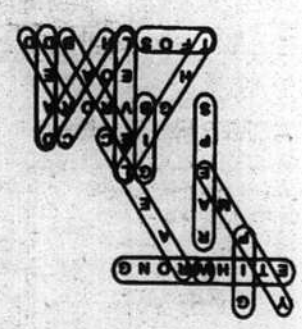
WORD SLEUTH ● — HEADED

S S O K G C Y U Q M I E A W T
P L I E B X U Q N J G D Z W T
Y Q G N K H D A X U R P M J G
E T I H W R O N G D A X V S Q
N K P I R F A D A X V T Q O M
J H F M A C A E Y W U R P N L
J H F D E B Z G L L U B X V T
R Q O M P K I I E C H C D F D
B Z Y W S V G B V R O R A T R
Q O N L K H I H E O A F E D C
A Z X W T F O S L H V B D D U

Thursday's unlisted clue: CANVAS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: A MALE ELEPHANT

Bare	Dead	Light	Spear
Big	Empty	Pig	White
Clear	Hard	Red	Wrong
Cool	Level	Soft	



— HEADED

TVGUIDE

FRIDAY EVENING — JANUARY 7, 2000

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
(WAPA)	4	Super Show		Película Se Anunciará				Controversial		Noticias	Cristina		Programa Pagado	Super Show (R)	
(TBS)	6	(:05) Full House (CC)	(:35) Full House (CC)	(:05) Roseanne "Bingo"	(:35) Roseanne (CC)	(:05) Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	(:35) Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	(:05) Movie ((• "Adventures in Babysitting" (1987, Comedy) Elisabeth Shue, Maia Brewton, Keith Coogan. A Chicago baby sitter is plunged into a comic nightmare.					(:25) Movie ((("Arachnophobia" (1990, Horror) Jeff Daniels, Harley Jane Kozak, John Goodman.		
(ENC)	7	Old Testament	Kids Banner	Stations of the Cross	Choices We Face	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass		Journey Home (Live Phone-In)		Opening of the Holy Door at St. Mary Major Celebrating the New Year. (R)					St. Luke: Meek
(WSVI)	8	All My Children (CC)		News	ABC World News Tonight (CC)	To Be Announced		Boy Meets World "The Provider"	Odd Man Out (CC)	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Hughleys (CC)	20/20 (CC)		News	(:35) Nightline (CC)
(FOX)	9	Boy Meets World (CC)	Judge Joe Brown (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Simpsons (CC)	Home Improve-	Simpsons (CC)	World's Wildest Police Videos (PA) (CC)		Greed: The Series (CC)		Fox Report		Unhappily Ever After	Blind Date
(WSEE)	10	Inside Edition (CC)	News	News	CBS Evening	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	Kids-Darndest	Candid Camera	Now and Again "Fire and Ice" (CC)		Nash Bridges (CC)		News	(:35) Late Show (CC)
(WNBC)	11	News (CC)		News (CC)	NBC Nightly News (CC)	Extra (CC)	Access Hollywood (CC)	Providence "The Kiss" (CC)		Dateline (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Closure" (CC)		News (CC)	(:35) Tonight Show (CC)
(WTJX)	12	Teacher Is In	Arthur (R) (El) (CC)	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Business Rpt.	Behind the Headlines	Washington Week	Wall Street Week	Louis Rukeyser's Money Guide (CC)		America on Wheels (R) (Part 1 of 3) (CC)		(Off Air)	
(WKAQ)	13	Se Anuncia-rá	Se Anunciará			De Noche				Se Anunciará				(Off Air)	
(VH1)	14	Top 10 Countdown (R)		Hard Rock Live "Smash Mouth and Sugar Ray"		List	Before They	Before They	Before They	Before They	Before They	Before They	Before They	List (R)	Storytellers (R)
(WGN)	15	Declassified (CC)	Parent 'Hood (CC)	Wayans Bros. (CC)	Fresh Prince	Full House (CC)	Caroline in the City	Movie (• "Amityville Dollhouse" (1996, Horror) Robin Thomas, Starr Andreeff.				News (CC)		MacGyver "Slow Death"	
(MTV)	16	webRIOT	Blame Game	MTV Jams	Beat Suite	Tom Green	News	Say What? Karaoke	TRL Wanna	TRL (R)		Daria	Daria	Say What? Karaoke	TRL Top 40 of '99
(GEMS)	17	Causa Común		Show Business	Hollywood en Acción	Película (("El Príncipe de Bel Air" (1986, Drama) Mark Harmon, Kirstie Alley.				Cuerpo Dorado		Lluvia de Estrellas		Gems Jamz	
(BET)	18	Rap City: Tha Bassment				Hits From the Street		Good News (CC)	Amen	Comicview (R)		Movie "Rhapsody" (2000) Gina Revera, LisaRaye. A singing star gets a second chance at love.			
(CNN)	19	Inside Politics (CC)		Worldview	Moneyline Newshour		Crossfire	World Today		Larry King Live (CC)		Newsstand		Sports	Moneyline
(FAM)	20	(5:00) Movie "Casper Meets Wendy" (1998) Shelley Duvall. (CC)		Partridge Family	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Random Acts of Comedy	Movie (("Men at Work" (1990, Comedy) Emilio Estevez, Charlie Sheen. Two fun-loving trash men sniff out a toxic waste cover-up.				Random Acts of Comedy	Random Acts of Comedy	700 Club (CC)	
(USA)	21	Pacific Blue "No Man's Land" (R) (CC)		Baywatch "Lifeguards Can't Jump" (CC)		JAG "Survivors" (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger "Branded" (CC)		Movie (• "Friday" (1995, Comedy) Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long. (CC)				Movie (("For Love or Money" (1993)	
(LIFE)	22	Designing Women (CC)	Designing Women (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Intimate Portrait "Oksana Baiul" Life and career of Oksana Baiul.		Chicago Hope A world-famous artist claims to be Dr. Shutt's father.		Figure Skating I.S.U. -- NHK Cup of Japan. From Japan. (Taped)				Once and Again (CC)	
(TLC)	23	Hometime: House	Hometime: House	Home Again (R)	Home Again (R)	48 Hours "Perfect Match" (R)		Tough (R)		Stephen King -- Master of Macabre (R)		Evil Minds		Tough (R)	
(ESPN)	24	Winter X The Palm	Up Close	Sportscenter (CC)		PGA Golf Mercedes Championships -- Second Round. From Kapalua, Hawaii. (Live)						50 Greatest Athletes Athletes 1 and 2. (R)		Sportscenter (CC)	
(ESPN2)	25	ESPNews	50 Greatest	Super Bowl 31	NFL Matchup	NFL 2Night (CC)	NHL Hockey Mighty Ducks of Anaheim at Carolina Hurricanes. From the Raleigh Entertainment & Sports Arena in Raleigh, N.C. (Live)						Boxing Friday Night Fights -- Juan Lazcano vs. Julian Wheeler. (CC)		
(TBN)	28	Praise the Lord (CC)						Behind the Scenes	Christian World	Lakewood Church	Dr. Frederick K. Price	Praise the Lord (Live) (CC)			
(NICK)	30	Figure It Out	Kenan & Kel	All That	Catdog	U Pick Nicktoons Kids pick their favorite Nicktoons. (CC)				Brady Bunch	Brady Bunch	All in the Family	Jeffersons (CC)	I Love Lucy	Mary Tyler Moore
(DISC)	31	Gimme Shelter "Enlarging the Family House"		Your New House (R)		Ultimate Guide "Horses" (R)		Inside Air Force One (R)		Discover Magazine (R)		Storm Warning! "Power of Storms" (R)		Inside Air Force One (R)	
(HBO)	33	Movie ((("Escape From Alcatraz" (1979, Adventure) Clint Eastwood. A convict plots to escape from the notorious island prison. (CC)				Inside the NFL (R) (CC)		Century of Living (R) (CC)		Movie (("U.S. Marshals" (1998, Suspense) Tommy Lee Jones, Wesley Snipes, Robert Downey Jr.. Sam Gerard gets caught up in another fugitive case. (CC)					Dennis Miller Tim Robbins.
(SHOW)	34	(5:00) Movie "Julian Po"	Movie "Kickboxing Academy" (1997, Action) Steven Bauer, Kely McClung, Donna Barnes.			Movie (("The Air Up There" (1994, Comedy) Kevin Bacon. A college basketball coach finds a potential star in Kenya. (CC)				Movie (("Lolita" (1997, Drama) Jeremy Irons, Melanie Griffith, Frank Langella. A middle-aged man becomes the lover of a seductive teen. (CC)					(:35) ((("Air Force One"
(DISN)	35	Smart Guy (CC)	Smart Guy (CC)	Famous Jett Jackson (CC)	Jersey (CC)	So Weird "Fall" (CC)	Movie (• "Treehouse Hostage" (1999, Comedy) Jim Varney, Joey Zimmerman. (CC)			(:10) Movie ((• "Rent-a-Kid" (1995, Comedy) Leslie Nielsen, Matt McCoy. Three feisty orphans are lent out to a yuppie couple. (CC)				So Weird "Fall" (R) (CC)	Jersey (R) (CC)
(MAX)	36	(5:00) Movie ((• "Blue Chips" (1994) Nick Nolte. (CC)		(6:50) Movie (((• "Under Fire" (1983, Drama) Nick Nolte, Gene Hackman. War tests the lives of three correspondents in Nicaragua.				Movie ((("Affliction" (1997, Drama) Nick Nolte, Sissy Spacek. A lawman is haunted by the shadow of an abusive father. (CC)				Movie (("Lethal Weapon 4" (1998, Action) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover. Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh battle Chinese mercenaries. (CC)			
(A&E)	37	Magnum, P.I. "Never Again... Never Again"		L.A. Law "House of the Rising Flan"		Law & Order "Angel" (CC)		Biography: Carol Burnett		L.A. Detectives (CC)		Poirot "The King of Clubs" (CC)		Law & Order "Securitate" (CC)	
(TNT)	38	Dark Justice "Broken Toys" (CC)		In the Heat of the Night "Tear Down the Walls" (CC)		ER "Ask Me No Questions, I'll Tell You No Lies" (CC)		NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Orlando Magic. From Orlando Arena in Orlando, Fla. (Live) (CC)					NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns. From the America West Arena in Phoenix. (Live) (CC)		
(SCIFI)	39	Hercules-Jrnys.		Sliders (R) (CC)		Brimstone "Pilot"		Farscape "Nerve" (CC)		Rated Lexx		Lexx: The Series (CC)		Farscape "Nerve" (R)	
(BRAVO)	40	Movie ((("Ju Dou" (1990, Drama) Gong Li, Li Wei. A Chinese woman has an affair with her husband's relative. (Subtitled)				Moonlighting "The Murder's in the Mail"		Weird Weekends Theroux visits with survivalists in Idaho. (R)		Movie ((("The Madness of King George" (1994, Drama) Nigel Hawthorne, Helen Mirren. England's King George III loses his grip on sanity.				Weird Weekends Theroux visits with survivalists in Idaho. (R)	
(TOON)	41	Dragon	Warriors	Batman	Scooby	Chicken	Dexter	Mike-& Og	Bravo	Courage	Powerpuff	Ed Edd	Weasel	SpGhost	ToonHeads
(COURT)	42	Evening Session			Pros Cons	Crime Stories (R)		Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	Homicide: Life		Crime Stories (R)		Cops (CC)	Pros Cons
(FLIX)	43	(5:30) Movie (("Just Between Friends" (1986, Drama) Mary Tyler Moore, Christine Lahti, Ted Danson.		Movie ((• "The Norseman" (1978, Adventure) Lee Majors, Cornel Wilde, Jack Elam.				Movie (("No Looking Back" (1998, Drama) Lauren Holly, Edward Burns. A man returns home to win back his former girlfriend. (CC)				Movie ((("McCabe and Mrs. Miller" (1971, Western) Warren Beatty. A crafty gambler looks to make a fortune in a mining town. (CC)			
(FOXSP)	44	Hardcore Football (R)		Football	Last Word	Goin' Deep (R)		Hardcore Football (R)		Sports	Runnin	FOX Sports News		FOX Sports News	
(TMC)	45	(5:00) Movie (("Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter"		Movie ((("Malaya" (1950, Adventure) Spencer Tracy, James Stewart, Valentina Cortese. Two men ship rubber from Japanese-held Malaya.				Movie (((("Adam's Rib" (1949, Comedy) Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy. Married lawyers bring their courtroom battle home. (CC)				Movie (((• "The Awful Truth" (1937, Comedy) Irene Dunne, Cary Grant. A case of mistaken infidelity leads to screwball comedy.			
(HBO+)	46	(4:45) "Disorganized Crime"	Movie (• "Gloria" (1999) Sharon Stone, Jean-Luke Figueroa. An ex-gun moll shelters an orphan from murderous mobsters. (CC)				Movie ((("A Shock to the System" (1990, Comedy-Drama) Michael Caine, Elizabeth McGovern.			Movie (("Two Girls and a Guy" (1997, Comedy) Robert Downey Jr., Heather Graham. (CC)		Tracey Takes On... "Hair" (R)	Movie ((("Amistad" (1997, Drama) Morgan Freeman. (CC)	
(SHOW2)	47	Movie (((("Five Easy Pieces" (1970, Drama) Jack Nicholson, Karen Black, Lois Smith.				(:45) Movie ((("Silkwood" (1983, Drama) Meryl Streep, Kurt Russell, Cher. A plutonium plant worker exposes unsafe working conditions.				Rude Awakening	Movie ((("The Mask of Zorro" (1998, Adventure) Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones. Zorro's protege crosses swords with a returning tyrant. (CC)				
(CNBC)	53	Market Wrap (CC)		Edge (CC)	Business Center (CC)		Upfront Tonight	National Geographic Explorer (R) (CC)				News With Brian Williams (CC)		National Geographic Explorer (R)	
(E!)	54	Dharma & Greg: Behind the Scenes (R)		Talk Soup (R)	News Weekend	Fashion Emergency	Coming Attractions	Talk Soup	Mysteries & Scandals	True Hollywood Story (R)		In Your Dreams (R)		Howard Stern	Howard Stern (R)
(KNOW)	55	Pulse	Best of Friends	On the Money	MoneyWise	RxTV (CC)	Meet-Challenge	New Media News (CC)	BizTV	On the Money	MoneyWise	RxTV (CC)	Place to Be	New Media News (CC)	You, Inc.
(GOOD)	56	More Money		Real Me "With Wally Famous Amos" (R)		Combat! "Head Count" (CC)		Ozzie & Harriet	Room-Daddy	Love Boat		Bonanza: The Lost Episodes "The Initiation"		Combat! "Head Count" (CC)	
(FOOD)	57	Essence of Emeril (R)	East Meets West (R)	Ready-Cook!	Martha-Kitchen	Cooking Live		Emeril Live (R)		Calling All Cooks	Hot Off the Grill	Iron Chef		Emeril Live (R)	
(TRAVEL)	58	Curiosities-Wld	Simply Unbeliev-	Adventure Bound (R) (Part 2 of 2)		Adventure Bound An Australian mining town.		Lonely Planet (R)		Vacation Video	Vacation Video	Tourist (R)	Tourist "Memphis"	Lonely Planet (R)	

People *in the* News

U2 singer takes a stand in editorial

PARIS (AP) — Ballad writer Bono has turned his pen to editorials.

Opining in Thursday's edition of the French daily Le Monde, the lead singer of the Irish rock group U2 urged France to forgive billions of dollars owed by Third World countries.



Bono

"The moment has come for France to take center stage. It can completely erase $11.5 billion of debt owed by the world's poorest countries," Bono wrote.

Bono has also urged the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other individual countries to write off poor country debt, adding his voice to those of Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama.

"Debt relief will change the lives of a billion people, the poorest of the poor, who live on less than a dollar a day," he wrote.

The Center for International Development at Harvard University says 700 million poverty-stricken people live in countries so burdened with foreign debt they cannot address citizens' health and social needs.

'Dr. Quinn' to receive Golden Nymph award

PARIS (AP) — British actress Jane Seymour, TV's "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," will be awarded the Golden Nymph award for best actress at the Monte Carlo Festival of Television in February.

Festival organizers said former James Bond portrayer Roger Moore, who also starred in the TV version of "The Saint," will receive the best actor award.

The awards are the first acting prizes handed out by the festival in its 40 years. It has previously honored TV programs.

"Jane Seymour's career has been exceptional, since her first appearance as a Bond girl in 'Live and Let Die' to her role in ... Dr. Quinn," said David Tomatis, festival secretary-general.

Little Richard croons about hometown

MACON, Ga. (AP) — One of Little Richard's latest gigs is singing the praises of his hometown, home of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and what a new ad campaign calls the "song and soul of the South."

"Macon, Georgia, is the place. They got it all right there," he says in a testimonial taped for the upcoming advertising blitz.

CommunityCalendar

JAN. 7

ANNUAL CHILDREN RACE will be held at 11 a.m., on Friday, Jan. 7, (at start of parade.) The race will start at the corner of Fisher and King Streets in Frederiksted and finish at Fort Fredrik. The race is open to all boys and girls 13-years-old and under. Awards will be given to the top finishers and a certificate of participation will be given to each finisher. Call 777-0258.

ALL CALYPSONIANS are reminded that the deadline for registration for the King of Kings Calypso Tent, is Jan. 7. For St. Thomas/St. John/ Water Island; you may register at Sen. Donastorg's office. Call 693-3584 (participants on St. Croix). Music sheets for at least one song must be turned in by Feb. 14. Please leave a telephone contact number. No late registrations will be accepted.

JAN. 8

AGLOW FELLOWSHIP ST. CROIX CHAPTER invites the women of our community to our monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 8, at Gertrudes (no cover charge). Come and share praise and fellowship with us. Guest speaker will be Solferis Ayala.

18TH ANNUAL THREE KINGS MILE ROAD RACE will be held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Jan. 8, (at start of parade). The one mile race is open to runners of all ages and will start at the Claude O. Markoe School and finish at Fort Frederik on King St. Awards will be presented to the top male and female finishers and certificates to all participants. Call 777-0258.

GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION featuring "Friends" gospel recording artists out of St. Thomas, The Lansiquot Sisters, Touch of Love Chorale, and many other local artists. MC will be Bro. Henry Pascal. This event is being held on Saturday, Jan. 8, at 8 p.m., at the St. Croix Educational Complex.

JAN. 9

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ST. CROIX will meet at 10 a.m., on Sunday, Jan. 9, at the nature Conservancy's Little Princesse Estate. A new Sunday School teaching moral values will be held simultaneously. A coffee hour follows. Call 773-7461.

JAN. 10

CARIBBEAN DANCE SCHOOL WINTER REGISTRATION — Sign up now for all ages and levels at Caribbean Dance School this winter in C'sted and F'sted. Convenient schedules, beautiful facilities, family discounts, installment plans plus half price dance for men and boys. You must register now to be in "Students of Caribbean Dance" extravaganza in June at Island Center. Register this week in Christiansted at #5 Church Street and in Frederiksted at #11 Strand Street. For schedule and information call 778-8824.

MUSIC IN MOTION CLASSES for the second semester begin Monday. Jan. 10, on regular schedule at Community United Methodist Center. Call 772-5440 for further information.

UNIVERSITY OF VI STUDENTS — This is to remind all returning UVI students (including financial aid and scholarship recipients) who registered in November for the Spring 2000 semester that Monday, Jan. 10, is the last day to pay tuition and fees. Payment can be made on this date until 4 p.m. on the St. Croix campus. Failure to make payment by this deadline will result in the cancellation of your classes. Students whose classes are cancelled will be required to re-register during late registration on Jan. 12.

UVI, through its VI University Affiliated Program, is offering an American Sign Language Interpreters training course on campus beginning Jan. 12. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m., on St. Croix. Registration will take place on Monday, Jan. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m., in room T114 at the University Affiliated Program Office at No. 1 Golden Grove. Call 693-1189.

UVI is offering an on-line creative writing course in the Spring semester. Class enrollment is limited to residents in the territory for this first time offering. The UVI class, English 465: Selected Topics — Creative Writing, will include the study of language and literature. There will be no in-class time, as all assignments and instruction will be computer based. Registration on St. Croix is Jan. 10 through Jan. 12. Call 693-1357.

JAN. 11

STEPPING STONES, INC. will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at St. Luke's AME Church in Grove Place. Everyone is welcome. Call 772-0010.

GERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES' next regular meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the GERS conference room located at #5 Orange Grove, St. Croix.

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HEBREW ISRAELITE COMMUNITY OF JERUSALEM — ST. CROIX MISSION invites the public to Sabbath Classes every Saturday, at 11:30 a.m., at the Institute for Divine Understanding #52 D Whim — Centerline Road — Corner of Good Hope Road. Join us as we receive instructions for developing healthy, righteous lifestyles. Call 778-4080 or 772-5902.

CONSUMER COUNSELING — The introductory consumer counseling course offered by the UVI Cooperative Extension Service and Stepping Stones which began on Nov. 10, will be rescheduled for the new year. Call 692-4094 or 692-4096 in early January.

HELPING NEIGHBORS — The Recovery and Reuse Project is seeking new and reusable single family home materials to help disaster victims. Donations are tax-deductible. Call 772-0010 to arrange for pick up or drop off times at our site on Queen Street in Frederiksted.

WOMEN'S COALITION OF ST. CROIX announces support groups for adult survivors of incest and victims of domestic violence (physical and/or emotional abuse). Babysitting services are available. For information call 773-9272.

ST. CROIX AQUARIUM has reopened, but we are still in need of a generator. To make a donation or to reschedule a school field trip, call 773-8955. Many thanks to those who have already contributed.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS — We share experience, strength and hope every Monday and Friday at noon in Christiansted Lutheran Church Parish Hall. For more information call 713-8440.

ADULLAM SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS, INC. — Please help us, help them, help themselves by your financial contribution or volunteer services. Call 692-0347.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS meet the first and third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the construction site, Estate St. George, F'sted.

Obituaries

ELRIDGE CLINE, passed away on Monday, Dec. 27, 1999.

He is survived by his wife: Adelina Huggins Cline; sons: Winston Cline, Elridge Cline and Martin Medina; daughters: Rita Medina, Eva Donovan and Christine De Rios; brothers: Albert and Rufus Mercer, Leando, Alberto (Shot), Peter and Rudolph Woods; sisters: Lucille Smith, Naomi Donovan and Edith Woodley; 18 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, Jan. 7, at Christ Church Methodist. Viewing will precede starting sat 8:30 a.m. Interment will be in Western Cemetery #2.

Funeral arrangements are by Creque Funeral Home.

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ELAINE FINCH, age 90, passed away on Friday, Dec. 31, 1999, at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, New York.

She is survived by her brothers: Wilfred C. Finch, Earl Finch and Hilvan Finch; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Monday, Jan. 10, at St. John's Anglican Church at 10 a.m., with the viewing beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will take place in Christiansted Cemetery.

Professional arrangements are entrusted to James Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

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VICTOR EMMANUEL MORTON, aka "Bishop," "Elder Morton," age 86, of #432 Strawberry Hill, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 2, at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

He is survived by his wife: Doris Morton; daughter: Grethel Morton-Hamilton; sons: Eustace Morton, Ishton Morton and Sylvester Morton; 5 grandchildren; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries in Barron Spot, at noon, with the viewing beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will take place in Kingshill Cemetery.

Professional arrangements are entrusted to James Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

***

MILDRED CONSTANCE FARIS-HARRIGAN, age 95, of Herbert Grigg Home, went to her eternal rest on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2000.

She was the wife of the late Ludvig E. Harrigan Sr., union leader and legislator. She is survived by her daughter: Dr. Ruth Harrigan Beagles; son: Ludvig E. Harrigan Jr. (CA); grandchildren: Mildred Harrigan Tutein, Annette L. Harrigan (CA) and John H. Beagles; great-grandchildren: Joey Tutein, Jenna Tutein, Rudi Beagles, Jared Beagles, Alicia Belardo and Elijah Hodge (CA); many relatives, godchildren and friends to include the Simmons family, Ralph, Violet and children; Norma and family, Delia and family (STT), the Roebuck family, Elmo, Dr. Aubrey, Bernard, Hector, Jr., Doreen and Bernice (STT), the Johannes family (STX), Inez Hall (NY); and special friends: members of the Friendly 12.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13, at Lord God of Saboath Lutheran Church, in Christiansted, at 10 a.m. Her remains will be interred in Christiansted Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Lutheran Social Services, VI, specifically for Flamboyant Gardens, P.O. Box 866, Frederiksted, USVI 00841.

Professional arrangements are entrusted to James Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

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RAYMOND BENN, age 53, of St. Croix, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1999, in St. Croix.

Raymond is survived by his cousins: the Sherwood family, the Swanston family, Mary Dennie and Debbie Swanston; special friends: Alfred Richards and Clement McKnight; and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Kingshill Cemetery Chapel. The viewing will be at 9 a.m., with the service following at 10 a.m. Interment will be in Kingshill Cemetery.

Professional funeral arrangements are by Thomas/Hyll Memorial Funeral Chapel of St. Croix.

***

VERONICA CHARLES, age 79, of Flamboyant Gardens, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2000, at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

She is survived by her daughter: Ruthine Hill; sons: Ivan James, Vernon Hector and Reynold Bunche; granddaughters: Glenda Wright, Ava Gaunt, Merina Shillington, Ashel Bunche; Alison James; grandsons: Egbert, Hughbert and Michael James, Cedric Hill and Vernon Hector Jr.; great-grandchildren: Dominique, Chelsei and Dominin James, Shanna Wright and Kyle Gaunt; daughters-in-law: Magdalene James, Monique Hector and Rosemary Bunche; son-in-law: Algernon Hill; godchildren: Charlyn and Karmela Cuffy, Mary "Verne" Charles, Glenda Mathurin and Michael James; faithful friend: Loefa Cuffy; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Christiansted, at noon, with the viewing beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will take place in Kingshill Cemetery.

Professional arrangements are entrusted to James Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

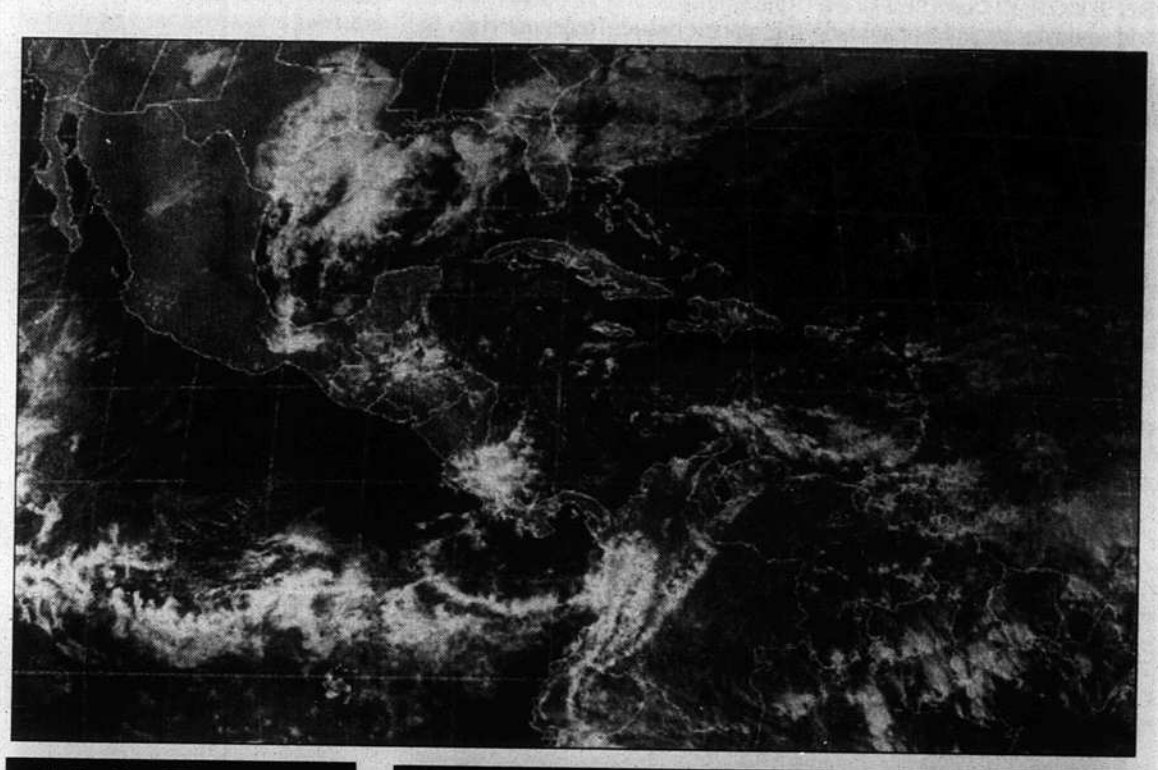
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ROBERT M. ELMAN, "TRADER BOB," age 53, passed away on Dec. 23, 1999, in Los Angeles, CA. He was with his wife and family members at the time of his passing.

Bob is remembered as a loving, kind smiling soul who touched the lives of so many of us here in St. Croix. He is survived by his wife: Pam Kerschner; his father: Jerome Elman; sisters: Linda Green and Adrian Diamond; and family and friends too numerous to mention. He will be loved and remembered by us all.

You are welcome to join in the celebration of Bob's life at the Jewish Memorial Center at 5 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 8.

WeatherOutlook



U.S. Temps

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Atlantic City	43	20	clr
Boston	37	18	cdy
Chicago	25	24	cdy
Denver	43	19	cdy
El Paso	55	30	clr
Fairbanks	-25	-35	cdy
Green Bay	24	22	cdy
Houston	58	44	cdy
Indianapolis	28	22	cdy
Jacksonville	55	m	cdy
Kansas City	46	27	clr
Las Vegas	59	42	clr
Memphis	43	27	clr
Miami Beach	80	70	cdy
New YorkCity	38	28	cdy
Orlando	65	56	cdy
Philadelphia	41	27	clr
Richmond	47	25	clr
Sacramento	61	29	cdy
Seattle	44	33	rn
Tallahassee	57	32	cdy
Tampa-St Ptrsbg	67	59	cdy
Washington,D.C.	45	32	

VI Forecast

LOCAL FORECAST FOR THE PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS:

FRIDAY — VARIABLE CLOUDINESS AND WINDY. A 40 PERCENT CHANCE OF SHOWERS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF A THUNDERSTORMS. HIGH FROM NEAR 80 TO 85. WIND NORTHEAST AT 20 TO 25 MPH EXCEPT 25 TO 35 MPH AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS.

COASTAL WATERS FORECAST FOR PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS:

SYNOPSIS — SURFACE HIGH PRESSURE OVER THE ATLANTIC WILL MAINTAIN FRESH TO STRONG EAST TRADE WIND FLOW OVER REGION THROUGH FRIDAY. A SURGE IN THE TRADE WINDS LATE WITH INCREASING WINDS.

OUTLOOK FOR PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS WATERS:

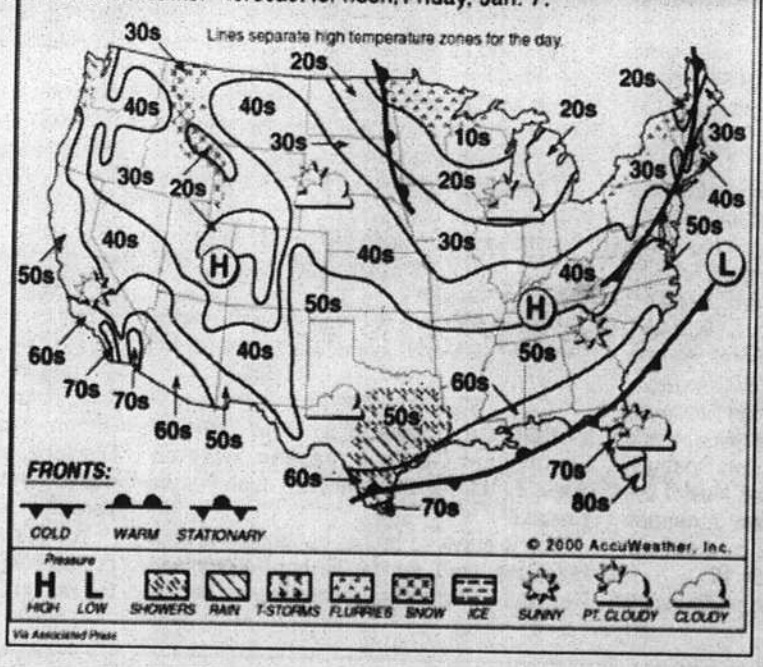
FRIDAY NIGHT THROUGH MONDAY — WIND MAINLY EAST TO NORTHEAST 20 TO 25 KTS. WITH HIGHER GUSTS. SEAS 8 TO 10 FT. IN EAST SWELLS.

World Temps

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Amsterdam	47	40	cdy
Barbados	84	74	cdy
Bermuda	74	65	cdy
Caracas	77	58	cdy
Dublin	54	43	cdy
Frankfurt	46	29	clr
Geneva	47	32	cdy
Havana	80	62	clr
Istanbul	44	34	cdy
Jerusalem	50	34	rn
Kiev	35	28	sn
London	52	48	cdy
Montreal	16	0	cdy
Nassau	80	71	clr
New Delhi	62	41	cdy
Osaka	64	49	cdy
Oslo	40	24	rn
Paris	49	38	cdy
Rio	97	77	cdy
San Juan	83	74	clr
Taipei	75	61	cdy
Toronto	31	18	cdy

NATIONAL Weather

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Friday, Jan. 7.



Via Associated Press

Crossword by Eugene Sheffer

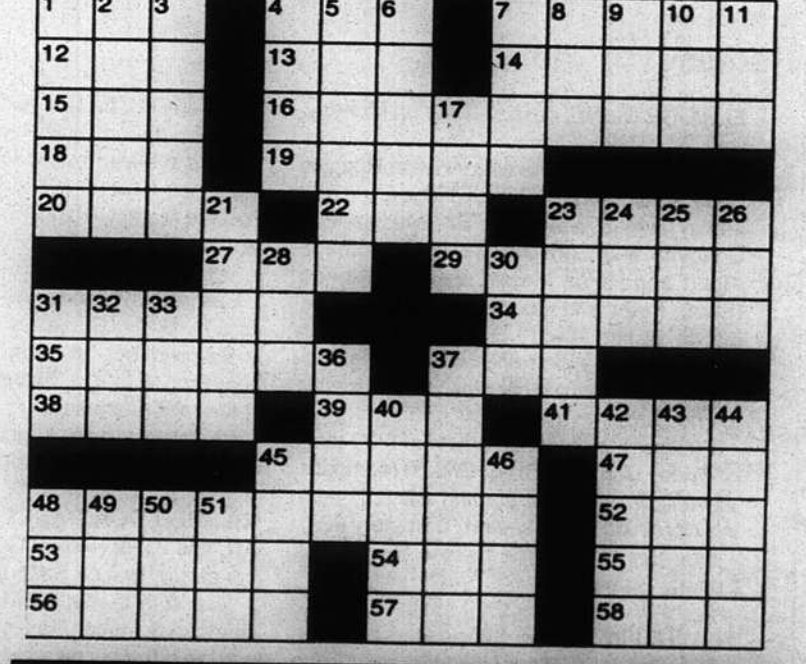
ACROSS
1 Long March leader
4 Urban transport
7 Derby quaff
12 Snakes
13 Sapporo sash
14 Worship
15 Rocks
16 Obligated
18 "— any drop to drink"
19 Sen. Kefauver
20 Walk of Fame inset
22 Lamprey
23 One of the help
27 Keep talking
29 "Abracadabra!"
31 Hook-nosed Muppet
34 Allen or Hawke
35 Skilled
37 "Fables in Slang" writer
38 Former TV host
39 Melody
41 Bronx cheer
45 Hit from long ago
47 West of Hollywood
48 Unlimited
52 Tucker's partner?
53 Arousing goose-flesh
54 Motor oil additive
55 Stick figure?
56 Plumbing problems
57 Scottish river
58 Verily

DOWN
1 Principal ducts
2 "My Fair Lady" setting
3 Phantom's bailiwick
4 Body of laws
5 Mistreated
6 Please, in Potsdam
7 Pokes
8 Japanese salad veggie
9 Bud's partner
10 Compass point suffix
11 — Xing (street sign)
17 Kennel cry
21 Barber-shop item
23 Scansion concern
24 Blonde shade
25 Call-day link
26 Get decked in
28 "How — love thee?"
30 Flushed
31 Hiatus
32 Harem room
33 Heston's org.
36 Hard to believe
37 Plant bristle
40 That is (Latin)
42 Perth —, NJ
43 African country
44 Equine beast
45 Keats creations
46 Catch sight of
48 Hotel-room need
49 "— the fields we go"
50 Swiss canton
51 Chill in the air

Solution time: 28 mins.

D	I	S		L	U	N	A		L	A	S	S
E	L	K		A	R	A	B		E	R	A	L
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		P	I	E		H	O	P	T	O	I	T
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A	B	O		Y	A	W		D	E	L	I	S
I	O	W	A		P	E	P		R	E	D	O
L	E	N	D	A		B	A	H		A	L	A
			A	R	M		T	E	M	P	E	R
J	U	M	P	C	U	T		R	A	F		
U	N	I	T		S	O	N	O	G	R	A	M
D	I	M	E		T	R	E	E		O	D	E
E	V	E	R		Y	E	W	S		G	O	T

Yesterday's answer 1-7



Cryptoquip

JNGD HSDWD'A NWCQ XGOA OSS KSDX, NG JCKK FAFWKKR XGO CO HFO YR W YWQYGQ-CWD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN THEIR SPARE TIME, I PRESUME THAT ASTRONAUTS PLAY MOON-OPOLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

Real Estate for Sale

2 br. furnished Trailer $20,000. 5.2 acres, ideal for a small farm w/fresh water stream $75,000. 1/2 ac. on a hill overlooking the water $48,000, Altoona on a hill overlooking the pond $35,000, 1/2 ac. Cane no restrictions. $18,000, 1/3 ac. Whim no restrictions. $20,000 1/2 ac. East End $23,500, 1/4 ac. Diamond $13,000 2/1 Calquohoun $54,000 4/1 Mon Bijou $125,000 2br Williams Delight $55,000 **Schuster's Real Estate 778-4648.**

Buy a Bargain & start the New Year with a bang!!! 1/2 acre view lots in Union & Mt. Washington offered from $12,000" ."Two bedroom, two bath Condo at Questa Verde at $59,900". " One bedroom, one bath Condo at Long Reef at $27,000". Contact Jean Ferry at 778-8595 ext. 3002 or 713-0060 evenings. Pivar Real Estate. 1112 King St. Christiansted.

Deal of the Millennium! Fully furnished 3br./2ba. centrally air conditioned mobile home with 1br./1ba. air conditioned apartment to rent in a secure complex.Owner maintained, excellent condition, immediate sale for $37,000. serious buyers call/778-1633 or 773-3030.

Just Listed: Large 4 bedrooms 3 bath home in La Grande Princesse. This home has a large living room with a fireplace, jacuzzi off the master bedroom, gallery with a bar, pool with patio, great views of the Northern Islands and is completely fenced with an automatic gate. Asking $485.000. Call Greg Hamilton, Hamilton Real Estate, Pan Am Pavilion, 773-3300 or 7735057.

Top of the Mountain. Overlooking North Shore of St. Croix on Scenic Drive East, Estate Mount Pleasant. Breathtaking ocean views to St. Thomas and St. John. 15.8 Acres $465,000. Brokers protected. Call **340-778-0665**; write Bryant, Box 4589,Christiansted, VI 00822. Sale or trade. Owner financing.

Price Reduction: This three bedroom two bath with a two bedroom apartment and loft studio has just been reduced. Located in the hills behind Cotton Valley, this house has a great view of the Yacht Club, a pool, large deck and is fenced. Was $300,000 but just reduced to $280,000. Call Greg Hamilton, Hamilton Real Estate, Pan Am Pavilion, 773-3300 or 773-5057.

Questa Verde: This three bedroom two and a half Condo is perfect as a starter home or great for the convenient location. Open kitchen, new deck and hurricane shutters, generator and the view of the South Shore makes this a great value at $92,500. Call Greg Hamilton, Hamilton Real Estate, Pan Am Pavilion, 773-3300 or 773-5057.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences,limitations or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

St. George well located over half-acre. Mid-Island site. Asking $27,000. Also, **Hope & Carton Hill,** Buck Island views with over 3/4 acre asking $30,000. Doug Millar Real Estate. **778-0173**

U.S. Marshals Service. Public Auction - Jan 19 to be held in Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico. Property to be offered: Res. Property in Christiansted, VI, 3 homes in Santa Isabel, PR. Res. Property in Guayama, PR. Res. Bldg. Lot in Patillas, PR. Apartment w/parking space in Santurce, PR. Written bids encouraged call **1-888-343-1313** or Visit our website - www.cwsmarketing.com or email - nrobbins@erols.com. Auction conducted by CWS Marketing Group Raimundo Rivera PR Brk. Lic#1701.

Comm. Real Estate

Castle Coakley Business Park between S.I. and Hess, 1,200 - 4,800 S.F., good location, good parking, secure - Call Dave Carr **773-4665**.

Prime Retail Space: Next to Plaza Extra - heavy traffic - Join our 22 stores by offering a unique product or service. 1250 sq. ft. for $850/month. Call Tom at 778-6240 x 29.

For Rent

2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex centrally located. Quiet neighborhood w/ceiling fans, stove, refrigerator, cathedral ceiling. Asking $500.00 month plus security deposit. **773-6513** ask for Edith.

2 br. 1 bth. **Apartment for Rent.** Electricity is included phone and cable ready & very spacious. Call **719-9384**.

3 bedroom apt. for rent 231 Whim semi furnished $550. per month and one month deposit. **Call 772-3118.**

Beachfront: one bedroom 2nd floor apartment. Fully furnished includes utilities. Little Princesse Danish modern house $800. monthly, $250. weekly per couple. **Rosegate:** One bedroom seaview apartment $400. **Hannah's Rest:** available November. New one bedroom furnished apartment. Utilities included $700. Call **(340)773-1851.**

Beautiful Spanish Style: One bdrm. cottage, sea view & sounds, 5 minutes from K-mart & airport, fenced, lovely sunsets, no pets. $500.00 mo. Call 772-3025 / 778-5380 (days) 772-3973 (evenings)

Beauty Salon furnished water, light, equipments, etc. 2 single rooms apartments furnished, A/C water also cable, phone ready. Call for appointment **773-9788** between 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Saturday.

Charming 1 bedroom furnished apt. old world charm, ocean view, safe and secure. 5 minutes from C'sted. Call **773-4813** no dogs please.

LSF seeks QNS. Large fully furnished studio in search of a quiet, non-smoking single. I'm in a quiet and secure East End neighborhood and offer beautiful views from the covered gallery. If you're the kind of person who enjoys cool breezes, privacy and quiet, and quality time in the hammock, I'm the apt. for you. I'm allergic to pets and I am looking for a person who works days only. $550./month includes electric. First, last and security deposits-**773-2946**

New one bedroom cement block apt. beautifully furnished - 24 hour security A/C swimming pool - laundry - incl. water & cable - Sunny Isle area - $475/month - available Feb. 1. Call **778-5761**.

West Indian style guest Cottage, landscaped courtyard entrance. Large Studio with mahogany windows, mouldings, ginger bread, planted outdoor shower. Central location with great view of Salt River and the Islands. $650.00 includes Wapa. Call **778-8751.**



WEST END APTS

Studios - furn'd, fenced courtyard, $325 - $375/mo & utilities.

One bdrms - furn'd, secure, some with ocean view - $450 - $475/mo & util.

Two bdrm, second floor apt, furn'd, on King Street....$525/mo & utilities.

Call for details
(340) 772-0420
Richards & Ayer Associates
340 (13) Strand St., F'sted, 00840.

For Sale

(1) bath/shower enclosures. White-$150 each. New in box, Bifold mirror doors (2) sets 2.5' (6) sets 3' $75.00 per, (2) shower sliding door sets $125. per, (1) under counter freezer $250., (1) 30" gas stove $300.(1) brand new, **Kenmore,** full size vertical laundry centers, Model #98702, 27" wide, 74"high, 28" deep, 220volt. $825.00, **713-9220.**

Bar and Restaurant business for sale, due to illness of owner. Contact owner at **713-8688**.

BEST PRICES for the best quality wind shield glass. For all types of cars, trucks, buses & pick-ups. Safety/glass /door glass. Also specializes in car/ seat interior/upholstery. Some w/shields install $250.00. Call Adam 773–5862 **Most glass in stock!**

Full computer system + printer only 1 1/2 years old - barely used. Originally $1600- now only $800. O.B.O. Call **713-8012** leave message.

Leaving Island must sell Windsurfer $200.00, Mountain bike $100.00, Dive gear (mares) $350.00, Ford Thunderbird $200.00 takes it. Call **773-6524**.

Moving this New Year? Furnish your residence with this intricately, designed ivory colored couch. love seat and chair. A must to see. Call **773-7425.**

Perkins 4108 Marine diesel engine not running complete comes with $800. worth of new part $1600 - firm. Call **771-7437.**

Positively Batteries: home * marine *motorcycle & toy batteries *battery chargers *gel cells *ups * battery cables, professional assistance for your application. Master card accepted. 350 amp. hour size in stock. Call Camelita **340-778-6022**.

Wooden house for sale or house and land deal. Weigh bench with 1300 lbs. of weighs, power tools etc. Serious inquires only. Call **779-3347** home or **690-3595** leave message.

Used 40 ft. high cube container $2,800.00. Call Fl. Associates **773-5228.**

Wanted to Buy

Seeking to buy ad speciality and/or printing distributorships in the U.S.V.I. Please contact Nicholas Tyler proforma. Hyatt Graphics - 713-0208 or e-mail NTyler @ VIAccess.Net.

Boats for Sale

9 1/2 Fiberglass sailing, rowing motor dingy w/sail, mast boom tiller etc. $800. O.B.O. Call **773-6842.**

1982 19ft. Renken Bowrider& Trailer, 120 hp I/O GM engine. Good cond., trailer recently overhauled. Perfect for Buck Island and fishing. $5000 O.B.O. Ive. mes-sage--773-0295 (ext. 204) or 773-6807.

32' Sloop 1969 Chris Craft s+s Hull design, many upgrades 6 sails, 2 cyl. diesel engine new int. $23,000 neg. Call **771-7437.**

Pearson 10M, 33' some hurricane damage can be seen at Merwyn Shipping Yard across from Reliable Rental on Hess Road. Ask for Peter or leave message at **773-6728**. $16,750 as is/where is.

Autos for Sale

1972 - Ford 250. 360 engine great running, new bed, clutch, pressure plate, throw out bearing; new 16.5 tires mud need cab. $1,000. O.B.O. Call **513-0859.**

1986 Chevy S10 P/U 4 sp. 2,500. O.B.O. 1985 Toyota Corolla 5 spd. 2 dr. 1,200.00 O.B.O. 1987 Ford Escort GT 5 sp. 1,700. O.B.O. 1979 Toyota Corolla 2 dr. (auto) $600. O.B.O. Call Joel or Junior **692-5161** or **778-2271**.

1986 F150 pick-up. Great mechanical condition 6 cyl. short bed, 5 spd. $2,900 or B.O. Call 773-6387 or 773-7450.

1986 Mazda Truck for sale by owner. Call **719-9384**.

1990 Geo-Storm (radiant red) ice cold AC AM/FM cassette radio. Good running condition. Good interior/exterior. 2 door coupe. Must sell. Asking price $4,500. O.B.O. Call **778-2034.**

1991 Ford Taurus GL 4dr. good A/C auto $3,200.00. Call Bill **773-1930.**

1993 4x4 Isuzu pick-up extended cab, 4 cylinder, 5 speed standard transmission. A/C and power steering. $8500.00 or best offer. Call **514-0766 or 772-5854.**

1996 - like new Chevrolet 2 door Cavalier - sport package - one owner - 25,000 miles. $7900 - call **692-9724.**

1996 Chevy Cavalier AC, air bags, Polk audio speakers, Kenwood CD player, racing gear exhaust. 25,000 miles runs great asking $8,900. Call **778-8803.**

1997 Honda Accord LX, 4 door, automatic, A/C, power windows, radio/cassette, champagne color, owner driver excellent - condition Asking $12,800. make a deal. Call 778-1633 or 773-3030.

92 Mazda 4WD Van - super condition, AC, CD; 90,000 miles $8,000. Call **778-7198.**

94 Ford Tempo, auto , A/C body in good condition, car runs great, asking $5,800 O.B.O. Must sell leaving Island. Call **778-2494.**

Automotive Sales: 96 Honda Accords $11,000. 95 Accords $10,000. 96 Camry $11,000. 95 Camry $10,000. We have many Toyotas, Hondas, Nissans, Explorers, Sidekicks, Rodeos, Geo-Trackers. All makes and models from 1990-1999. Some as low as $3500. Call **1-850-229-9158.**

For Sale: 1987 Ford Taxi Van runs good, needs body work $1,600.00. Also crown power amplifier 1,000 w / $250.00 cerwin vega speakers 15"x2 $300.00 12"x2 $175.00 mixer $50.00 technique pro DJ turnetable $300.00. **773-3207.**

For sale: 1992 Eddie Bauer good condition; asking $11,500 O.B.O. Contact **713-8544.**

Isuzu Rodeo 98 white 4x4. Leaving Island. Perfect condition. Call 778-2032 or 778-8646 ext. 5055.

Price Reduced. 1994, white 2dr, Pontiac Grand AM. 5 speed, only 43,000 miles. Excellent condition. But needs a/c compressor. Owner left Island. Must sell $4,950 O.B.O **773-9643.**

Antilles automotive
778-0600

'86 VW Van	$2,995
'87 Dodge Colt	$1,995
'87 VW Jetta	$2,995
'87 Niss. Maxima	$4,995
'88 Bonneville	$2,995
'88 Chev. Corsica	$1,995
'89 Jeep Cherokee	$4,995
'90 Lumina APV	$4,995
'91 Saturn Coupe	$4,995
'91 Toyota Camry	$5,995
'92 Ford Tempo	$3,995
'94 Cavalier	$4,995
'97 Kia Sephia	$5,995

Bus. Opportunity

For Sale: Bookstore in Gallows Bay. Great opportunity now! Call **773-6001**.

L.A. Rosa Tropical: Mexican Bar & Restaurant, seafood + steakhouse. for sale due to illness of owner. # 45 J La Grande Princesse. Fully equipment for low price just move in and open for business. Lots of parking space. Tele. **713-8688.**

Business Services

•DIVORCES•
$500 UNCONTESTED
$125 per hour CONTESTED
AMELIA B. JOSEPH
Attorney at Law
St. Croix Avis Building
36AB LaGrande Princesse
773-6363

Free Training Course Hospitality Industry: New Image Foundation presents Women Excel ©, a career-based training and placement program with basic and advanced computer training. Contact Nathalie 777-8883. Classes January 10 - (STX). NIFC Is An Equal opportunity employer.

Homeschool Resources
K-12
Worktexts
- various subject areas
340-778-6164
CQB Educational Consultants

If you want to improve the financial condition of your business and have your taxes done, contact **Fitzpatrick's Financial Services** at **692-1507.**

V.I. Medical Institute (STX and STT) is currently interviewing for RN's and coders. RN Clinical data abstractors to perform clinical record review on a PRN basis. Requirements: Valid VI RN license with min. of 3 yrs. experience and min. of 6 mos. acute care experience. Coder: Diagnostic validation specialist to perform independent clinical record review and assign codes (ICD-9CM), diagnostic and DRG validation. Requirements: MRA or RRA, proficiency with automated encoder/grouper and DRG validation function. Both positions require knowledge of CQI principles, excellent organization and interpersonal skills, compliance with time requirements and deadlines, computer skills. Fax resume to **(340) 712-2449** attn. Clinical Director.

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

GOTTA LOVE'EM PET SITTERS. Read what some satisfied customers are saying: "Sylvia & I find GLEPS is reliable & trustworthy." (M. Simpson, Southerland Tours) "It was very obvious our cat had been well cared for." (Terri Thomas, U.S. Airways). Call **719-9642**

Let me be your year round housekeeper or cleaner. Call Rose **772-3118.**

Help Wanted

Outstanding Competent Friendly
Bartenders, Cooks & Wait staff required.
Immediate Openings.
Apply in person **NOW!**
Mon. - Fri. 8am to 4pm
Chenay Bay Beach Resort
East End Rd. Rt. 82
C'sted, St. Croix

Start the New Year and the next Millennium as a 'U.S. Virgin Islands Real Estate Salesperson'

A U.S. Virgin Islands Real Estate Course will be conducted on St. Croix during the month of January.
This course will cover the following subjects:
- Real Estate Principles and Procedures
- U.S.V.I. Real Estate Code
- U.S.V.I. Rules and Regulations
- Real Estate Mathematics

This course has been developed to assist you in passing the U.S. Virgin Islands Real Estate Salesperson licensing examination.

The length of the course will be approximately forty hours (it may be more) and will be held on Saturdays and Tues. and Thurs. evenings. The cost in $200.00, which is tax deductible and you will make it back with your first sale.

The class size will be limited to facilitate instructor and student interaction so those who call first will be accepted. If necessary others will be added to a waiting list. To register call 773-6798.

Club Comanche Restaurant: Waiter. Short order cook needed to assist chef. Apply in person now, Mon. to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 773-0210. Experience required.

Breakfast/ lunch cook 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Re-liable** people oriented person to work at new Cafe on East End. Call Wil at **773-8231** or **773-9354**. I need someone who wants to be a star.

Club 54 needs waitresses. Must be dependable friendly and hard-working. Interested? Call **773-8002** after 12 p.m. or come by and talk to Bob.

Sales/Purchasing Clerk required in small very busy office. Must be detail oriented and computer literate. Knowledge of CAD programs, inventory and general construction a plus. Send resume to Sales/Purchasing Clerk, P.O. Box 267, Christiansted, 00821.

Travel Sales Agent (Part or Full time), Sabre trained. Goal oriented and creative. Please fax resume and contact numbers to **773-5890.**

Medical Secretary - busy office 18 hours / week afternoons. Excellent language skills required. Previous experience preferred. Send resume to secretary, RR1 Box 6814, KH. 00850.

Positions available professional jewelry sales persons, experienced only. Also qualified bench jeweler. Call **773-0674** for appointment , for interview between 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Comanche Hotel: Front desk person. Apply in person now. Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Job Title: Production Engineer The Virgin Islands Public Television is seeking applicants for the full - time positionof Production Engineer for th e St. Croix Studio. **Responsibilities:** Set-up and operate remote and studio production equipment during and in preparation for television broadcasts; operates video recording or tape equipment for studio productions. Responsible for the dubbing of tapes in various formats; serves as field engineer on remote locations; maintains good condition of equipment assigned to production department; monitors production equipment to ensure a proper state of adjustment and calibration; performs routine adjustments and emergency repairs to production equipment as needed; assists in the installation, construction and modification of pro-duction equipment; coordinates activities of television studio and control room personnel to ensure technical quality of pic-ture and sound for programs originating in studio or remote pick up points. Per-form and fulfill all other related duties, as the same may become necessary, or such duties may be specifically directed. **Qualifications:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Broadcasting Engineering or related field. Three (3) years of progressively responsible occupational experience in the television industry. Extensive knowledge in broadcast equipment and computers required. Must possess video editing skills. Closing date is January 13, 2000. Send cover letter, resume and three references to: The Virgin Islands Public Television System Attn: Jennifer Johnson, Executive Assistant P.O. Box 7879 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801.

HELP WANTED
flexible part time hours as a customer service person. Competitive salary, bonus, 401s retirement, holidays, vacation.
Resume and introduction letter to
American Beeper/Western Union
778-8844 FAX

X-Ray Technologist Wanted
Must be an ARRT Registered, "multi-skilled" Technologist.
Fax resume & References to **778-2778**

Lost & Found

Missing Dog: Small (28lbs.) male, long shiny black hair with white hair on chest and paws, light brown on legs, end of tail is bent, answers to the name of "Boots". Missing from Rosegate area of Work and Rest, St. Croix on Wednesday, 5th of January. Please call, he's part of the family: 773-4909 (home),778-8313 (work, ask for Diane), or 514-1318 (cell phone). Reward, $500. no questions asked.

Missing Cat. Have you seen "Mouse?" She is a slender gray and white adult cat that was missing on Saturday January 1st in the Estate Shoys area. If you see her please call Elizabeth at **773–2100, ext 710**

- REWARD -
Chris lost her dolphin/aquamarine bracelet at Tutto Bené New Year's Eve. If found ~ please return to Danish Shop - Kings Alley 773-0067 ~ such sentiment.
Thank you!

Miscellaneous

ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS!!
Coming soon! **"Pageantry of People in Parades"** - A photo contest to showcase your talents. Take lots of pictures at the Children's and Adults' Parades and watch for the contest and rules announcement from **Lutheran Social Services.** You can win fame and fortune.

Sam Goody
is holding a final signing for
Lee Anduze
TODAY FRIDAY FROM 1-5PM
FREE posters. CD's and millennium t-shirts for sale.

There was a place called No Name where Escargot was served in Mushroom Caps its now being served in Cane Bay as one of Boz's nighttime App's.

Food & Entertainment

RAINBOW BEACH CLUB
F'sted 772-0002
HOT TIMES | COLD BEER
Sunday, Jan. 9th
OUTRAGE
3PM to 7PM

OFF THE WALL
BREAKFAST by the SEA
Served Daily
8am to 11am
Cane Bay, North Shore Rd.
778-4771

The Deep End Bar
What a GREAT idea!
Fun, Food, & Friends
Happy hour daily 5-7pm
1/2 price domestic beer and wine.
Well drinks $1.50
Daily lunch and dinner
Tamarind Reef Hotel, East End Road
Next to Green Cay Marina

FOOD **CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE** FUN
DAILY LUNCH AND DINNER SPECIALS
Wed. **All U Can Eat Pasta**
Thurs. **John Melnick** The Piano Man, Pork Special
Fri. **Mark Eckard** Guitar Man, BBQ Special
Sat. **Llewellyn** Calypso Music, Prime Rib
Sun. **All Stars** Steel Pan Band
East End Road 773-1119

CLUB 54 773-8002 club54.net
CONGRATULATIONS
Leslie Highfield is going to NY! Thanks to all the finalists, contestants, judges, sponsors, and a great audience! The party continues every Tuesday Night.
Thurs 1/6 GRAVITY
Friday 1/7 CODE 9
Sat 1/8 RIVERWATERS

TONIGHT

PASTARAMA!
Choose from four fabulous Entrees!
salad & bread! only $10.99
BILL BASS STEEL PAN!
CHENAY BAY BEACH RESORT
HAPPY HOURS - 3-7pm
Dom. beer, wine, well drinks
Just Show Up! 773-2918
6pm until its gone

RAINBOW BEACH CLUB
F'sted 772-0002
HOT TIMES | COLD BEER
Sunday, Jan. 9th
OUTRAGE
3PM to 7PM

THE SALOON in Frederiksted
#1 Strand St. upstairs
F'sted overlooking Pier!!!
A Bar For the 21st Century
NEW LOCATION
(formerly Old Wendy's)
Now Serving
BREAKFAST 7:30 till 1pm
LUNCH 11am till 6pm
DINNER 6pm till 1:30am
(Friday & Saturday)
Saturday Nite
Mark Eckard
772-BEER



Chandler's Wharf Gallows Bay
Live Jazz Saturdays
9pm till 1am
Dinner Tues. thru Sat.
6pm till 10pm
773-3330

Psychics\Astrology

Alex - Gifted Relationship Specialist. Makes lover want only you. Specializes love, separation, divorce. Restores sex, passion, romance. Solves all problems. Know what the millennium holds for you. Call **1-956-664-1068.**

Attention: David will tell you what no one will. Whatever you come for that's what you get. Unseen enemies, love, luck and much more. Before you call anyone else try me first. **772-9329** 8:00-10:00 pm.

Free Sample Reading. Deanna psychic spiritualist. Solves deepest problems. Reunites separated, love, marriage, business. Removes evil influences. Reveals future. Guaranteed results. Florida **1-888-302-9628.**

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

Ashley Psychic Spiritualist. Mind, body, soul cleansing. Solves all problems. Reunites separated lovers. Stops divorce, break-ups, cheating, arguing. Guaranteed results. Don't wait to call 1-321-784-3765 / 1-877-333-4900

Free Reading. Spiritual Healer. Dr. Berry. Returns loved ones. Removes bad luck from home, job, family, names, enemies. He has roots, herbs, oils for all conditions. Guaranteed immediate results. 1-561-563-9499.

Elizabeth Montgomery Miracle Worker. Louisana Bayou psychic love specialist. Rootworker. Solves all problems. Reunites lovers, marriage, business, health. 2 free questions. 1-888-560-7797 / 1-318-636-0410.

Messages

Psalm 6:1
O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS
NEW CLASSIFIED ADS
$4.25 For 35 words or less per day.
5 cents for each additional word.
(24 hour deadline by 12 noon)
CANCELLATIONS!
CORRECTIONS:
Call 773-2300 before 11:00 a.m. for any corrections or cancellations.
CHECK YOUR AD THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR MAJOR ERRORS IN THE FIRST DAY' S INSERTION

Credits and adjustments are to be made only for errors which significantly alter the effectiveness of the ad, such as a wrong price or telephone number.
CREDIT REFUNDS ARE GIVEN ONLY when ads are cancelled before publication.
NO CASH REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN
WE DO NOT ACCEPT CHECKS FOR "SALE ADS."



IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, PLAINTIFF, CIVIL NO. 451/1999
vs. ACTION FOR DEBT AND FORECLOSURE
HUGH BAILEY, JASSET BAILEY and ELDON J. PROVIDENCE a/k/a ELDON PROVIDENCE,
DEFENDANTS.

SUMMONS

TO: HUGH BAILEY
Plot No. 1033 of Estate Williams Delight
Frederiksted, St. Croix

Within the time limited by law (30) days after the last publication date of this Summons, you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, and answer to a Complaint filed against you in this action and, in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as requested in the Complaint in this action.

Witness my hand and the seal of this Court this 15th day of December 1999.

YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
Clerk of the Court

SAMUEL T. GREY, Esq.
Nichols Newman Logan & D'Eramo, PC
No. 1131 King Street
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

12/17,24/1999 1/4,7, 2000

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, PLAINTIFF, CIVIL NO. 451/1999
vs. ACTION FOR DEBT AND FORECLOSURE
HUGH BAILEY, JASSET BAILEY and ELDON J. PROVIDENCE a/k/a ELDON PROVIDENCE,
DEFENDANTS.

SUMMONS

TO: JASSET BAILEY
Plot No. 1033 of Estate Williams Delight
Frederiksted, St. Croix

Within the time limited by law (30) days after the last publication date of this Summons, you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, and answer to a Complaint filed against you in this action and, in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as requested in the Complaint in this action.

Witness my hand and the seal of this Court this 15th day of December 1999.

YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
Clerk of the Court

SAMUEL T. GREY, Esq.
Nichols Newman Logan & D'Eramo, PC
No. 1131 King Street
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

12/17,24/1999 1/4,7, 2000

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

The Bank of Nova Scotia, Plaintiff, Civil No. 679/1999
Action for Debt and Mortgage Foreclosure
vs.
Linda C. Capel-Galiber,
Defendant.

SUMMONS

TO: Linda C. Capel-Galiber
Unit No. 2-B Caribbean View Condominium
Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI.

Within the time limited by law (30) days after the last publication date of this Summons, you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, and answer to a Complaint filed against you in this action and, in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as requested in the Complaint in this action.

Witness my hand and the seal of this Court this 14th day of December 1999.

YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
Clerk of the Court

SAMUEL T. GREY, Esq.
Nichols Newman Logan & D'Eramo, PC
No. 1131 King Street
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

12/17,24,/1999 1/1,7/2000

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, PLAINTIFF, CIVIL NO. 299/1999
ACTION FOR DEPT AND FORECLOSURE
vs.
BASIL D. DAVIS a/k/a BASIL DAVIS and ALBERTINE DAVIS f/k/a ALBERTINE WEBBE,
DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY ON EXECUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of 5 V.I.C. §471 et seq., the V.I. Marshal shall sell at public auction on February 4, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., at the Office of the V.I. Marshal in the Hall of Justice Building, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, the following real property situate in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in the name of Defendants BASIL D. DAVIS a/k/a BASIL DAVIS and ALBERTINE DAVIS f/k/a ALBERTINE WEBBE, to satisfy the execution issued herein for judgment entered on September 21, 1999, against de-fendants BASIL D. DAVIS a/k/a BASIL DAVIS and ALBERTINE DAVIS f/k/a ALBERTINE WEBBE in this matter. The below-described property shall be sold as stated herein:

Plot No. 369 (0.2451 U.S. Acre) of Estate Enfield Green, Prince Quarter, as shown on PWD Drawing No. 4766 dated March 23, 1992, revised June 09, 1992;

TOGETHER WITH all of the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging without any representation or guarantee. The above described property is an unimproved lot.

Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price is to be paid in cash, certified or bank check at the time of sale, balance within thirty (30) days. Sale is further subject to all provisions of Title 5, Chapter 43 of the Virgin Islands Code.

LEAYLE PICKERING
Territorial Court Marshal

DATE: Dec. 8, 1999 By: SOBERS JOSEPH

Acting Assistant Marshal
SAMUEL T. GREY, Esq.
NICHOLS NEWMAN LOGAN & D'ERAMO, P.C.
1131 KING STREET
CHRISTIANSTED, ST. CROIX

12/17,24/1999 1/4,7, 2000

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

HEZEKIAH O. WALCOTT Plaintiff, CIVIL NO. 765/1999
v. ACTION FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION
THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
Defendant

SUMMONS

To: The Royal Bank of Canada
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands

Within the time limited by law thirty (30) days after the last publication date of this Summons you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands and answer to a Complaint filed against you in this action. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as requested in the Complaint in this action.

Witness my hand and the seal of this Court this 3rd day of January 2000.

YVONNE V. WESSLEHOFT
Clerk of the Court

Jeffrey B.C. Moorhead, Esq.
1132 King Street
Christiansted St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820-4943

1/7,14,21,28/2000

TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS/DIVISION OF ST. CROIX
ESTATE OF GENOVEVA SANTIANGO KIDD - PROBATE NO. 88/99.

ANY PERSON OR ENTITY CLAIMING TO BE NEXT OF KIN OR HAVING ANY CLAIM AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GENOVEVA SANTIAGO KIDD - PROBATE FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NO. 88/1999. TERRITORIAL COURT OF ST. CROIX OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS IS HEREBY ADVISED TO PRESENT SUCH CLAIM WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE LAST DATE OF THIS PUB-LICATION TO FRANK PADILLA. ATTORNEY FOR THIS ESTATE - 429 KING STREET, F'STED., ST. CROIX, V.I. 00804 OR TO THE TERRITORIAL COURT AT KINGSHILL, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I.

12/17,24,31/1999 1/7/2000

IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLAND
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
LINTON MICHAEL ALEXANDER
TO ASSUME THE NAME OF: FAM NO. N12/1999

KHEFA ALEXISS, JR. CHANGE OF NAME
Petitioner

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands Division of St. Croix by Linton Michael Alexander praying for an order changing his name to KHEFA ALEXISS, JR.

All persons objecting to the granting of said petition may do so by appearing and showing cause if they have any reason why the same should not be granted.

DATED: 12/30/99

LINTON MICHAEL ALEXANDER
P.O. BOX 6881, Sunny Isle
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00823

12/31/1999 1/7,14,21/2000

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-20-00

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the province of my office, I , the undersigned, Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, being satisfied by due proof, hereby certify that consent by the stockholders to the dissolution of the domestic corporation known by the firm name and style of DELTA FSC NINE, INC. has been filed with this office in accordance with law, pursuant to Section 283 (d) of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code.

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, DELTA FSC NINE, INC. is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Sections 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective October 19, 1999.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 22nd Day of November A.D. 1999.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor

12 / 31 / 1999 1 / 7, 14, 21 / 2000

GOVERNMENT OF
aTHE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-21-00

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the province of my office, I , the undersigned, Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, being satisfied by due proof, hereby certify that consent by the stockholders to the dissolution of the domestic corporation known by the firm name and style of DELTA FSC EIGHT, INC. has been filed with this office in accordance with law, pursuant to Section 283 (d) of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code.

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, DELTA FSC EIGHT, INC. is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Sections 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective October 19, 1999.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 22nd Day of November A.D. 1999.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor

12 / 31 / 1999 1 / 7, 14, 21 / 2000

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-19-00

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

It being within the province of my office, I , the undersigned, Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, being satisfied by due proof, hereby certify that consent by the stockholders to the dissolution of the domestic corporation known by the firm name and style of DELTA FSC TEN, INC. has been filed with this office in accordance with law, pursuant to Section 283 (d) of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code.

I do further certify that, pursuant to consent to dissolution thus filed, DELTA FSC TEN, INC. is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Sections 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective October 19, 1999.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 22nd Day of November A.D. 1999.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor

12 / 31 / 1999 1 / 7, 14, 21 / 2000

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

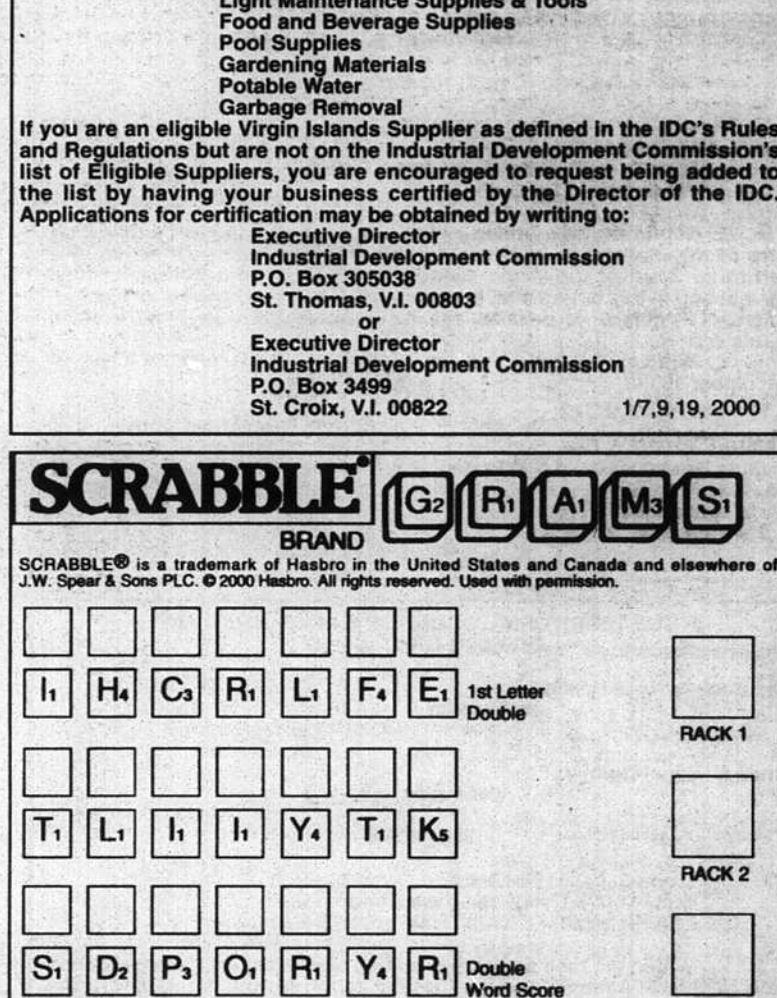
Hotel Holding Corporation DBA/ Tamarind Reef Hotel, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Accounting & Legal Services
Housekeeping Supplies
Office Supplies
Light Maintenance Supplies & Tools
Food and Beverage Supplies
Pool Supplies
Gardening Materials
Potable Water
Garbage Removal

If you are an eligible Virgin Islands Supplier as defined in the IDC's Rules and Regulations but are not on the Industrial Development Commission's list of Eligible Suppliers, you are encouraged to request being added to the list by having your business certified by the Director of the IDC. Applications for certification may be obtained by writing to:

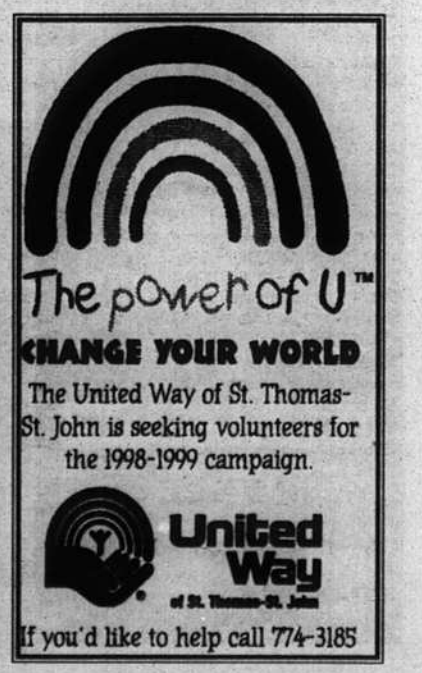
Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
St. Thomas, V.I. 00803
or
Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 3499
St. Croix, V.I. 00822

1/7,9,19, 2000









Basketball
NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	20	10	.667	—
New York	19	12	.613	1 1/2
Philadelphia	18	15	.545	3 1/2
Orlando	15	16	.484	5 1/2
Boston	13	17	.433	7
New Jersey	12	19	.387	8 1/2
Washington	11	20	.355	9 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	21	9	.700	—
Charlotte	18	12	.600	3
Toronto	17	13	.567	4
Milwaukee	18	14	.563	4
Detroit	16	14	.533	5
Cleveland	12	19	.387	9 1/2
Atlanta	11	19	.367	10
Chicago	2	26	.071	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	11	.656	—
Utah	19	10	.655	1/2
Denver	16	14	.533	4
Minnesota	14	14	.500	5
Houston	10	21	.323	10 1/2
Dallas	9	22	.290	11 1/2
Vancouver	7	23	.233	13

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	26	5	.839	—
Portland	24	7	.774	2
Sacramento	18	10	.643	6 1/2
Phoenix	19	11	.633	6 1/2
Seattle	19	12	.613	7
LA Clippers	9	21	.300	16 1/2
Golden State	6	24	.200	19 1/2

Tuesday's Games
Indiana 116, New Jersey 111
Portland 114, Toronto 90
New York 96, Boston 88
Vancouver 91, Miami 87
Sacramento 111, Cleveland 107
Milwaukee 116, Atlanta 113
Minnesota 91, San Antonio 88
Seattle 103, Houston 96
Phoenix 86, Charlotte 80
Denver 98, Dallas 96
L.A. Lakers 122, L.A. Clippers 98

Wednesday's Games
Philadelphia 113, Golden State 92
Orlando 116, Vancouver 96
Detroit 120, Atlanta 108
Utah 118, Charlotte 96
Seattle 99, San Antonio 96
Chicago 77, Washington 66
L.A. Lakers 118, L.A. Clippers 101

Thursday's Games
Toronto 101, Sacramento 89
Houston vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Indiana at Denver, 9 p.m.

Friday's Games
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Boston, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Orlando, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
New Jersey vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Denver, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Indiana at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Vancouver at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 9 p.m.

NBA BOX

Kings-Raptors

SACRAMENTO (89)

Williamson 3-9 2-2 8, Webber 11-21 4-4 27, Divac 4-12 5-6 13, Anderson 1-7 0-0 2, J.Williams 2-11 0-0 5, Pollard 2-3 2-2 6, Stojakovic 0-4 0-0 0, Martin 0-3 0-0 0, Barry 6-7 2-2 14, Funderburke 3-6 0-0 6, Corbin 0-1 0-0 0, Delk 4-5 0-0 8. Totals 36-89 15-16 89.

TORONTO (101)

V.Carter 7-23 0-0 14, Oakley 10-18 0-0 20, Davis 3-7 4-4 10, Christie 6-17 0-0 16, A.Williams 2-6 0-0 5, Willis 3-10 1-2 7, McGrady 7-16 1-3 15, Stewart 1-1 0-0 2, Bogues 6-8 0-0 12. Totals 45-106 6-9 101.

Sacramento	16	25	34	14 — 89
Toronto	30	25	21	25 — 101

3-Point Goals—Sacramento 2-12 (Webber 1-2, J.Williams 1-7, Divac 0-1, Anderson 0-2), Toronto 5-12 (Christie 4-9, A.Williams 1-2, V.Carter 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 57 (Webber 19), Toronto 61 (Oakley 16). Assists—Sacramento 16 (J.Williams 4), Toronto 34 (A.Williams 10). Total fouls—Sacramento 16, Toronto 18. Technicals—Divac, Willis. A—19,800 (19,800).

NBA Leaders

Football
NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Indianapolis	13	3	0	.813	423	333
y-Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	320	229
y-Miami	9	7	0	.563	326	336
N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500	308	309
New England	8	8	0	.500	299	284

Central

x-Jacksonville	14	2	0	.875	396	217
y-Tennessee	13	3	0	.813	392	324
Baltimore	8	8	0	.500	324	277
Pittsburgh	6	10	0	.375	317	320
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250	283	460
Cleveland	2	14	0	.125	217	437

West

x-Seattle	9	7	0	.563	338	298
Kansas City	9	7	0	.563	390	322
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	269	316
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	390	329
Denver	6	10	0	.375	314	318

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Washington	10	6	0	.625	443	377
y-Dallas	8	8	0	.500	352	276
N.Y. Giants	7	9	0	.438	299	358
Arizona	6	10	0	.375	245	382
Philadelphia	5	11	0	.313	272	357

Central

x-Tampa Bay	11	5	0	.688	270	235
y-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	399	335
y-Detroit	8	8	0	.500	322	323
Green Bay	8	8	0	.500	357	341
Chicago	6	10	0	.375	272	341

West

x-St. Louis	13	3	0	.813	526	242
Carolina	8	8	0	.500	421	381
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	251	351
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	266	419
New Orleans	3	13	0	.188	260	434

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Games
Green Bay 49, Arizona 24
New England 20, Baltimore 3
Jacksonville 24, Cincinnati 7
Minnesota 24, Detroit 17
Buffalo 31, Indianapolis 6
Carolina 45, New Orleans 13
Oakland 41, Kansas City 38, OT
Philadelphia 38, St. Louis 31
New York Jets 19, Seattle 9
Tampa Bay 20, Chicago 6
Dallas 26, New York Giants 18
Washington 21, Miami 10
San Diego 12, Denver 6
Tennessee 47, Pittsburgh 36
OPEN: Cleveland

Monday's Game
San Francisco at Atlanta, 9 p.m.

End Regular Season

NFL Playoff Glance
All Times EST

Wild Card Games
Saturday, Jan. 8
Buffalo at Tennessee, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Detroit at Washington, 4:05 p.m. (ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 9
Dallas at Minnesota, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Miami at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Games
Saturday, Jan. 15
Buffalo, Miami or Tennessee at Jacksonville, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Dallas, Minnesota or Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 16
Dallas, Detroit or Minnesota at St. Louis, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Buffalo, Seattle or Tennessee at Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 23
AFC championship, TBA (CBS)
NFC championship, TBA (FOX)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 30
At Atlanta, 6:18 p.m. (ABC)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 6
at Honolulu (ABC)

Harrah's Odds

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Odds for this week's NFL playoff games as provided by Harrah's Reno Casino & Sportsbook:

NFL
Wild Card Playoffs

Saturday

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Tennessee	5	Buffalo
at Washington	6	Detroit

Sunday

at Minnesota	7	Dallas
at Seattle	3 1/2	Miami

Hockey
NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	22	12	5	2	51	116	96
Philadelphia	22	11	6	1	51	121	89
Pittsburgh	17	17	3	5	42	123	107
NY Rangers	12	19	7	3	34	95	111
NY Islanders	9	23	5	0	23	77	122

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	24	12	4	2	54	122	92
Ottawa	20	13	6	2	48	105	94
Boston	14	16	10	2	40	104	109
Buffalo	16	19	5	1	38	103	110
Montreal	12	22	5	1	30	85	103

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	21	13	3	3	48	115	91
Carolina	15	17	7	0	37	95	104
Washington	14	16	7	1	36	104	102
Tampa Bay	10	21	5	3	28	100	128
Atlanta	9	25	4	3	25	87	142

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	25	11	4	1	55	142	99
St. Louis	23	11	6	0	52	120	84
Nashville	14	20	5	2	35	101	114
Chicago	11	22	6	2	30	106	121

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	18	16	5	1	42	108	104
Edmonton	13	17	10	5	41	102	110
Calgary	17	17	5	1	40	91	109
Vancouver	12	18	7	3	34	95	112

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	22	13	4	0	48	124	104
San Jose	20	19	4	3	47	121	108
Dallas	20	15	5	1	46	97	92
Los Angeles	17	15	7	2	43	119	113
Anaheim	18	17	4	1	41	96	94

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

Wednesday's Games
New Jersey 3, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Rangers 3, Toronto 2, OT
Dallas 3, Nashville 1
Colorado 4, Calgary 0
San Jose 1, Edmonton 1, tie
Tampa Bay 3, Vancouver 3, tie
Florida 5, Anaheim 1

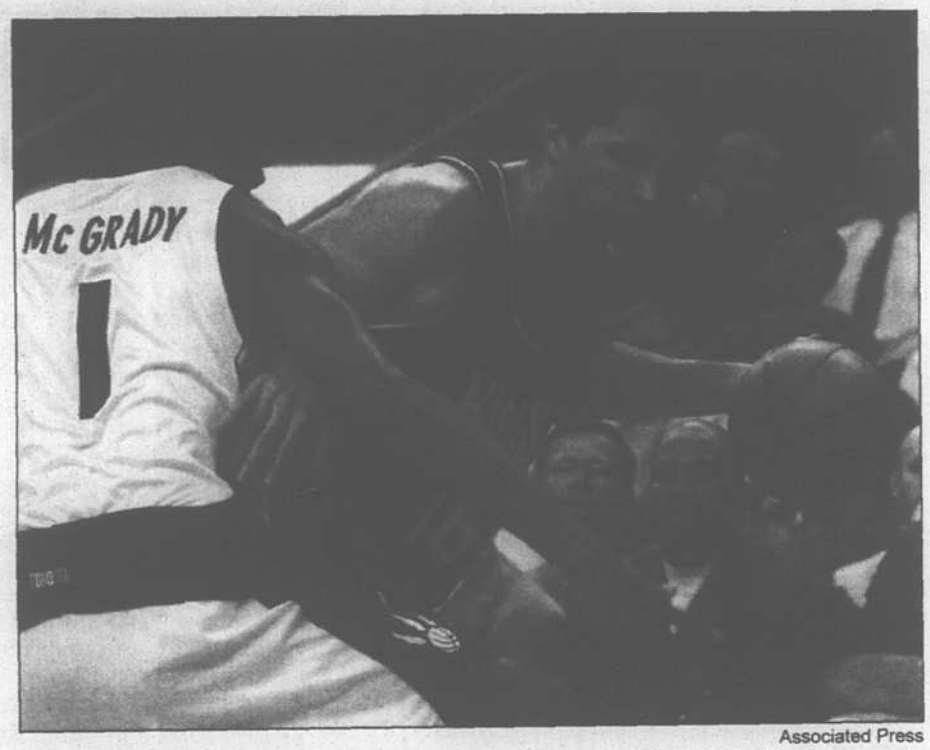
Thursday's Games
Carolina at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Florida at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Montreal at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

Saturday's Games
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Florida at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Sports on the air
Friday, Jan. 7

BOXING
10:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Lightweights, Juan Lazcano (19-2-1) vs. Julian Wheeler (19-4-1) at Sacramento, Calif.
GOLF
7 p.m.
ESPN — PGA, Mercedes Championships, second round, at Maui, Hawaii
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
TNT — New York at Orlando
10:30 p.m.
TNT — San Antonio at Phoenix
NHL HOCKEY
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Anaheim at Carolina
SAILING
1 a.m.
ESPN2 — America's Cup, challenge rounds, challenger semifinals, at Auckland, New Zealand (delayed tape)



Associated Press
Toronto Raptors forward Tracy McGrady (1) loses his balance as he is fouled by Sacramento Kings guard Predrag Stojakovic during first half NBA action in Toronto on Thursday.

Raptors wipe out Kings, 101-89

TORONTO (AP) — Charles Oakley had a season-high 20 points and 16 rebounds as the Toronto Raptors beat the Sacramento Kings 101-89 on Thursday night, snapping the Kings' four-game winning streak.

Doug Christie hit four 3-pointers and had 16 points, and Tracy McGrady added 15 to help Toronto overcome Vince Carter's second subpar performance since being left off the U.S. Olympic team.

Carter, coming off a 13-point effort Tuesday night against Portland, was 7-of-23 from the field and scored 14 points.

Carter, the NBA rookie of the year last season, did finish strong, closing with a two-handed dunk and another impressive basket off Muggsy Bogues' alley-oop pass.

While Carter struggled for Toronto, fellow second-year star Jason Williams had only five points and four assists for the Kings.

Bogues finished with 12 points, and Antonio Davis had 10 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Webber led Sacramento with 27 points and 19 rebounds, and Jon Barry added 14 points.

The Raptors got off to a fast start, outshooting the Kings 48 percent to 29 percent in the first quarter to take a 30-16 lead.

With Oakley hitting several long-range jumpers, Toronto opened a 20-point lead midway through the second quarter.

The Kings rallied to briefly take the lead late in the third quarter on Barry's layup that made it 75-74. But McGrady came back with a driving layup with 22.9 seconds left.

The Kings, who finish their four-game road trip in Boston on Friday night, have allowed 100 points or more in 15 of their last 18 games.

Parcells debates coaching

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Parcells is certain he doesn't want to coach anymore. He can't be sure he'll be able to hold to that vow.

In the wake of the resignation of his hand-chosen assistant, Bill Belichick, only 24 hours after Parcells stepped down as coach of the New York Jets, nothing is a sure thing with the team.

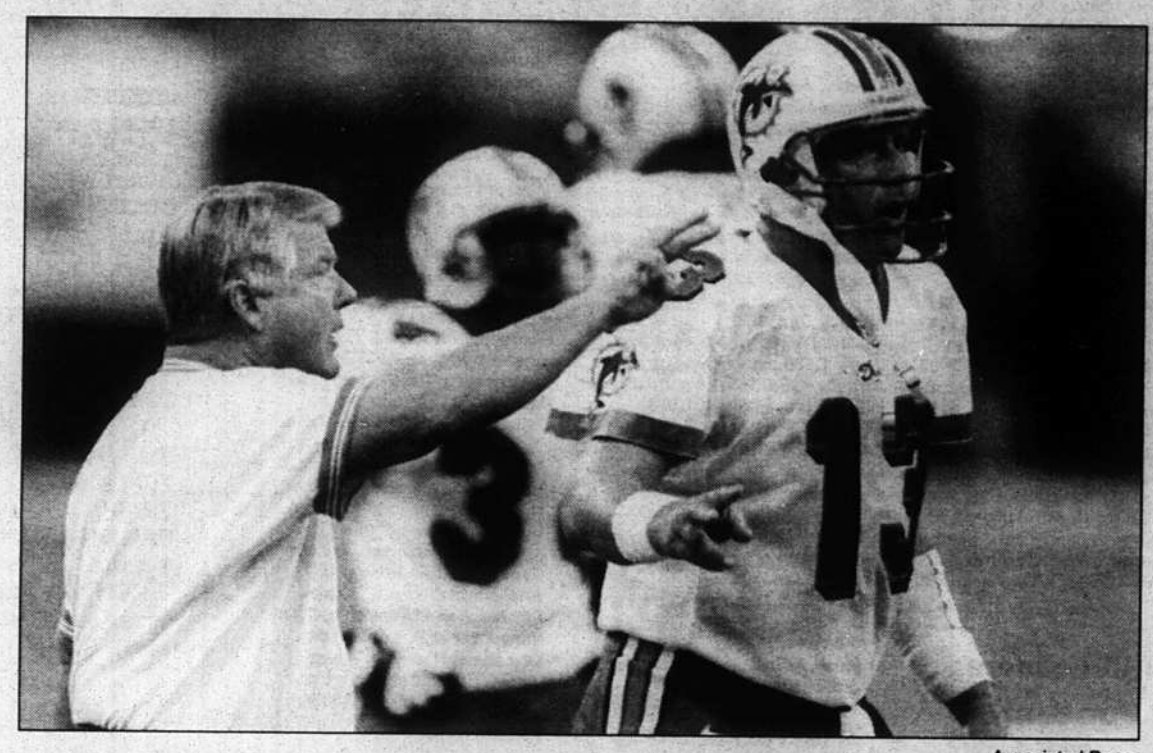
It is about to be sold, perhaps in the next few days, and Parcells will wait until he speaks to the winning bidder before making any commitments.

"This is my watch," Parcells said in a conference call Thursday. "I have a responsibility to the organization and I'm in charge of finding a new coach now. I will not abandon the franchise.

"What I said Monday is what is my intention to follow through with. I am not trying to open any doors or windows, but I won't let this franchise go down the tubes. I am going to say this is on my watch and I am going to ensure something good will happen from this."

Not much good has happened for the Jets this week. When Parcells moved into his job as chief of football operations, it appeared the transition to Belichick as coach would be smooth. Instead, the longtime defensive coordinator under Parcells abruptly quit, citing the uncertainty surrounding the franchise and what would be Parcells' role.

But Belichick apparently was miffed that he couldn't talk to other teams, specifically the Patriots, about their coaching opening. The NFL ruled that Belichick's contract, signed in 1997 when he and Parcells left New England for New York, was binding.



Associated Press

Miami Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson (left) sends in a play with quarterback Dan Marino in the third quarter against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapois, Oct. 10. The AFC West champion Seattle Seahawks and the Dolphins, the last AFC wild-card team, meet Sunday.

Seahawks, Dolphins get last chance

SEATTLE (AP) — Trace Armstrong of the Miami Dolphins made a statement that might get a lot of argument from some NFL teams not in the playoffs this week.

"There are 19 teams that are not as good as them or us," the defensive end said.

The Seattle Seahawks (9-7) and the Dolphins (9-7) got into the playoffs on the final day of the season, when they both lost for the fifth time in six weeks.

The New York Jets, who aren't in the playoffs, could argue with Armstrong. They beat the Seahawks 19-9 last Sunday. The loss appeared to knock Seattle out of the playoffs while letting Miami in. Fifty minutes later, Kansas City lost in overtime to Oakland and the Seahawks were in.

The AFC West champion Seahawks and the Dolphins, the last AFC wild-card team, meet Sunday. It will be the final game in the Kingdome.

The Seahawks are in the playoffs for the first time since 1988, the longest drought in the league. The Dolphins haven't won a playoff game on the road since 1974.

The Dolphins, who won seven of eight in the first half of this season, lost to the Jets 38-31 at home and 21-10 at Washington in their final two games.

"For a team with so much talent, we squandered it this season," Dolphins defensive end Rich Owens said. "Now is our chance to make up for it."

Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren, who previously coached at Green Bay, never has lost a playoff game at home. If he extends that record to 6-0, Sunday's game might be the last for Miami coach Jimmy Johnson and 17-year veteran quarterback Dan Marino.

Marino, who faced the Seahawks as a rookie in 1983 and again in 1984, likes his team's chances against a Seattle team that went in reverse after going 8-2.

"If we win three games, we're in the Super Bowl," said Marino, who played and lost in the 1985 Super Bowl against San Francisco. "When we play well, we can beat anybody."

Said Johnson, who coached two Super Bowl champions at Dallas: "I like our chances."

Bennett expects to return to the Colts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Linebacker Cornelius Bennett, the leading tackler for the Indianapolis Colts this season, was optimistic Thursday that he could overcome a torn ligament in his left knee and return for the playoffs.



Bennett

Bennett, who started all 16 games, tore his medial collateral ligament and also injured his posterior cruciate ligament when he was blocked by Buffalo's Antowain Smith on the Bills' opening offensive play of Sunday's game.

He watched the Colts practice Thursday and then said reports he might miss the playoffs were premature.

"I'm optimistic. I normally heal fast. The way I'm healing right now is pretty good. We'll re-evaluate on Monday," Bennett said.

The Colts have a first-round bye in the playoffs and will play either Seattle, Buffalo or Tennessee in the RCA Dome on Jan. 16. "If not next week, hopefully we can win and I'll get a chance to play the following week," Bennett said.

Bennett said his MCL was torn and that the PCL was only stretched. It had been feared that both ligaments were torn.

"I'm walking around pretty decent. It's not as loose as one would think with an MCL injury, and that's why I'm optimistic," Bennett said.

Bryant Young's return from severe injury earns comeback award

NEW YORK (AP) — Bryant Young knew he was all the way back from a horrifying leg injury when he began getting double-teamed again.

The San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle received further proof Thursday when he was selected by The Associated Press as the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year.

"It's special because it's the award that shows overcoming adversity and obstacles in one's career," Young said. "I think highly of that award."

Young was an overwhelming choice by a nationwide panel of 50 media members, getting 20 votes. Perhaps the voters recalled the seriousness of Young's injury.

On Nov. 30, 1998, Young broke both bones in his lower right leg, the result of a freak collision with teammate Ken Norton Jr. They were closing in from opposite directions to tackle New York Giants quarterback Kent Graham when the linebacker's helmet struck Young's leg, snapping the tibia and fibula.

The injury was so severe it was considered career-threatening. But Young completed a vigorous rehabilitation and was back in the starting lineup for the season opener at Jacksonville. A 15-inch stabilizing titanium rod in his tibia, which at times irritated his knee, will be removed after the Pro Bowl.

"I feel like I've made a giant step forward and once I get that hardware out of my leg, once I get those procedures done, then that will all behind me," Young said. "I'm looking forward to next year being an even better year for me."

This season wasn't bad individually, although the 49ers had their worst year since 1982, going 4-12. Young was one of the few defensive players to show any consistency, and he wound up with a team-high 11 sacks despite little help from his teammates.

"From a team perspective, I wish we had a better record and that we were in the playoffs," Young said. "That would have been the icing on the cake, but it didn't happen. So from that standpoint, there's some disappointment, but I felt good about being able to overcome adversity and play again."

To play at such a high level was what impressed 49ers coach Steve Mariucci.



Associated Press

San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman Bryant Young grimaces as he hits a blocking sled during practice at the 49ers training camp in Stockton, Calif., in this Aug. 5 photo.

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Briefs

Timberwolves activate Garrett

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Timberwolves center Dean Garrett, limited to 13 games this season because of knee injuries, was activated from the injured list Thursday.

Garrett, in his third season with Minnesota, is averaging 2.2 points and 3.4 rebounds in 12.4 minutes.

The Timberwolves' active roster stood at 11 for Thursday night's home game against Portland.

Harding uninjured in pickup accident

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Tonya Harding was not injured when her truck skidded off the road and landed in a ditch Thursday.

The accident occurred six years to the day her figure-skating rival, Nancy Kerrigan, was attacked after she practiced for the national figure skating championship in Detroit. Harding, her husband and his friends were later found to have been involved in the attack.

Harding was driving her pickup truck in rural Clark County when she hit some ice and skidded about 30 feet and landed in the ditch.

She was not injured, but threatened a lawsuit if a photographer from a Vancouver newspaper took her picture. Harding's male friend threatened to break the photographer's camera.

The photograph appeared in the Thursday edition of The Columbian.

Police did not cite Harding.

Warner, Vermeil win Maxwell awards

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (AP) — St. Louis Rams Pro Bowl quarterback Kurt Warner is the winner of the Maxwell Football Club's 41st annual professional player of the year award.

Warner received 509 first-place votes among 1,005 cast. Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts was second with 283 votes, and Warner's teammate, Marshall Faulk, was third with 157 in results released Thursday.

The 11th annual Greasy Neale Award for pro coach of the year went to St. Louis' Dick Vermeil. He received 676 of the 1,005 votes cast to 218 for Jim Mora of the Colts and 36 for Jacksonville's Tom Coughlin.

The Maxwell Award winners are chosen by NFL coaching staffs and players, members of the Maxwell Football Club, the Pro Writers of America Association and local media. The awards will be presented Feb. 29.



Associated Press

Notah Begay III of Albuquerque, N.M., chips the ball to the third green of the Plantation Course during first round play of the Mercedes Championships in Kapalua, Hawaii Thursday, Jan. 6.

Woods, Duval keep fitness secrets

Both golfers getting buff for the championship game

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — David Duval, lean and chiseled from a disciplined fitness program, was being interviewed by a television station during the Mercedes Championship as Tim Herron — the player known as "Lumpy" — looked on.

Duval's new look is getting a lot of attention.

How did he do it? Duval wasn't forthcoming, either because he was tired of talking about it or didn't want to divulge his routine.

"There's no secret," he said. "Go work hard and eat well, and that will happen."

What few details Duval did share include lifting weights every day but one over a two-week period. He does six to eight repetitions, decreasing the weight with each set, hitting every muscle group in a workout that lasts just over an hour.

"Unless you tax your muscles, you're not going to get any stronger," Duval said.

He also is particular on his eating habits, although he won't say exactly what that is.

"I did not go on a diet," he said. "I've lost very little weight."

Duval said his program is not related to golf, nor does the extra muscle put any more distance behind his length. It's a matter of feeling athletic, which Duval feels is very important.

Tiger Woods also is a fitness buff, having added 20 pounds onto his 158-pound frame when he first came on tour near the end of 1996.

"It's difficult to compete against players who are so much stronger than you are," he said. "In any other sport, if you're not stronger, you're either going to get your butt kicked, run over, someone is going to hit more home runs than you. You just need to get stronger to keep up."

So, what does Woods do? That apparently will remain a secret. Asked whether he lifted weights before every round at the PGA Championship, Woods replied, "Maybe."

Can you talk about your regimen?

"No," he said. "What I do is what I do."

Whatever it is that he and Duval are doing appears to be working.

Cavaliers extend Golden State's losing streak

The Warriors take home their eighth straight loss this season

CLEVELAND (AP) — Lamond Murray scored 20 points, rookie Andre Miller added 13 and the Cleveland Cavaliers finally put somebody away in the fourth quarter with a 90-75 victory Thursday night over Golden Sate, the Warriors' eighth straight loss.

Cleveland was desperate for a victory after dropping 10 of its last 11, and thankfully ran into a team having more problems. It was ugly, but the Cavs will take it.

The Warriors, playing without second-leading scorer John Starks, shot a season-low 31 percent from the field and matched a season-low for points.

Miller added seven assists and effectively ran the offense in the fourth for Cleveland, which took a 12-point lead into the final 12 minutes and never let the Warriors get any closer.

Antawn Jamison scored 22 points on 10-of-28 shooting and Mookie Blaylock added 16 for the Warriors. Rookie Vonteego Cummings started in place of Starks, who was not in uniform because of tendinitis in his right knee. Cummings had 12 points.

Adonal Foyle had 13 rebounds for Golden State.

Miller scored six points as the Cavs closed a dreadful third quarter with a 12-3 run to open a 70-58 lead.

Neither team could get anything going offensively in the period, and as the Warriors launched brick after brick, Golden State coach Garry St. Jean came over to the scorer's table to ask how poorly his team was shooting.



Associated Press

Atlanta Braves relief pitcher John Rocker celebrates at the end of the Braves' 1-0 win over the New York Mets in Game 3 of the NL Championship Series, Oct. 15, in New York.

Rocker to undergo evaluation

ATLANTA (AP) — John Rocker was ordered by baseball to undergo psychological tests before deciding whether to punish the outspoken reliever for remarks he made disparaging gays, minorities and immigrants.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday he will await the evaluation of the Atlanta Braves star before deciding on any disciplinary action.

"Mr. Rocker's recent remarks made to a national magazine reporter were reprehensible and completely inexcusable," Selig said in a statement. "I am profoundly concerned about the nature of those comments as well as by certain other aspects of his behavior."

Selig said he will take "whatever additional action that I consider to be necessary" after Rocker's evaluation.

Braves president Stan Kasten said at a news conference that he thought punishment was warranted, but said the commissioner's office will decide, not the team.

"It's important that John gets right with the organization, his teammates and the community," Kasten said. "But we at least need to give the man an opportunity to demonstrate his heartfelt remorse and correct the problem."

He said if the comments had been published during the season, Rocker likely would have been suspended indefinitely.

Kasten said the evaluation should begin within days. He said releasing Rocker remains an option but is unlikely.

Kasten said baseball officials and the players' association decided the evaluations were appropriate. The two organizations jointly will pick psychologists to evaluate Rocker.

Rocker's agent, Randy Hendricks, said neither he nor Rocker would comment.

SportsFriday

Dolphins, Seahawks to square off Sunday. **Page 30**
Woods and Duval pump it up. **Page 31**
Score, standings. **Page 29**

Gooden tries one more time

HOUSTON (AP) — Dwight Gooden, once the ace of the New York Mets, agreed Thursday to a minor league contract with the Houston Astros in what might be his final chance to pitch in the majors.

"I don't hold any illusions of grandeur out that at 35 years old, we're going to see the Doc Gooden of 26 or 28 years old," Astros manager Gerry Hunsicker said. "But knowing Doc, I'll take my chances while he's on the mound."

Gooden was 3-4 with a 6.41 ERA last year in 22 starts with the Cleveland Indians. Hampered by a shoulder strain, he was dropped from Cleveland's postseason roster.

"I just don't have the velocity I had at one time on a consistent basis," Gooden said. "I think now I'm a more complete pitcher, I'm a smarter pitcher."

Houston is looking to add pitchers after trading Mike Hampton to the Mets last month. The Astros traded Hampton after he decided against a contract extension.

The Astros also needed insurance to protect their pitching depth in case pitcher Scott Elarton isn't ready to return from shoulder surgery in time for next season.

Shane Reynolds and Jose Lima, who agreed Wednesday to an $18.75 million, three-year deal, are the only two pitchers assured of spots. That leaves Gooden to compete with Chris Holt, newcomer Octavio Dotel and Elarton, if he's ready.

During his 11 years with the Mets, Gooden's fastball brought him a string of awards, including Rookie of the Year honors in 1984 and the NL Cy Young Award in 1985. At age 20, he was the youngest-ever Cy Young winner.

But a drug problem led to two suspensions in 1994, and Gooden was suspended for the entire 1995 season.

He returned with the New York Yankees in 1996 and stayed there until joining the Indians in 1998. With 188-107 record and 3.46 ERA, Gooden is fourth among active pitchers in wins.

"I think The National League is a better league for him because he can help himself with the bat more than most pitchers can," Astros manager Larry Dierker said.

Redemption

George wants what Aikman has

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP SPORTS WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jeff George did what many of his critics thought was unlikely: carry a team to the playoffs. Now, he's out to win a postseason game for the first time in his checkered career.

"This is the best supporting cast I've ever been around and I'm excited about that," said George, a 10-year veteran who lost his only playoff appearance, 37-20, at Green Bay in 1995 when he was with the Atlanta Falcons.

George, who got run out of Indianapolis, Atlanta and Oakland, leaving a trail of annoyed teammates, coaches and fans, signed a one-year contract with the Minnesota Vikings for the veteran's minimum of $400,000 last winter.

He took over Minnesota's prolific offense when Randall Cunningham struggled to match the magic of last season and was benched only 5 1/2 games into his new $28 million contract.

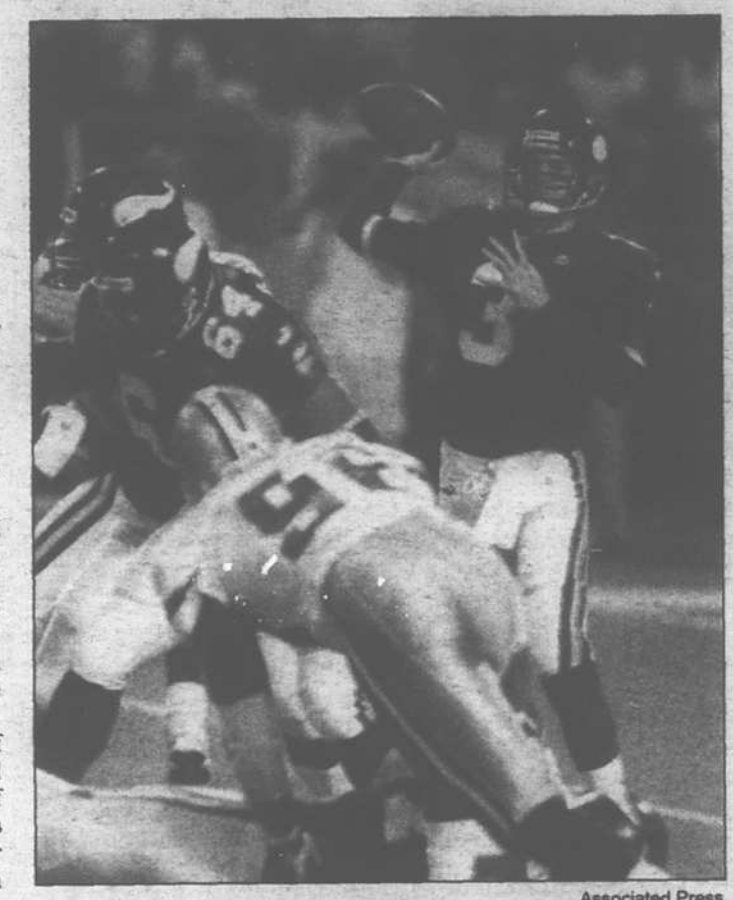
George, who was 37-74 as a starter before this season, guided the Vikings (10-6) to an 8-2 record and a wild-card berth Sunday against the Dallas Cowboys (8-8) at the Metrodome.

Along with his newfound winning ways, George's me-first attitude was absent in Minnesota.

"There's nothing to prove," George said. "This team's proved it. It's not me. We're 8-2 as a team. Not one guy can do it. I'm just around a great group of guys, a great supporting cast and just trying to win like the other guys."

George could command about $6 million now that he's turned around his troubled career. But he knows what would truly vindicate him: a Super Bowl ring.

Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman, who has three Super Bowl rings, said that fair or not, quarterbacks are judged chiefly on the number of titles they've won.



Associated Press
Minnesota Vikings quarterback Jeff George (3) stands behind his offensive line and gets a pass off against the Dallas Cowboys, in Minneapolis, in this Nov. 8 photo. The Vikings won 27-17. George did what many of his critics thought impossible: carry a team to the playoffs. Now, he's out to win his first postseason game of his checkered career.

"All you've got to do is look at guys who have great playoff success who haven't won a Super Bowl and that's a tag that they get hit with," Aikman said. "And I don't think that's necessarily fair. But as a quarterback, ultimately that's how we're all judged. ... I don't think any owner in this league cares what happens in the regular season."

Even when he was backing up Cunningham, George professed to still be one of the top quarterbacks in the league.

Aikman agreed that George has great ability.

"I think Jeff is as talented a quarterback as there is in the league," Aikman said. "He's got tremendous arm strength. He can make all the throws and he's got good mobility within the pocket. There seems to be some turmoil that's surrounded his career. But I think he's an awfully talented player."

All season, George refused to talk about his troubled past, which includes a sideline spat with then-Falcons coach June Jones in 1996, and he doesn't much like talking about his future and where his next big paycheck will come from.

But the opportunity to keep throwing to Cris Carter and Randy Moss, who combined for 2,654 yards receiving, the second-highest total in NFL history, will play a big role when George decides upon his next destination.

"It's the perfect offense for me," George said of the seventh system he's run since entering the league as its top draft choice in 1990.

"I keep saying it week in and week out, four Pro Bowl linemen, three Pro Bowl receivers, Pro Bowl running back, I'm excited," George said. "So, I like our chances."

Carter caught 12 touchdown passes from George.

"I think he understands the type of receiver I am," Carter said. "And I think we think alike. I understand his personality. I think our personalities are very similar."

Briefs

Ventura walks on air after meeting with Ali

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Jesse Ventura gushed about a trip to visit one of his heroes, boxer Muhammad Ali.

"It was tremendous," the former pro wrestler said Thursday. "To have had the opportunity to spend the day with him yesterday is something I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life."

Parkinson's disease has slowed Ali's motor skills, but "his eyes were bright, shining and twinkling," Ventura said. "Ali is still Ali."

Ali performed magic tricks for Ventura, even levitating about 2 inches above the ground at his home in rural Michigan.

"I still don't know how he did that," Ventura said.

The meeting took place, at Ali's invitation, at the former heavyweight champion's home in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Pacino gets thumbs up, not the movie

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan doesn't want any credit for helping with the production of the movie "Any Given Sunday."

The film, starring Al Pacino, is Oliver Stone's take on pro football.

"I think he's great, but the movie was horrible," Shanahan said of Pacino. "I just didn't like it. I liked him, though. He is such a great actor."

Pacino studied under Shanahan for his role as an NFL coach.

"He came in here when we played Dallas," Shanahan said, recalling that Pacino went to team meetings, watched plays being scripted and spent time on the sidelines as Denver whipped the Cowboys 42-23.

Magic player opens kids' eyes to art

NEW YORK (AP) — Tariq Abdul-Wahad of the Orlando Magic has established a foundation that will bring at-risk youths to art museums.

Working with the Boston-based Giving Back Fund, Abdul-Wahad's plan is to expose young people to the world of art by touring museums with them. The first event is Jan. 19 in Sacramento, Calif.

"Many inner-city youngsters will never have the inclination or opportunity to visit an art museum, but it is a part of our life and culture they should be exposed to in a relaxed and entertaining manner," he said.