A milestone
Barry Bonds hits 500th home run.
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Local news
Two more admit committing crimes as police officers.
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Health matters
Political leaders around world getting fitter.
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The Avis

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USVI 157th YEAR | THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2001, NO. 89 | 60¢

Troubled juveniles

Ground broken for new detention facility

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Although mounds of dirt revealed the fact that ground on a new portion of the Youth Rehabilitation Center was broken weeks ago, government officials gathered in Anna's Hope Wednesday for the "official" ceremony, which marked the start of the first phase of the project.

More than 50 people turned out Wednesday morning to kick-off the Department of Human Services' expansion project, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Interior and the Law Enforcement Planning Commission.

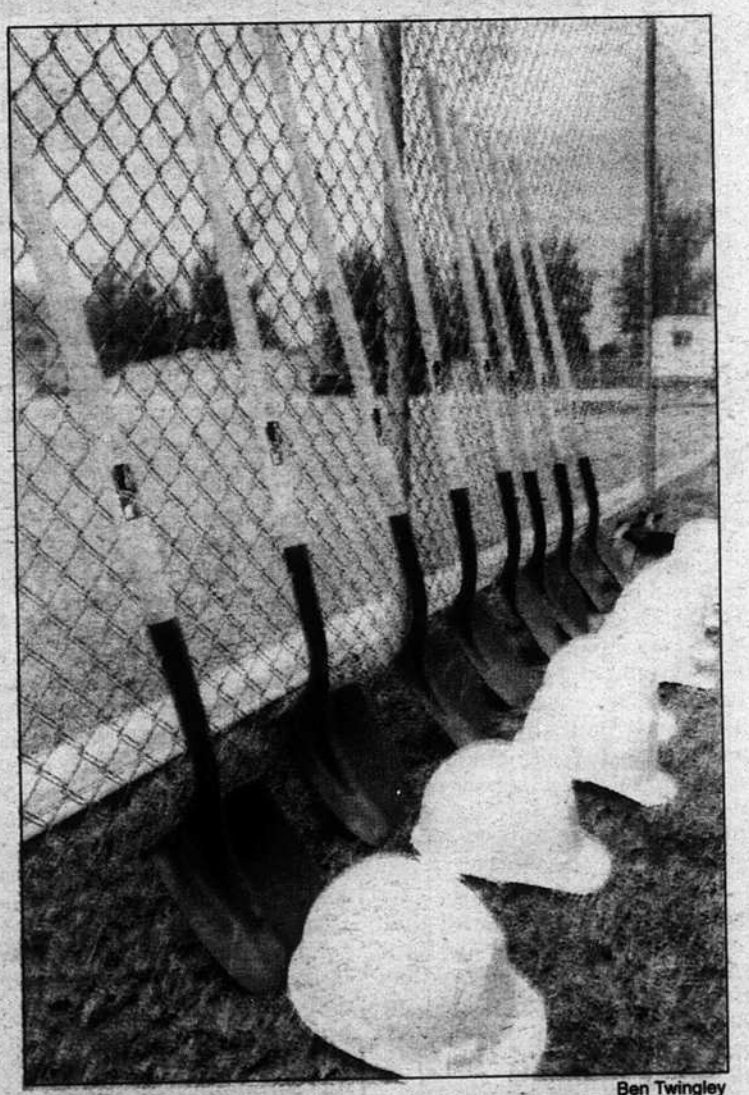
INSIDE
School violence reflects society, page 4.

"By the time the project is finished, it will be a complete complex," said Moleto Smith Jr., deputy commissioner of DHS's Planning and Development.

Smith said the expansion project, which actually began construction about three weeks ago, should be completed within 18 months. Smith placed the full construction price tag between $1.5 million and $1.8 million, with $1.2 million of that coming from the DOI.

YRC's first phase involves the construction of a new building to act as a 40-person capacity dormitory for the residents of the facility, which serves as both a detention and rehabilitation center for juveniles from all three of the Virgin Islands. Once that phase is completed, the second phase will renovate the existing structure to house administration offices, classroom space, a kitchen and an indoor recreational room, according to

FACILITY, PAGE 2



Ben Twingley

Shovels and hardhats lay against a fence Wednesday at the Youth Rehabilitation Center in Anna's Hope before a ground-breaking ceremony, marking the start of the first phase of the new addition.

WAPA board disputes contract

Members say chairwoman changed terms afterward

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — Two members of the Water and Power Authority's Board of Directors lambasted their chairwoman Wednesday over her handling of the contract for WAPA's new executive director and a partnership agreement with Vitelco.

Claude Molloy and Gerard Luz James, who are members of the board's Finance Committee, said chairwoman Carol Burke changed the conditions of the executive director's contract without the approval of the board.

They also accused Burke of signing an agreement with Vitelco, now Innovative Telephone, for WAPA and the telephone compa-

INSIDE
Legal counsel says agreement with Vitelco flawed, **page 3.**

Government still owes utility money, **page 3.**

WAPA, PAGE 2

Vendors' attorney runs into problems with law license

DAN KUEMMEL

ST. THOMAS — Kenth Rogers, acting as legal counsel for vendors in their court battle to remain at Drake's Seat, filed for a temporary restraining order last Thursday to keep the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs from barring him from practicing law.

But according to records at the DLCA, Rogers does not have a license to practice law in the territory and has been practicing illegally since 1992 — when he applied for a license with the Department but never completed the application process, DLCA Commissioner Andrew Rutnik said.

VENDORS, PAGE 2

Police blotter

ST. CROIX

Arrest:

11 p.m., Tues., Jacqueline S. Byron, 44, of 303 Estate Humbug, was charged with third-degree assault. She allegedly chased a minor child with a machete and made threats to the child in front of neighbors. Bail was set at $25,000.

Grand larcenies:

5:02 p.m., Tues., a stolen bike reported from Concordia Manor.

8:14 a.m., Wed., Sunny Acres.

Burglaries:

2 p.m., Tues., Estate Calquohoun.

3:33 p.m., Tues., Yellow Cedar.

6:05 p.m., Tues., Castle Burke.

1:57 a.m., Wed., The Electronic Depot, Estate St. Georges.

3:53 p.m., Wed., Queen Street, Christiansted.

7:32 a.m., Wed., Elena Christian Junior High School, La Grande Princesse.

Threats:

9:14 a.m., Wed., Central High School.

10 a.m., Wed., Cost-U-Less, Estate Hogensberg.

10:20 a.m., Wed., Ralph De Chabert housing community.

12:31 p.m., Wed., Arthur A. Richards Junior High School, Stoney Ground.

Other:

2:19 p.m., Tues., a third-degree rape, location unknown, reported by a Department of Human Services staffer.

ST. THOMAS

Assaults:

1 p.m., Tues., Smith Bay.

12:18 a.m., Wed., Market Square.

Grand larcenies:

6:19 a.m., Wed., Mariendahl.

7:05 a.m., Wed., Mariendahl.

8:15 a.m., Wed., Bovoni.

Burglaries:

9:54 a.m., Tues., International Plaza.

10 a.m., Tues., Anna's Retreat.

12:10 p.m., Tues., Watergate Villas.

10:31 p.m., Tues., Anna's Retreat.

Vandals break into ECJHS

STEVE S. BULLOCK

ST. CROIX — Burglars struck the Elena Christian Junior High School over the weekend and on Tuesday, trashing classrooms and stealing supplies and equipment from the La Grande Princess school.

School officials said the thieves broke into at least four classrooms on the main campus and into a number of mobile classrooms.

One of the classrooms targeted was the English Department Resource Center where filing cabinets and drawers were ransacked.

Two weeks ago, burglars also vandalized the school's computer lab and math department resource center — stealing several pieces of equipment and supplies.

The school has been broken into and vandalized at least 22 times since the school year began.

FACILITY: Feds provide money

FROM PAGE ONE

Smith.

In addition, Human Services intends to utilize more of the 55 acres of land it has at the Anna's Hope site to replace the baseball diamond that was sacrificed to the dorms.

"We plan to expand the fence line (around the property) to include outdoor recreational facilities," Smith said.

While the ground breaking — which was delayed nearly an hour to allow the governor to arrive — was for the expansion of a juvenile detention center, one recent resident addressed the crowd about his experience at the facility.

Francisco Boneli, 18, was incarcerated at YRC for six months after he was involved in an incident at Charlotte Amalie High School on St. Thomas in which another student was injured. Boneli — who played football, baseball and was a drummer for the marching band — said he was an honor roll student before the incident.

"Midway through my senior year, I saw my future slip away," Boneli said. But while losing his freedom was unpleasant, Boneli said his time at YRC was not completely so.

"There, I met people who became my friends that I will remember forever," Boneli said. Today a construction worker and part-time University of the Virgin Islands student with aspirations of becoming an architectural engineer, Boneli said he tried to make the most of his ordeal.

"It has made me a better and stronger individual," Boneli said.

DHS Assistant Commissioner Ferryneisa Benjamin, who served as mistress of ceremonies, applauded the positive stance taken by Boneli.

"Of the many residents who come through here, not all of them go down the drain," Benjamin said.

Architectural services for the project were provided by Cape Associates, and Delta Electric Inc. is the contractor.

WAPA: Board members criticize Burke on contract

FROM PAGE ONE

ny to share trenches and expenses for underground utility lines without it being reviewed by WAPA's legal counsel.

Molloy, committee chairman, said that when the board agreed to hire Joseph Thomas as executive director at a March 28 meeting, it also set the terms of his three-year contract.

The terms included an annual salary of $150,000, one round-trip ticket, hotel accommodations and meals for Thomas to fly from his home in Atlanta to St. Croix to look for housing, Molloy said. It also required him to start work on May 1.

But he added that a letter Burke signed on behalf of the board gave Thomas a $30,000 advance on his salary and three one-way and three two-way tickets, plus hotel accommodations and meals. His official starting date also was pushed back to June 4.

Thomas also signed the contract, which had been changed. Corrections to the original letter were initialed, apparently by Thomas.

"We didn't agree to more than one round-trip ticket, the advance on the salary nor a change in his starting date," Molloy said.

"Chairwoman Burke had no authority to approve the changes," he added. "She is overstepping her bounds. Power has gone to her head."

Molloy said the one round-trip fare approved by the board cost WAPA $1,400.

"I am surprised to get all of this information," James said. "We sat here at this table and had a private conversation (via telephone) with Mr. Thomas and he was told he had to report by May 1."

Burke said although she and Thomas signed a letter of intent for him to take the job, no official contract has been signed.

She also said she had the consensus of a majority of the board in agreeing to the salary advance and the other changes.

The board agreed to the $150,000 salary, but it did not say how it should be paid, Burke added.

"Chairwoman Burke had no authority to approve the changes. She is overstepping her bounds. Power has gone to her head."

Claude Molloy, chairman of WAPA board's Finance Committee

She said she did not have a copy of the letter in front of her to recall all the details, but that it did authorize at least two round-trip tickets for Thomas to come to St. Croix to look for housing.

"I have done nothing improper," Burke said. "But in any negotiations, you have to give and take."

Thomas was not the board's first choice for the executive director's post. He was offered the job after the top two candidates — Michael Lewis of Clearwater, Fla. and David Mohre of Baltimore — turned down the job.

Glen Rothgeb, the current acting executive director, and former WAPA Executive Director Bruno Vega of Puerto Rico were the other finalists.

Molloy and James, the only members present, also were miffed that they were unable to get a quorum to conduct an official meeting.

They said Burke scheduled a meeting of the Strategic and Planning Committee on St. Thomas at the same time the Finance Committee was to hold it session on St. Croix.

They also criticized Finance Committee member Andrew Rutnik for skipping the St. Croix meeting to attend the one on St. Thomas, although he is not a member of the Strategic and Planning Committee.

James and Molloy said their committee meeting was scheduled first and the board's staff had made reservations for Rutnik to travel by air from St. Thomas.

But Burke said the Strategic and Planning Committee meeting was scheduled first, and Rutnik attended that meeting because member Arthur Downing was absent. Burke and Downing are also members of the Finance Committee.

Burke said that as a matter of courtesy to all board members, conflicting meetings are not scheduled so even non-committee members can attend any session.

"Molloy knew the Strategic and Planning meeting was in place when he scheduled the Finance Committee meeting," Burke said. "The effort of the board is one."

The board will meet in a regular session at 9:30 a.m. today at the VI Port Authority's conference room at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport.

VENDORS: Attorney hasn't had license for nine years

FROM PAGE ONE

Rogers filed for the restraining order to bar an order issued by DLCA that Rogers cease and desist from practicing law in the territory until he obtains a license. The case was filed in Territorial Court and has been assigned to Judge Brenda Hollar. A Territorial Court employee said documents in the case were unavailable because Hollar is currently working it.

The phones at Rogers' law office went unanswered last Thursday, but he told The Avis in an interview on Tuesday that he would be taking action against DLCA Commissioner Andrew Rutnik to retain his license.

Sources close to the Drake's Seat issue have said the recent action taken by DLCA against Rogers is politically motivated because Rogers has been representing the vendors in a $5.5 million civil suit against the VI government.

However, Rutnik said Rogers has been practicing law in the Virgin Islands without a license for as many as nine years and the DCLA was dealing with Rogers long before Drake's Seat became an issue.

"He never had a license (to practice law in the territory). He hasn't applied for a license since 1992," Rutnik said. "His case has been before this department for well over a year, and it was in the process of a notification and subpoena when we had a hearing. He did not show up (at the hearing) and so a cease and desist order that he stop practicing was issued."

Four other attorneys practicing without law licenses were also issued cease and desist orders recently, Rutnik said.

Rutnik said attorneys practicing without a law license can sometimes slip through the system for years because of the volume of paperwork and documents from previous administrations.

If Rogers is unsuccessful in his court action, the vendors may not have any legal counsel at a critical point in their District Court cases against the VI government and disputed Drake's Seat property owner Christine Wheaton. The vendors are seeking over $5.5 million in damages in a civil case as well as attempting to remain on the property.

Sen. Alicia Hansen said Wednesday that she has "instructed" St. Croix attorney Amelia Joseph, who earns a $60,000 salary working in Hansen's office, to become involved in the vendors court battle — just two days before a scheduled District Court session to hear arguments from the VI government and Wheaton Estate to dismiss the case.

Hansen said she also requested the help of St. Croix attorney Lee Rohn to take up the vendors case, but Rohn said on Thursday that was news to her.

"I've been at hearings all day so she may have called me and I haven't gotten the message yet," Rohn said from her office on Thursday. "I have always tried to help people, but it is very doubtful — seeing how far along that case is — that I would become involved. I've got enough on my plate. I just don't have the time."

WAPA-Vitelco contract flawed, attorney says

Counsel says agreements to share utility costs could hurt

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — The Water and Power Authority's legal counsel told two board members Wednesday that an agreement between Vitelco and WAPA to share trenches and expenses to underground utility lines contained numerous deficiencies.

Attorney Cathy Smith told members of the board's Finance Committee — Claude Molloy and Gerard Luz James — that a memorandum of understanding, or MOU, did not provide sufficient protection for WAPA, giving most of the advantages to Vitelco, now known as Innovative Telephone.

Smith also said the MOU was not reviewed by her office before it was signed by board chairwoman Carol Burke and Samuel Ebbesen, the telephone company's president and chief executive officer.

John Christian, WAPA's director of engineering, was also critical of the agreement.

The agreement allows Vitelco to place its lines and duct banks into the same trenches WAPA's contractors dig to put power lines underground.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has committed 90 percent of the estimated $14 million cost as hurricane mitigation projects on St. Thomas and St. Croix for WAPA.

Christian said the staff proposed that WAPA, the cable television systems and Vitelco each pay one-third of the remaining 10 percent.

But he noted in a Jan. 22 memo to then-Executive Director Raymond George that the MOU was "seriously flawed in the areas of project cost, shared cost" and duct-bank descriptions.

"Conspicuously absent from the MOU was a maintenance agreement clause and the WAPA future plans for communication ducts," Christian said in the memo.

In a memo to George dated two days later, Smith cited several problems with the MOU, including:

- It does not have an indemnification provision for personal injury and property damage, requiring Vitelco to indemnify and hold WAPA harmless, or for Vitelco to defend WAPA in the event the authority is sued. "As you are aware, the the authority has a standard clause which appears in the general contract terms and is included in all contracts and agreements," Smith wrote.
- Vitelco is not required to carry any appropriate insurance coverage to protect the authority.
- It does not designate each party's responsibilities regarding maintenance and repair or replacement of the facilities in the event of destruction or damage.
- There is no provision for increases in the rental fees.
- The agreement was signed by the chairwoman on behalf of WAPA, rather than the executive director as required by the authority's bylaws.

Smith also noted that Ebbesen signed the document on behalf of Vitelco, rather than it being signed by the chairman of the board of the telephone company's parent company, Innovative Communication Corp. ICC also owns the cable systems in the territory.

James and Molloy said that when the board discussed such a deal last October with Vitelco and ICC officials, it directed the staff to negotiate an agreement.

"But we didn't authorize one to be signed," James said. "What is going on here?"

But Burke said the agreement was reviewed and approved for legal sufficiency by the board's attorney, Arturo Watlington Jr.

"Cathy Smith is not the only lawyer who can review a contract," Burke said.

"If this is an attempt by Molloy to intimidate me, let him knock himself out," Burke said.

Gov't still owes huge WAPA bills

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — The Water and Power Authority's collection supervisors expressed frustration Wednesday that they are unable to cut off power to the central government and independent agencies because of mounting unpaid bills.

James Hendrington, manager of customer service in the St. Thomas-St. John district, and his counterpart in the St. Croix district, Delita Civil, told the board Finance Committee that the VI government and its independent agencies owed WAPA $24.3 million for water and electrical power as of March 30, including $7.7 million that has been outstanding for more than a year.

The figures include $16.3 million owed by the central government and $7.1 due from independent agencies.

Hendrington said the Public Service Commission has given WAPA the authority to disconnect government agencies that fail to pay their bills — except hospitals, police, fire, corrections facilities and other emergency service providers — but that internal polices prevent disconnection.

He noted that WAPA can disconnect services and charge late fees for customers who don't pay their bills within 20 days after they receive them, but services to government agencies continue — even though some of them are more than seven years in the arrearage.

"The government shouldn't be treated any different from regular customers," Hendrington said. "The government must make payments in accordance with WAPA's rules and regulations."

Civil said that being forced to cut off service to a customer living in a housing community because of a $50 unpaid bill and not for government agencies owing millions of dollars makes her job difficult.

She said many department and agency heads say they submit invoices to the Finance Department to pay WAPA's bills, but they just sit there without action.

"The invoices stay in Finance for years without being paid," Civil said.

She added that when commissioners and directors submit their budget to the governor, they don't include money for past due bills.

The Office of Management and Budget should make a request to the Legislature for funds to pay its obligations, Civil said.

Hardy, Torres admit guilt as VIPD cops

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — The two remaining defendants in an indictment involving accusations of wrongdoing against local VI Police Department officers have entered guilty pleas to some of the charges against them.

John Hardy, 26, and Luis Torres, 24, avoided a trial, set to begin next Monday, by striking a plea bargain Tuesday with Assistant U.S. Attorney St. Clair Theodore and Barry Williams, a trial attorney with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Hardy, who was a VIPD officer for about six years before resigning, and Torres, who joined the force about three years ago, were charged in February in a 13-count indictment with various local and federal crimes, including civil rights violations, grand larceny, assault, receiving stolen goods and concealing a felony. A third VIPD officer named in the indictment, Adrian Williams, pleaded guilty last week to possession of stolen property.

According to the plea agreement, Hardy, Torres and Williams approached two men on Dec. 4, 1999, in Estate Glynn and arrested them for allegedly having marijuana.

"Based on this, the two men were arrested, handcuffed and their vehicle searched," the agreement stated. "The officers did not have probable cause to stop and search the victims."

During the illegal search of the car, the three officers found more marijuana and a handgun. In addition, Torres took about $2,100 from one of the men.

"This money was not turned over as evidence nor reported to the police department," the plea agreement stated. Torres split the money between himself, Hardy and Williams.

Specifically, Hardy pleaded guilty to deprivation of civil rights for his role in arresting one of the men in the Estate Glynn incident without probable cause. He also admitted to receiving stolen property — the money that Torres gave him.

Torres pleaded guilty to deprivation of civil rights and grand larceny — both charges that stem from the theft of the currency from the man on Dec. 4, 1999.

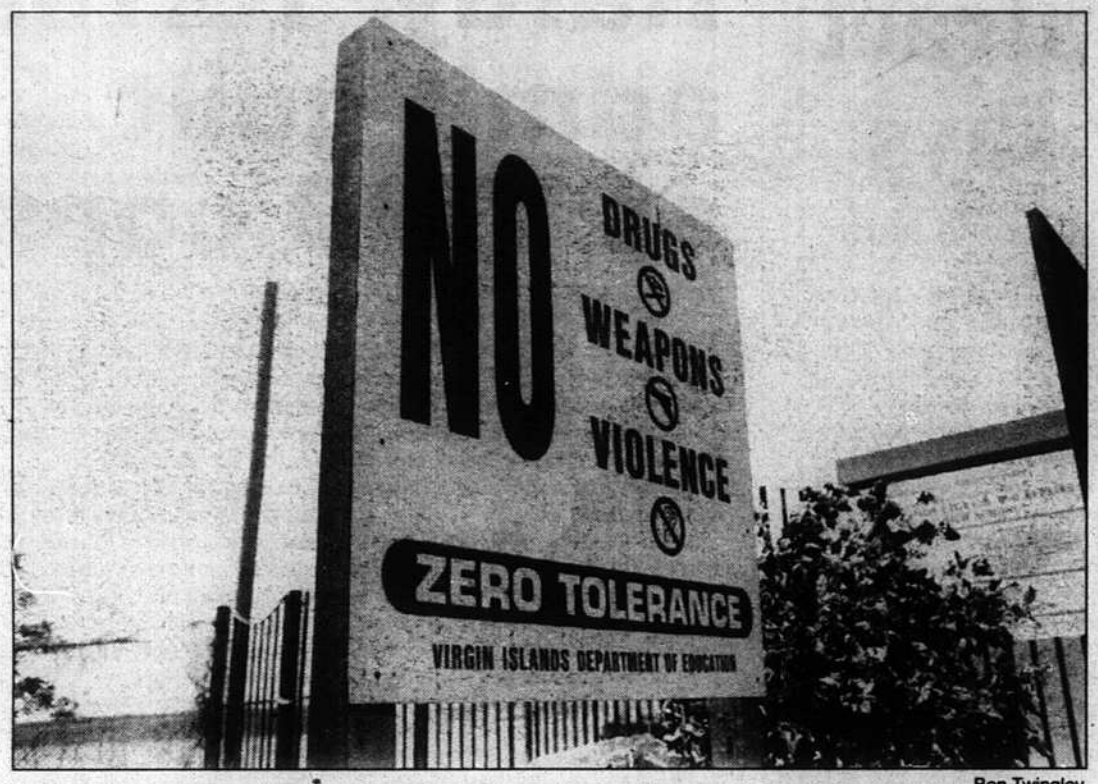
In exchange for the defendants' guilty pleas, the U.S. government will dismiss charges that include conspiracy, assault, concealing a felony and oppression.



Ben Twingley

Gimme shelter

This short-haired calico-tipped kitty — available for adoption at the St. Croix Animal Shelter — is mostly white with brown, orange and gray markings. She is a young adult with interesting yellow eyes. While she is described as a "very nice and friendly cat who likes to be touched and held" by shelter staff, she can be a bit jealous when other cats encroach upon her attention. For more information about adopting a cat or kitten for a $40 fee, visit the shelter in Clifton Hill.



Ben Twingley

A sign outside of Central High School shows the school's firm policy on drugs, weapons and violence.

DOE, AFT butt heads about level of violence in schools

VALERIE LOVETT

ST. CROIX — Officials from the American Federation of Teachers and the Virgin Islands Department of Education have a difference of opinion about the rate and nature of violence in the territory's schools, according to statements released by both offices this week.

Glenn Smith, president of the St. Thomas/St. John district AFT, said violence and student disorder in schools reached "epidemic" levels several years ago, and a concerted effort to control the problem brought it under control.

The restructuring of the student disciplinary code and a "zero tolerance policy" in schools were an integral part in that improvement, according to Smith.

"However, we are beginning to lose the handle, once again, in our struggle to contain the incidents of violent behavior in our schools," he said.

He said AFT members are reporting threats against adults in authority and verbal and physical assaults against students.

But DOE Insular Superintendent Rosalia Payne later issued a statement refuting Smith's claims.

"School violence for the current school year, is, in fact, on the decrease," Payne said. "We have experienced both a decrease in the number of incidents and in the degree of violence exhibited during the school year."

Lt. David Magras, who heads up the VI Police Department's School Security Resource Unit, seems to agree.

He said in 1999, after becoming head of the VIPD's Special Operations Bureau, he formed a database of incidents of violence in schools for the preceding three years.

"We focused our attention on detecting trendsetting patterns of specific crimes in specific schools," he said.

He said, based on that study, police began to concentrate on those schools to end the violence.

"We have followed the data since then," Magras said, "and have had a positive effect on reducing major crimes. The school environment reflects the community at large, and whatever occurs within the community — to the extent that we have assaults, threats, larcenies — these also occur within the schools."

He said students who cause problems at school, depending on the nature of the offense, are referred to the Department of Human Services for counseling or to the juvenile justice system.

Magras said most serious crimes occur at junior and senior high schools on St. Croix.

"I wouldn't want to call one (school) more violent than another," he said. "We watch them equally."

Briefs

St. Croix GED pretest scheduled

ST. CROIX — The State Office of Vocational-Technical and Adult Education will administer the Graduate Equivalency Degree pretest on May 22, at 9 a.m. at the Day Adult Education Center in La Grande Princess.

Call 773-1095, Ext. 290 or 311.

GED prep sessions available on TV

USVI — Students preparing to take the GED (General Equivalency Diploma) exam can get extra help by watching television.

On Monday, VITV-Channel 10 began broadcasting programs designed to prepare students for the exam.

The "GED on TV" series will air at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week.

The series consists of 43 half-hour programs beginning with basic orientation, followed by 16 reading, 10 writing and 15 math sessions, plus a special program on test-taking tips.

Call 776-3483.

Testifiers: Internet gaming bill is flawed

TIM HAY

ST. THOMAS — If a bill to bring Internet gambling to the territory passes in its present form, a St. Thomas company will hold a monopoly on the industry and the VI will lose credibility as a well-regulated gaming jurisdiction.

This is what several testifiers told the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Consumer Protection at a public hearing Wednesday .

The bill would award a master franchise to VI Technologies Initiative, LLP whose chief executive officer is Nick Pourzal. The firm would be the sole operator of the billion-dollar industry.

The measure, which senators said would be amended before a May 7 public hearing, awards the franchise to VI Technologies Initiative without a competitive bidding process.

Former Territorial Court Judge Eileen Petersen, who now chairs the Casino Control Commission, said her agency is neutral on the issue of online gaming. But she did point out areas of concern in the proposal.

"This bill," she said, "does not provide any additional revenue for the Virgin Islands government, as it seeks to exempt parties from payment of all other taxes. This bill does not provide for competitive bidding for the master franchise. Thereby, (it) raises the specter of special legislation."

Petersen said there was no provision in the bill for an investigation of the principals of VI Technologies Initiative.

She also said there was a chance the bill would be disallowed by the federal government. Currently, Internet gambling is in violation of the Interstate Wire Act, which prohibits betting by telephone.

Petersen commended the sponsors of the bill — Sens. Almando Liburd and Vargrave Richards — for attempting a bold, new revenue-enhancing strategy. The VI joins Nevada and New Jersey in drafting legislation for Internet gaming.

Also testifying were Leroy Arnold of St. Croix Internet Gaming Group, LLP and Bernie Burkholder, chief executive officer of the Treasure Bay Corporation that operates the Divi Carina Bay Casino.

Both said there was not enough language in the 57-page bill to ensure proper regulation of the master franchise, and that this would drive away reputable gaming businesses. The VI, Burkholder said, has a "stellar reputation" in the gambling world for effective regulation.

Arnold said the master franchise amounted to a complete monopoly.

Sen. Adelbert Bryan, chair of the committee, asked all testifiers to submit their concerns in writing so that amendments to the bill could be drafted. Liburd and Richards stressed that the proposal was a work in progress.

"Our goal is to have a bill that's workable," Liburd said. "With Internet gaming, the Virgin Islands would be the envy of the world."

Asked whether more than one franchiser would run the operations and if the government would solicit bids, Liburd said only that the committee would look into all concerns raised at the Wednesday hearing.

"We're going to review all of that," he said.

Internet gaming would bring an influx of high-tech firms into the territory, testifiers said. The high-speed data transfer system the gaming sites use are also useful to telecommunications companies.

Under the proposal, 10 percent of gross revenues raised by online gambling would be paced in the Casino Control Revolving Fund.

Traffic report

ST. CROIX — Six crashes, including one hit-and-run, were reported to police from 4 p.m. Tuesday to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Three people were treated for accident-related injuries at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

Police received two reports of vehicle tampering and one report of the unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Police recovered an abandoned vehicle in the vicinity of La Grande Princess around 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

Majority bloc: We've been busy

TIM HAY

ST. THOMAS — Thanking each other, their staff and even minority-bloc senators, the "Millennium Eight" on Wednesday gave a detailed account of their first 100 days in office.

"Clearly, we've been busy," Majority Leader Celestino White said. "We will not stop now. We will go down (in history) as the most productive Legislature in the Virgin Islands."

White joked that the biggest accomplishment of the majority bloc was sticking together for so long. Rumors of senators bolting the coalition have abounded in recent months.

One by one, the eight lawmakers detailed what they have accomplished since being sworn into office on Jan. 8. According to materials presented by the Office of Public Affairs, the majority has held 16 public hearings, 34 committee meetings and passed 20 bills and resolutions.

The 24th Legislature has drafted more than 50 pieces of legislation. They have also confirmed three of the governor's nominations to Cabinet-level posts.

Among the accomplishments senators listed were:

- aiding the territory's veterans;
- putting increased IRB collections toward paying retroactive wages to government workers;
- meeting with key players of President George Bush's administration in Washington, D.C.;
- hiring an additional lobbying group to make the VI's concerns known to Congress;
- meeting with officials in the British Virgin Islands to help revitalize the territory's marine industry;
- expressing opposition to former president Bill Clinton's expansion of protected reef areas;
- working toward recouping gasoline excise taxes;
- allowing vendors to return to the Drake's Seat overlook; and
- improved "stateliness" of Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall.



Ben Twingley

Playing the odds

Lottery player Patricia Marcellin picks what she hopes will be a winning lottery number Wednesday at the Sunny Isle Shopping Center parking lot. The winning numbers of the Virgin Islands Lottery are normally announced on Thursday, but due to the beginning of Carnival in St. Thomas next week, the winning numbers will be announced on Tuesday. Next week's lottery is worth $125,000.

Fire hazards recalled by VI Consumer Affairs

USVI — The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is launching a "recall roundup" to rid homes of fire hazards.

According to DLCA Commissioner Andrew Rutnik, the CPSC organized a nationwide campaign to discard hazardous consumer products, especially those that were recalled in the past or made safer when new standards were instituted.

Hazardous products on the roundup list include:

- cigarette lighters without child-resistant mechanisms;
- extension cords with frayed or cut insulation, undersize wire, loose connections or improper grounding;
- Black & Decker Spacemaker Optima Toasters, model T1000, sold from 1994 through 1996, which were recalled because food can catch on fire and escape the unit;
- Kmart children's decorative lamps, sold from January 1993 through March 2000, recalled due to risk of a short circuit;
- Halogen torchiere floor lamps that need a wire or glass guard to reduce the fire risk;
- GE and Hotpoint dishwashers that present a fire hazard; and
- Old electric hair dryers without built-in shock protection devices in the plug can cause electrocution when the hair dryers fall into water.

"CPSC's safety standards and recalls have helped save hundreds of lives, but many pre-standard and recalled products remain in people's homes," Rutnik said in a prepared statement. "That's why people should do more spring cleaning and check their homes and drawers for old disposable lighters, frayed extension cords and other products that could be hazardous.

"We can get dangerous products off our store shelves, but the real challenge is to get them out of families' homes."

Call DLCA Director of Consumer Services Alli Paul at 773-2226.

Anegada Passage climate study under way

USVI — University of the Virgin Islands students and staff rendezvoused recently with the research vessel Oceanus on its 12th expedition for the Anegada Climate Tracers Study.

The study began in 1995 and examines the flow of climatically significant chemicals in water exchanged between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

In the process of the ACTS research, the UVI team is assisting with a major study of ocean circulation: the Windward Islands Passages Monitoring Project, which is conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTS originated with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, and reportedly continues due to UVI's collaborations with the NOAA, the University of Miami and other institutions.

This is the first time the UVI team used the Oceanus, which is owned by the National Science Foundation and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Students and staff help the NOAA scientists monitor the flow between the passages from Trinidad and Tobago to the Anegada Passage east of Virgin Gorda.

On this leg of the research trip, sampling of sea water was intended for measuring the stream of neutrinos — short-lived cosmic particles — penetrating to the ocean floor.

UVI's principal investigator Roy Watlington said he is looking to hire local vessels capable of taking a winch with a 2,000-meter spool of wire for one-day studies of the Anegada Passage. Call 693-1140 or 693-1391.

April 25 to be Secretaries' Day

USVI — Gov. Charles Turnbull announced that April 25 is Professional Secretaries' Day and the week of April 22 is Professional Secretaries' Week.

The governor called on all employers of the Virgin Islands to express their appreciation and give special recognition to their secretaries, whose technical and organizational skills are essential to the operation of any office.

Applicants sought for UVI's summer science program

USVI — The University of the Virgin Islands is offering free summer enrichment programs on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses for 7th- through 12th-graders interested in careers in science, mathematics, engineering, technology and health-related fields.

The five-week academy on St. Croix for 7th- and 8th-graders will run from June 25 through July 27.

The six-week academy on St. Thomas for 9th- through 12th-graders will run from June 25 through July 31. Both programs are conducted by the UVI Division of Science and Math.

Application forms can be obtained from high school counselors and math and science teachers. Interested students and parents can also call Judy Roland-Fahie at 693-1232 or Dr. Rosenid Hernandez-Badia at 693-1383.

Participants will receive hands-on experience in the use of computers and explore basic concepts of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics through selected readings, demonstrations and laboratory investigations.

Practicing scientists and health professionals will conduct career sessions.

No burning allowed in VI

ST. CROIX — Due to a lack of rain, the Virgin Islands Department of Fire Services will not issue any burn permits throughout the territory until further notice.

The ban on burning bushes or other materials is in effect immediately.

All burning permits issued before this ban will be honored as soon as it is lifted, according to a statement by the Department.

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Puerto Rican leaders present new obstacles

Draft anti-noise bill to block bombing

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rican leaders presented new legislation Wednesday to regulate coastal noise in an effort to prevent U.S. Navy bombing exercises on the small island of Vieques.

The measure would prohibit loud noise in coastal areas of the U.S. territory — such as those produced by the bombing, said Puerto Rican Justice Secretary Anabelle Rodriguez. She said the noise of the shelling disturbs people on Vieques and may be harmful to public health.

The Navy, which has conducted training on the island for six decades, vehemently denies the exercises have been linked to any health problems among the island's 9,400 residents and says the bombing range on the island's eastern tip is vital for national defense.

The Navy has notified Puerto Rico's government that it could hold maneuvers as soon as April 27 on Vieques. The exercises are to be the first since mid-December.

Puerto Rican leaders including Gov. Sila Calderon have opposed the bombing and sought ways to prevent further exercises. The bill was presented to Puerto Rico's Legislative Assembly Wednesday and will be discussed in public hearings this weekend, Rodriguez said.

The measure is to outlaw noise of 190 decibels or higher in waters up to 3 miles off of Puerto Rico.

Navy officials said they had not seen a copy of the legislation, but spokesman Lt. Jeff Gordon reiterated that the Navy hasn't found any health problems related to noise from the training.

Rodriguez also said a previous agreement on Vieques reached in January 2000 between then-President Bill Clinton and Gov. Pedro Rossello no longer applies.

"My legal position is that such an agreement doesn't exist," she said, suggesting there had simply been an "exchange of correspondence" between the former governor and the president.

Under one provision of the previous agreement, Vieques residents would decide in a referendum on Nov. 6 whether they want the Navy to leave in 2003 or to remain and pay $50 million to be used for economic development, housing and infrastructure.

Calderon has expressed displeasure with her predecessor's discussions with Clinton, saying she would like the referendum to include the third option of an immediate halt to the bombing on the Puerto Rican island.

Asked about the agreement on Tuesday, Defense Department spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said: "We intend to abide by it, and we hope the governor does as well."

Public opposition to the bombing erupted in Puerto Rico after an errant bomb killed a civilian guard on the range in April 1999.

Since the accident, the Navy has scaled back the frequency of training and has only used inert ammunition.

Last month, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld postponed scheduled exercises on Vieques to allow for discussions with Calderon about her concerns, but neither side has made any major move toward compromise.

Bahamas, Cayman Islands contenders to come off blacklist, official says

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — The Bahamas and the Cayman Islands are among countries in a good position to be removed from an international money laundering blacklist this year as they have strengthened their financial laws, a British official predicted.

The Financial Action Task Force, formed by some of the world's wealthiest countries, last year released a list of 15 nations — including five in the Caribbean — that it considered to be centers for money laundering. The Paris-based FATF may decide in June whether to remove some countries from the list.

The Bahamas, Panama, Liechtenstein and the Cayman Islands are good contenders to be removed from the list because they have since strengthened their anti-money laundering laws, Michael Kerney, a financial policy official with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was quoted as saying in The Tribune this week.

"It is important for the FATF in June when reviewing the 2000/2001 list to take countries off of that list that should come off," Kerney said. "If some countries are de-listed then it sends out a signal that if you are on this list you can get off this list."

He said if some countries that have changed their laws are not taken off the list, it might suggest they need better enforcement of their new laws.

However, he said some countries have done little or nothing to improve their laws after appearing on the blacklist, making it even more important that the FATF recognize the efforts of those countries that made improvements, the newspaper said.



Associated Press

President Andres Pastrana of Colombia, left, and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, right, wave to the press in Cartagena, about 400 miles north of Bogota, on Wednesday.

Andean nations talk trade on eve of Americas Summit

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — Andean presidents and ministers looked to bolster their leverage at this weekend's Summit of the Americas, meeting Wednesday to coordinate free trade proposals and seek U.S. trade benefits for stemming the region's drug trade.

Presidents Andres Pastrana of Colombia, Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Hugo Banzer of Bolivia, Gustavo Noboa of Ecuador, and Peru's Foreign Minister, Javier Perez de Cuellar, were hoping to join forces ahead of the hemisphere-wide summit beginning Friday in Quebec.

"Each Andean country has very little weight in the hemisphere," said Martha Lucia Ramirez, Colombia's foreign minister. "But the five nations together become a more determined actor in the result and orientation of these negotiations."

During the three-day summit to be attended by President Bush in Quebec City, 34 nations from South America to Canada will debate a proposed hemisphere-wide free trade zone. Bush on Tuesday endorsed completing negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

The United States currently has free-trade agreements with Canada and Mexico. The new proposal would, in effect, expand the existing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to add the nations of Central and South America.

Andean leaders meeting in the Caribbean seaport Cartagena were also planning a joint lobbying push for continued and expanded U.S. tariff exemptions under the 1991 Andean Trade Preferences Act, also known as ATPA.

The legislation, which expires in December, is intended to strengthen legal alternatives to drug production in the Andes. The region produces almost all the world's cocaine and a significant chunk of the heroin sold on U.S. streets.

■ BAHAMAS

Man accused of killing American teacher to be tried for second time

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A Bahamian man, whose first murder trial ended with a hung jury, will go on trial a second time for the 1998 slaying of an American schoolteacher, the chief prosecutor said Wednesday.

Tennel McIntosh's first trial for the killing of Lori Fogleman, 32, of Richmond, Virginia, ended in March after a jury couldn't reach a verdict.

The new trial will begin no earlier than July, Bernard Turner, the director of prosecutions, told The Associated Press.

On Aug. 22, 1998, authorities found a badly decomposed body believed to be that of Fogleman in a shallow grave near a Paradise Island beach. She had been missing for about a month.

Fogleman was a teacher at Woolridge Elementary School in Chesterfield, Virginia, and had traveled alone to Paradise Island on July 18, 1998 to visit a construction worker on the new Atlantis resort hotel. The construction worker was cleared as a suspect.

In the first trial, prosecutors presented a videotaped police interrogation in which McIntosh said he met Fogleman on a Paradise Island beach near a golf course. The pair allegedly argued after McIntosh sold her a coconut. She drank half of the milk, then refused to pay for it. McIntosh says in the tape that he got angry and hit her with a rock.

McIntosh, 21, however, testified during the trial that police beat him and forced him to make incriminating statements.

EU calls on Ecuador to OK banana accord

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) —The European Union called on Ecuador on Wednesday to support a tentative accord reached last week between the EU and the United States that ended a long-running dispute over the banana trade.

Ecuador, a major producer of bananas for the EU market, is concerned it will lose out over other producers if the new deal goes through and has threatened to block the compromise at the World Trade Organization.

The new regime will allow bananas to be imported into the EU through licenses distributed on the basis of past trade until 2006, when a tariff-only system will take effect.

The current EU system favored shipments from former European colonies in Caribbean and Pacific islands and Africa over cheaper bananas from Latin America sold by U.S. firms Chiquita Brands International Inc. and Dole Foods Co.

Ecuador favored this system arguing it gave it a greater share of the European market than under the compromise accord.

"The EU is very much interested in getting consensus from all players ... We want Ecuador on board," said EU spokesman, Gregor Kreuzhuber.

He added that the EU is in talks with Ecuadorean officials to convince them that the deal brokered is the best possible for all concerned.

"At the end of the day, it should be acceptable to everyone. There is something in it for everybody," Kreuzhuber said.

He argued that the deal offered Ecuador "substantially higher possibilities" to import into the 15-nation EU.

The EU said the deal still protects producers in former colonies, although at a "slightly smaller amount" than previously proposed with a quota of 825,000 tons instead of 935,000 tons.

Caribbean producers, which were protected under the old system, said they could live with the accord, which ends an eight-year stalemate between the U.S. and the 15-nation bloc.

■ ST. MAARTEN

Budget-crunch solution alleviates judicial crisis

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP) — Government officials have agreed to solve a budget crunch that threatened to prevent Netherlands Antilles judges' usual trips from the central government seat in Curacao to help hear cases in St. Maarten.

Prime Minister Miguel Pourier and Finance Minister Russell Voges on Tuesday signed an agreement that will make more money available for the court system's tapped-out travel budget, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. It did not say how much money it would allocate.

Without the customary help from Curacao's judges, St. Maarten's lone judge had feared the court would not be able to handle all the criminal cases nor hear any civil cases or appeals.

The courts system had announced earlier this month that judges would not be able to travel after May 1 because nearly all the $52,000 travel budget was gone.

The budget had been slashed from $160,500 last year as the government sought ways to cut costs.

"It was never the intention to jeopardize the judicial system in St. Maarten," Voges said in a statement. "Justice is a core task and St. Maarten relies heavily on the visits of judges from Curacao. It is of vital importance to continue this service at all costs."

The extra money likely would come from other budgets in the Justice Department.

The Netherlands Antilles government has undertaken an austerity program to chip away at a debt of about $2 billion.

The federation includes the Dutch Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Maarten, which shares an island with French St. Martin.

Inmate: Two former cellmates had affair with slain artist

ROAD TOWN, British Virgin Islands (AP) — An inmate testified on Wednesday that one of his cellmates said he, another suspect accused in the killing of a Connecticut artist and the slain woman once shared a sexual encounter.

Jeffrey Plante, 59, testified that William Labrador, a financial adviser from Southampton, New York, had told him that he and another man, Alexander Benedetto, of New York, had shared a sexual encounter with Lois McMillen, 34, of Middlebury, Connecticut.

The artist's body was found on a Tortola beach in January 2000.

Plante testified that Labrador told him "that Mr. Benedetto and Mr. Labrador and McMillen were in an auto accident in Long Bay (in Tortola), and after the accident they went back to the house and made love to her."

Plante testified Tuesday that Labrador confessed to killing McMillen.

Benedetto, 35, who works for a book publisher, has said he had a relationship with McMillen in 1997 that ended amicably. Labrador, 37, has said he met McMillen only a few times and first met her in 1997. Benedetto and Labrador have said they are childhood friends.

"I assure you that whatever I told you Labrador said is the absolute God's honest truth."

Jeffrey Plante

Labrador; Benedetto; Michael Spicer, 37, a Virginia law student; and Evan George, 23, of Washington D.C., were arrested hours after McMillen's body was found. They said they had been socializing with her, but denied seeing her on the day she died.

Plante, a real estate developer from Rhode Island, had testified Tuesday that while he was in jail awaiting trial on credit card fraud charges, Labrador was placed in his cell. Labrador allegedly told him he had drowned McMillen by placing his foot over her neck, Plante said.

Prosecutors have said McMillen was held face down in shallow water until she drowned. A forensic expert said wounds on McMillen's body could have been caused under those circumstances.

Plante has denied defense attorneys' allegations that island officials paid him or granted him any leniency in exchange for his testimony. He is now in jail awaiting trial on 32 counts of writing bad checks in the Caribbean territory. The credit card fraud charges were dropped.

"I assure you that whatever I told you Labrador said is the absolute God's honest truth," Plante said Wednesday.

Labrador shook his head while he listened to Plante's testimony.

Defense lawyers have assailed Plante's credibility, pointing to a string of past convictions going back to 1964.

Plante admitted that in 1995 in Hawaii he testified about jailhouse conversations with a defendant in another murder trial, but said he only received a favorable letter for his parole board in Texas. He was paroled in 1998 and went to the British Virgin Islands in 1999.

The trial began April 2 and is expected to last through the end of the month. Prosecutors plan to rest their case this week.

Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is accepting applications for the Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship from graduating local high school seniors.



Students planning to obtain a bachelor's degree can apply for a scholarship of up to $60,000 for engineering and computer related studies.

Students planning to obtain an associate degree can apply for a scholarship of up to $20,000 for technical fields such as electronics, metal trades, mechanical, civil and electrical engineering and computer related fields.



One bachelor's degree scholarship and one associates degree scholarship will be offered in each district.

The application deadline has been extended to May 4, 2001.

Applications can be obtained from the WAPA Human Resources Offices and High School Guidance Counselors.



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EDITORIAL:

Proceed with caution

The Senate is currently looking at an idea to bring Internet gambling to the territory. While there are some ticklish legal issues involved, the notion is worth study and might even become a very lucrative industry. But as in every case where serious money is concerned, the dangers of abuse and corruption loom large.

Antigua, the Caymans, Costa Rica and other Caribbean venues have made deals with private entrepreneurs to set up computer servers to host gambling operations. Antigua, for example, charges operators $100,000 a year for sports books (betting on professional and college sports) and $75,000 for Vegas-style casino operations. Last time we checked there were about two dozen gaming operations working in Antigua (some of which were bootlegging to avoid paying the government at all).

These Internet sites make bags of money. Many are run by Americans, but Dutch, Scandanavian and French business people are also involved. We know of no native-owned operations in Antigua.

There have been incidents of money going astray, of course, but by and large the operations (at least in Antigua) are above-board, even if the industry itself is not all that reputable. One American was arrested when he returned to the States and was charged with violating the Wire Transfer Act, which prohibits gambling by telephone.

On the one hand, Internet gambling being hosted in the Virgin Islands is a natural. Unlike all other Caribbean venues, we have direct access to the fiber-optic lines of Global Crossing (in Frederiksted) and AT&T (on St. Thomas). These cables provide speed-of-light transmission and high reliability and data integrity. They eliminate, for all intents and purposes, "latency," which is the lag in transmissions between two or more computers speaking with one another. Fiber-optic cables also provide nearly unlimited bandwidth, so that the volume of discrete communications is enormous.

On the other hand, the Internet-gambling business is sensitive to changes in laws, both locally and nationally, as well as competition from new venues. Theoretically, we could attract hundreds of e-casinos to our shores: It is U.S. soil (making clients more confident the business is properly regulated) and the infrastructure (fiber optics) is already in place. But we could just as quickly lose that advantage to stateside locations — where qualified technical help is more abundant and fiber-optics gateways are also in place.

The biggest peril has to do with money. With such a hugely profitable industry, whatever arrangements are ultimately made have to include strict, transparent and tightly audited financial structures. We also have to be certain that, unlike in the other islands, local folks get first crack at the pot of gold. Lack of capital and the necessary technical expertise, not to mention legal constraints, could make that guarantee problematic — and therein lies the challenge.



Letters to the editor

Tax cut good for taxpayers, a problem for VI

Dear Editor:

Well, it looks like a large (but not large enough for me) income tax rate cut will be law by June 1, giving American taxpayers $60 billion to $80 billion in tax relief this year alone.

I'm felicitous with joy for financial help for my sons and my grandchildren, and me, too.

Now, the problem. My beloved St. Croix and the other V.I. tracts of land will be short $10 million to $20 million in tax revenue for years to come.

The solution: First choice is to have a smaller, more efficient government. Fat chance of this happening — bring on Republicans.

Second choice, eliminate a large percentage of unemployment to build a larger tax base and reduce government spending. (Where is the rocket factory?)

Third choice, beg Washington D.C. for more help in the way of grants and bucks.

Fourth choice, have part-time residents, like me, pay a portion of my federal income tax to the local government. I pay all to the federal government because I live in North Carolina for eight months a year.

The last and lousy choice (forgive me Larry J. and Ned J.), have a state — I mean a territory — income tax to make up the difference.

The local government's choice is: Have a study or many studies, and who knows what?

The fourth estate, what is your idea, besides dumping the local government and starting over again?

Peter Barack
Rutherford, N.C.

Has the government already sold Drake's Seat?

Dear Editor:

I'm not an attorney, but I do know that the legislative intent was clear in overriding the governor's veto to enable the Drake's Seat vendors to return to their original place of business.

It seems to me that our executive branch can't discriminate by not granting the permits required, so long as vendors fulfill their other conditions. The position the executive branch is taking also puts questions in my mind of what happened with the barge being given away without legislative approval or approval by the court of public opinion.

Has our executive branch already sold or given away Drake's Seat without our knowledge?

I believe it is against the ethical code of the V.I. Bar Association to deliver legal documents to individuals and not to their attorney. We will be writing to have any attorney disbarred from the practice of law in the territory for improper conduct of this sort.

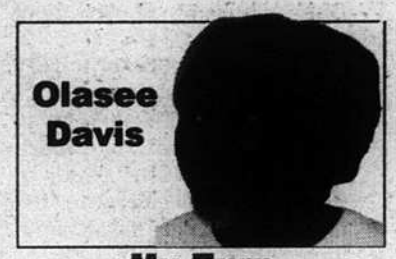
Commissioner Rutnik has shown us again how he likes to intimidate small business people with a letter written on April 11, and its delivery on Good Friday, April 13, knowing that his department is closed and knowing beforehand that no one can reach their attorney because of the holiday. This is just another incident of his harassment.

Diane Urena, president,
V.I. Vendors Association
St. Thomas

Got an opinion? Write a letter to the editor today.



Coastal waters suffer from rum waste



Olasee Davis

My Turn

According to J.L. Carstens, a Danish planter born on St. Thomas in 1705, the first introduction of enslaved Africans into the Virgin Islands was in the early 1670s.

By the 1690s, enslaved Africans became the single largest racial group of the Danish colonies. And by the 1700s, the African population reached a larger proportion — dominating the Danish colonies considerably.

The question is: What drove the economy in the early establishment of the Danish West Indies?

Sugar became the foundation of the slave trade in the Caribbean. The famous slave trade known as the "triangle trade" between Europe, the Americas and Africa was established. This trade consisted of rum from New England to West Africa, then slaves to Caribbean islands, and molasses to New England distilleries.

It was enslaved Africans and sugar that nourished the slave trade from Africa that gave European countries economic power.

As a result, the Caribbean islands during the 1800s became a focal point of international political conflict as European counties fought politically and physically for the domination of sugar in the Caribbean. The most important product of sugar was rum.

Another product of sugar was known as tafia. Tafia was a cheaper version of rum. This product was mostly consumed by the domestic market.

While tafia and molasses offered compensation to the planters and allowed them to develop an important supplemental trade that was exclusive to them, it represented waste, extra effort, and a loss of potential revenue for the colonial sugar industry.

Tafia was a by-product of sugar for planters, but slaves enjoyed consuming it.

During the 1700s and 1800s, rum in New England was considered the best. In 1761, Rhode Island had 22 distilleries and three sugar refineries. Massachusetts in 1763 had 63 distilleries.

These two northern states used the profit from rum to industrialize the New England states, which eventually ventured into textile manufacturing.

Believe me, without enslaved Africans' labor, the industrialization of the northern states and the enriching of Europe would not have been possible.

In the mid 1700s, St. Croix's land mass was under 97 percent cultivation for sugarcane. The rum made from sugar eventually surpassed tafia in consumption and profitability.

By the end of the 1960s, the rum industry had become dominant.

The demand for rum in the 1970s continued to grow with a steady increase of rum share in the United States market.

Although rum has profited the Virgin Islands economy from slavery to the present, the south shore marine environment of St. Croix has suffered tremendously with waste from the distillery.

This is one issue our government doesn't like to talk about because the industry generates millions for our local treasury.

In 1979, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted a study on distillery wastes in the marine environment in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The case study (No. 384) reported on the nature of rum wastes, effects of the waste on the marine environment and treatment, reuse anddisposal alternatives.

They found out that our rum distillery effluent discharge to the south shore waters of St. Croix contains high levels of organic carbon compounds.

This means the waste from the rum factory is harmful to our south shore marine environment.

Fish kill, reduction in marine microorganisms, planktonic organisms and heterotrophic organisms were found in the marine waters.

High consecration of lead, nickel, copper and zinc were some of the elements found in the water.

Of course, the rum industry would say the waste is not harmful to the marine environment.

Our coral reef on the south shore of St. Croix continues to suffocate with a brown plume for miles along the shore.

If you don't believe me, whenever you fly into Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix look out through the airplane window. You will see this brown substance on the water surface.

These pollutants lower the oxygen level in the receiving waters, which results in anoxic conditions. The reef needs sunlight in order to manufacture food for marine organisms.

The report did mention alternate ways to get rid of the waste.

The question is: When will our rum factory will make the necessary step for waste reduction in our coastal waters? Our emancipation was in 1848. Why not eliminate rum waste in 2001?

Olasee Davis is a St. Croix ecologist.

Attention VI Juniors: Research college now

Robin Groelle
My Turn

With spring break behind them and end of year exams not too far off, Virgin Islands juniors are beginning to take stock. Graduation is only one year away and if you have your sights on college there is a lot to be done.

The college admissions process can be, and indeed should be, a rewarding, stimulating, and successful experience for you, not a burdensome task to be undertaken with anxiety. It can be fun, and it will inevitably be a time for self-discovery and self-knowledge. You are heading into a venture in which you will learn much about yourself, your feelings about education and your place in an educational environment, and about your place in life and what you want from it and are willing to give to it.

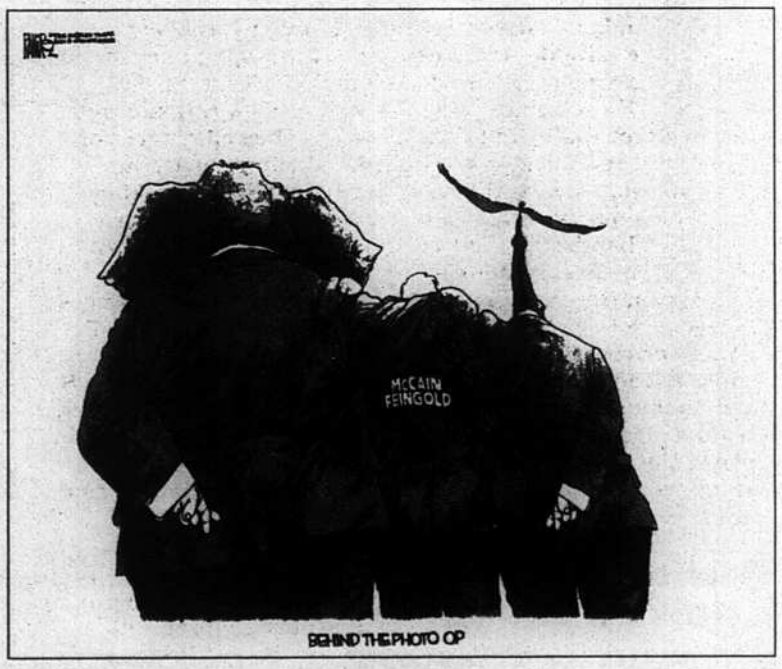
A college education is, without a question, the largest single investment people ever make in themselves.

Remember, there is 'no ideal college.' You know best about your own potential, your capacities, and your abilities, and the task of college choice ultimately rests with you. Your guidance counselors and your parents are available to counsel and assist you in any way possible, but you must begin the process by thinking about who you are and what you want from your life after high school. You also are urged to seek out others for there are many sources of support and information: your teachers, advisor, friends, college admissions staff, and others. Go to the college catalogs and reference guides at the library, and check out the many great websites on the internet. Make an appointment with your school's guidance office and meet often with the counselor there. The better they know you, the more they will be able to help you.

This is a significantly important venture you're undertaking, and you should be as curious and inquisitive as you like. Curiosity and inquisitiveness, in fact, are two qualities most admissions people find highly desirable.

In my 20 years of counseling students and families through the transition from high school to college, I have found that the key to a successful college experience (one where you graduate with a degree in four years) is to select a college list which reflects your interests, needs, values, and learning style.

This is Part I of a series on college prep by education consultant Robin Groelle, M.A., who is living on St. Croix aboard her boat FRODO. Contact her at 719 -1550 or email rgroelle@hotmailcom. Part II will appear in Friday's Avis.



The opinions on these pages are not necessarily those of the publishers, employees or advertisers of this newspaper. The editor reserves the right to edit all correspondence.

Rescued American hostage returns from Philippines

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An American who was rescued after nearly eight months in the hands of Muslim rebels in the Philippines arrived home Wednesday to an emotional welcome from his mother and other supporters.

Jeffrey Schilling, 25, appeared gaunt, tired and a bit bewildered as he entered the terminal at San Francisco International Airport. He was led by police to a waiting van and did not speak to reporters.

Schilling, a Muslim convert from Oakland, was detained by Abu Sayyaf rebels last August when he and his now-wife, Ivy Osani, traveled to one of the group's camps. Osani, a cousin of one of the guerrillas, was freed.

Schilling was found barefoot and covered with mosquito bites last Thursday by Army troops on southern Jolo Island. He left the Philippines on Sunday for Guam after debriefings by American and Philippine authorities.



Associated Press

Jeffrey Schilling, center, is escorted through the San Francisco International Airport after being reunited with friends and family Wednesday.

He has denied links with the Abu Sayyaf and told reporters before he left the country that he wanted the military to continue assaults to annihilate the group.

US seen leaning against sale of Aegis to Taiwan

Administration favors selling older destroyers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration aides weighing Taiwan's shopping list of advanced U.S. weaponry favor the sale of mothballed destroyers rather than newer warships equipped with sophisticated Aegis radar systems, administration officials said Wednesday.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said President Bush has not received "any recommendations at all" on which arms to sell to Taiwan. A presidential decision is due next week.

Due to China's strong opposition, decisions on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan are almost always politically sensitive. Bush's, however, is even more touchy now.

China's detention of a Navy surveillance plane crew for 11 days, and its refusal so far to return the aircraft, have hardened the views of some in Congress on accelerating the modernization of Taiwan's military.

The administration's assessment of Taiwan's request for four Aegis-equipped Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and other advanced weaponry is nearing completion, although Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has not yet made his recommendation to Bush, said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rumsfeld is scheduled to meet with Taiwanese officials at the Pentagon on Tuesday.

Administration officials said aides to Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell favor deferring the sale of Aegis-equipped destroyers. They prefer selling Kidd-class destroyers, which have a much less potent shipborne radar system but would still be a step forward for Taiwan's navy.

Kidd-class destroyers are no longer in use in the U.S. Navy. Adm. Dennis Blair, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, told Congress last month that the Kidd-class destroyers have "plenty of useful life yet."

Taiwan wants to buy other major weapons, including diesel-powered submarines, the new PAC-3 version of the Patriot air defense missile, M1 tanks, P-3 submarine-hunting planes and JDAMS satellite-guided bombs.

The issue of Aegis radars is the most sensitive aspect of Taiwan's arms request. China fears the technology eventually could serve as platform for a regional missile defense that would provide a shield for Taiwan against China's growing arsenal of short-range ballistic missiles.

The U.S. government is committed to providing Taiwan with sufficient arms to ensure it can defend itself. But in China's view, these arms sales amount to a military alliance between Taiwan and the United States that violates the official U.S. position that there is only one China. The "one China" policy is the basis for U.S. diplomatic relations with China, which insists that Taiwan must eventually reunite with the mainland.

The Clinton administration repeatedly declined to sell the Aegis system to Taiwan, and the U.S. Navy believes that Taiwan's navy is not technologically ready to operate the sophisticated radar and battle management system. Many conservatives in Congress, however, want Bush to go ahead with the sale.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a critic of China, said Wednesday, "Not making the Aegis system available to the Taiwanese now sends the worst possible message to the Communist Chinese in the aftermath of the recent incident.

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Mississippi flag vote may lead to boycotts

NAACP raises specter of economic punishment

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The NAACP raised the threat of an economic boycott Wednesday to drag Mississippi "kicking and screaming into the 21st century" after voters overwhelmingly decided to keep their 107-year-old state flag with the Confederate emblem.

NAACP leaders said they will decide next month whether to lead a boycott, a tactic used by the organization against South Carolina, where a Confederate flag flew for decades over the Statehouse dome until it was taken down last year.

"That flag has never been my flag, nor will it ever be my flag nor the flag of black people in the state of Mississippi who really understand the reason behind the Confederate flag and all of its history," state NAACP President Eugene Bryant said.

By nearly 2-to-1 Tuesday, Mississippi voters decided to keep their 1894 flag, rejecting a new design that would have replaced the Confederate emblem with a cluster of 20 stars signifying admission as the 20th state. No other state prominently displays the Confederate emblem on its flag.

"The voice of the people has been heard. The people of Mississippi do not want another flag. Mississippians are proud of their families, this state and its rich history," said William Earl Faggert, a leader of the state Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Mississippi NAACP official Deborah Denard said the vote means the state will have to be "dragged along kicking and screaming into the 21st century."



Associated Press

While waving his Mississippi state flag, Jeff Couch of Brandon, Miss., signals to motorists on U.S. 51 between Ridgeland and Madison, Tuesday.

"Mississippi is kind of acting like children in that regard," Denard said. "They know that the Confederate banner has to go eventually, but they have to cling to antiquated ideas about what constitutes honor and dignity."

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove supported the new flag, saying the racially divisive Confederate symbol could hurt business. After the vote, he said: "It's important that we accept the majority vote and move forward with the business of bringing new jobs and better opportunities to all Mississippians."

Even though Mississippi lacks the drawing power of a major city like Atlanta, tourism-related businesses employ 94,000 people and pumped $6 billion into the state economy last year. Gambling at 30 state-regulated casinos accounted for $2.62 billion of that.

A coalition of business leaders, academics and civil rights groups had pushed for a new flag, saying the Confederate X hurts Mississippi's image.

"We thought it was the right thing to do," said Andy Bourland, director of the Mississippi Gaming Association.

University of Georgia historian James Cobb — whose 1992 book "The Most Southern Place on Earth," explored social divides in the Mississippi Delta — said Mississippi's hold on the Rebel flag could put it at a disadvantage in economic development.

"Mississippi will be the last Confederate state — that will be the rallying cry for some," Cobb said.

Faggert, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, condemned the possibility of boycotts.

"Our state had withstood yet another unbelievable assault on its culture by a few of its own citizens and other outside influence that cowered toward political correctness carried to the extreme," he said.

Kirk Fordice, who served two terms in the 1990s as Mississippi's first Republican governor since Reconstruction, said the world should accept the flag vote.

"What people have to understand is that Mississippians resent the heck out of the constant drumming on the part of the media and others, day after day, that something's wrong with you if you support the old flag," Fordice said. "You have to change hearts, not the flag, if you want racial reconciliation."

The state has 2.8 million people, 61 percent of them white and 36 percent black. The vote was 65 percent to 35 percent in favor of the old flag, though in a few majority-black counties, the vote was surprisingly close.

Texas halts hate crimes vote

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Legislature on Wednesday abruptly postponed a vote on hate crimes legislation after the governor persuaded key Republicans to pull their support, a sponsor said.

"It is my understanding that the governor has gotten involved and has discouraged members from voting to bring the bill up," said Democratic Sen. Rodney Ellis.

Gov. Rick Perry said he spoke with Sen. Robert Duncan, a Republican, about the bill but did not pressure him to change his vote.

Duncan agreed his talk with the governor didn't cause him to not support a Wednesday vote: "I made my own decision."

The vote was rescheduled for Thursday in the House.

The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act is named for a black man who was dragged to death behind a pickup truck in Texas in 1998. Separate bills in the House and Senate would make crimes motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion or sexual preference a hate crime and enhance penalties and protections.

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First day of US-China talks called 'unproductive'

Chinese insist that surveillance missions be halted; American envoys threaten to break off negotiations

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a rocky first round, the United States is threatening to break off talks with China on U.S. surveillance flights unless the Chinese start discussing the return of the Navy reconnaissance plane detained for nearly three weeks.

The United States hopes to gain from the talks in Beijing at least the return of the aircraft that made an emergency landing in southern China April 1. The crew was held for 11 days and released only after protracted negotiations.

"Nothing was settled. ... There was no progress on the issue of return of the airplane," department spokesman Richard Boucher said after the opening 2½-hour session.

The U.S. ambassador, retired Adm. Joseph Prueher, will meet with Foreign Ministry officials and "he will tell them it makes sense to continue to meet only if there's productive discussion about return of the aircraft," Mary Ellen Countryman, a White House spokeswoman, said.

"We look to the Chinese to take a positive and constructive attitude at these meetings," Boucher said.

"When we and the Chinese can talk from the basis of fact rather than from a basis of rhetoric, we're going to be better off," Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's assistant for national security, said on MSNBC.

Bush met with Rice and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the White House, while Secretary of State Colin Powell was host at a State Department luncheon with Vice President Dick Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rice, on negotiations with China and other foreign policy issues.

The U.S. negotiating team in Beijing planned to return Friday to Washington, even if Prueher gets talks on the plane restarted Thursday, the official said.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., long a critic of China, blamed former President Clinton for China's tough position in the negotiations. "After eight years of Bill Clinton, the Chinese communists believe we are cowardly and unprincipled, and what that is resulting in is belligerency and aggression," he said.

The EP-3E Aries II made an emergency landing in southern China after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet. From the outset, the Bush administration has insisted its surveillance operation was legal.

China, by contrast, has insisted the plane swerved, causing the collision, and that the surveillance was improper and must cease. The Chinese pilot was lost.

The senior Chinese negotiator, in a statement read on the main evening news broadcast, said, "The U.S. side should bear the full responsibility for the incident, make clear and responsible explanations to the Chinese people, stop reconnaissance flights in the space adjacent to Chinese coastal areas and take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."

Even as American and Chinese negotiators met in Beijing, U.S. officials in Washington were weighing the kind of weapons that might be sold to Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland.

A senior administration official said President Bush's foreign policy advisers had recommended deferring sale of Aegis-class destroyers while providing Taiwan with other, less-advanced weapons.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the president would make a decision by next Tuesday, when he is due to meet with a Taiwanese delegation.

But Boucher said no recommendations had been submitted to Bush. "There's a process of review and discussion that's under way, and that continues," the spokesman said.

The administration has tried to separate consideration of a weapons package from the dispute over U.S. reconnaissance flights. But China resents the arming of Taiwan, and its sentiments are bound to have an impact on the relationship, just as U.S. criticism of China's human rights record does.

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Fed gives Wall Street a surprise with rate cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting in an emergency conference call, the Federal Reserve moved Wednesday to bolster the flagging economy by cutting interest rates by half a point for the fourth time this year.

It marked the most aggressive credit easing during Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's nearly 14 years at the helm and sent a clear message that the central bank is prepared to do whatever it can to prevent a recession.

Wall Street, which had given up hope that the Fed would cut rates again before its meeting on May 15, soared on the news.

The Dow Jones industrial average enjoyed its third biggest one-day point gain in history, rising by 399.10 points, or 3.9 percent, to close at 10,615.64. The technology-heavy Nasdaq rose 8.1 percent, its fourth best percentage gain, to close at 2,079.44.

"Tactically, this was a masterful stroke on the part of the Fed because the markets had completely eliminated the possibility of a Fed cut before the next meeting," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. in New York.

The Fed's decision to cut the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, to 4.5 percent will translate into lower borrowing costs for millions of Americans.

Commercial banks immediately followed suit with a half-point cut in their prime lending rate, pushing the benchmark for many consumer and business loans down to 7.5 percent, the lowest level in more than six years.

In a brief statement announcing its decision, the Fed said it was concerned about recent declines in business investment in new plants and equipment, a major driving force in the record 10-year economic expansion.

A further decline in investment spending, combined with the negative effects on consumer spending from a falling stock market, "threatens to keep the pace of economic activity unacceptably weak," the Fed said.

"This is exactly the right decision, made at exactly the right time," said Gordon Richards, chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers.

The big Wall Street rally on Wednesday was the most positive immediate response since the Fed began the series of rate reductions on Jan. 3.

Its reduction that day, the first cut outside of a regular meeting since the Asian crisis of 1998, triggered a 300-point Dow rally.

The market was disappointed in the next two rate cuts, which came during regularly scheduled Fed meetings, especially the March 20 announcement when investors had been hoping for a bigger three-quarter-point Fed move.



Associated Press

Tom Costello of CNBC gives a report in front of the the Nasdaq MarketSite board Wednesday in New York's Time Square.

Analysts said Greenspan and his colleagues clearly had investors in mind in the timing of Wednesday's move, hoping to bolster consumer confidence, which has been sagging as Americans watched trillions of dollars of paper wealth evaporate over the past year.

The rate decision was made during a telephone conference call among Fed policy-makers beginning at 8:30 a.m. EDT. The announcement of the change came shortly before 11 a.m.

Bush, Congress find agreement on portion of education package

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (AP) — President Bush said he and Congress are progressing toward legislation to change America's education system by holding schools accountable for student success while giving parents a way to get extra help.

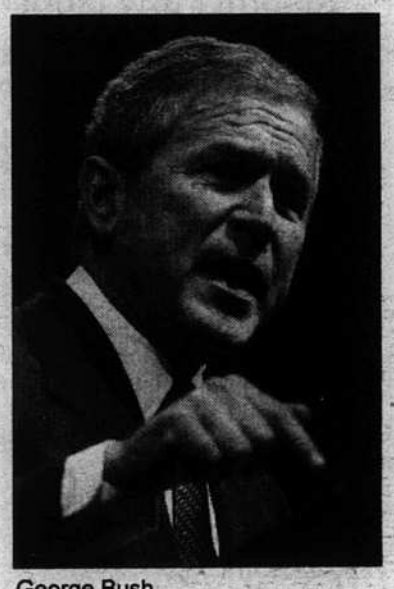
With Congress in spring recess, Bush promoted his education package Wednesday in two events reminiscent of the presidential campaign. Congress returns next week planning to debate Bush's proposals, which would increase student testing and require improved scores as the price for substandard schools to keep federal money.

"We're finding agreement that the accountability system has got to have some teeth in it," said Bush, who was presented with an honorary doctorate of laws before 1,700 people at Central Connecticut State University.

Earlier Wednesday, Bush visited an elementary school in nearby Waterbury, where he highlighted efforts to turn around a school that he said tested poorly eight years ago.

Senate and White House negotiators drafted a tentative compromise plan this month that would provide an alternative to Bush's proposal to offer private school vouchers to students in poor schools.

Under the compromise, the government would aid persistently failing schools to bring up test scores, but those that remain substandard after years of extra aid would be forced to give pupils an option to transfer to another public school. A last resort would close failing schools to be reopened as charter schools with new staffs and new curricula.



George Bush

The plan also proposes taking money from failing schools and giving it to families for tutoring programs.

Senators will take up the education bill next week.

"We haven't agreed 100 percent all across the board, but we're making good progress," Bush said.

He also said his education budget would triple the amount of money available for "character education." "Education is not complete unless we teach our children not only how to read and write but the difference between right and wrong," he said.

Bush's proposal would have allowed families to use their shares of federal money given to low-performing schools for tuition to private schools. Under the compromise, parents could use some of the money only on supplementary after-school, weekend or summer tutoring programs.



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Glorin Camacho
March 27, 2001

Bush administration softens stance on global warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration has toned down its criticism of the 1997 Kyoto climate change treaty and is no longer insisting it is dead, Dutch Environmental Minister Jan Pronk said Wednesday.

"I don't hear it anymore. I think it was a premature statement," said Pronk, chairman of the United Nations' climate change negotiating panel, after meeting with administration officials.

Bush sparked an international outcry last month by declaring the treaty unfeasible and reversing a campaign promise to treat carbon dioxide from power plants as a pollutant and source of global warming. He said the treaty's mandatory cuts on carbon dioxide emissions and short timetable are not acceptable to the United States and expressed concern about its impact on the economy.

In its place, Pronk said, the administration is pledging to come up with another plan in time for a new round of talks on climate change in July in Bonn, Germany.

"The intention is to have a ratification in 2002," even if the United States does not participate, he said. "I reacted rather positively because it meant the new administration favors a resumption in talks."

For the past two days, Pronk met with U.S. officials, including Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Whitman also is meeting with Australian, Danish, Austrian and German foreign environmental ministers this month to hear their concerns.

"This has been more of a 'We're listening, we want to hear all of your concerns'" than actual negotiations, Whitman spokeswoman Tina Kreisher, said Wednesday. "The purpose is to take it out of the limelight and have frank discussions."

A State Department spokeswoman Wednesday declined comment.

No industrial country has yet ratified the Kyoto treaty. An effort last November at The Hague, Netherlands, to come up with a plan for implementing the accord collapsed in a disagreement between the United States and Germany over trading pollution credits.

Briefs

400 officers ready for McVeigh execution

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — From a command center in the federal penitentiary, officials will oversee nearly 400 state, local and federal law enforcement officers during the days leading up to Timothy McVeigh's execution.

The command center will open on May 9, a week before McVeigh is scheduled to die by lethal injection for the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, which killed 168.

The number of officers in the area will grow as the execution date approaches, Warden Harley Lappin said at the prison Wednesday.

Some law enforcement authorities and residents have expressed fear of some kind of terrorist attack when McVeigh is executed May 16.

Lappin said news organizations are expected to begin setting up on prison property between May 9 and May 11. By May 12, all roads onto prison grounds will be guarded and all vehicles will be checked.

Florida wildfires mostly contained

ST. CLOUD, Fla. (AP) — A wildfire that burned more than 500 acres near a subdivision, forcing dozens of people from their homes, was 75 percent contained Wednesday, authorities said.

"I think we've got a pretty good handle on it," said Colleen Holborn, a battalion chief for the Osceola County fire department.

The fire, which also scorched up to 14,000 acres in an uninhabited area of Kissimmee Prairie State Park, started Monday night. No injuries were reported and only one home was damaged in the area south of Orlando.

"It was like a firestorm. It touched down and picked up and touched down," said David Spanyon, whose truck and boat were destroyed. "There was no rhyme or reason for where it went."

Reform Party pioneer bails out on Perot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russell Verney, a longtime adviser to Ross Perot who once ran the Reform Party then fought its takeover by Pat Buchanan, has quit his job with the Texas billionaire and was considering a post as a regional director for Judicial Watch, a conservative activist group.

"My leaving Mr. Perot's employ has no impact on the Reform Party," Verney said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Verney is negotiating with Judicial Watch to open an office in Dallas where he would be southwest regional director of the group. Verney said the Reform Party is dead nationally because of Buchanan's poor showing in the election.

Current Reform Party Chairman Gerry Moan has said the party is "alive and well" and working to organize for the future.

Many members of the Reform Party split off last year after Buchanan engineered a takeover at all levels.

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Hundreds leave homes as Mississippi River floods

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. (AP) — While the Mississippi River crested in several places Wednesday, people downstream continued sandbagging to prepare for the rising waters.

Hundreds of people in Wisconsin and downstream in Iowa had moved out of low-lying riverside areas Tuesday while volunteers and others worked to reinforce sandbag dikes. Residents further up the river hoped the water had reached its high mark.

The river crested Wednesday at 16.4 feet at La Crosse, Wis., lower than initial predictions of 17 feet and more than a foot below the record set 36 years ago.

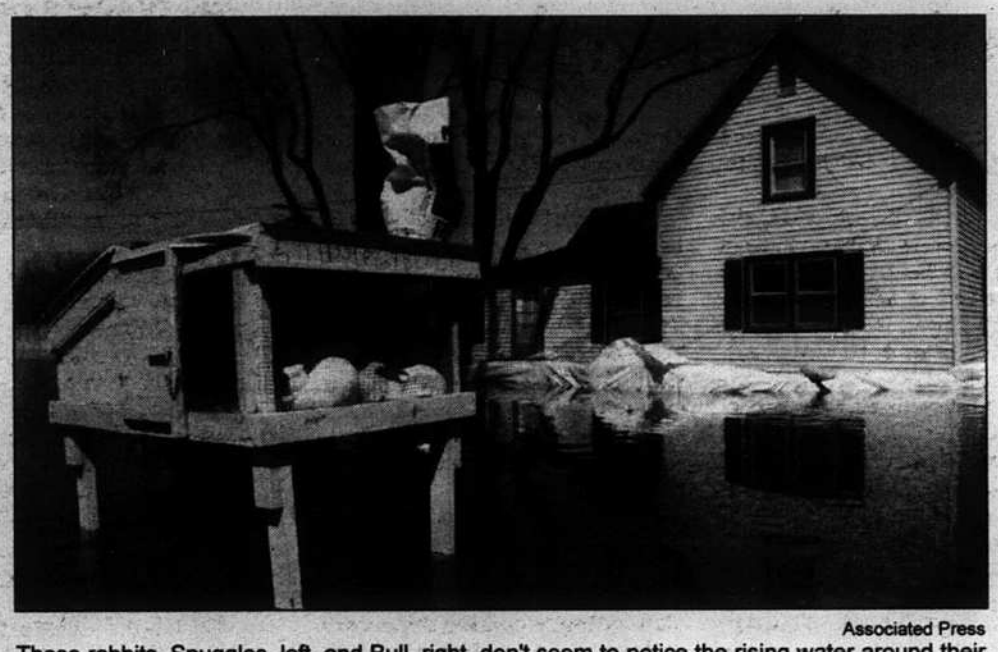
The river could drop by about a foot by Sunday, the National Weather Service said, but La Crosse Mayor John Medinger said the crisis isn't over. "It won't be over until the river goes down to 13 to 14 feet. The potential is there for serious problems," he said.

Two to 3 inches of rain is forecast along the Mississippi in southern Minnesota this week, but that shouldn't threaten riverfront communities there, said Minnesota emergency management official Kris Eide. Flood crests on the Mississippi appear to be moving downriver ahead of schedule and not as high as expected.

"We are very close," Eide said. "The worst is behind us."

The river at Prairie du Chien was 23.07 feet and was expected to crest at 23.7 feet by Friday.

Water climbed at the home of Dorothy and Al Reed as they moved furniture to take it to their daughter's home on higher ground.



Associated Press

These rabbits, Snuggles, left, and Bull, right, don't seem to notice the rising water around their home Wednesday in Prairie du Chien, Wis. The home owned by Milo Thornton is dealing with the rising waters of the Mississippi River.

"The basement is full, and it's on my back porch, and it will probably be in the rest of the house sometime tomorrow," Dorothy Reed said. "We're trying to get everything out. It's no fun."

Another resident, Rose Serpe, said a sandbagged dike around her home was failing.

"It has been saturating under the dike," she said. She expected water would flood the home's first floor, and had her kitchen refrigerator up on blocks.

Sixteen counties in Minnesota and nine in western Wisconsin have declared a state of emergency. A disaster proclamation was in place for 10 Iowa counties.

"A lot of the people in the community have done a great deal of work ahead of time to help minimize damage," Wisconsin Gov. Scott McCallum said Wednesday on "The Early Show" on CBS.

Despite the easing crests upriver in Minnesota, the weather service raised its projections at Rock Island to a crest of 21.5 to 22.5 feet, just shy of the 22.63-foot record set in 1993.

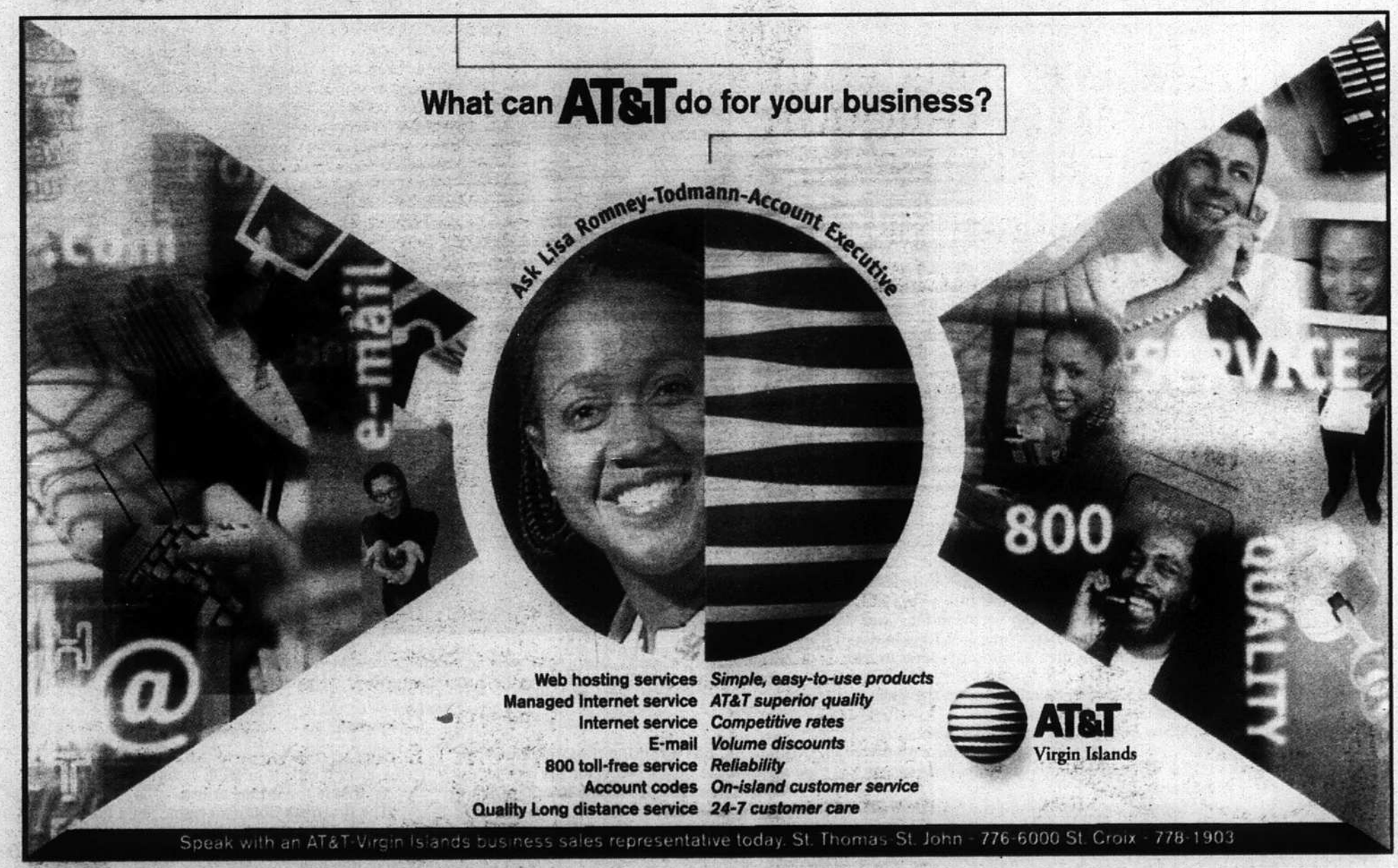
At St. Paul, Minn., the Mississippi passed 23 feet Tuesday for the first time since the 1960s and was up to 23.4 feet Wednesday. Four city parks and the downtown airport for small planes already were under water, but the river was expected to go up only about an additional inch.

A 403-mile stretch of the Mississippi from Minneapolis to Muscatine, Iowa, is closed to boat and barge traffic. Amtrak passenger service between Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul remained shut down Wednesday because of flooding along the Mississippi. Burlington Northern Santa Fe also had idled freight trains in the area.

Communities throughout the Quad Cities area — Moline and Rock Island, Ill., and Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa — where the crest is expected to arrive next week, pleaded for volunteers to fill sandbags and some schools let students out of class to help. Prison inmates were sent to help at Hampton, Ill.

"I have a friend who lives on the river. I know what it's like. Everybody needs to do their part," said Matt Campbell, a student at Riverdale High School in Port Byron, Ill., just north of the Quad Cities.

About 50 Army National Guardsmen were ordered to Camanche, Iowa, on Wednesday to help townspeople with sandbagging and patrolling the levees along the rising Mississippi River.



WORLD'S LEADING EXERCISERS

These days, any leader worth his salt is breaking a sweat

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

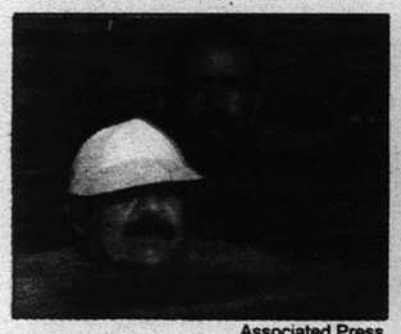
Government can be fattening for world leaders. They get to eat their nation's best cuisine every day. They're schlepped about in limousines.

When Western Hemisphere leaders gather in Quebec City this weekend, some of Canada's best chefs will cook, richly, for them. Temptations exist outside of summits, too: When German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder developed a taste for curry sausages a few years ago, he saw his waistline take a turn for the wurst.

But times may be changing from the days when Israel's Ariel Sharon, now prime minister, got a box of Slim Fast as a gift and chugged down three cans of the chocolatey diet beverage in one sitting.

Today's generation of leaders is making an effort to emphasis vigor over vittles.

So it seemed when a dozen Associated Press reporters around the world looked into the exercise regimens of national leaders.



Associated Press
President Saddam Hussein, foreground, swims in the Tigris river in this Sept, 16 1997, picture provided by the official Iraqi News Agency.

President Bush's exercising involves a battery of gym machines, free weights and a treadmill. Steak is the forbidden love of Vice President Dick Cheney, the red meat banished on doctor's orders after his spate of heart problems. He exercises, too.

The White House is not the only house where leaders are working out or limbering up.

VIPs are taking to judo mats in Moscow, squash courts in Egypt, tennis courts in Britain, the Tigris River of Iraq, and even a hole in the ice in Finland to get in shape or stay that way.

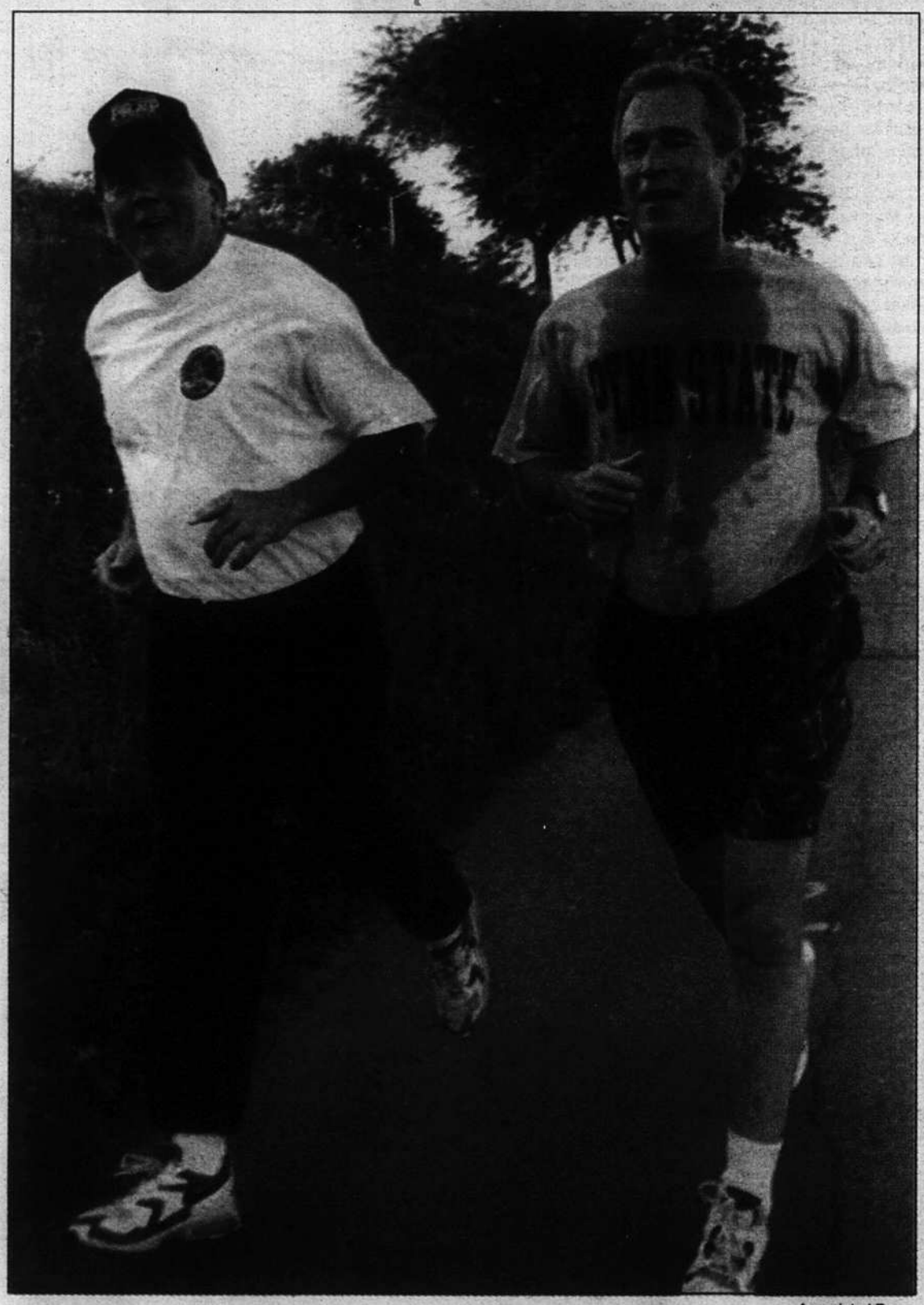
Mornings in Bangladesh find Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina up early, practicing yoga. After a splash of water on her face and feet, she is ready for prayers and her nation's business.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he sets aside almost an hour for swimming and other exercise in the morning and tries to do an additional 90 minutes of workouts later in the day.

But his physical rituals peak on the judo mat; he has a black belt.

"When I am with other people practicing judo, I feel as though I am with close relatives," Putin, 48, told athletes at a Japanese sports center last year.

He promptly went out on the mats and got thrown by a 10-year-old girl. History does not record whether he took the fall on purpose.



Associated Press
Texas Governor George W. Bush, right, wearing a Penn State shirt, takes an early morning five-mile jog with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, left, along the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg, Pa., in this June 24, 1999, file photo.

Bush, 54, has a routine that includes 155 pounds on the bench press for his biceps and chest, the same weight on the lateral pulldown for his back, and three sets of 10 curls each with free weights, says Anne Womack, his spokeswoman.

Plus, he tries to run four times a week and can cover a mile in a brisk 7 minutes, 30 seconds, inside the house or out.

"The brother's doing all right," said an impressed Marques Haden, assistant manager of a Bally's gym in Washington, scanning the



Associated Press
Chinese President Jiang Zemin, center, accompanied by aides and bodyguards, waves to tourists after he floated in the Dead Sea near Ein Bokek, Israel on in this April 14, 2000, file photo. Zemin, 74, spends a few weeks each summer at a seaside haven where he and other officials swim in the polluted, green-blue Bohai Sea.

president's workout list. "Keeps you pumped up.

"He can run faster than some guys I play football with."

Leaders seem trimmer than in the years of tottering Soviet leaders and plump Westerners, epitomized by former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a cookbook author and renowned feaster who weighed 365 pounds in 1998, the year he was defeated.

After the German government moved to Berlin from Bonn in 1999, the new chancellor grew fond of the city's currywurst, a sausage piled with curry powder and ketchup. Schroeder's girth paid a price, and his wife Doris made him give it up.

For athleticism in German government, the star goes to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, 52, a once-chunky figure who finished in the top third of the Berlin marathon last year.

When British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Bush met the press at Camp David in Maryland earlier this year, Blair had already been to the gym there that morning and the president was going there next.

"I'm probably as fit now as when I left university, because for a long time in my 20s and 30s I didn't bother much," British Prime Minister Tony Blair, 47, a man of many athletic interests, told a magazine.

Others make daily activity a prerequisite, too, even if it is not of the pulse-pounding type.

Hasina, 54, spends an hour doing yoga or walking in reflective solitude.

"I feel so relaxed after doing the yoga and washing my face and feet before saying the fazr (morning) prayer," she told AP. "It's a wonderful way to begin the day."

If horse racing is the sport of kings, swimming is the sport of prime ministers and presidents.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, 64, swims in the morning. Chinese President Jiang Zemin, 74, wore paisley trunks for a Hawaii ocean swim en route to Washington a few years ago, back when U.S.-Chinese relations were warmer.

Finnish President Tarja Halonen, 57, is a pool regular, too. She also takes an occasional dip in the Baltic Sea through a hole in the ice.

In black swimsuit and white cap, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein swam across the Tigris River three times in 1997, at age 60, to show his vigor. Iraqi swimmers now celebrate that day every year.

Aides are often eager to advertise the boss' activities, especially when political opponents tend to be younger.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, 67, a skier and golfer who took his first snowboarding lesson for his 65th birthday, was often photographed in athletic pursuits during the last election.

Blair's main rival, Conservative Party leader William Hague, 40, practices judo with his chief of staff, Sebastian Coe, former middle-distance runner and Olympic gold medalist.

Hague's fighting-fit appearance was complicated, however, when he recently owned up to drinking an astonishing 14 pints of beer a day as a young man.

Leader lifestyles

EGYPT:
A knee problem overcome, President Hosni Mubarak, 72, is said to be back playing 40 minutes of squash a day. His love of squash has helped make it the second most popular sport in his country, behind soccer.

UNITED STATES:
President Bush, 54, tries to run four times a week, often on a treadmill but outside when he can. He covered three miles on a recent weekend run outdoors and can do a mile in a brisk 7 minutes, 30 seconds.

His gym-workout regimen: three sets of 10 curls with free weights, progressing from 25 pounds to 30 pounds and 35 pounds; 100 pounds to 120 pounds on the bench incline; 20 pounds to 25 pounds per arm on the fly machine, lateral pull-downs at weights of 135-155 pounds; about 155 pounds on the bench press. He also tries to use an elliptical machine, a cross between a stationary bicycle and ski machine, twice a week.

SAUDI ARABIA:
Crown Prince Abdullah, 80, walks for at least an hour a day before his breakfast of dates, camel's milk and bitter Arabic coffee. He swims about twice a week, drinks no alcohol and is said to smoke, but rarely. His half brother King Fahd, three months older, had a stroke in 1995 and uses a wheelchair.

FINLAND:
President Tarja Halonen, 57, a swimmer, served vegetarian food and light refreshments when she invited Cabinet members to the presidential sauna, once known for high-powered gatherings fueled by alcohol. Halonen, the country's first female president, only invited the seven women from the 17-member Cabinet.

IRAQ:
President Saddam Hussein, 63, who swims, appears in TV clips to favor grilled meats and hot, flat peasant bread. He smokes Cuban cigars sometimes but does not drink alcohol or like to see others doing so.

LEBANON:
President Emile Lahoud, 64, maintains a chalet at the Military Club in Beirut where he swims early mornings. He is often called the First Sportsman and was seen among spectators at a stadium, cheering and jumping in support of a Lebanese basketball team.

BRITAIN:
Prime Minister Tony Blair, 47, swims, works out at the gym and plays tennis regularly.

CHINA:
President Jiang Zemin, 74, spends a few weeks each summer at a seaside haven where he and other officials swim in the polluted, green-blue Bohai Sea.

CANADA:
Prime Minister Jean Chretien, 67, who skis and golfs, took a snowboarding lesson on his 65th birthday and sprinted up two flights of stairs at the House of Commons. He displayed physical prowess when confronted by a protester in 1996, grabbing the man by the throat for a few seconds. He later joked that he was showing the man the "Shawinigan handshake," referring to his blue-collar hometown in Quebec.

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Senators meet with Mexicans

MEXICO CITY (AP) — In Washington, there is no voice more critical of Mexico than that of Jesse Helms. So the vision of the dour senator posing, smiling and trading jokes with Mexico's foreign minister — a man he once denounced as a communist — seemed surreal.

But it was real, all right. Helms talked of "a future of cooperation, friendship, mutual respect" as he and other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee met Wednesday with their Mexican counterparts for the first time.

The North Carolina Republican also played down his past attacks, suggesting that democratic change in Mexico — where Vicente Fox last July became the first opposition candidate ever to win the presidency — had helped change his attitude.

"It is true that over the course of my public life I have criticized certain political leaders of Mexico, and certain government policies those leaders imposed on the Mexican people," he said. "But I am not now, and have never been, a critic of Mexico."

During his meeting with Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda on Tuesday, Helms even sought to smooth over one of the few differences evident in the three-day visit: Mexico's announcement that it would not vote in favor of a U.S.-supported measure condemning human rights violations in Cuba.

But he did offer Mexico advice on its policy toward the communist island, saying the United States does not expect it to be an "agent of U.S. interests in the hemisphere."

"Rather, we ask and hope that Mexico will be a faithful advocate of its own democratic principles — at home, across the globe and particularly on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico, where the last bastion of tyranny in our hemisphere staggers on," he said.

Helms also left smiling after a visit with Fox and said he wants to work more closely on drug trafficking, immigration and human rights — issues on which he and the Mexican government have clashed in the past.

Canadian police arrest six ahead of Summit of the Americas

QUEBEC (AP) — Police arrested six Canadians they said were planning violence at this weekend's Summit of the Americas, officials said Wednesday, displaying seized weapons that included small explosives and smoke grenades.

Inspector Robert Poeti of the Quebec Provincial Police said increased security for the Friday-Sunday summit, where 34 leaders of the Western Hemisphere will gather, led to the arrests of two 21-year-old men driving into Quebec City and four men in the Montreal area.

The arrests occurred Tuesday and Wednesday. Police recovered the explosives and grenades along with flammable liquid, baseball bats, gas masks and pointed sticks, Poeti said.

Poeti said a Canadian military reservist and a former member of the military were among the six arrested, and that some of the explosive materials seized were military-issue.

Police would not identify the arrested men, who face charges including possession of explosives, stealing military supplies and conspiring to endanger public safety.

Huge protests are planned around the summit by activists who are traveling from around the world. Shopkeepers have boarded up many stores, and Canadian authorities have erected a 2 1/2-mile concrete-and-wire fence to prevent the activists from getting near the summit site.

On Wednesday, a Quebec judge ruled that although the fence infringes on civil liberties, it is justified given the fears of unrest. The groups that filed the lawsuit said they would appeal, but the appeal will not be heard until after the summit.

Probably the most high-profile of the activists, French farmer Jose Bove, said Wednesday that he would participate in the demonstrations but didn't want to make trouble.

Bove, 47, is appealing a three-month prison sentence for the 1999 ransacking of a McDonald's restaurant in France.

"I have not come here to impose any mode of action, but will participate in whatever actions are being prepared by local groups," Bove said.

The Canadian government intervened to allow Bove to attend the Summit of the Americas, where the leaders will discuss expanding the North America Free Trade Agreement to include Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Benin police launch inquiry into slave boat

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — Police in Benin on Wednesday launched an official investigation into a ship that sparked a multi-nation search for hundreds of suspected child slaves along the western coast of Africa.

The Nigerian-registered MV Etireno, which U.N. and local officials originally thought left Benin with 100 to 250 children destined for the slave trade, docked in Cotonou Tuesday, but more adults than children were aboard.

"An official inquiry was launched today," said Martin Degan, head of the police department's child protection unit. "The captain of the Etireno and his crew are still confined aboard because we need them for the investigation. That's all we can say for now."

The ship's Nigerian captain, Lawrence Onome, has insisted no child slaves were aboard when the ship docked in Cotonou port early Tuesday.

Some U.N. officials and aid workers speculate that the children might have been thrown overboard, although there is no evidence to suggest that. Others say the Etireno was confused with a second ship, whose whereabouts remain a mystery.

Aid workers said they took a number of unaccompanied minors from the ferry to two children's homes in Benin's commercial capital, Cotonou, where they were allowed to eat and rest before being interviewed by police. Journalists were refused access to the children.

It was not immediately clear how many of the children were aboard and unaccompanied, or how they came to be on the ship.

UNICEF officials said 31 children were taken from the ship and placed in homes. The Swiss-run Men of the Earth charity, which runs one of the homes, put the number at 43. Social Protection Minister Ramatou Baba Moussa produced a copy of the handwritten manifest, which listed 139 names, including seven children.

Jewish youths, Holocaust survivors visit Auschwitz

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — Jewish teen-agers from around the world walked silently through the former Auschwitz death camp Wednesday, listening in horror to accounts of Nazi atrocities on the eve of an annual march commemorating 6 million victims of the Holocaust.

Many among an American group of 160 youths cried as they walked past heaps of hair and personal belongings from the more than 1 million people who died at the camp, on display at its red brick museum in Oswiecim, the town in southern Poland that is called Auschwitz in German.

"I am completely overwhelmed, it is so extremely hard to understand how this could happen," said Jana Luft, 17, of Palo Alto, California.

"When we saw the gathered piles of shoes it was very effective. I just saw each shoe belonging to a different individual person. It was not a number, it was an individual person," said Luft.

To honor the Holocaust victims, the March of the Living was founded in 1988 as a part of a Holocaust educational program for Jewish high-school students. Participants also visit the cities of Krakow, Lodz and Lublin — all former centers of Jewish life in Poland — and meet local students.

The two-mile march scheduled Thursday leads from Auschwitz to Birkenau, where the Nazis built most of the gas chambers and a crematorium.

At the dark, concrete gas chamber, the teen-agers gingerly touched the nail scratches left on the walls by victims who were gassed to death there.



Associated Press

Jewish teen-agers from the United States burn candles at the crematorium of the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in Oswiecim, in southern Poland, Wednesday on the eve of the annual March of the Living that honors 6 million Holocaust victims.

They heard Rabbi Kalman Rosenbaum say a funeral prayer for martyrs, and then each prayed in stunned silence at the open crematorium furnaces where bodies were burned. They lit small white candles in memory.

Survivor Viola Baras, 73, of St. Petersburg, Fla., returned for the first time since World War II. She overcame her initial hesitation because her son and granddaughter wanted to come.

"It's a very traumatic experience just to be here," said Baras, who worked sorting clothes as a prisoner at Birkenau between April 1944 and January 1945.

She said that looking at the victims' belongings, the sight of hair brushes triggered her memory.

"When I saw the brushes, all of a sudden it all came back. It was 57 years ago and suddenly it came back," Baras said.

"And then we went into the suitcases room and I see my maiden name, I see my grandparents' valise with the name Eisler on it. I looked at it and I could not believe I was seeing it after all these years," she said.

Baras survived because she was later sent to Ravensbruck, a women's concentration camp in Germany.

She said it is important for young Jews to visit the former camp.

"If not for them, who would believe it, who would carry on our Jewish heritage?"

Most of the 3.5 million Jews who lived in Poland before World War II died in the Holocaust, and many survivors left in the 1950s and 1960s after communist-instigated anti-Semitic purges. About 20,000 Jews now live in Poland.

Israel enters Palestinian area, destroys police station

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Despite American criticism, Israel on Wednesday briefly re-entered the Gaza Strip and leveled a Palestinian police station on territory granted to Yasser Arafat's government in peace agreements.

The raid in southern Gaza came 10 hours after Israel withdrew troops from a square-mile area they had seized Tuesday morning at the opposite end of the strip. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon came under criticism that he had bowed to pressure from the United States, which had denounced the land takeover.

Israel said its actions were a response to Palestinian mortar and shooting attacks against Israeli civilians. The attacks and Tuesday's land seizure outraged Palestinians. Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said the Palestinians would respond with "popular resistance" to Israel's incursions.

Palestinian fire continued despite the Israeli retaliation.

Soon after Israeli troops pulled out of the northern pocket, six mortars hit near the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim in Gaza. After nightfall Wednesday, five mortar shells landed at Nir Am, an Israeli village just outside the Gaza border fence, as well as near the Gaza settlement Kfar Darom, the military said. No injuries were reported. Israeli tanks fired shells at a police post in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, Palestinians said.


Sharon

Fierce exchanges of fire took place near Jerusalem, between the Palestinian town of Beit Jalla and Israeli positions near the Jewish neighborhood of Gilo in disputed east Jerusalem.

Sharon's government insisted it had planned to pull out of the northern Gaza pocket even before Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the takeover. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke with Powell by phone Wednesday and said Powell's sharp words had resulted from a "problem with communication."

In Wednesday's incursion, a tank and two bulldozers razed a Palestinian police station and farmland near Gaza International Airport in the southern Gaza Strip, then returned to Israeli-controlled territory.

The army said shots had been fired from the position at workers at the nearby Israeli-Egyptian border fence. No one was injured in the shooting.

During its land-seizure in northern Gaza, Israeli troops razed six Palestinian police stations and destroyed orange groves and farmland outside the town of Beit Hanoun. Hassan Shabat, returning to his farm, said he lost 5,000 chickens, the livelihood of a family of 17.

Traces of the incursion were everywhere — tracks of battle tanks, piles of concrete rubble, dozens of weary and frustrated Palestinians shifting through the ruins. Before its troops entered early Tuesday, Israel fired a heavy rocket barrage across the Gaza Strip, killing one Palestinian policeman.

Soon after troops seized the pocket, an Israeli army commander had said troops might remain in place for "days, weeks or months." Yet the soldiers were pulled out just several hours after Powell called the Israeli action "excessive."

US government sends first mission to Afghanistan in more than 2 years

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The U.S. government paid its first official visit to Afghanistan in more than two years, sending three people to the war-wracked nation to see firsthand the devastation caused by relentless conflict and a protracted drought, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

Since 1999 the United States has barred its officials from entering Afghanistan, citing security reasons. U.S. nationals working for the United Nations also are not allowed to travel to Afghanistan.

But according to Stephanie Bunker, U.N. spokeswoman in neighboring Pakistan, and Peter Goossmen with the World Food Program in Afghanistan, the three have been there since last week.

Peter Morris and George Haven of the State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and Tom Husaek of the U.S. Embassy are expected to return to Pakistan later this week after visiting western and northern regions of Afghanistan with the WFP.

Despite being one of the strongest proponents of sanctions against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, the United States also is one of the largest humanitarian aid givers to that poor country, said World Food Program officials.

"They made it very clear to anyone who wanted to listen that this is a technical, humanitarian mission and not a political mission."

Peter Goossmen,
One of the three U.S. officials

"They made it very clear to anyone who wanted to listen that this is a technical, humanitarian mission and not a political mission," Goossmen said of the three U.S. officials. "They just wanted to see the humanitarian work."

So far this year the United States has given 75,000 tons of food to Afghanistan — nearly two-thirds of all food aid to that beleaguered nation, according to WFP.

Most of the food is going to feed hundreds of thousands of people forced to flee their home because of drought and war.

More than 110,000 people have fled to western Herat, where the United Nations has set up six camps. The camps are overwhelmed by a relentless flow of new people — 2,000 each day, Bunker said.

That is in addition to hundreds of thousands of people living in makeshift camps in northern Mazar-e-Sharif province, where the U.S. delegation also is expected to visit.

The United Nations has been warning of a major refugee crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where more than 170,000 people have fled in recent months.

The United States began evacuating its nationals in 1998, after it attacked Afghanistan with Tomahawk cruise missiles following the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa.

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Serb killed in bomb attack

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — A bomb went off Wednesday near Yugoslav government offices in Kosovo's capital, killing one Serb and injuring four others.

International officials condemned the attack in Pristina as they searched for witnesses and a motive.

"For the future of Kosovo it could not be a more tragic incident," U.N. police spokesman Derek Chappell said. "This is an attack against everything that people trying to build this country are working for."

Yugoslav authorities blamed ethnic Albanian rebels and demanded action by the United Nations and NATO-led peacekeepers.

"Clearly Albanian terrorists and extremists are determined to continue with their evil works," said the Yugoslav government minister for Kosovo, Momcilo Trajkovic.

He also accused international officials of failing to improve security of Yugoslavia's mission in Pristina.

Last August, a bomb exploded at a nearby building injuring a woman and destroying Serb offices as well as others used by ethnic Albanian parties. In November, a bomb exploded at a nearby building also used by Trajkovic, killing one of his staff and injuring another.

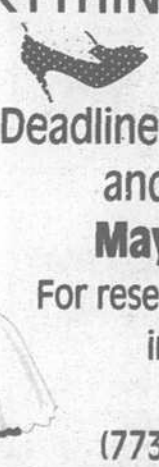
One car was destroyed by Wednesday's blast, while the windows of several other vehicles and nearby buildings were shattered.

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Associated Press

Demonstrators protest outside the Pretoria High court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday. Hearings were postponed Wednesday in a case against South Africa over a 1997 law regulating medicine, as lawyers for both sides worked to settle the suit, considered a landmark case by AIDS activists.

Settlement talks

Companies may drop fight against cheaper AIDS medicine

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Pharmaceutical giants entered settlement talks with the government Wednesday, a sign they are dropping their fight against a law that could provide cheap copies of AIDS drugs to millions of South Africans.

The suit, postponed until Thursday as the discussions continued, has deeply embarrassed the drug companies since it began six weeks ago. Many have responded by drastically cutting prices on their own.

However, human rights groups say those prices would fall even further in the face of generic competition.

An official with one of the pharmaceutical companies said the suit "had largely been resolved" after the South African government reached an agreement with several of the largest companies involved.

Those companies spent much of the day convincing the remainder of the 39 companies involved in the suit to accept the agreement, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Only technical issues, including who will pay court costs, remained to be worked out, the official said.

International human rights groups and AIDS activists have waged a global public relations offensive against the suit, which they see as an obstacle to securing medication for the nearly 26 million people in Africa infected with HIV.

The law could give South Africa the power to import or produce generic versions of patented drugs — including expensive antiretroviral drugs needed to treat AIDS. An estimated 4.7 million South Africans are infected with HIV.

As the case resumed Wednesday morning after a six-week postponement, Stephanus Cilliers, a lawyer for the drug companies, asked for a four-hour recess "in hopes that certain discussions that are going on will obviate the need for further ... proceedings."

When court reconvened at 2 p.m., he was granted a recess until Thursday morning so discussions could continue.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang declined to comment on the negotiations as she left the courtroom, which was filled to standing-room capacity with journalists, AIDS activists and union members expecting a settlement.

The pharmaceutical companies had argued that the South African law, which was never implemented, was too broad and unfairly targeted drug manufacturers.

The government, AIDS activists and human rights groups say the drug companies are trying to wring profits out of a public health nightmare that threatens to devastate South Africa and dozens of other poor countries.

The situation has changed drastically since the suit was filed more than three years ago. At that time, the European Union and the United States backed the drug companies and the case had almost no impact on the public's view of the drug companies.

Since then, however, the U.S. government and the European Union withdrew their support for the case, and the pharmaceutical companies have suffered a public relations battering.

"The pressure was just too much for them not to respond to," said Ellen 't Hoen, an official with Medicins Sans Frontieres.

Zachie Achmat, chairman of the Treatment Action Campaign, a local AIDS activists' group that had filed a brief in support of the government demanded the companies drop the suit immediately, and appealed to the government not to compromise in the talks.

"There's nothing to discuss. The companies must simply withdraw from the case," he said. "We ask the government to stand fully by the legislation, not to give an inch, because the law is on their side, the Constitution is on their side, international law is on their side."



Associated Press

An unidentified Falun Gong member holds a white carnation during a demonstration in front of the United Nations building as the 57th session of the Commission of Human Rights takes place in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday.

China wins fight against UN censure

GENEVA (AP) — A U.S. attempt to win international condemnation of China's human rights record failed on Wednesday when the U.N. rights watchdog passed a Chinese motion blocking consideration of the American proposal.

But the U.N. Human Rights Commission did criticize Cuba for its human rights record and voted 50-1 to censure Israel for allowing Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories, with only the United States taking Israel's side.

In a 23-17 vote, the 53-nation body decided not to consider a U.S. resolution denouncing Beijing's for its repression of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, its "increased restrictions" on Tibetans and "harsh sentencing" of government opponents.

It was the 10th time a Western government has tried — and failed — to pass a resolution condemning China at the annual meeting of the commission. Each time, full debate has been blocked by a Chinese motion calling for "no action."

China amassed support among African countries for Wednesday's "no action" vote, which required only a simple majority of ballots cast to pass. Twelve of the 53 nations with voting rights on the commission abstained and Congo was absent.

The vote came despite the entreaties of U.S. delegation head Shirin Tahir-Kheli, who said "the essential principle of universal human rights is that they apply to every country at every moment."

"By custom, law, and common understanding, no nation is at liberty to disregard these norms," she said. "China should follow the same international standards that every other country does."

Commander pleads not guilty to genocide

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A Bosnian Serb commander accused of unleashing a week-long rampage in Srebrenica that killed thousands of Muslims pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges of complicity in genocide and war crimes.

Col. Dragan Obrenovic also is accused of trying to cover up the largest massacre in Europe since World War II by exhuming the bodies of victims and reburying them in mass graves.

Obrenovic, 38, made his first appearance before the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia since his arrest Sunday in Zvornik, Bosnia, by NATO-led peacekeeping forces.

He could face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if found guilty of one of five counts of complicity in genocide and crimes against humanity for the extermination, murder and persecution of Muslims.

"Your honor, I am not guilty," Obrenovic told the presiding Australian judge, David Hunt.

Dressed in a black suit, crisp white shirt and tie, Obrenovic stood nervously with his hands clasped before him as he entered a separate plea to each of the five charges.

In the summer of 1995, Serb troops bombarded Srebrenica for five days and gunned down columns of refugees fleeing the town. At least 7,500 Muslim men and boys were reported dead or missing. Some victims killed themselves to escape capture, and many who surrendered were summarily executed.

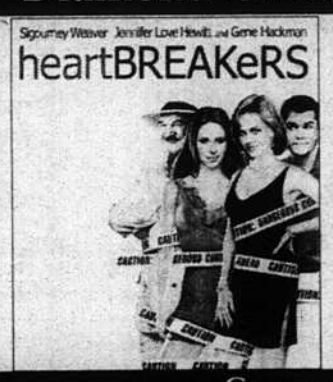
According to the indictment, Obrenovic was the acting commander of the Zvornik Brigade, which rounded up victims in 50-60 buses and took them to execution sites, including schools, soccer fields, a cultural center and a dam.

Eyewitnesses said the bodies of the executed were transported in truckloads to common graves. Some were dug up later and relocated to try to keep the killings secret.

The court already has been hearing testimony about the Srebrenica massacre from witnesses in the trial of Gen. Radislav Krstic, Obenovic's commander.

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We will be at Divi for the Taste of St. Croix!
We are sorry for any inconvenience!

Please join us for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 7 days a week
Sunday Brunch from 10 - 2pm!

Specializing in steaks, fresh fish, tropical salads, prime rib and much more!

On the waterfront overlooking Christiansted Harbor
44A Queen Cross Street, Christiansted
Reservations Suggested 773-6585

BLONDIE By Dean Young and Stan Drake



BEETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



REDEYE By Bill Yates and Mel Casson



MOOSE AND MOLLY By Bob Weber



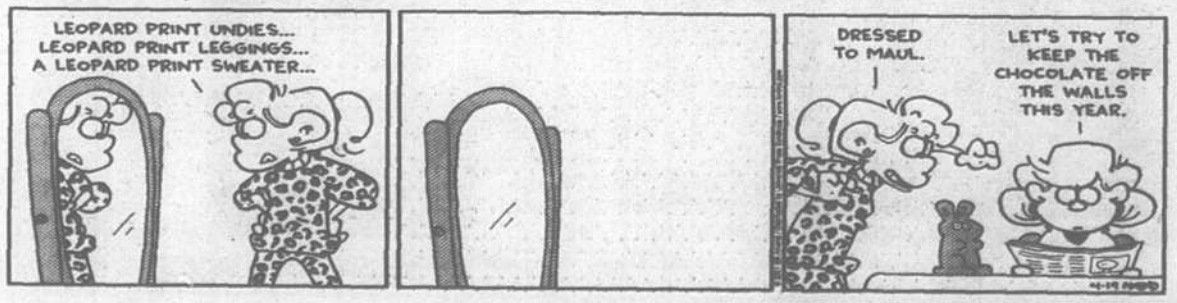
HERB & JAMAAL By Stephen Bentley



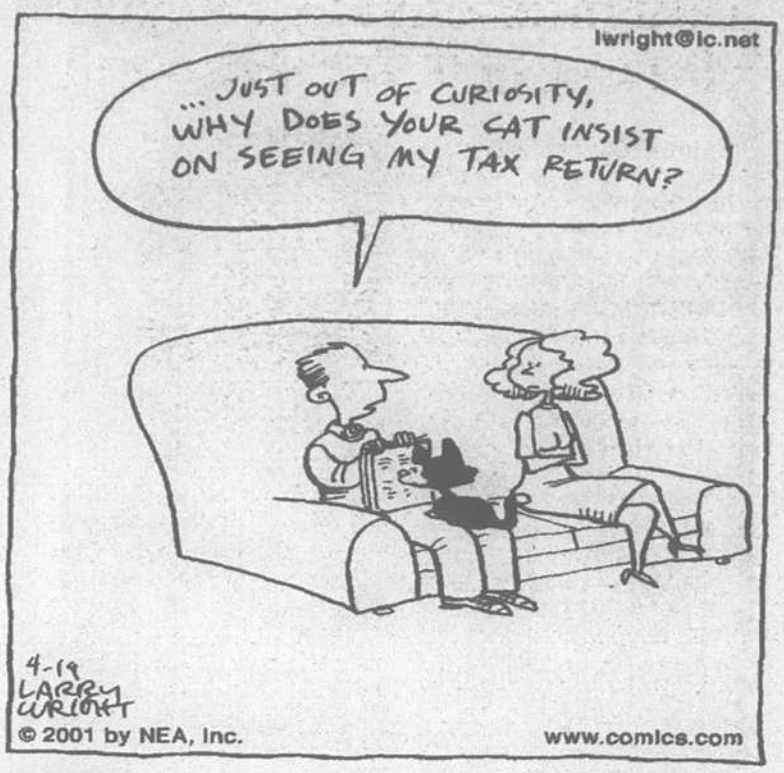
FRED BASSET By Graham



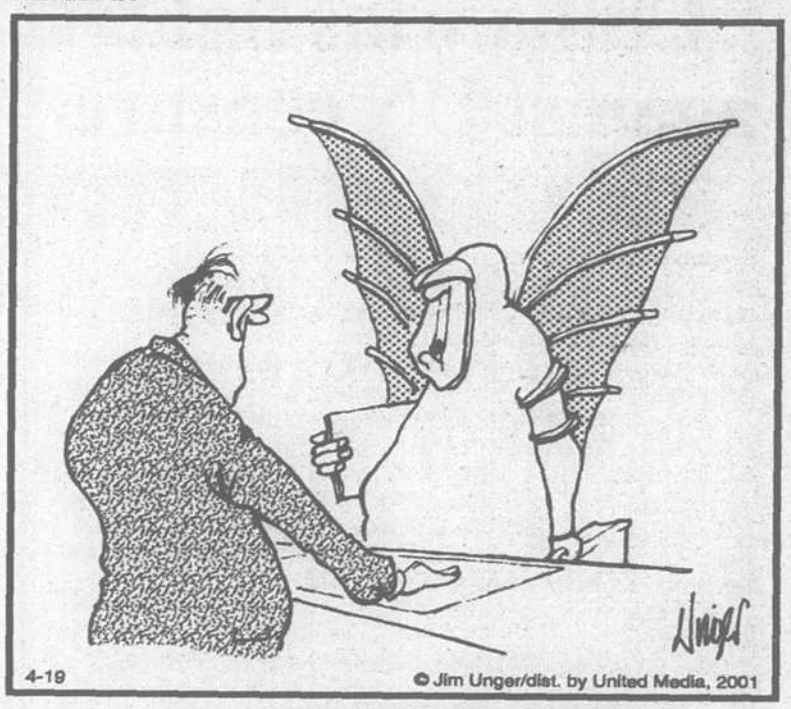
FOXTROT By Bill Amend



KIT & CARLYLE

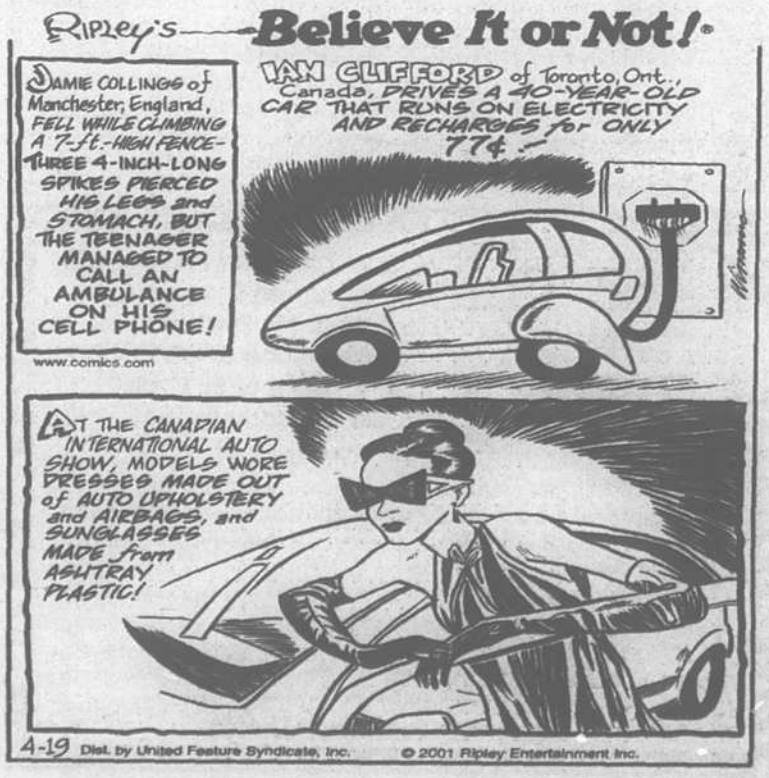


HERMAN



"Got a room with a balcony?"

RIPLEY'S



Daughter engaged to gem did not lack for diamond



DEAR ABBY: The Letter from 'Mother in Hampton, Ga.," who told her daughters she would not give her approval fro marriage unless they received a one-carat diamond engagement ring, reminded me of a situation in my family years ago.

My sister became engaged to a fellow we all liked very much. My parents hosted an in the engagement party in their home and invited all their relatives and friends.

The Young man had recently been discharged from the Army and had no money - therefore, there was no engagement ring. At the Party, two guests, in critical and judgmental tones, said to my mother, "We don't see a diamond ring on your daughter's finger. Mother smiled and called the young man from across the room. When he came over, she said to the guests, 'This is our jewel." My sister' and her husband were happily married for more than 45 years- He was successful in his profession. My sister received more diamonds and material things than most wives.

JERRY IN HUNTINGTON, N.Y.

DEAR JERRY: I admire your mother's values. Predictably, that letter generated more mail. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The advice given by 'Mother in Hampton, Ga.,' to her daughters not to accept an engagement ring unless it was at least one carat is blatantly sexist. It is the equivalent of a father telling his son not to marry any woman with less than a 38-inch bust. Such a father would be teaching his son to view women as 'sex objects." In response to her defense that she's teaching her daughters to focus on how well the man could "provide the necessities," let me share the results of my own research.

Applying the "DeBeers Standard," which suggests that the diamond should equal two months' salary, a one-carat ring- will cost an average of $28,125 in the Kansas City area. A man who makes that much in two months will bring home $337,500 per year. Figuring the tax bracket he would be in, the minimum salary "Mother" would accept is $675,000 per year. Granted, that would buy an awful lot of "necessities."

"Mother" may believe she is not teaching her daughters to focus on the ring, but she sure as heck is not teaching them to look at things such as tenderness, companionship or fidelity. I guess Mama figures $675,000 would make for a "comfortable" divorce settlement.

GEORGE IN RAYTOWN, MO.

DEAR GEORGE: Your letter is a hoot, but your numbers don't add up, at least according to my calculations. Also, I don't know what jeweler you consulted in Kansas City, but according to diamond specialist James Kersey at Harry Winston in Beverly Hills (nothing but the best for my readers), a "very nice" one-carat diamond sells for around $10,000.

DEAR ABBY: My husband works in the construction trade and refuses to bathe more than once a week. He has, at times, gone more than two weeks without a shower. Am I unreasonable to expect him to shower at least every two to three days?

SLEEPING ALONE IN OREGON

DEAR SLEEPING ALONE: You are not unreasonable. You're in touch with your sense of smell. You don't say how long you have been married, but I am amazed that you have been able to live with this. For the sake of his health and the health of your marriage, your husband should schedule personal hygiene on a daily basis.

Horoscope

By Francis Drake

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Don't get bogged down by someone else's emotional drama. While distancing yourself is sometimes the hardest thing to do, it may well be necessary.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
A stroke of good luck strikes you, or someone close to you. Make sure you share the joy with plenty of friends and family.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
Once you put your raw emotions aside, you'll see why a major change is actually really good for you. Get ready to let go and move forward.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Realize that you can't start over until you've resolved the past. It's time to unload some lingering baggage and get on with the future.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
Don't let admiration for someone drive you to foolish behavior. If you're trying too hard, your actions might have the reverse effect than what you desire.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
In the face of a crisis, you might be forced to improvise. Conflicting forces might play havoc with your emotions and sense of ethics.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
A delicious tension seems to be in the air, and you might hope it will never end. Follow someone else's lead if you're uncertain which step to take next.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
The world changes for the better as you gain the courage to reveal a secret fantasy. Don't be afraid to wear your heart on your sleeve.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Cooperation could be the name of the game right now. You will do yourself no favors by treating others poorly because of your own insecurities.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
You might be a roller-coaster ride of emotions and indecision. A long, deep-felt chat with someone older and wiser might help clear your head.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Someone might be making demands on your time and energy that you are not prepared to meet; know when to draw the line and say no.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
Your creative powers and artistic flair are more evident than ever. You impress everyone with your charm and vitality — don't pass up any social engagements.

YOU BORN TODAY Outgoing and outrageous might be the two adjectives your friends would apply to you. Your irreverent sense of humor and sharp wit win you many an admirer. However, others might find you a little too overbearing at times.

BIRTHDATE OF: Joey Lawrence, actor; Carmen Electra, model/ actress; Joan Miro, artist.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Glasses are missing. 2. Tie is removed. 3. Dollar sign is missing. 4. Mustache is smaller. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Hand is not showing.

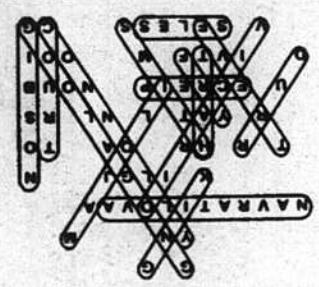
SPORTS SLEUTH ● FRENCH OPEN WOMEN'S TENNIS CHAMPS

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: HOLSTER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: STEFFI —

Connolly	Fry	King	Seles
Court	Gibson	Majoli	Smith
Durr	Goolagong	Navratilova	Vicario
Evert	Hart	Pierce	



FRENCH OPEN WOMEN'S TENNIS CHAMPS

JUMBLE

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

COLIG

LOFEN

ZURQAT

DEXENP

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Answer here: ○○○ IT ○○ ○○○○ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWICE EXERT DIGEST ACHING
Answer: What the plumber did to his shoulder — "WRENCHED" IT

WORD SCRIMMAGE™

I1	N1	M3	L1	P3	T1	A1	Triple Word Score
H4	T1	T1	I1	F4	R1	Y4	2nd Letter Double
T1	R1	P3	N1	T1	E1	O1	
I1	O1	G2	M3	K5	D2	N1	3rd Letter Triple

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD

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I1	M3	P3	L1	A1	N1	T1	RACK 1	=	83
T1	H4	R1	I1	F4	T1	Y4	RACK 2	=	70
P3	O1	R1	T1	E1	N1	T1	RACK 3	=	59
K5	I1	N1	G2	D2	O1	M3	RACK 4	=	67

PAR SCORE 175-185 JUDD'S TOTAL 279

4-19-01

TV GUIDE

Jane Fonda files for divorce from Ted Turner

ATLANTA (AP) — Jane Fonda filed for divorce from CNN founder Ted Turner, who said recently that their marriage broke up partly because of her decision to become a Christian.

Fonda's divorce petition was filed Monday in Fulton County Superior Court. It says the marriage is "irretrievably broken" and there is "no hope of reconciliation," standard language under Georgia's divorce laws.

The divorce petition indicates Fonda, 63, and her billionaire husband, 62, have agreed on the division of assets, but the agreement was not filed in court.

Fonda's attorney, John C. Mayoue, declined to comment Wednesday. "This is a private matter between Mr. Turner and Jane Fonda and any terms between them are confidential," he said. Phillip Evans, Turner's spokesman, asked the press to respect the couple's privacy. "Jane Fonda and Ted Turner have the deepest affection and respect for each other and will always remain very good friends," Evans said.

The couple, who were married in December 1991, announced they were separating in January 2000. It was the third marriage for both. Turner has five children from previous marriages, while Fonda has two.

Turner — who recently apologized for a remark in which he referred to CNN employees who observed Ash Wednesday as "Jesus freaks" — told The New Yorker in an interview published this week that Fonda's spiritual decision played a role in their breakup.

THURSDAY EVENING — APRIL 19, 2001

		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
FOX	5	Judge Judy (N)	Home Improve-	Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date	Movie ★★★ "Set It Off" (1996, Drama) Jada Pinkett, Queen Latifah, Vivica A. Fox. (CC)				Fox Report		Simpsons (CC)	Blind Date	Arrest & Trial (N)	Paid Program
TBS	6	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne (CC)	Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	(:05) Movie ★★½ "The Running Man" (1987, Science Fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Maria Conchita Alonso. Athletes hunt convicted prisoners on a sadistic game show.				(:25) Movie ★½ "A Low Down Dirty Shame" (1994, Comedy) Keenen Ivory Wayans. A private eye goes after a presumed-dead drug lord.					(:35) "Dustin' Loose"
WGN	7	Full House (CC)	Fresh Prince	Family Matters	Suddenly Susan (CC)	Movie ★★ "Backfield in Motion" (1991, Comedy) Roseanne Arnold, Tom Arnold.				News (CC)		In the Heat of the Night "Pig Woman of Sparta"		Matlock "The Final Affair" (CC)	
WSVI	8	All My Children (CC)		News	ABC World News Tonight (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (CC)		Primetime Thursday (N) (CC)		News	(:35) Nightline (N) (CC)	(12:06) Politically Incorrect	(:36) Sexwars (CC)
WSEE	9	News	CBS Evening	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	Survivor: The Australian Outback (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (N) (CC)		48 Hours "Sleep Tight" (N) (CC)		News	(:35) Late Show (CC)		(:37) Late Late Show
WNBC	11	News (CC)	NBC Nightly News (CC)	Extra (N) (CC)	Access Hollywood (CC)	Friends (N) (CC)	Weber (CC)	Will & Grace (N) (CC)	Just Shoot Me "Fanny Finch" (N)	ER "April Showers" (N) (CC)		News (CC)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (CC)		(:37) Late Night (CC)
TLC	12	Unusual People		Mazes & Labyrinths: Solving		Secrets of Forensic Science		Tornado Alley		Landslide (N)		Secrets of Forensic Science		Tornado Alley	
WTJX	13	Behind the Headlines	Business Rpt.	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Movie ★★★★ "Schindler's List" (1993, Drama) Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes. A war profiteer saves his Jewish workers from death. (CC) (DVS)						Charlie Rose (CC)			(Off Air)
CSPAN	14	Public Policy		Public Policy		Business-Econ.		Prime Time Public Affairs				Prime Time Public Affairs			
ETW	16	Builders of Hope	Mir./Eucharist	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass		Life on the Rock (Live Phone-In)		We Are One Body	Rosary-Land	Ocean of Mercy		Celebration-Fst.	G.K. Chesterton	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass	
WPIX	17	Sabrina-Witch	Fresh Prince	Friends (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Gilmore Girls "Concert Interruptus" (CC)		Charmed "Sin Francisco" (N) (CC)		WB11 News at Ten W/ Kaity, Jim, & Mr. G		Friends (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Coach (CC)	Suddenly Susan (CC)
WKAQ	20	Abrázame Muy Fuerte		Yo Soy Betty la Fea		Wilson Wilson	Atrévete			Telenoticias		Corte de Familia	La Corte del Pueblo	Programa Pagado	Cotorreando
CNN	21	Politics	Moneyline Newshour		Crossfire	Blitzer	The Point	Larry King Live (CC)		Tonight	Spin Room	Sports	Moneyline	Larry King Live	
ESPN	22	Sportscenter (CC)		Driven	Stanley Cup Playoffs Conference Quarterfinals Game 5 -- Teams to Be Announced. If necessary. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						Baseball Tonight (N)	Sportscenter (CC)		Baseball Tonight (N)	Life (CC)
FAM	24	Two of a Kind (CC)	Who's the Boss?	Major League Baseball New York Yankees at Toronto Blue Jays. From SkyDome in Toronto. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						Exploring the Unknown (N)		700 Club (CC)		Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?
USA	25	Walker, Texas Ranger "Special Witness" (CC)		JAG "The Return" (CC)		Nash Bridges "Mystery Dance" (CC)		Movie ★★½ "Buried Alive" (1990) Tim Matheson, Jennifer Jason Leigh. (CC)				Martin "No Love Lost"	Martin (CC)	Baywatch "Falcon Manifesto" (CC)	
NICK	26	Pinky & the Brain	Catdog	Hey Arnold! (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	Thornberrys	Brady Bunch	Diff'rent Strokes	Facts of Life	Three's Company	Three's Company	All in the Family	All in the Family	Jeffersons (CC)	Jeffersons (CC)
WCVI	27	Headline News	Infotainment	Entertainment	Adrenaline TV	WWF Smackdown! (CC)				Thunderbox (N)		Headline News (CC)	Cheaters		(Off Air)
A&E	28	Night Court	Newsradio "Planbee"	Law & Order "Helpless" (CC)		Biography: Genghis Khan: Terror		Movie "Horatio Hornblower: Retribution" (2001, Adventure) Ioan Gruffudd, David Warner. (CC)				Law & Order "Performance" (CC)		Biography: Genghis Khan: Terror	
E!	29	Fashion Emergency	News Daily (N)	Celebrity Homes	Talk Soup (N)	Mysteries & Scandals	Mysteries & Scandals	True Hollywood Story "Heidi Von Beltz"		What Women Want		Howard Stern (N)	Howard Stern	Wild On Wild and exotic places in New Orleans.	
COM	32	Saturday Night Live		Daily Show (CC)	Movie ★★★ "The Witches of Eastwick" (1987) Jack Nicholson. Three divorcees try to conjure up their "dream man."					Sports Night (CC)	Sports Night (CC)	Daily Show (CC)	Turn Ben Stein On	Saturday Night Live (CC)	
DISCH	33	Children's Hospital		Operation Reversing a vasectomy.		D.C. Children's Lifeline "A World Apart"		Great Expectations With Ju Ju Chang		Infants' Fight for Life		D.C. Children's Lifeline "A World Apart"		Great Expectations With Ju Ju Chang	
MTV	34	TRL All-Star	Downloaded	Warning Signs	Cribs	TRL (CC)		Sex Club Preview		Cribs	Diary "Chyna"	True Life	MTV's 10 Most Revealing Moments		Tom Green (CC)
BET	35	106 & Park: BET's Top Ten Live Top music videos.			BET.com Countdown	Oh Drama!		Comicview		BET Live		BET News	BET Tonight	Midnight Love Mellow rhythm and blues.	
DISC	36	Wild Discovery: In the Company of Bears		Wild Discovery "Bear Attack"		Medical Mysteries: Giants		X-Creatures		Mysteries of the Unexplained		Justice Files "Why They Kill"		Medical Mysteries: Giants	
CNNFN	37	(5:00) N.E.W.	Moneyline Newshour (CC)		Biz	Business Unusual	N.E.W.			Moneyline Newshour	Business Unusual	Biz	Business Unusual	N.E.W.	
AMC	38	Three Stooges	Hollywood Lives and Legends (CC)		Three Stooges	Movie ★★★½ "Papillon" (1973) Steve McQueen, Dustin Hoffman. Two Devil's Island convicts plan their escape. (CC)						(:45) Movie ★★★½ "Dracula" (1931) Bela Lugosi, Helen Chandler.		(12:15) Lot (CC)	"Stranger Wore"
VH1	40	Opening Night	Behind the Music "Bon Jovi"		Name That Video	Music Videos				25 Years of Punk		Name That Video	25 Years of Punk		Music Videos
TRAV	41	Treasure Hunters	Vacation Video	Curious World Millionaire dog.		Before It's Too Late: Mini Monkeys		World's Most Dangerous Places		Amazing Destinations Brazil and Peru. (CC)		Before It's Too Late: Mini Monkeys		World's Most Dangerous Places	
LIFE	42	Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Intimate Portrait "Linda Evans" (CC)		Unsolved Mysteries		Movie ★★ "Deceptions" (1990, Mystery) Harry Hamlin, Nicollette Sheridan. A homicide detective has an affair with a murder suspect. (CC)				Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Designing Women (CC)	Designing Women (CC)
TNT	43	ER "Ask Me No Questions, I'll Tell You No Lies" (CC)		Pretender "Qallupilluit" (CC)		Movie "Nuremberg" (2000, Drama) (Part 1 of 2) Alec Baldwin, Jill Hennessy. More than 20 high-ranking Nazis go on trial for war crimes. (CC)				Movie "Nuremberg" (2000, Drama) (Part 2 of 2) Alec Baldwin, Jill Hennessy. More than 20 high-ranking Nazis go on trial for war crimes. (CC)				Movie ★★★ "Wag the Dog" (1997, Comedy) Dustin Hoffman.	
SCIFI	46	Hercules-Jrnys.		Babylon 5 (CC)		Crusade (CC)		Movie ★★ "Hellbound: Hellraiser II" (1988)				Crossing	Crossing	Quantum Leap (CC)	
BRAVO	47	(5:00) Movie ★★★ "Mediterraneo" (1991) Diego Abatantuono.		St. Elsewhere		Movie ★★ "Karma Sutra: A Tale of Love" (1996, Drama) Indira Varma, Sarita Choudhury, Ramon Tikaram. A servant girl seduces a princess's prospective husband.						Movie ★★★½ "House of Games" (1987) Lindsay Crouse, Joe Mantegna. Twist-laden tale of a psychiatrist and an ingenious con man.			"Karma Sutra: A Tale of Love"
DISN	48	Smart Guy "Sit In" (CC)	Boy Meets World (CC)	Movie "Rip Girls" (2000) Camilla Belle, Stacie Hess. A 13-year-old heiress learns to surf in Hawaii. (CC)		(:40) Movie "The Brainiacs.com" (2000) Michael Angarano, Dom DeLuise. A boy takes over the reins of his workaholic dad's company. (CC)						Movie ★★½ "The Three Musketeers" (1993, Adventure) Charlie Sheen. The Musketeers seek to break Richelieu's pact with Britain. (CC)			Mickey Mouse Club (CC)
HIST	49	History IQ	History's Lost & Found (CC)	Black Sheep Squadron "Operation Stand-Down" (CC)		Vanished! (CC)		Hooked: Illegal Drugs and How They Got That Way		Demolition (CC)		Suicide Missions Storm chasers track the most harrowing storms. (N)		Vanished! (CC)	
TOON	50	Tenchi	Superman	Scooby	Dexter	Bravo	Dexter	Bugs	Tom Jerry	Flintstones	Scooby	Bravo	Dexter	Dragon-Z	Big O
SOAP	51	Ryan's Hope	Ryan's Hope	Port Charles	Port Charles	All My Children (CC)		One Life to Live (CC)		General Hospital (CC)		Port Charles	Port Charles	All My Children (CC)	
ESPN2	53	NHRA Heat (N)	RPM 2Night (N)	NFL 2Night (N) (CC)	Stanley Cup Playoffs Conference Quarterfinals Game 5 -- Teams to Be Announced. If necessary. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)						NHL 2Night (N) (CC)	Life	Strongest Man	NBA 2Night	Baseball Tonight (N)
COURT	54	Hollywood	Wanted	Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	Profiler "Random Act"		Forensic	Wanted	Mugshots		Homicide: Life		Profiler "Random Act"	
RMNC	55	(5:45) Movie ★★★ "Where Angels Fear to Tread" (1991) Helena Bonham Carter, Judy Davis.				Everyday Elegance	Grt. Romances	Movie ★★★½ "The Pleasure of His Company" (1961) Fred Astaire, Debbie Reynolds.				Movie ★★★ "An Affair to Remember" (1957, Drama) Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr. (CC)			

People in the News

Actor Sheen speaks on the environment

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Sheen is pessimistic about the planet's health.


Sheen

"I don't know if we can repair what's been done already, I really don't know, and I don't know if anyone does," the star of NBC's "The West Wing" said after learning the Sierra Club will honor him.

"With global warming and the gases that are already trapped, and with no real awareness in sight, with the nuclear proliferation and with the cutting down of the forest in the Third World just to burn fuel, to cook food, to keep warm, I mean it's just horrible," he said.

"We're at a stopgap now. If we started now, just to try and conserve what's left, that would be an achievement. But, I don't know if even that's possible."

The 60-year-old actor has long been an environmental activist.

His comments came as the Los Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club announced Monday that it will give its Distinguished Environmentalist Award to Sheen during its 90th anniversary gala Thursday at the Regal Biltmore Hotel.

Eminem may pursue plea agreement

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Eminem hopes an Oakland County judge considers the same punishment the rap star got from a Macomb County judge last week for similar charges.

Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, pleaded guilty on April 10 to a weapons charge in Macomb County Circuit Court and received two years probation. In return, prosecutors dropped an assault charge stemming from a June 4 incident in which Eminem was accused of pistol whipping a man seen kissing his wife, Kim Mathers, outside a Warren nightclub.

Now, the 28-year-old faces a felony charge of carrying a concealed weapon and a misdemeanor charge of brandishing a firearm in public in connection with a June 3 argument in Royal Oak with associates of a rival Detroit rap group.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Mark Bilkovic told the Detroit Free Press in a Wednesday story that he won't push for jail time if Eminem pleads guilty Monday before a scheduled pretrial.

CommunityCalendar

St. Croix

APRIL 19

The St. Croix 40 Plus Baseball Club will hold it regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 at Two Plus Two Nightclub. It is extremely important that members turn in all monies collected from the sale of raffle tickets at this meeting.

The Annual High School Oratorical contest for minority males will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 19 at the St. Croix Educational Complex auditorium. This is sponsored by the Eta Iota Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

APRIL 20

CHS is celebrating it's annual Cultural Fair and would like to invite all parents and the entire community to enjoy a day of entertainment and events by local artists and crafters from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 20 all is invited to attend.

St. Croix Central High School Class of 1977 wishes to inform and invites all classmates to a very important meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 20 at Gertrude's Restaurant. Please make an extra effort to attend.

Showcasing our Diversity - Celebrating our Unity, the sixth grade classes of the Lew Muckle Elementary School will host a Multi-Cultural Fair on the School grounds from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. The community is invited to come out and enjoy a day of cultural foods, music and story telling.

The annual membership meeting of the Frederiksted Federal Credit Union will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 20 at Villa Morales.

APRIL 21

AARP St. Croix Local Chapter prayer breakfast will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21 at Villa Morales, For tickets please call 773-2376, 772-2441 or 773-0549.

APRIL 22

American Legion Post #133-F'sted will hold their monthly meeting at Legion Meeting Hall Strand Street at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 22. All legionaiers are welcomed. Call 772-0349 for more information.

General Announcements

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Classes will not be in session at the Charles H. Emmanuel School on Thursday, April 19 due to an all day workshop on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) for the staff.

Seaborne Airlines is offering an Airfare Super Sale for the month of April. The sale offers flights between St. Thomas and St. Croix for $29.50 one way. The fare is based on a $59.00 round trip purchase and is available on Mid-Day and weekend flights. The offer ends April 30. Some restrictions apply. For details, call 773-6442.

"Health Expo 2001" Lifestyle Change the Key to Better Health Sunday, April 29 to Sunday, May 6 at the Sunshine Mall (lower level). Free health Screenings. Lectures by Health Professionals on Sickle Cell, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, Cholesterol, Hypertension, Diabetes and much, much more. This is a great opportunity to learn what you can do to improve the quality and quantity of your life.

An introductory boating class is being offered by the United States Power and Sail Squadrons. Three weekly two hour sessions will be held at the St. Croix Educational Complex from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, starting Tuesday, May 1.There is a minimal charge of $35 for instructional materials and plotting instruments. For more information call Bob Marcy 773-7926 or George Seaman 778-0386.

J and J Fun Troupe a non-profit organization will be giving a scholarship for this school year ending June 2001. Please contact your guidance counselor at St. Croix Central High School or at St. Croix Educational Complex for an application. All applications must be return to your guidance counselor by Thursday, May 17.

UVI SGA Social and Cultural Committee presents there Annual Spring Ball "A Night in Paradise, Under the Stars, by the Seaside," Join us for an evening of celebration on Saturday, April 21 at the Carambola Resorts. Music by Onyan and the Baygon Band. For tickets call Clint Ferris and Christa Leet at 692-4188, Tita Thompson 692-4214 or Maria Friday 692-4194.

Bethel Deliverance Center Church announces a week of revival service, Sunday, April 15 through Friday, April 20. The speaker will be Singing Evangelist Althea Burnett of Antigua. Sunday service begins at 11 a.m. and Nightly services at 7:30 p.m. All is invited to attend.

Are you a Technology Drop-out. You could qualify for free training. New Image Foundation is offering Basic Computer Skills training in our Excel Entrepreneur classes for out-of-school youth and adults. This eight-week training will teach you office skills, customer service, international cultural awareness and entrepreneurship. St. Croix residents only. Register now. Classes begin April 24. Call 777-8883.

The USVI Soccer Federation is presently conducting free soccer training for boys and girls ages eight (8) to sixteen (16) years old on Saturdays 8 - 10 a.m. and Sundays 4 - 6 p.m. at the New Drive-In soccer field.Call coach Glad Bugariu at 719-9676.

Positive Works, Inc. Unity Retreat Camp invites you to register your child, family or organization today to enjoy your Easter Vacation at Cramer's Park from Thursday, April 12 through Monday, April 16. A weekend of workout, meditation, peer group discussion, fishing, hiking, sports, family fun and bonding. For more information call 778-3448 or any member of Accountants on the Rise.

Jurors who served at the District Court of the Virgin Islands from December 2000 to February 2001, can pick up their checks from the Clerk's Office Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers and Presenters are needed for St. Croix Environmental Associations Earth Day Eco-Fair. The Eco-Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 18 through Friday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily at the St. George Botanical Gardens. Please contact Ms. Tysha St. Jules at 773-1989.

The Faculty, Staff and Students of the Eulalie R. Rivera Professional Development School invites your to our Second Annual Technology Fair: April 9 Business Demonstrations, April 10 Student Demonstrations and April 11 Professional Development Workshops. Come and see the great things happening in technology at our school.

A Taste of St. Croix all restaraunts/caterers interesting in participating in "A Taste of St. Croix" Thursday, April 19 at Divi Carina Bay Casino Banquet area. A night of food, wine, jazz and a time to show off the best of St. Croix. For information please call Katherine at 692-9922 (afternoon).

Obituaries

Joseph Alexander Powell, age 73, of #15 - BC Est. Calquohoun, passed away on Friday, April 13, 2001 at the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital.

He is survived by his wife: Elida Matthews Powell; daughters: Pearl Powell and Paulette Powell Williams; sons: Wendell, Alton, Sr., Irvin, Steven, Conroy, Neville and Peter Powell; grandchildren: Adony, Alton, Jr., Aaron, Abraham, Joel, Adam and Jaydon Powell,Jahmaal Perez, Lamar and Patrick Williams, III, Adrianna, Sherena, Abigail, Sherelle, Melanie and Dyarah Powell and Nakia Gibson; sisters: Louise Powell Williams, Ada Powell Acoy and Sarah Powell James; brother: Arthur Powell; daughters-in-law: Germaine Brown Powell, Rosa Lopez Powell and Daveen C. Powell; sons-in-law: Patrick Williams, Jr. and Clement Langellier; special nephews: Paul and Henry Samuel; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, April 20 at the James Memorial Funeral Chapel, La Grande Princesse at 11 a.m. with viewing beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in the Kingshill Cemetery, Veteran Section.

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

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Alberto Brannigan, age 76, of #69 Est. Richmond, passed away on Friday, April 13, 2001 at his residence.

He is survived by his sister: Maria Brannigan; nephews: Rev Samuel Brannigan and Andre Brannigan; great nephews: Kwadwo, Kofi, Kwami and Mashama; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, April 20 at the Way of the Cross Baptist Church at noon with viewing beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will take place at Kingshill Cemetery.

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

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Marcelino Felix aka "Mano", age 99, of Estate Diamond Ruby passed away on Simday, April 15, 2001 at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

He is survived by his nephews: Blas, Rogelio, Luis, Valentin, Alberto, Bertito, Antonio and Miguel Felix and Felix Gomez; nieces: Ana, Marcela and Juanita Gomez, Hilda, Juana and Ana Felix, Zoraida Schuster, Lucin Collado and Felicita Pemberton; special niece: Julia Concepcion; great nieces and great nephews to the fourth generation too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 19 in the Iglesia Zion Church at 10 a.m. with viewing beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will follow in the Christiansted Public Cemetery.

Professional arrangements are entrusted to Thomas Hyll Memorial Funeral Chapel of St. Croix.

St. Thomas-St. John

APRIL 19

The Virgin Islands Carnival Committee presents the first ever "Latin Night" at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 19 at the Lionel Roberts Stadium. Appearing will be Rubby Perez of the Dominican Republic and Andy Montanez of Puerto Rico. Also making an appearance is the "Ballet Folklorico" of the Dominican Republic.

UVI Alumni Association - St. Thomas/St. John Chapter will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 UVI Conference Room in the Library. Call 693-1046.

The St. John AARP Chapter will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 19 at the Julius E, Sprauve School. Guest speakers are Detective Kyle Smith and Dr. Iris Keru will discuss sex abuse. Please come and bring a friend.

APRIL 25

The Virgin Islands Labor Management Committee announces that it's next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25 at the Holiday Inn Hotel formally the Windward Passage. Call Mrs. Perry at 774-5887.

General Announcements

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Global Life Church, 5-2 Estate Raphune, presents Storming the Gates with Bishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams, General Overseer of Christian Action Faith Ministries, Ghana, West Africa on Sunday, April 22, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Monday through Tuesday, April 23-24 at 7:30 p.m. Topics such as Breaking Generational Curses of the Bloodine, Family Relationships and Healing of the Mind and Body will revive you spiritually. Audio tapes will be available. Please call 774-5400.

There will be an Alzheimer's Support group meeting for family caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients eery Tuesday for the month of April at 5:30 p.m. at the Roy L. Schneider Hospital Community Health Conference Room. Call 693-1290.

The Department of Education, Day Adult Education Program is now offering Business Preparation Classes that will begin on Monday, April 16. Classes will be conducted Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Adult Education Center at #2 Commandant Gade. Call 774-6899 or visit the Adult Education Center.

Calling all Musicians. The Sebastien Majorettes and Marching Band is accepting new members to become a part of their dynamic Marching Band. If you play and instrument please contact: Mrs. Sebastien-Gabriel at 774-0549, Mr. Malone at 775-7315 or Mr. Donovan at 777-3506. You can also register at Addelita Cancryn Junior High School from 3 - 5 p.m. Membership is free.

Back by popular demand, there will be a free screening at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April1in the Chase Auditorium (which is located in the Business Administration Division, room b110) of the award-winning Japanese film "After Life", on the University of the Virgin Islands St. Thomas campus.

ClassifiedAds / Call 773-2300

Real Estate for Sale

East End Waterfront. Boat dock. Two bedrooms could be three. Guest cottage. Pool. New kitchen. 90% remodel awaits finishing touches. Superb Cotton Valley location $945,000.00. Patrice Kelly, Hamilton Real Estate, Caravelle Arcade, **773-3300** or home **773-1817**.

Estate Anna's Hope. Beautiful hilltop lots overlooking South Shore, central location. Asking $55,000.00, 0.704 acre and 0.624 acre $42,000.00. Make an offer. Call Sandy Bastian-Carty, CPS. Hamilton Real Estate Pan Am Pavilion. **773–3300** or **773-1464.**

Estate Diamond Ruby: Three bedrooms, two bath home, spacious rooms, several fruit trees. Centrally located. Reduced to $135,000 or best offer. Call Sandy Bastian-Carty Hamilton Real Estate. Pan Am Pavilion. **773–3300** or **773-1464**

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.

Work and Rest/Humbug. Three large 1/3 acre lots of sale. Gentle slope, seaview, city water. Offered from $28,000 with good owner financing. Lawaetz Real Estate **772-4411**.

House for Sale

For sale by owner. Here is your once in a lifetime deal. Beautiful 5 bedroom home with 3 bath, 2 patios and a 1 bedroom apartment for extra income. Queen Quarters-Mid-Island location. Over 1/2 acre, no realty, no banks. Owner financing with right down payment only $299,000.00 with **0% interest on balance**. Low monthly payments. Short term. *Based on credit approval*. Owner has the right to reject or accept any and all offers. Call: Jaime **778-9656** or **513-8312**.

For Rent

1 & 2 bedroom seaview villas. Furnished, quiet, gated property pool, golf course, tennis courts. Call Pam Tirk, The Reef **773-9827**.

Apartment for rent: Clean large apartment, safe, furnished. $550.00 mth. $200.00 deposit. Call **778-7758**.

Contractors- rooms for rent 5 Corner furnish apts wkly/monthly rental AC, washer/dryer, phone & cable, utilities. Call **778-5561** or **773-8830.**

Eff. apt. near C'sted on hill. Lovely view of C'sted Harbor and Buck Island Includes fridge, stove & water. $275/mo. Call Chandra **692-9312 778-3110**.

Stunning newly renovated fully equipped one bedroom cottage with large wrap around deck. 270 degree view from Buck Island to C'sted in secure Green Cay neighborhood with beach access. $1200 month long term. No smokers. References required. **773-6300**.

House swap for the summer or rent your home in St. Croix? We'd like to trade houses from June 20-Aug 20. Our San Diego home (3br, 2 ba) is a Spanish hacienda on 5 acres with gardens (and gardener), pool, jocuzzi 5 minutes from down town and beaches. Could include car. We want an unusual home w/walking to beach, failing a trade, could use just rent your home for the summer? **619-584-8904**. or email to jsoule@mail.sdsu.edu

Exceptional, ocean view one bedroom condominium available to December 20, for management couple. Tastefully appointed, many amenities. North Shore location. Call **773-1042.**

The Jaber Co. #17 Church Street. La Grande Princess- 1br. apartment with view of Christiansted-$550.00 includes electric also 1 efficiency, furnished-$450.00 Sion Hill-1br. apt. very close to School & Day Care-$400.00 plus utilities. Bay Garden Condos-Efficiency furn.-$475.00 plus utilities. Call **713-0720**.

Working Man's apt. 1 br. apt. located in Gallows Bay, no kit. Refrig.-microwave, TV, VCR. Private ent., safe. No pets, util. inc. $400-month. 1st last. **773-1648**.

Yellow Building for rent. 3000 sq. ft. Concrete, sewage, plenty parking space. Handicap ready, near light on Mon Bijou Road. $1,600.00 mth or lets talk. Call **778-7758**.

House for Rent

Luxury house for executive only. For rent-$2200/mo. 3 bedroom 3 baths, jacuzzi at Estate Propersity. Call Gene **690-0617** or **772-0444**.

Furnished houses on a beautiful, private, safe estate north of F'sted. $800.00 & up, incl., elect, & cable. Call **772-0287** views of the carib sea.

Available now! Cozy vintage cottage. Fully furnished. Excellent condition. Two bedrooms with AC plus fans. Two cable TVs, one VCR and three phones. Wrap-around porch. Large yard. Gardener included. $1,499.00 monthly plus electricity. **(340) 773-1851** anytime!

For Sale

Discounted Cruises, save hundreds!!! 7 day Cruises. Call us **719-1976**.

Garage Sale Plot #11-St. John. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 20 + April 21st.

3 days only Sale-Sale-Sale. Must sell at big discount prices!!! Files-2 dr. letter or legal-4 dr. legal-4 dr. latterals-desks-dead storage plastic files-large 2 door metal storage cabinet. **Trading Post 773-9668**.

Henry Link

Off white, rattan and wicker king size headboard, 2 matching night stands, triple dresser with matching mirror $600.00

Off white rattan, heavy glass top dining table, 6 chairs with island upholstery, matching credenza and mirror $800.00

Samsung Window Room Air Conditioner, used 1 time $150.00

Call 773-7654

3 Family house sale. La Grande Princesse. 9 -3 + Sunday 10-3. Chain saw, paint sprayer, tools, dive gear, golf clubs, file cabinets, walnut dresser + nite stands- $2500.00. Mahogany tables, beds, curtains + rods, paintings, wicker furniture, cherry wood end tables-$400.00. Bookcases, kitchenware, T.V. VCR, linens, household goods, plants + lots of books. 5 Corners up Rattan just B 4 rusty water tank, look for signs. No early birds, please.

5 KW Generator for sale on STX. Manual start, brand new. $700.00. Call **713-0003**.

60" Mitsubishi TV, left island must sell. Serviced at Glentronics; 6 years old. $750.00, firm. **954-925-0444** or **954-921-8228.**

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!**

Moving-Must sell. Sofa, love seat & matching chair, T.V. hutch, king size bed, misc, lamps, rugs, kitchen appliances. Best offers. **773-1765**.

Moving Sale #63 Est. Marienhoj Rattan. Furn.-kit. stuff-tools-PVC-generators-T.V.'s must go. Sat. 04/21 8:00 a.m. East End turn South on 62 (Lowry Hill Rd.) off of 82, 1.2 miles follow red ribbon.

Pigs for sale: Pigs all sizes, pigs are sold whole or by the pound. Please call **778-8080** from 10:00 am Monday thru Friday.

The Recovery and Reuse Project, 64 A+B Queen Street Frederiksted has many items available from dining table to unfurnished cabinets. Come down to the store under the arches. Thursday 9-3, Friday 9-5. Call **772-0010**.

AA AUTO WINDSHIELDS (Largest Stock) Auto Glass, Radiator, Auto Computers (new & used) C.V. Joints & Axles. Engine Transmissions. **Body Parts** all make. Bumper, grill, Fender, hood, etc. **RADIATORS, TRUCK BED LINERS, BRAKES BOOSTERS & PARTS. Seats** for small trucks. **Call 778-5007**

Family Yard Sale - There will be a gigantic family yard sale this Saturday & Sunday, April 21, and 22 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Ballantine's residence at Plot #5AJ Estate Calquohoun. (Follow signs and balloons.) Many new and slightly used household items and Avon products will be available for sale. Proceeds from this venture will be bequeathed to three of Mrs.Ilma Ballantine's favorite charities in her honor.

Queen bed- $250.00, wicker end table & chair $40.00 each, two lamps $25.00 each, area carpets (x3) $75.00, VCR $90.00, dishes, tupperware, sm appliances, pots, pans, pillows. Must sell leaving island. **719-2733**

For Sale: 2001 Jeep Cherokee, fully loaded. Compaq presario pent. IV "new in box" 128 Ram DVD & CD-RW. 80 gig HD. One 17" view sonic multimedia monitor. Epson ink-jet color "all new". One master bedroom set "king size" "real wood" brand new. 3 piece (wood) living room tables. Brand new Pool Table with all accessories. Call Jaime **778-9656** or **513-8312**.

Boats for Sale

32' Mariner Ketch 4108 Perkins diesel. New rigging, deck, and bottom paint. 7 sails, autopilot, windlass, VHF, depth sounder, radar, CD player, and dinghy. Excellent condition. Ready to sail anywhere. **$23,900.00** O.B.O. 771-0029

Autos for Sale

1987 Toyota Corolla excellent running cond. great island car. $1,300.00 O.B.O. must sell. **719-2733**

1992 300SE Mercedes Benz immaculate condition, fully loaded, clean inside/out, grey two tone, cd/cassette player, ice cold air, fully serviced have records, price includes shipping!!! only $24,300.00. Call Denise toll free: 1 **(877)981-8513/ 1(877)356-3829/1 (954) 981-8513**

1994 Silver Probe. A/C, CD player, power windows and door locks, spoiler. Stateside car. Excellent condition. Asking $6,400.00 O.B.O. Call **778-7556.**

1999 white Honda CRV w/extras. 1,500 mi. Excellent condition, garage kept (purchased 12/99) $18,750. **773-0960**.

90 5.O L Mustang, white, HB, 41K mi. New paint, tires and trans. w/radio and AC. $5,000.00 firm. Phone **719-2031**.

Leaving Island. Must sell 99 Chevy Cavalier, low miles. AC, CD, clean. $8,500.00. **713-0149**.

1997 Toyota Rav 4x2. 26,000 miles, $12,500. 4 door, runs excellent. **719-1950**.

86' Firebird 2.8 ltr. FI-very clean-inspected to Feb. 2002. New rubber-last of the muscle cars-Stateside til 97'. **773-2128** after 4 p.m. Reduced to $3,200.00

1989 Ford Econoline Van. $1,000.00 or B.O. Call eves **772-0932**.

95 Nissan Sentra. White, 4 dr., automatic, A/C, stereo/cass. Low miles, excellent condition. $5,000.00. Call **713-0519**.

1988 Nissan Pickup (auto) $2,000.00. 1985 Buick Summerset (mech special) $400.00 runs. (2) motors for sale 1988 Chevy 2.8 Multiport F.E. V-6 $300.00 and 1999 Mazda Protege 1.6 12 valve with trans. $800.00. Ask for Mrs. Soto **778-2271**.

94 Chevy Van Extended Cab, front/rear, A/C. Asking $7,000.00. Call **773-2099** lv. msg.

96 Toyota Camry $7,900.00, 94 Toyota Camry $6,000.00, 95 Toyota Camry $7,100.00, 96 Honda Civic $7,000.00, 95 Civic $5,900.00, 95 Honda Accord $6,900.00, 97 Rodeo $11,000.00, 96 Rodeo $9,995.00, 94 Rodeo $6,900.00, 96 Nissan Pathfinder $11,000.00. We have all types of Pick Up Trucks and lower price cars. Call **ABC Automotive Sales 850-229-9322.**

98 Ford Explorer XLT37K. Excellent condition, blue ext. blue int. CD, new tires, wholesale price $14,800. Please call **778-9191** days **773-7778** evenings.

For Sale: 4 door 1996 Dodge Stratus. Fully loaded, very good condition. Asking $8,000. O.B.O. Call **773-0654** after 8:30 p.m.

Mazda Truck B2200. Standard shift, great condition. Must sell $3,500.00. **513-4697** or **713-1394**.

Bus. Opportunity

Are you a Technology Drop-Out. You could qualify for free training. New Image Foundation is offering Basic Computer skills training in our Excel Entrepreneur classes for out-to-school youth and adults. This eight-week training will teach you office skills, customer service, international cultural awareness and entrepreneurship. St. Croix residents only. Register now. Classes begin April 24. **777-8883**.

Business Services

Cistern Cleaning, Repairs disinfect, thoroseal/blockade. No additional costs for repairs. Also electrical & plumbing done. We build cisterns/houses/etc. General construction. Lawn-mowing, Hypalon Roof-coating, repairs and installation. House-and-General-Painting. Swimming-Pool cleaning, coating and repairs. Concrete-roof coating and-repairs, tile setting. **Satisfaction Guaranteed. Free-Estimate . 778-1222.**

•DIVORCES•

$550 UNCONTESTED

AMELIA B. JOSEPH
Attorney at Law
St. Croix Avis Building
36AB LaGrande Princesse
773-6363

Help Wanted

Kitchen helper needed. Apply in person-Royal Garden Restaurant 10 A Hospital St. **773-3424**.

Administrative Assistant: Exciting opportunity at fast-growing Car Rental Agency. Ideal candidate will have good customer relations skills and an eagerness to learn on the job. College degree preferred. Knowledge of MS Office helpful. Send resume to: Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 1529 Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00851-1529.

Legal Secretary/Office Manager needed. Good salary send resumes to **1112** King Street, Suite 4, Christiansted, 00820.

Medical Secretary-must be able to do billing, accounting-Quick Books. Full or part time. Send resume to P.O. Box 5123 Sunny Isle 00823.

Land survey personnel wanted for permanent position with established firm. Must have field survey experience and be familiar with boundary and construction surveys. $8.00 per hr. starting salary. Call **773-5577** for job application and details.

Are you strong? Over 25 with a valid St. Croix license? Willing to work 6 days a week and start at 6:30? Are you drug free and resporisible. Then come be a driver/warehouse man at Princess Market! We have the best professional group of service/delivery men on St. Croix. Apply in person please!

Sheet Metal Fabricators/Insulators. Applicants must have a minimum of one-year experience in industrial sheet metal fabrication and industrial insulation applications. Applicants must be capable of passing all pre-employment testing including a basic skills written exam and physical. Applicants are advised to register at the Department of Labor Job Service. Applicants may obtain and return applications from 9 am to 2 pm daily at #5 Casaba Gardens, apartment 3A, located East of Hess, or call **778-2617**.

Psychics\Astrology

God Gifted psychic reader/advisor. Answer questions. Solves all problems. Love, marriage, money, health. For quick results, call Sister Faith. Free sample reading. **1-713-773-1031**.

Free Reading by phone. Ordained psychic Christian reader/advisor Hillary Banks. Healer from the islands. Returns lover. Reveals enemies. Relieves loneliness, depression, anxiety, roots, herbs, oils for all conditions. Toll free:**1-866-593-9312**.

Mother Jo-Ann spiritual healer don't be fooled by imitations. One of the 7 sisters of New Orleans. Helps love, marriage, health, success. Guaranteed results in hours. **1-888-286-2053, 1-954-771-3755.**

Free Psychic Reading by Kate Hudson. God gifted over 30 years experience specializing and reuniting lovers. Solving all problems of life!!! Immediate results. Call 24 hours U.S.A. **(210)-865-1439**.

Psychic Jordan Spiritual Healer. Removes evil, bad luck, hair loss, lost nature. Reunites lovers immediately. Call today for blessed healing. **1-800-518-8479.**

Free reading. Miracles performed. Foresees lovers future. gives names, dates, times. Solves all problems. Removes bad luck. Love, marriage, business, health. Reveals friends and enemies. Guaranteed results. **1-559-226-4496.**

Monica Jennings God given powers. Solves problems. Specializes returning lovers. Repairs broken relationships instantly. Never fails. Complimentary reading. **1-800-773-0238.**

Free reading by phone. Mother Mary holistic healer. Spiritual psychic. Helps love, money, business, health. Calls enemies by name. Removes evil/bad luck. Spiritual enlightment with one phone call. **1-800-808-3246, 1-602-944-1536.**

SISTER CALY from Puerto Rico is on St. Croix. She can help solve all your problems. Health, Love, Court Cases. Any problems that are created can be solved. Call for appointment. **778–5146**

Virginia Love Goddess. Will solve all problems. Reunites separated. Stops unwanted divorce. Restores sex, passion, romance. Herbs, oils, potions for all problems. Free love crystal with reading. Toll free **1-866-968-8868, 1-703-968-8665.**

Food & Entertainment

The Great House at Villa Madeleine
Elegant Dining Mon. - Sat. 6-10 PM
Thurs: Bill Bass
Fri & Sat: Ben Miele
Reservations Recommended
778-7377
Cigar Bar Now Open Wed-Sat!

Knoley's
719-1469 Hess Rd
RESTAURANT & BAR
(formerly Guava Corp. - 1/2 block west of Gertrudes)
SERVING
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
FRIDAY . . .ALL YOU CAN PEEL and EAT SHRIMP 5pm to 9pm
Now serving Sunday Brunch 5am - 3pm
HOT ROTI - Chicken • Beef • Shrimp $4.50

BOGEY'S
AT THE CANE BAY REEF CLUB
778-2966
THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Buy one Spaghetti dinner for $10.00
Get 2nd Spaghetti dinner FREE
Dinner includes salad, garlic bread & spaghetti
(meatballs & sausage extra)
Every Thursday

The Deep End Bar
What a GREAT idea!
Fun, Food, & Friends
Happy Hour
7 Days a week• 5 to 6
$1.00 domestic beer
$1.50 Well drinks • 1/2 Price wine
Sunday, always a tropical treat drink special.
Lunch and Dinner Specials Daily
FRIDAY
TEXAS JIM
6:30 - 9:30
SUNDAY
SPLASH
5pm to 8pm
TUESDAY TRIVIA
7:30pm
Breakfast served Daily
7am to 10am
Tamarind Reef Hotel, East End Road
Next to Green Cay Marina

Thursdays BBQ #1 for Food & Fun!
Extravaganza!
Seaside Outdoor Grill!
Beef, Chicken & Ribs
Music by TEXAS JIM
CHENAY BAY BEACH RESORT
HAPPY HOURS 4 til 6 daily!
2 drinks for 1 price!
Just Show Up!
East End Rd., Rt. 82
773-2918
King Conch's Coconut Hut

Smuggler's Cove
at Mill Harbour 719-1333

Lunch
11 am till
Dinner
6pm to 10pm
All-You-Can Eat BBQ FRIDAY
Specializing in Homemade Italian cuisine.
Friday Nite - 4/20
SPLASH
Saturday Nite - 4/21
"J" Jay Seager

Fort Christian Brew Pub
King's Alley Walk • 713-9820
TONIGHT
JAZZ
Jack Peterson
8pm to 10pm
Dinner upstairs 6pm

FOOD CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE FUN
Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials
Music
Thurs. SPLASH
Pop Rock & Pork Nite
Fri. From Philly Phipps Bros
Rock-n-Blues & BBQ Nite
Sat. Llewellyn Calypso
& Prime Rib Nite
Sun. X-itements
Reggae, Soca and Dancing
2 1/2 miles East of Christiansted
773-1119

The Golden Rail Café
located at St. Croix Marina Gallows Bay
Great NEW Menu
Nightly Specials
Come on over for a Drink and Dinner and watch the Sun Go Down
FUN MUSIC Thursday 6:00 to 10:00


Great Ribs!
340-719-1989

Messages

Acts 16:31
And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

"I'LL JUST BRACE MYSELF WITH THE STEERING WHEEL."



Who are you trying to fool? There's no way a steering wheel can stop you from slamming into a dashboard. Only a safety belt can. Stop making excuses and start buckling your safety belt.
YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM A DUMMY. BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY BELT.
Ad

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

CD-261-2001

It being within the providence of my office, I, the undersigned Gerard Luz James II, 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 EPITAXX FSC, 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, EPITAXX FSC, 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 January 11, 2001.

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 January, A.D. 2001.

Gerard Luz James II
Lieutenant Governor
04/19,26,05/03,10, 2001

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-269-2001

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 CRESTING WAVE SALES, 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, CRESTING WAVE SALES, INC. is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective January 29, 2001.

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 30th day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-255-2001

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 DATASOUTH INTERNATIONAL SALES CORPORATION 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, DATASOUTH INTERNATIONAL SALES CORPORATION CORPORATION is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective December 29, 2000.

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 3rd day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
Department of Property and Procurement

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Date April 4, 2001

Invitation To Bid No. IFB-012-IRB-C-2001 (sc)

Pursuant to Chapter 23, Title 31, of the Virgin Islands Code, sealed bids in the Quadruplicate for: Cleaning Services for Bureau of Internal Revenue on St. Croix V.I.

will be received by the Department of Property and Procurement, Division of Procurement (address) #3274 Estate Richmond
Christiansted, St.Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

until 11:00 o'clock a.m. Atlantic Standard Time April 27, 2001.

Biddings Documents may be obtained from this office.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within thirty (30) working days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Marc Biggs
Commissioner

04/11,17,18, 19/2001

Penny out of playoffs

Weak knee keeps Hardaway on the sideline for Suns

PHOENIX (AP) — Penny Hardaway won't be joining the Phoenix Suns for the playoffs. After practicing twice, Hardaway decided his surgically repaired right knee isn't strong enough.

"It was my decision basically," Hardaway said Wednesday at the team's morning shootaround. "I didn't feel I was at the percentage I needed to be at to help the team."

Coach Scott Skiles said Tuesday he thought Hardaway looked good and could help the team in the postseason. But he said Wednesday that he wasn't surprised that Hardaway wouldn't play.

The Suns play Sacramento in the first round.

"We know he's not 100 percent and probably more like 75 percent," Skiles said. "This team has won 50 games so far without Penny for the most part, so we don't see the reason to risk putting him out there.

"About 90 percent is the benchmark for putting guys out there. Anything short of that, there becomes a little risk involved. It's not a risk we are going to take right now."

"It was my decision basically, I didn't feel I was at the percentage I needed to be at to help the team."

Penny Hardaway

Hardaway, in the second year of a seven-year, $86 million contract, played in only four games in January before he was sidelined by extreme soreness in the knee. He missed 22 games last season with a foot injury.

Hardaway injured the knee in a collision with David Robinson in last season's first-round playoff series with San Antonio. He played well during the rest of the playoffs, but after the season he had major surgery that requires extensive time to recover.

When Hardaway went back on the injured list in January, the Suns pronounced him out for the season. But he decided to try working out with the team last week to test the knee.

"It's tough because I owe it all, everything I'm here for, to the organization and my teammates," Hardaway said. "Not to be able to play in the playoffs is a disappointment, but the sky is the limit for next year."

He said he was pleased with his progress.

"I'm very encouraged," Hardaway said. "I'm really happy where I am right now. I think I am ahead of schedule right now, but it's still sad to not be playing in the playoffs."

McGwire on fifteen-day disabled list

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire's balky right knee has landed him back on the disabled list.

The St. Louis Cardinals first baseman was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday with tendinitis in his knee.

"It's hard to believe that in 15 days he'll be ready," manager Tony La Russa said Wednesday before the Cardinals played the Arizona Diamondbacks.

McGwire, baseball's single-season home run king, has been bothered by the knee since last season. He had just 15 at-bats after the All-Star break because of the sore knee and couldn't play in the field.

He has played only six games this year, with two hits and one homer in 21 at-bats (.095).

"All I know is, I'm not myself," McGwire said Tuesday. "I have to play at a certain level and I'm not there. If I don't play at a certain level, I think I'm embarrassing myself and I'm no good to a ballclub."

The move was made retroactive to Sunday.

Bobby Bonilla and Eli Marrero will get the bulk of time at first base while McGwire is out.

The Cardinals also optioned pitcher Chad Hutchinson to Triple-A Memphis and called up outfielder Kerry Robinson and pitcher Jason Karnuth.

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

CD-388-2001

It being within the providence of my office, I, the undersigned Gerard Luz James II, 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 BREED INTERNATIONAL, 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, BREED INTERNATIONAL, 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 February 23, 2001.

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 28th day of February, A.D. 2001.

Gerard Luz James II
Lieutenant Governor
04/19,26,05/03,10, 2001

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

CD-256-2001

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 DARLING FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION 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, DARLING FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION is hereby dissolved, pursuant to Section 283 (d), Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, subject to the lawful fulfillment of the requirements of Section 283 (d) and (c), 285 and 286 of Title 13, Virgin Islands Code, and other applicable law, effective December 29, 2000.

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 3rd day of January, A.D. 2001.

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor
04/05, 12, 19, 26/2001

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Talon
5 Home aid agcy.
8 Collar insert
12 Stromboli spillage
13 Diamond score
14 Golfer's target
15 Oodles
16 Personality factor
17 "Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine
18 Emulated Nureyev
20 Pops
22 Lars Ulrich's genre
26 Present
29 — nut-shell
30 Bullring bravo
31 Hitchcock creature
32 "Chances —"
33 Gaelic
34 Three-match link
35 Exploit
36 Wilder co-star
37 Mariners' guide
40 Bump into
41 It ain't worth a dime
45 Didn't miss a question
47 Fabulous flier
49 Roll down the runway
50 Protracted
51 Oklahoma city
52 List-ending abbr.
53 Initial chip
54 Gridiron gains (Abbr.)
55 Actress Moore

DOWN
1 Dressed
2 Tra follower
3 Shake-speare's river
4 Kept tabs on
5 "Band of Gold" singer Payne
6 Embrace
7 Painkiller
8 Coloration
9 Woody and Buzz's movie
10 The whole enchilada
11 Verily
19 Eternally, in verse
21 Docs' org.
23 Small songbird
24 Addition-ally
25 Ogler's look
26 1/6 drachma
27 Done, in Dijon
28 Piece
32 Cigarette holder
33 Put up
35 Multi-purpose truck
36 Omega preceder
38 Bushy boundary
39 Last of the Mohicans
42 Actress Winslet
43 Test
44 Caron role
45 Miss. neigh-bor
46 Anti
48 Eccentric

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-19

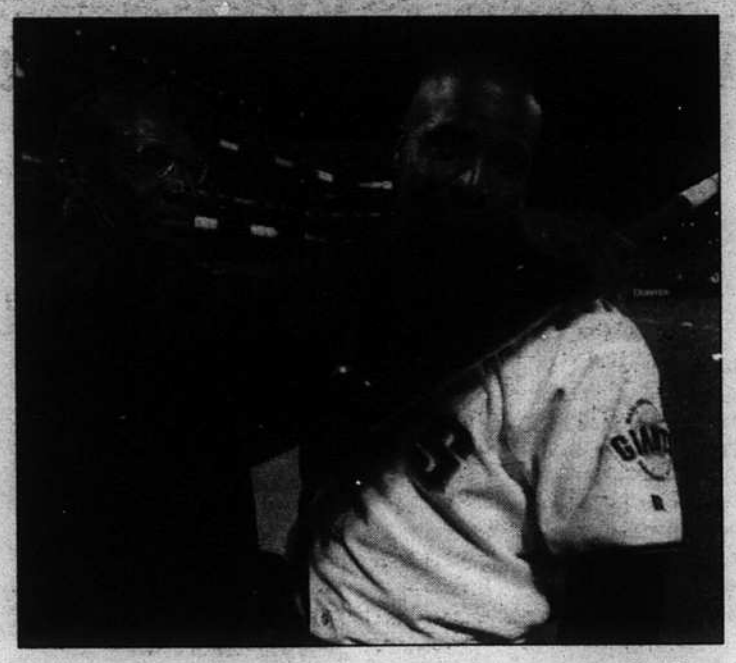
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31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
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45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

Cryptoquip

D M K I T P C M I W G X S C W D P I I M N N K V G W T O A J Q P I I C P G Z A Z M T W X S J O W N P I I W T P Q M K J W V P T?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS AN ATTORNEY'S OUTFIT OF CHOICE? A LAW SUIT, NATURALLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals L



Associated Press

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds celebrates his 500th career home run with his father Bobby Bonds Tuesday at Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco.

500th homer

Bonds seventeenth player to reach home-run milestone

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — His flubbed fly ball is now forgotten. Barry Bonds more than redeemed himself with a historic homer that arched high over the right-field wall and plopped into the bay.



Bonds

Even he was stunned.

Bonds wiped away memories of the error the game before and joined the slugging elite Tuesday night with his 500th home run, just the 17th player to reach the milestone.

The two-run shot at Pacific Bell Park gave the Giants a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers and sent Bonds on a joyful home-run trot.

Bonds had hit his 499th on Sunday in Milwaukee, but the three-time MVP and nine-time All-Star dropped Jeffrey Hammonds' eighth-inning fly, allowing three runs as the Brewers beat the Giants 7-4.

Bonds was haunted. The gaffe was replayed extensively as he dealt with the pressure of reaching 500.

"I had such a big, strange incident happen to me in Milwaukee," he said late Tuesday night. "And then a wonderful thing happened today."

As Bonds watched the eighth-inning blast sail out of the park and into San Francisco Bay, he leapt in the air before rounding the bases. Afterward, he was joined by his father, former major leaguer Bobby Bonds; his wife; and Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Willie McCovey, who also hit 500 home runs.

"I wanted to run off the field and hug my wife, my dad, my mom, and to thank the Giants' organization. Then I started looking for Willie (Mays). It was great they came out here," Bonds said.

Mays, Bonds' godfather, hit 660 homers, third on the career list behind Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). McCovey is 11th with 521.

Joe Figone, piloting an inflatable power boat, scooped up the ball after it splashed into McCovey Cove — an inlet of the bay — with a hand-held net.

Bonds said they were in "negotiations" with Figone over the ball, which some have estimated to be worth more than $500,000. Figone, a former groundskeeper for the Giants at Candlestick Park, did not return phone calls Wednesday.

Rich Aurilia started the eighth for the Giants with a triple off Dodgers reliever Terry Adams. Bonds was hoping for at least a fly ball to score Aurilia, tying the game.

The pivotal pitch to Bonds was a 2-0 slider. The sellout crowd let out a gasp as the ball came off his bat, flew high over the right-field wall and dropped into the water.

MLB

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	4	.714	—
Toronto	10	4	.714	—
New York	8	6	.571	2
Baltimore	6	8	.429	4
Tampa Bay	4	10	.286	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	11	3	.786	—
Cleveland	6	6	.500	4
Detroit	5	7	.417	5
Chicago	4	8	.333	6
Kansas City	4	11	.267	7 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	11	3	.786	—
Texas	7	8	.467	4 1/2
Anaheim	6	8	.429	5
Oakland	4	10	.286	7

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	8	5	.615	—
Montreal	8	7	.533	1
Atlanta	8	8	.500	1 1/2
New York	6	9	.400	3
Florida	5	9	.357	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	9	5	.643	—
Houston	8	5	.615	1/2
Cincinnati	8	6	.571	1
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	3
St. Louis	6	8	.429	3
Pittsburgh	5	8	.385	3 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	8	5	.615	—
Colorado	7	6	.538	1
Los Angeles	7	7	.500	1 1/2
San Diego	6	7	.462	2
Arizona	6	8	.429	2 1/2

American League

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 6, N.Y. Yankees 5
Cleveland 8, Baltimore 1
Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 4
Boston 10, Tampa Bay 0
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 5
Seattle 6, Texas 4
Oakland 5, Anaheim 1

Wednesday's Games

Minnesota 5, Kansas City 3
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.
Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 10:05 p.m.
Oakland at Anaheim, 10:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Cleveland (Sabathia 1-0) at Baltimore (McElroy 0-0), 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 2-0) at Toronto (Hamilton 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Wells 1-2) at Detroit (Weaver 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Martinez 1-0) at Tampa Bay (Wilson 0-1), 7:15 p.m.
Oakland (Zito 1-1) at Texas (Rogers 1-0), 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Valdes 0-1) at Seattle (Garcia 1-0), 10:05 p.m.

Friday's Games

Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.
Oakland at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Toronto at Kansas City, 8:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim at Seattle, 10:05 p.m.

National League

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia 6, Chicago Cubs 3
Cincinnati 3, Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 4, Montreal 0
Florida 3, Atlanta 2
Arizona 17, St. Louis 4
Colorado 9, San Diego 5
San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 2
Houston at Pittsburgh, ppd

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta 1, Florida 0
Montreal 7, N.Y. Mets 1
Chicago Cubs 4, Philadelphia 3, 1st game
Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia 5:20 p.m.
Pittsburgh 8, Houston 4
Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:05 p.m.
Arizona at St. Louis, 8:10 p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Colorado (Neagle 1-0) at San Diego (Williams 1-1), 5:05 p.m.
Montreal (Reames 2-0) at Florida (Clement 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Los Angeles (Gagne 0-1) at San Francisco (Rueter 2-0), 10:15 p.m.

Friday's Games

Montreal at Florida, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Cincinnati, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 10:05 p.m.
San Diego at Los Angeles, 10:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Francisco, 10:35 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Philadelphia	56	25	.691	—
x-Miami	49	32	.605	7
x-New York	47	34	.580	9
x-Orlando	43	38	.531	13
Boston	36	45	.444	20
New Jersey	26	56	.317	30 1/2
Washington	19	62	.235	37

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Milwaukee	52	30	.634	—
x-Toronto	46	35	.568	5 1/2
x-Charlotte	45	36	.556	6 1/2
x-Indiana	40	41	.494	11 1/2
Detroit	32	49	.395	19 1/2
Cleveland	30	51	.370	21 1/2
Atlanta	25	57	.305	27
Chicago	14	67	.173	37 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Antonio	58	23	.716	—
x-Utah	53	28	.654	5
x-Dallas	52	29	.642	6
x-Minnesota	47	34	.580	11
Houston	45	37	.549	13 1/2
Denver	39	42	.481	19
Vancouver	22	59	.272	36

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-L.A. Lakers	56	26	.683	—
x-Sacramento	55	26	.679	1/2
x-Phoenix	50	31	.617	5 1/2
x-Portland	50	32	.610	6
Seattle	43	38	.531	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	31	51	.378	25
Golden State	17	64	.210	38 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Monday's Games

Charlotte 106, Atlanta 83
Cleveland 80, New York 78
Milwaukee 101, Orlando 89
Sacramento 110, Vancouver 100
L.A. Clippers 100, Phoenix 80
Dallas 110, Golden State 101

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 94, Detroit 92, OT
Miami 91, Milwaukee 89
Atlanta 122, Washington 119
Chicago 100, New Jersey 94
Philadelphia 111, Indiana 105, OT
Houston 114, Minnesota 87
Utah 97, L.A. Clippers 92
San Antonio 99, Portland 93
L.A. Lakers 108, Denver 91

Wednesday's Games

Charlotte 97, Boston 92
Toronto 98, Washington 92
Chicago 92, Philadelphia 86
Indiana 105, Cleveland 101
Detroit at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

End of Regular Season

Sports Moves

BASEBALL

American League

NEW YORK YANKEES—Called up OF Donzell McDonald from Columbus of the International League. Sent LHP Randy Keisler to Columbus.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Fired Larry Rothschild, manager, and Jose Cardenal, first base coach. Named Hal McRae manager and Lee May first base coach. Moved catching instructor Darren Daulton to bullpen coach, bullpen coach Terry Collins to third base coach and third base coach Billy Hatcher to bench coach.

National League

HOUSTON ASTROS—Activated RHP Shane Reynolds from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned RHP Scott Linebrink to New Orleans of the PCL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Placed 1B Mark McGwire on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 15. Optioned RHP Chad Hutchinson to Memphis of the PCL. Called up OF Kerry Robinson and RHP Jason Karnuth from Memphis.

Florida State League

JUPITER HAMMERHEADS—Acquired RHP Jeremy Salyers from Harrisburg of the Eastern League. Placed RHP Justin Wayne on the disabled list. Released INF Randy Meadows.

Atlantic League

SOMERSET PATRIOTS—Signed LHP Brad Pennington.

Frontier League

CANTON CROCODILES—Signed C Josh Lake and RHP Joe Gallaty.

CHILLICOTHE PAINTS—Traded RHP Stephen Byrd to Kalamazoo for a 2001 first-round draft pick and a player to be named.

JOHNSTOWN JOHNNIES—Signed INF Matt Kuseski.

KALAMAZOO KINGS—Signed RHP Matt Gunderson and INF Jeff Gunderson.

LONDON WEREWOLVES—Released C J.R. Crosby and INF Marcus Williams.

RIVER CITY RASCALS—Signed RHP Andy Buitron, RHP Carl Rowland and RHP Greg Montgomery.

SPRINGFIELD CAPITALS—Signed INF Billy Bone and OF Bobby McDonald.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Placed C Dikembe Mutombo on the injured list. Activated G Pepe Sanchez from the injured list.

Rays can Rothschild

Tampa Bay coach fired after three losing seasons

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Larry Rothschild was fired Wednesday as manager of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays after three consecutive last-place finishes and a 4-10 start this season.

He was replaced by Hal McRae, the Devil Rays' bench coach who managed Kansas City from May 1991 through 1994, compiling a 286-277 mark. He was given a contract through the 2003 season, with terms not disclosed.

McRae also became the seventh minority manager in the majors.

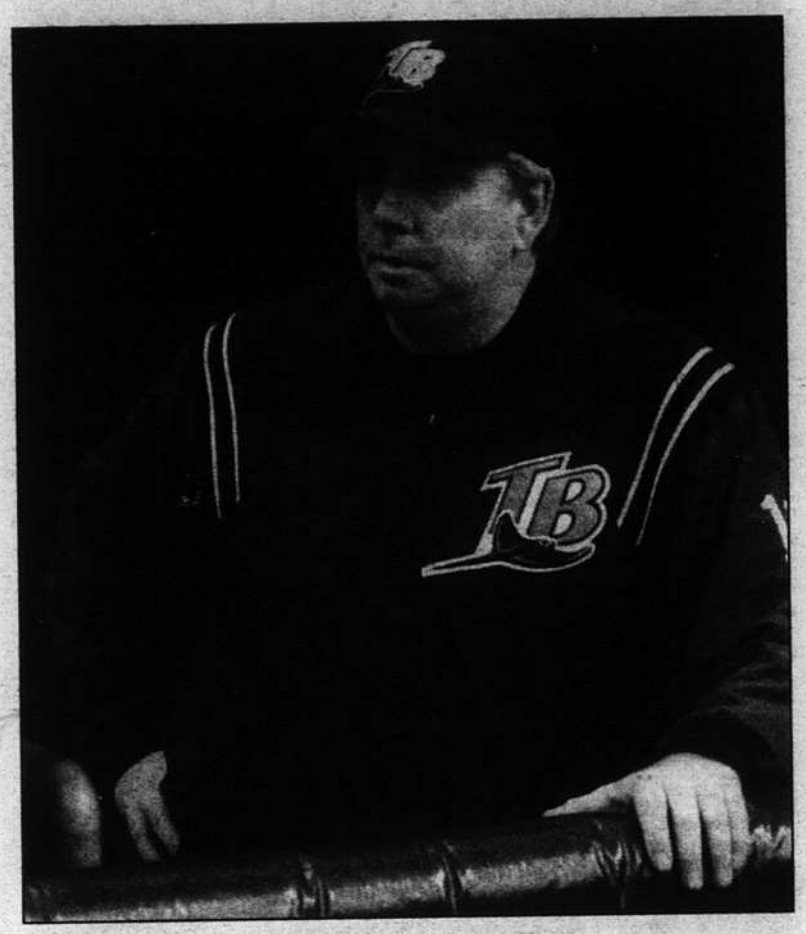
McRae, 55, starred for the Royals from 1973-87 after playing his first three major league seasons with the Cincinnati Reds.

"We want to win as many games as possible and the way you do that is we have to play the game hard. We have to play the game right and we have to play together as a group," McRae said. "Collectively, we have to beat the opposition. It's important to me that everyone understands we have to do the little things to win games. We can't play selfish baseball."

Rothschild's firing, the first of the 2½-week-old season, came in the wake of the Devils Rays' 10-0 loss to Boston in their 499th game. He had been the manager for every one, compiling a 205-294 record.

"Hopefully we hit rock bottom and from here it will change," the 47-year-old manager said after the game, in which Tampa Bay made two more errors and allowed six unearned runs to boost its total to 24 in 14 games.

All but two of the unearned runs have come in the team's 10 losses.



Associated Press

Tampa Bay Devil Rays manager Larry Rothschild stands in the dugout prior to a game against the Boston Red Sox at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla., in this October 1, 2000 photo.

Briefs

Duncan scores 18 points in Spurs win

All Star Tim Duncan of St. Croix had 18 points and watched the end of the game from the bench as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 99-93 Tuesday night.

Duncan is joined in the NBA by fellow Virgin Islanders Raja Bell of the Philadelphia 76ers and the Washington Wizards' David Vanterpool.

Hawks beat Wizards, Vanterpool scores 3

David Vanterpool of St. Thomas scored three points in NBA action Tuesday night as his Washington Wizards dropped a 122-119 decision to the Atlanta Hawks.

Vanterpool was 1 of 3 from the field and 1 of 2 from the line.

3 VI women finish Boston Marathon

ST. THOMAS — Three Virgin Islands women completed the Boston Marathon on Monday, keeping alive the St. Thomas tradition. Claire Ochoa ran the 26.2-mile event in 3 hours, 27 minutes, 11 seconds. Grace Tuma finished in 3:42:23 and Kathy Gibson crossed the line in 3:45:18.

Competitors from St. Thomas have been taking part in the big Marathons — New York, Boston and Chicago — for the past several years.

Kenyan Catherine Ndereba won the women's race in 2:23:53. Korean Lee Bong-ju became his country's first winner in 51 years after running the event in 2:09:43.

Volunteers needed for May 6 triathlon

ST. CROIX — The organizer of the May 6 Half-Ironman Triathlon is in search of volunteers.

Tom Guthrie said usually approximately 700 people volunteer for the event. He said he would like more help this year because the course has expanded to Half-Ironman distance.

Guthrie said help is needed — especially in the area of traffic and aid stations. To volunteer, call 773-4470.

Youth soccer tourney this weekend on STX

ST. CROIX — A youth soccer tournament — featuring St. Croix against St. Thomas — will kick off this weekend.

A St. Thomas under-15 squad will take on St. Croix at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Vialco Field. St. Croix will travel to St. Thomas for a return match on May 15.

SportsCalendar

Baseball

- St. Thomas Hendricks West Little League: Rebels vs. Spurs, 4:30 p.m., Griffith Ballpark.
- St. Croix junior varsity league: Elena Christian vs. Central High, 4 p.m.; Good Hope vs. Country Day, 6:15 p.m., Paul E. Joseph Stadium.

Softball

- St. Croix junior varsity league: School of the Good Shepperd vs. St. Croix Educational Complex, 4 p.m., Sion Farm
- St. Croix varsity league: Educational Complex I vs. Ed Complex II, 5:30 p.m., Sion Farm.
- St. Croix Government and Industrial League: VIPA vs. Injectable, 6:30 p.m.; Fire vs. Enforcers, 8:30 p.m., Canegata Ballpark.

Avis Sports

Youth Baseball

Leaders

ST. CROIX PLASKETT EAST

(14-16 DIVISION)

Batting average

1. Aquelino Ledesma, O'Cast	.444
2. Asim Shillingford, O'Cast	.429
3. Darnel Phillips, Outcast	.350
4. Dwayne Wesselhoft, Tigers	.346
5. Kevin McDougal, Tigers	.333
Leandro Ryes, Expos	.333
7. Leon Lang III, O'Cast	.300
Jamel Shillingford, Tigers	.294
8. Leo Lang, Outcas	.300
10. David Clarke, Tigers	.211

Home runs

1. Aguelino Ledesma, Outcast	1
2. Martin Serrano, Expos	1

RBI

1. Aquelino Ledesma, Outcast	7
2. Dwayne Wesselhoft, Tigers	7
3. Kahlid Matthew, Tigers	4

Pitching

Vernell Cooke	1	0
Francisco Rivera	1	0
Joseph Brow	1	0
Leon Lang II	2	1
Kahlid Matthews	2	2

11-12 DIVISION

Batting average

1. Akeem Graham, Indians	.714
2. Charles Bolling, Indians	.444
3. Amahlee Thompson, Suns	.429
4. Brandon Biggs, Indians	.417
Robbie Frontal, Indians	.417
6. Warren Henry, Indians	.385
7. Juan Cirilo, Suns	.381
8. Clifford Joseph, Indians	.375
9. Dwayne Nesbitt, Suns	.375
10. Jamal Browne, Indians	.333

Home runs

1. Akeem Graham, Indians	2

RBI

1. Akeem Graham, Indians	16
2. Amahlee Thompson, Suns	12
3. Charles Bolling, Indians	8
4. Danny Archibald, Sun	6
5. 3 tied with 6	

Pitching

Akeem Graham	3	0
Clifford Joseph	2	
0Juan Cirilo	1	
0Brandon Biggs	1	
0Jamal Brown	1	0

(9-10 DIVISION)

Batting average

1. Dodson James Jr., Lions	.522
Michael Fleming, Suns	.500
Waleem Felix, Suns	.500
4. Malik Graham, L'Il Indians	.500
5. Shakeel Newton, L Indians	.476
6. Ikeido Encarnacion, Indians	.474
7. Kahlil Simmonds, Lions	.455
8. Orvin Bonit, Stars	.417
9. Carl Bolling, L Indians	.393
10. Joshua Willims, L Indians	.364

Home runs

1. Kahlil Simmonds, Lions	6
2. Michael Fleming, Suns	3
3. Dodson James, Jr.	3
4. Malik Graham, L'Indians	2
5. Earvin Bonit, Stars	2
6. Carl Bolling, L' Indians	2

RBI

1. Troy Somme Jr, Stars	17
2. Waleem Felix, Suns	12
3. Dodson James Jr., Lions	11
4. Malachi Mccow, Stars	11
5. Michael Fleming, Suns	11
6. Shakeel Newton, L'Indians	11

Pitching

Waleem Felix	2	0
Rakeem Hendrickson	2	0
Ikeido Encarnacion	2	0
Joshua Williams	2	0
Malik Graham	2	0

(7-8 DIVISION)

Batting average

1. Chaquille Joseph, Mets	.636
2. Frank Wilson, Y Stars	.625
3. Kaleem Fleming, Suns	.571
4. Joshua Torres, Mongoose Dem II	.538
5. Melanesia Hendrickson, Mets	.429
6. Janeel Frontal, MD II	.400
7. Noel Chapparo, MD II	.364
8. Mark Knight, Mets	.333
Duryan Ebbesen, Mets	.333
Charles Sealey, Jr., Mets	.333

Home runs

1. Noel Chapparo, Mongoose Dem II	2
2. Frank Wilson, Young Stars	2
3. Chaquille Joseph, Mets	2

RBI

1. Chaquille Joseph, Mets	13
2. Noel Chapparo, Mongose Dem II	11
3. Charles Sealey, Jr. , Mets	11
4. Frank Wilson, Young Stars	8
5. Matthew Simaj, Mongoose Dem II	7

Standings

ST. CROIX PLASKETT EAST

As of 4//18/01

14-16 Division		
Outcast	5	2
Expos	2	3
Tigers	2	5
11-12 Division		
Indians	7	0
Suns	4	4
Tigers	1	5
Brewers	0	3
9-10 Division		
L'Il Indians	8	1
Suns	4	2
Stars	4	5
Lions	4	7
Mongoose Dem II	0	9
7-8 Division		
Mets	7	1
Suns	3	4
Young Stars	4	4
Mongoose Dem	3	8

ST. THOMAS HENDRICKS WEST

Marlins	13	0
Pirates	11	3
Twins	10	3
PALS	7	5
Indians	7	5
Rebels	7	7
Spurs	4	8
Archers	4	9
Slugggers	2	11
Diamondbacks	1	13

Saturday's games

Rebels 11, Sluggers 7

Marlins 4, Indians 2

Twins 5, Pirates 3

Farchette keeps score

Volunteer makes sure players get recognition

ISAAC CAUSEY

ST. CROIX — Even though George Farchette retired from his job as a Department of Finance peace officer two years ago, he has not stopped working.

These days, the big task for Farchette comes at the ballpark, where he volunteers five days a week.

The retiree keeps scores, umpires and helps with the concessions during the Bob Owens Softball League and the Elmo Plaskett East Little League.

"I still work full-time," joked Farchette, who retired in 1999 after 41 years of government service. "Now I have more time to do it."

Farchette keeps an updated list of leaders and standings on his newly purchased Compaq computer. He knows about the top hitters and top pitchers in the league.

As a result of Farchette's service, managers can make decisions about how to pitch to a certain batter and use strategies similar to Major League managers.

"All the players like to see that," Farchette said of statistics such as leaders.

Farchette said the computer program makes his job a lot easier because in the past he spent hours at a time calculating averages by hand.

Farchette, a former St. Croix Festival Committee officer, has spent more than 20 years volunteering with Little League and softball leagues. He is one of the most sought-after scorers on St. Croix. He is among the hundreds of Virgin Islanders who volunteer to help youth sports.

Most help comes from parents of the children. However, some volunteers — such as Farchette — make sacrifices whether they have children playing in the league or not.

Approximately 900 youths compete in youth baseball leagues — Pony League and Little League — in the Virgin Islands.

"Sometimes, games can take so long they can get a little boring," Farchette said. "Mostly when the pitching is not up to par."

Farchette works on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with Little Leagues. During softball season, he adds to his workload, turning his retirement into a full-time job.

Farchette never played softball or baseball, but is a big New York Yankees fan. He said he loves going to the ballpark because it keeps him busy.

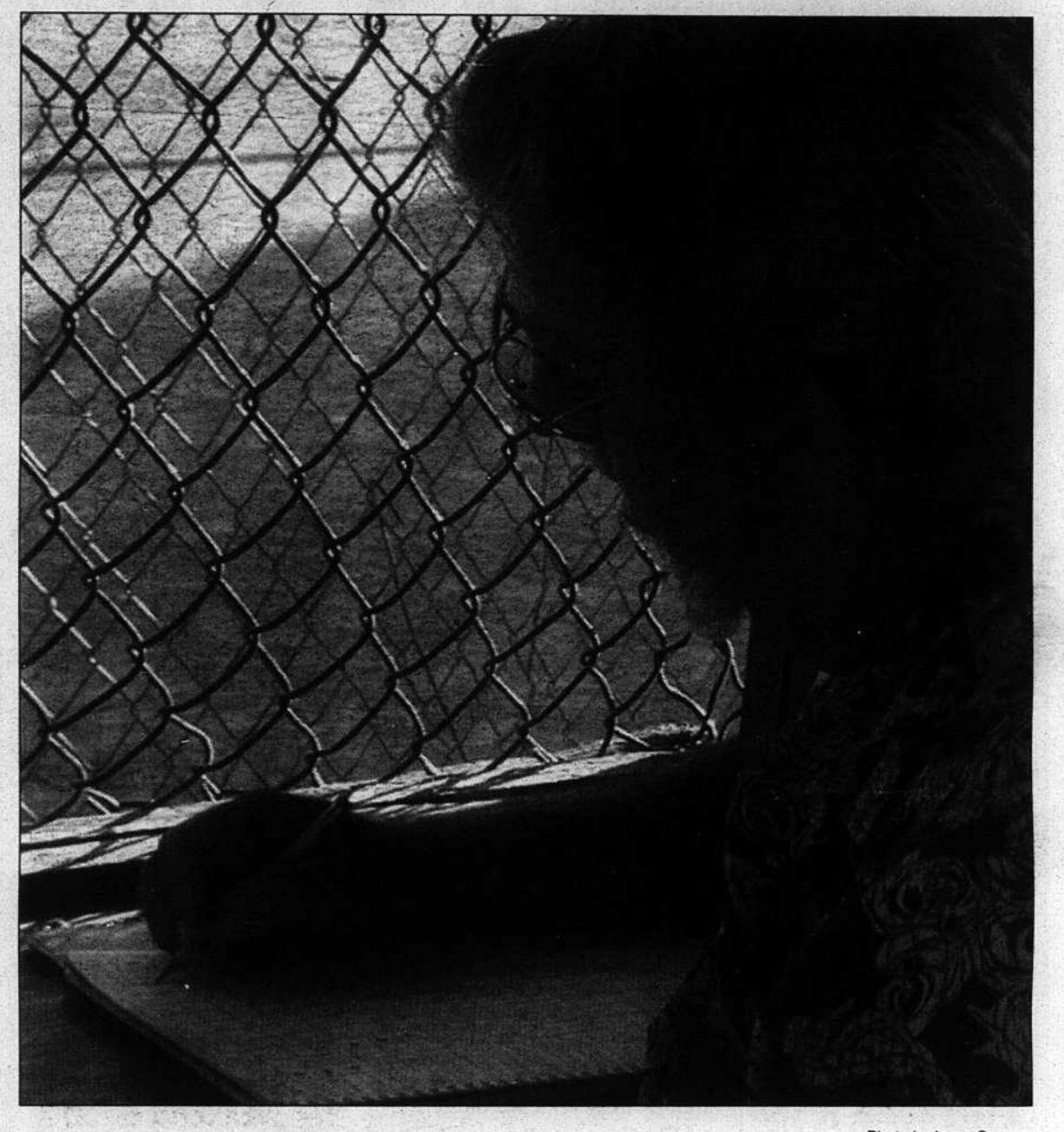


Photo by Issac Causey

Volunteer scorer and statistician George Farchette works during a Plaskett East Little League game in Christiansted. Farchette keeps an updated list of standings and statistics and share them with the media so that the players can be recognized.

Little Trivia

1. Which year did the Virgin Islands win a Latin American Championship? Which age group and where was the tournament played.

Note: Check next week's Youth Baseball Page for the answer.

Last week's answer:
Emile "Gravy" Henderson

Youth briefs

Torres,Graham and, Encarnacion hailed

ST. CROIX — Chaquille Joseph, Ikeido Encarnacion and Amahle Thompson were named Plaskett East Players of the Week for the period ending April 8. The league was idle during the past Easter weekend.

Joseph of the 7-8 Pee wee Mets batted 1 for 1 with a homer and pitched a one-hitter. The Mets beat the Suns 13-1.

Encarnacion of the L'Il Indians won the award for the second straight week. He was winning pitcher and hit a homer in the L'Il Indians 16-7 win over the Stars in the 9-10 division.

Thompson had a grand slam as his 11-12 Suns defeated the Brewers 11-1.

Tee-ballers invited to play at White House

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush is inviting some Little League Tee Ball players for a game in his back yard.

A presidental spokesman announced three weeks ago that the president will work with Little League Baseball International headquarters to invite teams to play in the South Lawn of the White House.

The announcement came before the President, a former Little Leaguer, met with members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

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Today's weather

VI National Swim Team ready for big meet



Ashley Allaire (15-17)
Country Day School



Chrissy May (11-12)
Country Day School

ISAAC CAUSEY

ST. CROIX — Jamie Shufflebarger and Keri Whitehurst share a lot in common.

They are both 14-year-old Country Day School students. They compete for the Blue Marlins swim team.

And yes, they are both good enough to earn a spot on the VI National Team, which will leave the territory today for the Bahamas to compete in the Carifta Swim Meet.

"We have a lot in common," said Shufflebarger, the more talkative of the two.

They do differ, however, when it comes to swimming disciplines. Shufflebarger is a breast stroker, while the taller Whitehurst loves the long freestyle races.

The two are members of a 11-member team that aims to make the territory proud in the regional meet.

Whitehurst is looking forward to the 800-meter freestyle, her favorite race.

"A lot of people don't like to compete in the long races so there are fewer competitors in it," she said. "Plus, I'm pretty good at it."

Whitehurst is a third-year qualifier for the event, which will bring together the top swimmers in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Shufflebarger, who is looking forward to the 200-meter butterfly and the 200-meter breaststroke, and Whitehurst are competing in the top of their 13-14 age group. Most of the swimmers are also competing in the top of their age group, which makes the likelihood of more medals than last year a great possibility.

Shufflebarger said the team has not participated in a lot of meets this year, but she expects good performances in the Bahamas.

She said the addition of new Blue Marlins coach Ted Rychlik will help. Rychlik is co-coach of the team along with Dolphins coach Jim Willis.



Nicole Hutchins (11-12)
Country Day School



Jamie Shufflebarger (13-14)
Country Day School



Keri Whitehurst (13-14)
Country Day School



Ryan Nelthropp (11-12)
Country Day School



Kevin Hensley (15-17)
Good Hope School



Kieran Locke (15-17)
Good Hope School



Sydney Covert (15-17)
Home schooled



Morgan Locke (13-14)
Good Hope School



Nick Colabella (15-17)
Good Hope School

The pain continues

Twins beat Royals again

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins have been a pain for the Royals.

"They're just a scrappy bunch of boys that'll come back and beat you," Kansas City manager Tony Muser said after the Twins scored four times in the eighth inning to rally past the Royals for the second straight game, winning 5-3.

Bobby Kielty's double in the eighth put the Twins ahead and got Muser kicked out of the game. Muser argued with umpire Eric Cooper that Kielty's chopper down the third-base line went foul. Kielty later scored on a wild pitch to give the Twins a 5-3 lead after they had trailed 3-1 entering the inning.

Minnesota (11-3) has eight come-from-behind victories and finished its season-opening homestand 8-1.

"We just keep plugging away," first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz said.

Matt Lawton, who has reached base in every game, drew his league-leading 19th walk to lead off the eighth against Jason Grimsley. Corey Koskie, who had the game-winning hit in the ninth Tuesday, scored Lawton with a double.

Tony Cogan (0-1) relieved, and Doug Mientkiewicz drove in Koskie with a single that tied the game. Then Kielty's disputed double scored Mientkiewicz.

"I gave up (on the play), knowing it was a foul ball," Royals third baseman Joe Randa said. "I turn around, and he's calling it fair. It was a terrible call."

Cooper was unavailable to comment on the call. The Twins weren't about to debate it.

"The umpire called it fair," Minnesota manager Tom Kelly said.

Kielty laughed when asked if his hit was legitimate.

"Off the bat, I thought it was fair," he said. "But halfway down the line, that's the ump's decision."

The Twins, 13th in the league in runs scored last season, entered play Wednesday leading the AL in batting average (.305), on-base percentage (.370) and slugging percentage (.521). Their 11-3 start has been fueled by contributions from nearly every spot in the lineup.

Lawton, the Twins' third-place hitter and lone All-Star last season, is batting .220 but has still been helping out.

"Matty's been doing a great job of sticking with his plan to take more pitches this year," Mientkiewicz said. "Sooner or later, they're going to have to give him pitches to hit."