Prime time
Hokies, Seminoles shoot it out for national title.
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Film Promotion Office brings the world to the Virgin Islands.
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St. Croix Avis

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Senator slams GERS

Golden says raises a 'slap in the face'

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — Sen. Anne Golden ripped into the Government Employees Retirement System board for giving huge raises to the system's top administrators in light of the government's financial crisis and a critical audit report on administrative functions.

Golden, reacting to this newspaper's report Tuesday on the raises, demanded an explanation for the increases at a time when GERS has a large unfunded liability and the administration has been taken to task for sloppy bookkeeping.

This newspaper reported that the board approved pay increases that boosted Administrator Lawrence Bryan's salary from $70,980 to $125,000 and his assistant administrators' pay to $105,000.

Legal counsel Alphonso Nibbs also reportedly received a $25,000 increase, bringing his salary to $90,000. Human Resources director Janice Turnbull received a $22,000 increase to her $41,000 salary.

"I want to know what these officials, who were basically given a failing grade for their work by a recent inspector general's report, did to earn such large pay increases," Golden said.

She said that giving the administrators' huge raises "at this time for what appears to be poor job performance is a gross injustice and a slap in the face of all government employee members of the system."

The U.S. Interior Department's inspector general issued a report last March that criticized GERS officials for not properly monitor-

GERS, PAGE 2

STT concrete company sacks 45 employees

Union steelworkers out when VICBP bought by local firm

CHRISTIAN WADE

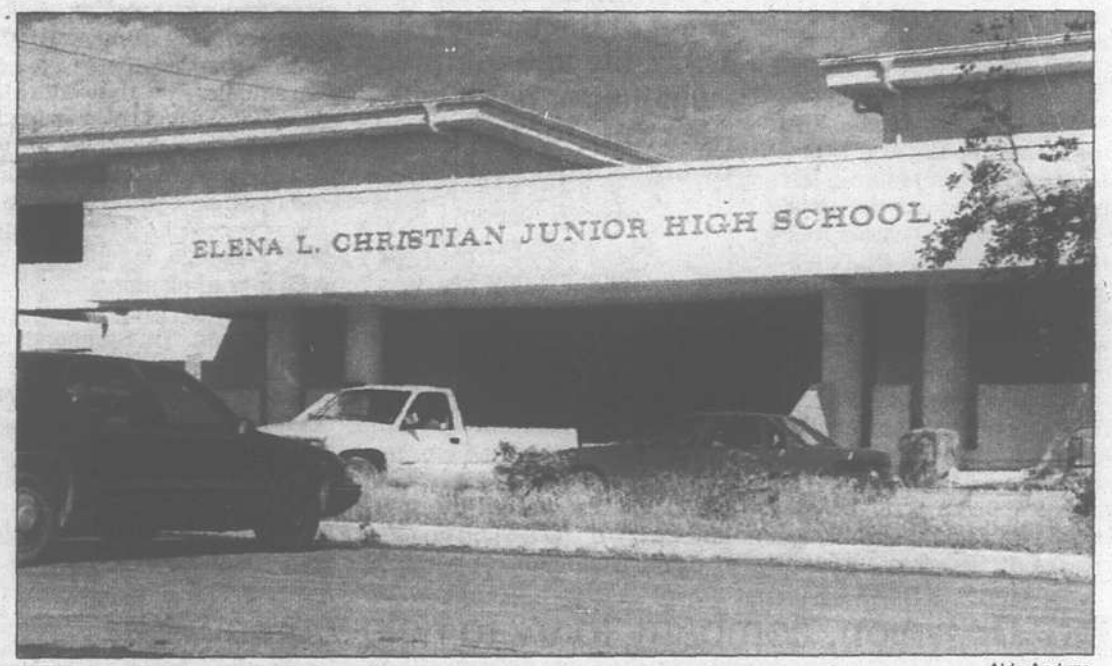
ST. THOMAS — Forty-five unionized employees of VI Cement and Building Products were fired Monday after the company was sold by Devcon International to a local concrete supplier for an estimated $10.5 million.

As part of the deal, St. Thomas Concrete owner W. Kemble Ketcham and Tortola businessman Ashley Ritter will buy out the St. Thomas branch ready-mix concrete assets of VICBP, along with about 420,000 shares of Devcon stock.

Although many of the workers began receiving termination letters on Monday afternoon, VICBP general manager Douglas Gurlea said the company has been working with representatives from United Steelworkers and local union officials to secure employment for the workers.

Luis Morales, president of the Central Labor Council, is said to be playing a pivotal role in the negotiations, but could not be reached for comment on Tues-

FIRED, PAGE 2



Alda Anduze

Education officials are currently overseeing repairs to Elena Christian Junior High School in La Grande Princesse. While the school was scheduled to reopen next Monday, officials said they will meet this Thursday to determine if the school will be ready.

Southern Energy is still upbeat on WAPA buyout

WILL JONES

ST. CROIX — VI government and Southern Energy officials are still negotiating on a deal to sell a majority of the Water and Power Authority to the energy company, a Southern spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Chuck Griffin, contacted at his Atlanta office, said that no agreement has yet been reached, but that he is optimistic that a deal will be put together that would give Southern Energy at least 80 percent of WAPA.

Government House spokeswoman Pierina Jacobs-McBrowne

WAPA, PAGE 2

Sen. Jones awaiting word on education-bond plan

VINCENT BRYDON

ST. CROIX — Sen. David Jones says he is waiting to receive word from Gov. Charles Turnbull regarding an education-bond plan that Jones proposed last week.

Last Wednesday Jones requested, in writing, that the governor appoint the Department of Property and Procurement and the Department of Public Works to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the territory's schools.

An official assessment report should be submitted to the Senate within 90 days, according to Jones.

In his letter, Jones also requested that Turnbull investigate the possibility of floating an

BONDS, PAGE 2

WAPA: Whether FEMA would still help is a sticking point

FROM PAGE ONE

also confirmed Tuesday that negotiations are ongoing.

Any deal between the Turnbull administration and Southern Energy to sell a portion of WAPA would have to be approved by the Legislature.

Griffin acknowledged that one of the sticking points in the negotiations is whether the government would still be eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the event that a disaster, such as a hurricane, should damage WAPA's operations.

A government official familiar with some details of the negotiations said that other key issues include the impact the sale of WAPA would have on the Government Employees Retirement System and Southern's insistence that it gets 20 years of Industrial Development Commission's tax benefits.

The commission can approve and recommend to the governor IDC benefits up to 10 years, but the Legislature would have to approve an extension.

The official said that WAPA has more than 400 employees. If a majority of them are transferred to a private company, it could have a major impact on employees' contribution to the retirement system, which already has millions of dollars in unfunded liability.

He also was critical of the secret negotiations, which he said is unnerving for members who have family and don't know what their future holds for them.

Griffin also confirmed that Southern Electric is offering the government about $100 million for an 80-percent control of WAPA. He called the proposed deal a "partnership" between his company and the government.

Gov. Charles Turnbull announced last month that he has appointed a task force to analyze the legal, legislative and financial aspects of the sale.

Hubert Turnbull, president of the WAPA Employees Association, which represents the utility workers, was not at his office Tuesday and could not be reached.

But some senators have not only criticized the Turnbull administration for keeping the public in the dark on plans to sell the utility company, but for not including unionized members in the talks.

BONDS: Repairs to Elena Christian school continuing

FROM PAGE ONE

estimated $1 million bond to repair assessed damages.

Nearly one week later, Jones' chief of staff, Evelyn Felix, said that her office has yet to receive a reaction from Turnbull regarding the senator's proposal.

But government spokesperson Pierina Jacobs-McBrowne said that Turnbull never received Jones' letter.

The letter also indicated that copies of his proposal were sent to Education Commissioner Dr. Ruby Simmonds and the presidents of local parent-teacher associations.

Department of Education spokesperson June Archibald, however, said that she is not certain Simmonds has received her copy of Jones' proposal either.

Elena Christian Jr. High School PTA president Hyacinth Hendricks said she has not been sent a copy.

But, as of press time Tuesday, Felix said that her office did send a copy of the letter to Turnbull. She said she would have to investigate, however, whether copies went to Simmonds and Hendricks.

"Things are progressing quite well. Dr. Simmonds and I will meet at the school on Thursday to determine whether or not it will be ready for the start of school on Monday."

Terrence Joseph,
St. Croix Schools
Superintendent

Jones said his proposal is based upon the possibility of utility giant Southern Energy buying out the territory's Water and Power Authority and its nearly $1 million bond debts.

Should this deal go through, Jones said, it will free up enough money to float another multi-million-dollar bond for comprehensive repairs of territory schools.

Elena Christian is one school that could benefit.

After the passage of Hurricane Lenny in mid-November the school was only open for a week before being closed because of potential structural damage, fiberglass contamination and other health hazards.

Archibald said that education officials have been overseeing the repairs to the school over the holiday season and will announce Friday when it will reopen.

St. Croix Schools Superintendent Terrence Joseph said the work is coming along.

"Things are progressing quite well," he said. "Dr. Simmonds and I will meet at the school on Thursday to determine whether or not it will be ready for the start of school on Monday."

Joseph did not specify if the school will be inspected by the Department of Health before reopening.

FIRED: Union, company to try to help workers out

FROM PAGE ONE

day.

Along with severance pay, accrued sick leave and vacation pay — which is a provision of the company's agreement with the United Steelworkers -- the employees will be given preference for rehiring in the new company.

The buyer, St. Thomas Concrete, has promised to assist the workers find other employment and is accepting job applications for vacancies this week, Gurlea said on Tuesday.

"We will do whatever we can to assist the people who may be left without a job," he said. "We will work with them in any way, shape or form to obtain continued employment somewhere in the community if they do not get picked up by the new owners."

Gurlea said he did not know whether the new company would be looking to rehire all or only a few of the fired workers.

"Over the next day or two they will be rehiring employees," he said. "Their goal is to put the concrete trucks back on the road by Thursday."

"We will work with them in any way, shape or form to obtain continued employment somewhere in the community if they do not get picked up by the new owners."

Douglas Gurlea,
VICBP general manager

Devcon International said the ready-mix concrete and quarry operations in Tortola and the ready-mix concrete operation in St. Thomas, which generate a combined $12 million a year in sales, are included in the purchase. VICBP's quarry and concrete block operation on St. Thomas, as well as its St. Croix branch, were not part of the sale.

Under the terms of the company's Industrial Development Commission benefits certificate, which was awarded to VI Cement 12 years ago, at least 80 percent of the workforce has to be Virgin Islands residents. Currently, the company employs 142 workers.

Gurlea said the company's IDC benefits expired in 1998, but were renewed for another five years. He did not know whether the benefits would transfer to the new entity or, if not, whether the new owners would seek to renew them.

Film Promotion Office brings money to territory on a shoestring budget

JONATHAN HENRY

ST. THOMAS — According to the VI Film Promotion Office Director Manny Centeno, film crews that shot in the territory brought $25 million into the local economy last year. And, he said, "they took nothing but pictures."

The office, which is a division of the Tourism Department, helps lure film and TV crews and magazine photography staff to the territory for their location shoots. Once the crews arrive, the office helps by providing local production assistance, reliable taxi transportation and other essential services.

In order to do this, Centeno, who is the office's only full-time staff member, relies on a network of service providers to help him keep the crews happy.

And the office seems to have been successful in doing that: crews from New York, Miami and France were in the territory shooting commercials during a recent week.

However, the job of bringing this money to the Virgin Islands is getting harder, Centeno said. Budget woes have caused the office, which was the first to open in the Caribbean when it was established in 1973, to have just $80,000 in its budget for this year. As a result, Centeno said, the Virgin Islands is losing business to other Caribbean locales.

"We're being left behind, slowly," he said.

Centeno said that the way to reverse these trends is simple — the government needs to spend more money on promoting the island for both tourists and film crews.

"Promotion and advertising is not an expense, it's an investment," he said.

And, according to Centeno, the promotion effort has to be effective. Nearly all major metropolitan areas of the United States now have film offices, as do some of the Virgin Islands' more direct competitors, such as Puerto Rico and the Bahamas. Since most of the offices have larger staffs, they are able to promote their locations better, he said.

"I think that a lot of people don't realize the impact of film (on the economy). In reality, I don't know another industry that even comes close."

He said that the alternative, resting on laurels, is not a good one.

"We have a good product here," said Centeno. "You don't lie back simply because you're doing well."

Government House work continues

ST. CROIX — Following completion of work to the exterior of the King Street side of Government House and the recent removal of the barricades, work continues inside the 250-year-old building.

Work on the project will now focus on light-fixture installations, landscaping of the courtyard, millwork and trim installation, to be followed by touchups to the paint on the building, according to project manager for C&C/Manhattan Construction Co., Phil Broom.

"We are working on schedule presently," Broom said. "I wanted to be finished a long time ago but for unforeseen conditions."

Completion has been delayed at various times since the project began in September 1997.

Work is scheduled to be completed in mid-March; the remaining barricades should be removed some time in February, Broom said.

GERS: Board gives out huge raises

FROM PAGE ONE

ing members' automobile, mortgage and personal loans. The report found that one person was 6 1/2 years behind on his mortgage loan.

Golden also noted that the audit found that a GERS bank account had $50 million less than the system's books indicated because the account hadn't been reconciled since the 1995 fiscal year.

She also said the GERS board took advantage of a law enacted by the Legislature late last year that gave GERS and other agencies more autonomy, including allowing them to manage their own funds.

Before the law was passed, Golden said the governor could block raises by directing the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department not to pay them.

The raises were actually approved by the board in October 1998 but Gov. Charles Turnbull would not allow them to take effect.

The board reinstituted the increases shortly after the autonomous bill became law.

GERS board chairwoman Corine King and Bryan have repeatedly declined to discuss the board's action or make the raises public.

Visitor upset with police over treatment

Man questioned in bank-robbery case for two hours with daughter in tow

KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Although police are still pursuing the suspect who robbed a Christiansted bank on Christmas Eve, at least one person is not pleased with the methods employed by the Virgin Islands Police Department in doing so.

Douglas Larsson, 32, his 9-year-old daughter and her 9-year-old playmate were at a Centerline Road service station last week getting a tire plugged.

"A couple of officers were at the station also getting tires plugged," Larsson said.

"They walked over and said, 'We want to ask you a few questions,'" Larsson, who is on-island from Nashville, Tenn., visiting relatives, said.

"They threw the three of us in the back of a police (vehicle) and I was not allowed to ask any questions of any kind," Larsson said, adding that he had no idea what crime he was under suspicion of committing.

Larsson and the two girls were driven to the Wilbur Francis Command substation in Frederiksted where several officers came out and peered at the man sitting in the back of the police cruiser.

"They literally looked at me and said, 'That's not him,'" Larsson said.

Despite the declaration, the three were then taken to the Patrick Sweeney Police Headquarters in Golden Grove, according to Larsson.

"We were taken into an interrogation room with two detectives," Larsson said. In the interest of getting out of the station, Larsson said he agreed to have his mugshot taken and to be fingerprinted.

What upsets Larsson most, he said, is that the two-hour process took place in the presence of his "very frightened little girl."

"My daughter obviously sensed that something was very wrong," Larsson said.

"Every night when I tuck her in (since the incident), I have to reassure her that no one is going to take her daddy away," Larsson said, adding that he has lost his desire to return to the island on which he spent some time growing up.

Deputy Police Chief Novelle Francis expressed his apologies on Monday for the incident, but insisted that extra precautionary measures are necessary in the face of an active investigation.

"We sympathize with the gentleman," Francis said, "but we believe that we can leave no stone unturned in the investigation.

"Since the bank robbery, as a result of the coverage by the print and TV media, we have received a number of calls from individuals about people fitting the suspect's description," Francis said. "We can't just get a lead and leave it alone."

Whenever the investigators run across someone with very similar physical characteristics of the suspect, Francis said, it is necessary to photograph and fingerprint them.

"Most individuals (stopped by police) have been very cooperative and willing to come forward," Francis said. "We are in search of a bank robber and we have to do what we have to do," he said.

But Larsson feels he was the victim of a "gross generalization" made by the police officers that grouped him into a single category — white male.

While the bank robber's description released by the police department stated that he was a white man between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall with a slim build, Larsson said he is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 230 pounds.

"What they did was way inappropriate," Larsson said. "I have no problem cooperating with local police to resolve such a crime, but when they terrify a little girl, that's not right."

The VIPD and FBI are conducting a joint investigation into the robbery of the Virgin Islands Community Bank on King Street. The lone robber struck shortly after 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 24, and walked away with an undisclosed amount of cash from a teller.

Investigators also suspect the man of robbing two St. Thomas waterfront banks, Chase Manhattan and Scotiabank, in early December.

In all three robberies, a man handed a note to a teller demanding money and stating that he was armed.

No weapon was used in any of the holdups.

— Police blotter —

ST. CROIX

Arrests:

1:40 p.m., Mon., James Louis, 23, of Bldg. 19, Apt. 106 Walter I.M. Hodge Pavilion, was charged with third-degree burglary for allegedly breaking into an Estate Two Brothers residence. Bail was set at $25,000.

9:35 p.m., Mon., Samuel "Sam" Cotto, 37, of Bldg. 5, Apt. 6 Paradise Mills, was charged with aggravated assault and battery in an alleged domestic violence incident. Bail was set at $1,000.

Assaults:

9:22 p.m., Mon., Paradise Mills.

1:00 a.m., Tues., at the Frederiksted Village.

Burglaries:

1:22 p.m., Mon., Estate Two Brothers.

1:28 p.m., Mon., Estate Rattan.

1:30 p.m., Mon., Estate Smithfield.

11:17 a.m., Tues., Estate Strawberry.

Grand Larceny:

5:40 p.m., Mon., Nicasio Nico housing complex.

— Briefs —

Route 70 to be closed for J'ouvert

ST. CROIX — Parking restrictions in Frederiksted for the Crucian Festival's J'ouvert Tramp and Food Fair will be in effect Thursday, said Deputy Police Chief Novelle Francis.

From 3 a.m. until the completion of the tramp, Queen Mary Highway (Route 70) will be closed to motorists and parked vehicles from the Claude O. Markoe School to Fisher Street, then turning on to King Street to the Crucian Festival Village.

From 10 a.m. until the completion of the Food Fair, parking restrictions will also be in effect for Queen Street, between Market and Prince Streets.

Any vehicle found parked in the prohibited areas will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense, Francis said.

Turnbull to swear in three officials today

ST. CROIX — One year after his own swearing-in ceremony, Gov. Charles Turnbull announced Tuesday that three more members of his administration will be sworn in today.

Sonia Jacobs-Dow, Commissioner-designate of the Department of Labor, Pedro Encarnacion, Director-designate of the Virgin Islands Fire Service and Lt. Novelle Francis, Deputy Chief-designate of the V.I. Police Department will be sworn in at 3 p.m.

The ceremony will be at the R.H. Amphlett Leader Justice Complex in Kingshill — more commonly known as Territorial Court.

Illegal immigrants questioned in two drownings on St. Croix

WILL JONES AND KC BURGARD

ST. CROIX — Seven of the 25 Chinese immigrants picked up Thursday on the East End have been detained while VI police and immigration authorities investigate the deaths of two men who apparently drowned before reaching shore.

The other 17 adults among the group pleaded guilty to illegally entering the United States. They were sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Resnick to the four days they had already spent in custody, plus another three days.

Resnick, through a Chinese interpreter, also ordered that they be turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for further processing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney St. Clair Theodore said that one of the Chinese arrested was a juvenile and his case was being handled separately.

Police initially reported that 31 Chinese immigrants were picked up, but Theodore and immigration officials said Tuesday that only 25 were taken into custody. Police gave no explanation for the discrepancy.

Resnick told the seven men detained that since they appeared in court Thursday evening for an initial hearing, one of their countrymen — and possibly a second — had been found dead.

"That requires that we change the focus of the case slightly," the judge said.

He excused the Public Defender's Office as attorneys for the men because that office had represented the other 17 immigrants.

Resnick said he would appoint a private attorney for each of the seven men and rescheduled their arraignment for 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Theodore said after the hearing that police and immigration officials wanted to question the seven men about the bodies that were found in the waters off Point Udall.

One of the bodies was discovered Thursday and the other on Sunday.

On Tuesday, police identified — from a photograph — the first body found as that of Jian Guan, 34. The local medical examiner, Dr. William Fogarty, conducted the autopsies and determined that both men drowned. Identification of the second body is more difficult, however, because of its decomposition from being in the water for several days, Fogarty said.

The men were reportedly dropped off in the waters of Isaac Bay near Point Udall. Forced to swim ashore across a reef, many of them were picked up wearing very little or no clothing.

Three men suspected of going on robbery spree

CHRISTIAN WADE

ST. THOMAS — Police questioned three suspects Monday evening who reportedly fit the description of a band of gunmen responsible for the latest in a series of robberies to grip downtown Charlotte Amalie.

According to police reports, three black males entered the Snap Shop on Norre Gade at around 2:45 p.m. on Monday. The men brandished handguns and fled on foot with about $165 in cash.

Shortly after 5:30 p.m. the three suspects were detained by police investigators at Electronics Unlimited at Four Winds Plaza. Police said they will attempt to make a positive identification from eyewitnesses' accounts of the robbery.

No one was severely injured and no shots were fired, although the three robbers were reportedly armed with handguns. Snap Shop owner and local photographer Betsy Barretta reportedly received a cut on her face as she struggled with the robbers.

The suspects were described as wearing white T-shirts and dark-colored pants. One of the witnesses said one of the robbers had long braids, while the other two had short hair. One of the three suspects had an elbow-length cast on his arm.

One of the suspects in this latest robbery fits the description of a man involved in a crime last week. On Friday, a 70-year-old man was robbed of an estimated $300 by two individuals at Plaza Extra, one of whom had a cast on his arm.

800 without cable in St. Croix estates

USVI — A Vitelco official announced Tuesday that the company is experiencing cable difficulties which are expected to affect customers in estates Carlton, Whim and Two Williams on St. Croix.

Approximately 800 subscribers may be affected by the problem associated with residual effects from Hurricane Lenny.

Sam Ebbesen, president and CEO of Vitelco said Vitelco is working to resolve the problem and has committed resources to put the issue behind them.

Hot voices

King Renegade sets sights on Calypso Monarch finals

ANGELA BORCHERT

ST. CROIX — Finalists in the Calypso Monarch Competition will melodically do battle Thursday night with reigning King Renegade, a spirited Calypsonian with a solemn message.

"I have a solution in my song," says Renegade, whose lyrics touch on Revelation.

During the Dec. 26 eliminations at Midland Night Club, 16 contestants were whittled down to the final 10.

Performances will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday at Island Center by Lewellyn; Lady Mac; Tumba; King Paul; King Herring; Happy; Princess Rosalynn; Pat Raggay; Solemnity; and King Generic.

The Xpress Band will back up all the Calypsonians.

According to competition coordinator Al Baptiste, the highest possible score is 200 points: 70 for lyrics; 40 for melody; 30 for clarity; 30 for originality; 20 for rendition; and 10 for presentation.

With distinctive style and showmanship, each Calypsonian will try to wrest the crown from Lloyd "King Renegade" Rennie, who promises a challenge of epic proportions.

"If every adult would come up with some meaningful contribution to save our youths, I think we stand a chance."

Lloyd "King Renegade" Rennie

"I could sing a song that I know the public wants to hear," Rennie said Monday. "I decided to do a selection I think the public needs to hear."

The Calypso king's two songs of choice are "Above the Rim," a tribute to Crucian basketball star Tim Duncan; and "Blood in the Classroom," a plea to allow prayer in public schools.

"I want to bring out the seriousness of these times and highlight the problems, come what may," Rennie said. "I have pulled down from the Internet all the crimes that have been committed in schools. It's a trend. And the chickens have now come home to roost because it's here in the Virgin Islands."

He tore pages from local newspapers with headlines about shootings and stabbings in Virgin Islands schools.

"We've got to do something about this," Rennie said. "We need to have God in our life. Any man that feels he can do it without God's intervention is in for a very rude awakening. We are actually seeing the signs of the times. Children making children. Murders being committed by babies. These have to do with Revelation. The writing is certainly on the wall.

"If every adult would come up with some meaningful contribution to save our youths, I think we stand a chance."

Hopefuls Wellington Pelle, King Spade, Monarch, Plain and Simple, Lord Upsetter and Gypsy Girl did not make the final cut.



Submitted photo

Lloyd "King Renegade" Rennie says he has a message selected for the public to hear Thursday at Island Center during the Calypso Monarch competition.

Scotiabank

In celebration of the St. Croix Carnival,
All Scotiabank Branches
will be CLOSED
Friday January 7th
Saturday January 8th

We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable Carnival

The Republican Party of the Virgin Islands

invites all registered Republicans

to attend a post-Three Kings Day party
and petition signing
for those who wish to serve as delegates to the
Republican National Convention

Questa Verde Canaba
Sunday, January 9th, 3-6 p.m.

Catered by Dolly Cash Bar Contribution: $15.00

No charge for paid-up members of the Republican Party

RSVP: 713-9866 773-3752 773-5281

Is it time to go private in tourism?



Bernetia Akin

Business beat

After a year of discussion and drafting, Virgin Islands business groups recently sent to the Legislature their draft proposal to make tourism a semi-autonomous agency.

Titled "The United States Virgin Islands Tourism Policy Act," the proposal calls for replacing the Tourism Department with a Tourism Authority run by a 15-member board appointed by the governor and an executive director hired by the board.

The authority would have control of its own funding, the ability to buy and sell property and to float bonds, and would hire its own employees separate from the government. However, there is provision for a transition of existing personnel.

The push to semi-privatize and depoliticize tourism comes at a time when the government has drastically cut back on advertising the destination, after hotel-room tax collections have repeatedly been shifted out of tourism into the General Fund of the government, and when the department has operated for a year under three successive acting commissioners rather than a permanent leader.

Figures for the last few years also indicate a marked downturn in much of the territory's tourism industry.

In 1998, the industry contributed nearly $3 billion to the VI economy and directly employed 8,400 residents, according to the explanation section of the 31-page proposal.

However, those figures represent a decline. In 1993, the islands logged 714,000 visitor arrivals who spent $636 million. In 1997, the number of visitors fell to 508,800, and expenditures were cut in half — to just $312.9 million.

Faced with a depression, FDR swung toward more government in an effort to "try something." The VI's major tourism organizations are proposing a turn in the opposite direction.

Although members of the authority board would be appointed by the governor, most would be from the private sector: two representing cultural-heritage tourism, one the marine industry, one a licensed taxi driver recommended by the VI Taxicab Commission, two recommended by the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, two recommended by the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce, and five recommended by the territory's hotel and tourism associations — two each from St. Croix and St. Thomas and one from St. John. The other two board members would serve as ex officio members by virtue of their positions as the executive director of the VI Port Authority and executive director of the West Indian Company Limited.

The authority would be charged with all the functions now attributed to the Tourism Department, such as advertising and promoting the territory, protecting the safety and well-being of visitors, providing training for local tourism workers, educating visitors about the historical and cultural heritage of the islands and the importance of protecting its flora and fauna ... And it would also be responsible for developing a five-year tourism plan of marketing and promotion.

It sets up a tourism trust fund fueled by the 8 percent hotel occupancy tax, the 5 percent casino gross receipts tax earmarked for St. Croix, a 5 percent time-share occupancy tax, and revenues from the sale of promotional products, from an entertainment and amusement tax and from the telephonic long-distance surtax. General Fund appropriations and gifts and contributions would also go into the fund.

Beverly Nicholson, executive director of the St. Thomas-St. John Hotel & Tourism Association said research on the proposal was extensive. "We looked at a number of models" of similar legislation, including laws in Alaska and Florida.

Bernetia Akin is an officer in a St. Thomas management firm and a free-lance journalist. She can be reached at 774-1398.

DOE says transportation is on track for special ed students

Buses have been idle since Oct. 27

VINCENT BRYDON

ST. CROIX — Education officials say that they have devised a temporary plan to transport students with special needs to and from school.

In a statement issued last week, Education Commissioner Dr. Ruby Simmonds said her office has made arrangements with the Department of Public Works to provide transportation to these children.

The students, however, must have bus passes.

"Parents whose children do not have a bus pass are asked to take their child to Ms. Francella Tonge at the Public Works office in Anna's Hope on Monday, Jan. 3, through Wednesday, Jan. 5, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to have bus passes issued," the statement reads.

But Zulma Turner, of the Virgin Islands Advocacy, said that she is not sure of DOE's plan.

Turners said that the approximately 150 students with special needs who are currently without transportation might prove a challenge to DPW.

"I just don't think it's going to work," she said. "Given the fact that there are so many of these students who need special assistance (monitors), I can't see how they're going to be able to handle these kids."

Simply getting to the bus stop may prove problematic, Turner said of parents who may have children confined to wheelchairs and who require more direct service.

In addition, Turner said, scheduling could possibly create another glitch in DOE's plan.

She said she wonders if DPW can manage an additional 150 students and still meet the needs of its current clientele.

While Department of Education spokesperson June Archibald said that she has not been filled in on the details surrounding this agreement, she did say that the buses to be used are equipped to handle the students' special needs.

Public Works official Dudley Johns, who DPW representative Tonge said was handling the agreement on DPW's side, was not available for comment.

The arrangement is slated to begin after the holiday season, on Monday, Jan. 10, and will run until further notice, Archibald said.

Senate Education Committee Chairperson Norman Jn. Baptiste said that he cannot understand why the territory's special-education students are without transportation when the local government receives $8 million a year from the federal government for their needs.

Students with special needs have been without government-mandated transportation since Oct. 27 when Abramson Enterprises Inc. pulled its buses from special-education routes.

Abramson alleges that it stopped its service because the DOE owed money to the busing corporation.

Archibald said she did not know when her department's impending trial with Abramson Enterprises is scheduled to begin.

Attorney General Iver Stridiron, defense for the government, was not available for comment.

Shops to stay open longer on St. Thomas

JONATHAN HENRY

ST. THOMAS — Several shopkeepers along the St. Thomas waterfront agreed last week to stay open until as late as 10 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, starting Jan. 6.

The proprietors say they want to change the atmosphere in downtown Charlotte Amalie at night. The district, which is arguably the most crowded location in the territory most days, becomes almost deserted at night as businesses close and cruising passengers return to their ships.

Although only a few stores stayed open last Thursday, Mark Melville, who owns Beans, Bytes and Websites Cyber Cafe said that business owners had to start to be willing to help to make the waterfront a nighttime attraction.

"Somebody has to start," he said. "It's a shame: There's an enormous potential here that's truly untapped."

Melville said that he hopes the idea will spread.

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Elian's dad may visit US

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has asked the Cuban government to allow the father of 6-year old Elian Gonzalez to personally escort the boy back home if immigration officials decide he should return to the island, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

The official, asking not to be identified, said the request does not prejudge the outcome of the case and is merely a contingency plan. Cuban authorities said they would consider the request, the official said.

According to the official, the presence of the father on U.S. soil would ease concerns among many in the Cuban-American community that his public comments on the issue could reflect the Cuban government position and not his own.

The father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, met with Immigration and Naturalization Service officials in Cuba on Friday, but declined to provide details for fear of harming his case. He has insisted all along that he wants his son to be with him in Cuba.

Elian was discovered clinging to an inner tube on Nov. 25 off the Florida coast. He had been aboard a Florida-bound boat that sunk, killing his mother and nine others. He has spent the past seven weeks living with aunts and uncles in South Florida while the INS decides what to do with him. His Florida relatives are fighting to keep him in Miami.



Associated Press
Elian Gonzalez smiles as he arrives for his first day of school at Lincoln-Marti School in Miami Tuesday.

Elian spent his first day in a U.S. school Tuesday. Wearing the school uniform of a white dress shirt and blue pants and carrying a bookbag, Elian arrived at the private Lincoln-Marti School in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood.

Cuban President Fidel Castro has demanded that Elian be returned and has expressed outrage that the immigration service has refused to send him back. The INS has set a Jan. 21 hearing on the case but the U.S. official said a final decision on the case could be reached beforehand.

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to

Lillian Pinder

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From your family and co-workers at the St. Croix Avis
Enjoy Your B-day Miss "P."

Briefs

Two BVI residents honored by Queen

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands (CANA) — Two residents of the British Virgin Islands, Dr. Orlando Smith and Mrs. Eugenie Todman-Smith, have been made Officers of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year's Honors List, published Friday in London.

Dr.Smith was honored in recognition of his work in health care. He has served as medical officer, surgeon and chief medical officer, and has worked with numerous charities and voluntary organizations.

Eugenie Todman-Smith was recognized for her work as a teacher, junior school supervisor and the territory's first community development officer. She has also served as chief education officer and supervisor of elections, and worked with the Red Cross, Girl Guides, St. John's Ambulance and the Mental Health Association.

Alleged auto theft ends in fatal accident

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CANA) — An alleged car thief died and three pedestrians were injured in an accident Sunday in Savanna-La-Mar, western Jamaica, police said.

Police identified the dead man as 20-year-old Isamar Bailey, and say he stole the car at about 9.30 a.m. Sunday.

The car ran off the Strathbogie Mainroad, hitting three pedestrians — a 2-year-old boy and two men — and crashed into a house, police said.

Bailey was pronounced dead at a local hospital, and the three pedestrians were admitted in serious condition.

Dominican voters rush to register

ROSEAU, Dominica (CANA) — A steady flow of new voters registered Monday at the Electoral Office to be eligible to cast their ballots in the Jan. 31 general election in Dominica.

Chief Elections Officer Rita Seraphin told the Caribbean News Agency that outer districts were being supplied with additional registration forms to meet the anticipated rush to register before the midnight deadline.

The additions to the November 1999 list are expected to be mainly people who have turned 18 since the last poll.

Most of the young people registering at the Electoral Office Monday morning told CANA that they were seeking candidates with strong family values, who were honest and demanded the respect of the society.

"Respect, charisma, and somebody who really has what it takes to represent the people," said one young woman.

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Trinidad's jungle guru holds to his vision

Followers still come to visit Jakatan, onetime leader of mystical 'Earth People'

GRAND RIVIERE, Trinidad (AP) — On the edge of the last undisturbed rain forest in Trinidad, atop a mountain that looks down on a sleepy village and the Caribbean Sea, dwells the leader of the lost Earth People.

At their height, they numbered around 35 and were known among counterculture groups for living deep in Trinidad's Northern Range and rejecting the encroachment of the modern world.

Victimized by harassment and internal squabbles, the band dissolved in the late '80s. Only a handful remain, scattered in the roadless tract of wilderness between Blanchisseuse and Matelot on the rocky, wind-whipped north coast.

"People thought it was all wild sex orgies and madness," says the group's founder and leader, Jakatan. "It was never like that. It was naturalness."

Now 54, Jakatan is content to live on the edge of civilization, a part-time tour guide, and wait for the apocalypse when, according to his vision, he will lead the survivors back into the rain forest to live "the life."

He isn't among the millennialists who worried about the arrival of 2000, and he makes no prediction when the apocalypse may come.

Jakatan still has followers. One recent week, tourists from Germany and Norway came to see him. The Norwegian, a thin, young man with hair to his shoulders, called him a "living legend."

Piero Guerrini, who owns the Mt. Plaisir Estate Hotel, has a loose business arrangement with Jakatan, sending him hikers who want to venture into the rain forest.

"He's a very charismatic man," Guerrini said. "His knowledge of the rain forest is amazing. Going into the bush with Jakatan is always a mystical experience."

Leading a visitor on a tour, Jakatan stops abruptly in the middle of the road. He points to a tree noisy with birdsong.

"Big rain coming," he says.

The sky is a cloudless, a ringing blue.

"Soon?"

"No."

Jakatan's small house lies along the path to a waterfall. He ducks in briefly and emerges with a burlap bag slung over his shoulders, a cigarette dangling from his lips and a bottle of rum in his back pocket. He's rail-thin and sinewy as a vine, looking as if he grew from the jungle itself.

The growth in the rain forest is fantastic — life growing on life — and Jakatan stops often and talks, part philosophy, part observation. He mourns a downed coconut tree and puzzles over the cause of its death. He points to the spot where his wife, Sheilah, once discovered a huge serpent guarding a large egg.

Jakatan stoops to pick at a gooey substance, delicately wraps it in two leaves and puts it in his pocket. "Good for skin problems," he declares.

At the Earth People camp, a semi-cleared area with a primitive hut and sleeping bench for one, he makes a fire and boils leaves from a lime tree. He mixes in coffee, sugar and condensed milk and serves afternoon tea in a coconut half-shell. It looks gruesome, but is delicious.

At twilight, Jakatan picks up his machete and starts hacking at bush. In 10 minutes, he has built another bed of sticks. He fashions a lantern, mixes rum and ice-cold water from a nearby mountain stream in the coconut shells and talks through most of the night about how his life has been guided by signs, portents and cataclysmic visions.

One day, a young man called Rupert stood on the hills overlooking sprawling Port-of-Spain and a vision came to him. In the vision, a great tidal wave rolled in off the sea, engulfing everything in its path, churches tumbling in its rolling wake.

The young man turned east and started to run through bodies lying on the ground. He was running in the desert and when he looked back, the bodies had arisen and were following him.

That day he became Jakatan, his fate clear. Rastafarians and others came to see him and became his followers for a time.

The nudity they practiced then offended many people in the area, and Jakatan claims the group suffered numerous physical attacks. Details are sketchy and difficult to confirm — but what is clear is that the group disbanded after about a decade of togetherness and notoriety.

Jakatan never returned to the city, though. Now, when the pace of the slow-moving village so near the end of the only road in northeastern Trinidad gets too hectic, he takes his wife and three children and moves for months into one of four huts he has built deep in the bush.



Associated Press

Jakatan, founder and leader of the Earth People, poses for this Dec. 4 photo.

"If I lie down out here and have a vision, it is clear. But out there," he says and waves vaguely toward the small village with its tourists, cars, bars and people, "if I have a vision, it's unclear. In the bush, you have time to ask questions within yourself."

The next morning, the jungle is still and quiet until a noise sounding like the drone of a jet engine is heard from afar. The noise moves closer and grows louder, moving through the forest.

It is a vast wall of wind, and when it hits like a cyclone, every tree and plant from the ground up to the towering forest canopy bends in unison to the west until it seems trees that have stood for a thousand years will snap. Then everything sways back — as though the whole jungle has taken an enormous breath.

The front moves through, the skies open up and the rain comes down.

Stock prices take a dive

Interest-rate fears blamed for Dow's 4th-worst decline

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices plummeted Tuesday as growing fears of higher interest rates gave investors a reason to sell shares and capture gains from last year's spectacular performance. The Nasdaq composite index, the best performer in 1999, suffered its worst point loss in history.

RELATED NEWS
Clinton backs Greenspan for 4th term at Federal Reserve/ **page 12.**

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 359.58, to close at 10,997.93, its fourth-worst point decline ever and a drop of 3.17 percent. The blue-chip index had dipped as much as 380 points earlier in the day.

Broader stock indicators also sustained sharp losses. The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 55.80 to 1,399.42, and the Nasdaq composite index plunged 229.46 to 3,901.69. In percentage terms, the Nasdaq's 5.6 percent decline was the eighth-worst in history.

The retreat, on top of Monday's decline of 140 points, brought the Dow down to its lowest level since Nov. 30. The Nasdaq's close was the lowest since Dec. 20.

Investors continued a wave of selling that began Monday as the market balanced good news about a smooth conversion to the Year 2000 with concern that runaway economic growth will prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

For the record

MIAMI (AP) — The Associated Press erroneously attributed a quote in the story that appeared Tuesday about migrants stranded off Miami. It was Petty Officer Scott Carr who said that Coast Guard crews told the migrants they would not be allowed to enter the United States.

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EDITORIAL:

VI Dept. of Wretched Excess

The great Supreme Court Judge Felix Frankfurter once observed that justice must not only be done, but must seem to be done. This dictum can be broadened to include public policy: that the actions of the government must not only be fair (to the people) but must seem to be fair.

Thus when this newspaper discovered and revealed yesterday that the top-level employees of the Government Employees Retirement System had each pocketed tens of thousands of dollars in "retroactive" pay increases, the reaction was predictable. It was one of outrage.

It is not up to us to determine whether the head of that agency is justified in receiving a yearly salary of $125,000 as reported, although that amount certainly seems excessive by any measure. What is clear is the message that was sent to the much more moderately salaried employees of GERS, who got raises of about 5 percent, was one of arrogance: "We will take huge hikes in our base salaries on no apparent grounds, but you get a pittance." Not real smart.

Those raises, we are told, are based somewhat on comparison to the salaries of comparable executives doing like things in other jurisdictions. Which ones? What states could be used to set base lines for the compensation rates of Virgin Islands retirement-fund administrators? California? That state's public-employee retirement fund, CalPERS, manages assets of about $150 billion and has 2,400 workers on its payroll. No help there. How about the other extreme, population-wise, of Nevada? That agency, PERS, manages $12 billion. The assets of VI's GERS is a paltry $1 billion. No comparison is therefore possible, at least on the basis of size and resources. (Guam, maybe?)

But even worse, try to explain to the average worker on the islands — both in the public and the private sectors — how these lofty salaries are justified in an environment of staggering government debt, high unemployment and a sputtering economy. We don't think you'll get a warm reception.

To Gov. Turnbull's credit, he tried to stop the increases, but was stymied by the board's "semi-autonomous" status, which means that GERS operates relatively free from the interference of political forces. This is proper and wise, but it does not give that agency license to pay its administrators obscenely high wages when everyone else is scratching to get by.

If GERS is raking in the dough and has excess funds to throw around, perhaps it should be using that money to prop up the government of which it is a part (although that might be illegal) or to give its hard-working staff a solid raise on the order of 15 or 20 percent.

Perhaps we are wrong. Maybe the administration of GERS is doing such an outstanding job of handling the retirement funds and reaping huge returns on investments that it clearly deserves to be rewarded for its brilliant performance. Thus we invite those who have so handsomely benefited from these earth-shaking pay hikes to supply us with the evidence that justifies their six-figure annual paychecks.

We will wait for your call.



Letters to the Editor:

'Angel Tree' gets help from local angels

Dear Editor:

I want to publicly thank those who helped make "Angel Tree" a success this past Christmas. "Angel Tree," a ministry of Prison Fellowship, supplies gifts to the children of inmates at Golden Grove Correctional Facility and at stateside penal institutions. The children are all on St. Croix, even though the parents might be elsewhere.

Inmates fill out a rather lengthy application detailing the names, ages and sex of the children, who and where the caregiver is located and how best to get in touch with that person.

Volunteers make contact with the caregiver and try to find out what the children may need or want for Christmas. The volunteer is urged to become a friend to the caregiver and the children and continue a caring relationship. This is especially important as the sad truth is that more than 80 percent of the male children and brothers of inmates end up as inmates themselves. "Angel Tree" is an attempt to drastically change those appalling statistics, and we can.

I want to especially thank the St. Croix Marine Corps Association, whose "Toys for Tots" program supplied enough toys for all of our children. Ken Reiter, a teacher at Free Will Baptist School, and his students were especially helpful in supplying additional gifts, wrapping them and being an all-around big help.

In addition, many individuals volunteered to take a family or two, to supply additional gifts and make the all-important contact.

My thanks from the bottom of my heart for all your help.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me.'" Matt. 25:40.

Harry D. Harper
St. Croix Coordinator
Angel Tree Program
Ministry of Prison Fellowship

Mercenaries are working for major financiers

Dear Editor:

I called some friends in Seattle to find out what was going on with the recent riots. It just so happened that they had participated in the demonstration which, according to them, had been peaceful and orderly. However, as the movement gained strength and momentum, there suddenly appeared from out of nowhere a bunch of thugs who were violent and destructive. Evidently this was an attempt to quash and discredit the demonstrators and the demonstration.

When I stopped to think about it, there are rumors, that there are schools where mercenaries are taught disruptive tactics. These could be used to break up attempts by local people to remove corrupt officials, reorganize government and/or financial institutions, etc.

These "schools" are run and supported by London and Wall Street financiers. That way these multi-billionaire corporations have access to private armies that can break up an activity that challenges their power anywhere in the world.

The World Trade Organization is a thinly veiled attempt to control world trade.

Ruth McIntosh
St. Croix

Sign me up for the proposed class-action lawsuit

Dear Editor:

I totally agree with R.B. Meyerson's plan (Dec. 30). Also, all cell phone users who have increased their usage since Nov. 17, should get compensated for extra costs and loss of communications with family, friends, business associates and Internet access.

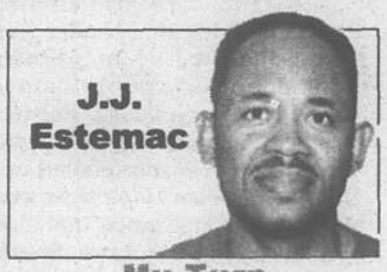
Plus, the self-congratulatory TV and radio ads Mr. Jeffrey Prosser is now running disrespect all of us who are lacking phone and/or cable service.

Sign me up for the lawsuit.

R.L. Bucher, M.D.
St. Croix



My wishes for the New Year for the VI



J.J. Estemac

My Turn

There are a lot of things I would like to see realized here in our Virgin Islands, and there are many things I can be grateful for, and I believe there are others who share these expectations. Therefore, I am sharing these thoughts for your consideration. Among the things I am thankful for is the natural beauty of our islands, the constant renovation and cleansing of our natural environment, the presence of civil persons amongst us. I am grateful that there are still a few decent persons who have the courage to resist the onslaught of immorality and criminal behavior so rampant in our society today. They stand up to the forces of evil.

I wish that in the new year our politicians would aspire to be real state persons, by being honest and developing a greater sense of integrity, and that our politicians would apply themselves more diligently to their assigned duties and remain conscious of their role as public servants.

I wish that the government would undertake a training program for all government employees in good public relations, to include good telephone manners and sensitivity to the public needs. I wish that the judicial branch of government would be more sensitive to the needs of the citizens, to have their cases expedited in the courts and for them not to lose faith in the judicial system.

I wish that the chambers of commerce would establish some business standards for both the personal aspect and the physical aspects of businesses operating in the territory. I wish that one of the measures that will be used by the chamber would be to award those business establishments that meet or surpass the established aesthetic standard and functionability. These awards should be for various categories. Another wish of mine is that the chamber would lobby for more and better public restrooms throughout the downtown area and all shopping centers and for the proper maintenance of them.

I wish that the religious leaders would be more proactive in promoting high moral standards and more compliance with the laws of the territory.

I wish that the residents of the USVI would resolve to be more involved in community affairs, including attending public hearings, court proceedings and legislative sessions of the Senate. I wish the citizens of this territory would resist cynicism and exercise their rights and responsibilities under this democratic system of government — and that they would join forces with their neighborhoods.

I wish that the University of the Virgin Islands would become a real intellectual center, not only for the USVI, but for the entire Caribbean, and that UVI would take the lead in the political discourse and the search for solutions to our many problems, be they political, social or economical.

I wish that UVI would inspire and motivate our youth to be more than wage earners, but to be principal players in the affairs of our community, to be creative thinkers, innovators.

I wish that "local government" would become a reality and a "compact of federal relations" would also become a reality in the near future. The obvious goal is to achieve better accountability of public officials.

I wish all my fellow human beings, all my fellow citizens good health and prosperity. To all my young friends, I wish them success in their studies, sports and recreational activities. May Allah, God bless us all, as we remain faithful servants of His. May faith, love, hope and peace abound in our lives.

J. J. Estemac lives on St. Thomas.

How about Beal setting up in Turquoise Bay?

John Boyd

My Turn

I am disheartened that those in political power have not seen the obvious compromise to the Beal Aerospace Technologies dilemma which is to stick them in Christiansted Harbor. Years of gross incompetence by the Department of Public Works, WAPA and Planning and Natural Resources, coupled with the benign neglect of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior, have led to the destruction of the reef and elimination of the rich marine life that used to exist inside the harbor.

Christiansted Harbor has seen excessive dredging in Gallows Bay on the east and the WAPA Channel in the middle, so the cutting of one more channel should have little environmental impact and the barges could go to any location that Beal chose. Any marine life that survived previous dredging operations has since been killed by pollution.

There is a constantly leaking sewage pipeline that runs from the Nature Conservancy on the west of the harbor across all the beaches in condo row and down to the LBJ Pumping Station. Any pollution caused by Beal or the barges would hardly be noticed and the pollution is so bad it would be hard to prove Beal was the source.

In addition to the shoreline leaking of sewage, public works routinely pumps sewage over the reefs to the extent that the reef is nearly dead, sea turtles are growing abscesses from the bacteria and the whales are beaching themselves to avoid the stench. I understand that the St. Croix Environmental Association has abandoned the Nature Conservancy as a site for their summer camp because the pollution level is too high to let the children swim.

The problem has deteriorated so much in the past year under the current administration that local children and their parents no longer use the beaches in the area nor do I see locals boating in the harbor.

This is not a pristine area to be preserved but an open industrial sewer to be economically exploited for the benefit of locals.

If the senators are persistent in their desire to give Beal a piece of prime real estate, Altona Lagoon would be a good site. The channel is close by and the same arguments about economic advantage could be made for the Altona Lagoon site. However, Judge Andrews seems to have overruled the financial benefits that many senators predicted — and the giveaway of Altona Lagoon is not realistic.

At the other end of the harbor, there is 23 acres at Turquoise Bay which would appear large enough to house the 15-acre building Beal desires. There are also many other advantages.

The condos no longer are attractive to tourists due to sewage and pollution and prices are only a fraction of new construction costs. Yet, these former tourist units would provide great housing for Beal engineers as it is within walking distance of the plant and the sewage has destroyed all hopes of a viable tourism product in Christiansted. Maybe, in the long run, one of these rocket scientists would solve the criminal pollution problem. Moreover, the Turquoise Bay site is within walking distance of a large concentration of local workers and the 145 jobs would be far more accessible to locals than similar jobs at Great Pond.

Finally, imagine the tourism attraction of having a building 250 feet high in Christiansted Harbor. It is possible to see lights and cruise ships in St. Thomas on a clear night so St. Thomians and cruise-ship passengers would be able to see this building, which is taller than Buck Island and about one fifth as tall as Blue Mountain. I am sure that many would take a harbor cruise in the newly cut channel to see this engineering marvel close up. If the smell of the sewage is eliminated, I am sure the hotels and businesses in Christiansted would prosper as visitors to the Beal site stayed and shopped in town.

The synergy of Beal at Turquoise Bay is so great that I would overcome all my previous criticisms of Beal to welcome them in my back yard.

John A. Boyd is a St. Croix businessman.

Another contender for the Top Ten Events of the year

Dear Editor:

I disagree with your Top Ten Events for the island in 1999.

I believe one of the events has to be the non-event construction of the Coker facility, which is delayed or probably canceled.

Peter Barack
St. Croix

Send your letters via e-mail to stxavis@viaccess.net or fax to 340-773-5511.

The opinions on these pages are not necessarily those of the publishers, employees or advertisers of this newspaper.

Dole backs Bush's run for president

BEDFORD, N.H. (AP) — Former rival Elizabeth Dole endorsed George W. Bush on Tuesday, adding to his collection of high-profile backers as he tries to fend off challenges in Iowa and New Hampshire and court female voters nationwide.

campaign 2000

Dole, joining Bush at campaign stops here and in Iowa, compared the Texas governor to President Reagan and called him "my kind of conservative." She said he would restore trust in a tarnished White House.

"Today we rally to another Western governor, just as bold at challenging the status quo, just as resolved to restore pride in our institutions, just as determined to be himself," Dole said, recalling Reagan's tenure as California governor.

In New Hampshire, Bush is running even in polls with Sen. John McCain. In Iowa, he is leading Steve Forbes, but the campaign is wary that the publisher could soon unleash an ad blitz similar to the one that Dole's husband, Bob, felt weakened him in his 1996 race.

Bush beamed as Elizabeth Dole announced her support before a crowd of 350, which had given the two a standing ovation as they entered together.

Both Dole and Bush were quick to douse speculation that the event — Bush's kickoff appearance for the year in New Hampshire — was a preview of a Bush-Dole ticket.



Associated Press

Elizabeth Dole gives her support to presidential hopeful Texas Gov. George W. Bush during a rally Tuesday in Bedford, N.H.

"First things first," the Texas governor told reporters. "It's important to have a strong woman like Elizabeth Dole standing by my side to help me win the primaries and the caucuses."

Dole, too, declined to be drawn into vice presidential speculation. She said, "The governor has got to win the nomination and when he does the party is very fortunate to have a large number of very talented leaders with great experience from which he can choose."

She had pursued the nomination herself until October, when she quit the race citing a lack of money. By that time, Bush had raised $57 million to her $5 million.

In her remarks Tuesday, Dole echoed Bush's lines on tax cuts and school reform. And she said he would restore trust. In a slap at the Democratic Clinton administration, the former Red Cross president said that "trust is the coin of the realm" in a democracy and "lately, that trust has been tarnished."

She also invoked the name and image of Reagan, a conservative hero. Like Reagan, she said, Bush "would innovate, not regulate." She added, "That's my kind of conservative."

In turn, Bush cited Dole's allegiance to Reagan, for whom she served as transportation secretary.

"Elizabeth, you have always said that you have been a lieutenant in Ronald Reagan's army. I am proud to have you as a general in mine," Bush said.

At least one woman in the audience thought she was looking at a winning team on the stage.

"A lot of women like her and I think would like to see a woman in the limelight," said Sue Ritze, 46, of Bedford.

Bush and Dole later flew to Iowa for stops at Des Moines and Davenport — and an endorsement by Iowa Republican Sen. Charles Grassley.

At a Des Moines airport rally, Dole said she and Bush shared positions on issues important to Iowans including ethanol support and expanded trade opportunities for farmers.

Tuesday's endorsement followed a pattern of defeated challengers joining the Bush team. Former rivals John Kasich and Lamar Alexander are on board. Former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also quit the race, has signed up.

The stop in New Hampshire was part of a weeklong swing that also was taking Bush to Iowa, South Carolina and Michigan, all early selection states. Iowa holds its caucuses Jan. 24; New Hampshire has its primary on Feb. 1.

Woman wakes up after coma of 16 years

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — For 16 years, Patricia White Bull was unresponsive to the world — unable to speak, swallow or move much. On Christmas Eve, she suddenly snapped back to consciousness.

"Don't do that," she blurted out when nurses were trying to fix her nursing home bed Dec. 24.

Doctors cannot explain why White Bull, 42, awakened from the catatonic state she slipped into while delivering her fourth child. Her mother, Snowflake Flower, said it was a Christmas miracle from God.

Since then, White Bull — known as "Happi" — has been speaking her children's names, catching up on family developments and spending a lot of time just watching her children and smiling.

"I just went up to her and gave her a hug, and she gave me a hug back," said her oldest child, Cindi, a 26-year-old senior at the University of North Carolina. "It was the first time she had ever hugged back."

White Bull's speech is clear but still limited. She has talked very little but listened a lot. Her hands, which had been clenched tightly for 16 years, have loosened.

She has been driven up into the mountains to breathe the fresh air. She has been wheeled around a shopping mall. She has eaten a small bite of pizza. And on Monday, with her ability to swallow improving, she ate chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Pointing to new running shoes, she said: "I'm going to run."

Doctors say White Bull's condition was caused by a blood clot that lodged in her lung and caused her to stop breathing while her son Mark Jr. was being delivered. She was resuscitated but suffered brain damage from lack of oxygen.

Cindi, Mark Jr., 16, and White Bull's other children, Floris, 17, and Jesse, 19, have been raised by their father on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. They rushed back to Albuquerque when they heard their mother had awakened from the vegetative state they had been told would last the rest of her life.

What White Bull's world was like for the last 16 years is still a mystery. "We haven't been able to delve into what she's thought about," Mark Sr. said.

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Infamous intern feels she's 'on the right track now'

Monica Lewinsky tells Larry King she wants to put Clinton scandal behind her

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky says she hopes her involvement in the scandal that led to President Clinton's impeachment trial becomes a shrinking historical footnote.

In an appearance Monday on CNN's "Larry King Live," the former White House intern said she bears some responsibility for what happened to Clinton, but now she wants to put that part of here life behind her.

Lewinsky, 26, described herself as "a young woman who had made some private mistakes and who is very sorry for those mistakes, but was also part of some other forces that she certainly couldn't control."


Lewinsky

Her new role as a spokeswoman for the diet company Jenny Craig and her own weight-loss efforts were frequent topics during the interview.

Lewinsky steered away from questions concerning her feelings about former friend Linda Tripp, but she did mention first lady Hillary Clinton.

"I have a lot of personal remorse for what she's gone through and I'm sure what their daughter, what Chelsea has gone through," she said.

She said she's working with a therapist on several "issues."

"I feel like I'm on the right path now," Lewinsky said in an interview published in the Monday editions of USA Today. "I may not be where I want to end up, but at least I'm sort of on the right path, and that feels really good to me."


Associated Press
President Clinton looks on as Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan speaks at the White House Tuesday.

Greenspan gets nod for fourth term at the Fed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alan Greenspan, who has guided the nation's monetary policy since Ronald Reagan was president, was nominated Tuesday by President Clinton to serve a fourth term as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

With Greenspan at his side in the Oval Office, Clinton ticked off a list of economic achievements during his administration and added: "Clearly, wise leadership from the Fed has played a very large role in our strong economy."

WHAT'S NEXT
Greenspan's nomination is expected to be approved by the Senate with little trouble.

The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate but Greenspan, a Republican, is expected to have little trouble winning approval in the GOP-controlled Senate.

Greenspan, 73, thanked Clinton for his confidence, and, straying from the nonpartisan stance that typically characterizes his public pronouncements, said Clinton's "economic policy staff has been exceptional in my view."

Greenspan has had strong support from members of both parties in Congress. He has won praise from many economists for his willingness in recent years to allow the unemployment rate to fall far below 6 percent, the level that used to be viewed as the danger point where a dwindling pool of available workers would trigger higher wage pressures and lead to rising inflation.

Greenspan was originally chosen as the Fed chairman by President Reagan in 1987 and was renominated by Presidents Bush and Clinton.

This would be his fourth term as Fed chairman.

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Peace talks stall briefly

Clinton makes second visit to site; negotiations said back on track


Clinton

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — With a procedural hang-up overcome, President Clinton reentered peacemaking talks between Israel and Syria Tuesday, hoping to set the two longtime foes on a course to a lasting peace.

Clinton met for more than an hour with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa in a three-way session attended also by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The session, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center just outside this 239-year-old town, followed cancellation of a three-way session Monday night. It was called off in a wrangle over what should be negotiated first in this new round of peace talks.

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin declined to say how the dispute was smoothed over after a solution was worked out in a meeting between Albright and Barak.

"We got a good start yesterday," Rubin said. "There was a procedural hang-up in the evening. That hang-up has been overcome."

With a light rain falling on the oldest town in West Virginia, where talks are being held at an off-limits federal center, Clinton left Washington in a motorcade for a second consecutive day of mediating between Barak and al-Sharaa.

Rubin said committees had been formed to take up all key issues, and none would be overlooked by the two sides.

He included terms of the peace Syria is offering in return for the strategic Golan Heights, a border plateau Israel has held since 1967.

Discussions on all the issues, in one form or another, will be held over the next few days, he told reporters at a briefing.

But even with the positive turn of events, Rubin repeated his admonition that a core agreement on an Israeli pullback, a peace accord, new security arrangement and other knotty issues, is unlikely to emerge at the end of this round, the second since Israel and Syria abandoned their peacemaking efforts in 1996.

"I think they're both very serious," Clinton said in announcing he would return to the negotiations. "They both want an agreement."

The agenda disagreement between the two sides apparently centered on the timing of discussions on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights — at the beginning of the talks, as Syria wanted, or at the end, which Israel preferred.

Israeli Cabinet Minister Haim Ramon said in an interview with Israel Radio that Barak wanted to resume the talks where they broke off more than three years ago — "on issue of security because the scope of a withdrawal depends on what we will receive in return."

But Syria insisted on first taking up the withdrawal issue — how much land Israel would yield and the timetable for the pullback.



Associated Press
Most Shepherdstown businesses have displayed window posters with the word "peace" in English, Hebrew and Arabic since peace talks began.

Orthodox Jews protest at peace talks site

SHEPHERDSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Protesters led by ultra-Orthodox Jews demanded Tuesday that Israel immediately stop negotiating with Syria over a possible Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Relinquishing the strategic high ground, which Syria has set as the price for peace, would leave Israel's northern border unprotected, protest leader Levi Huebner said.

"The Golan is our security," Huebner said. "Peace will be in security and trust in our neighbors." Huebner arrived with about 40 other demonstrators in a convoy of nine vans from Brooklyn, N.Y., headquarters of the strict Lubavich Hasidic movement.

He said the protesters planned to stay at least one day in the designated demonstration area, a park along a state highway less than a mile from the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, where some of the talks are being held.

Religious Jews do not uniformly oppose giving up the Golan, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of Israel's ultra-Orthodox Shas party, a coalition partner in Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government, has spoken for returning captured land to Israel's Arab neighbors if it would lead to a genuine peace.

Senator wants feds to look into pesticide use in schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency should make a nationwide effort to determine what pesticides are used in schools and minimize the health risks to children, a Democratic senator said Tuesday.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., released a study by the General Accounting Office that said too little is known about children's exposure to such toxic chemicals in classrooms and playgrounds.

"This information gap is troubling," said Lieberman, the ranking Democrat on the Governmental Affairs Committee.

"We know that children are particularly vulnerable to risks associated with pesticides, including elevated rates of leukemia and brain cancer. So we have every right to be concerned," he said.

The GAO said its investigators could find no credible statistics on the amount of pesticide used in the nation's 110,000 public schools, nor how often students might have been exposed to dangerous chemicals. It said there is even less data on short-term or long-term health impacts.

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Spending money or how America fought the Y2K bug and won

WASHINGTON (AP) — For anyone who believes the $100 billion spent in the United States immunizing technology from Y2K bugs was wasted, consider this: Three minor computers known to have problems and deliberately left running crashed completely at the century's dawn.

"All three of the systems failed following the Y2K rollover and could not be used," said John Koskinen, President Clinton's top Y2K adviser. "The systems simply stopped and became unusable."

Koskinen said all three computers had been replaced before the date rollover, but he described the unscientific experiment by one of the states as "an interesting example of what happens with systems that have failures."

Across the nation, Americans killed the Y2K computer bug the best way they knew how: drowning the problem in money by spending an awesome $100 billion on repairs and preparations.

But days into the new century, the well-cheered victory over a potential technological nightmare also raised questions about whether the government and corporate America threw too much at the problem, especially considering apparent victories overseas where far less was spent.

The United States, easily the most technology-dependent nation on the planet, spent roughly half the world's total repair costs, or about $365 for each citizen.

Koskinen allowed Monday that as much as $10 billion may have been wasted in the United States since 1995 as "somebody may have bought something they didn't need or figured it was a great way to get a replacement system."

Another early estimate was even higher. International Data Corp., an analyst firm, put the amount wasted in the United States as high as $41 billion, including $2.7 billion on extra staff who spent the holiday weekend twiddling their thumbs after Y2K failures failed to materialize.

"The hype generated over Y2K came at a price, in terms of both the costs of contingency planning and overspending on fixing computer systems," said John Gantz, a chief research officer at the firm.

But Koskinen and other experts defended the overall effort as "a marvelous accomplishment" and crucial to keeping the nation's most important computers healthy.

Where did that money go?

The government, which began its Y2K efforts in earnest in 1995, spent $8.5 billion to update and repair its computers while setting up an elaborate monitoring system for each major industry at risk, from nuclear power plants to hospitals. It also aided other countries that were behind in repairs to help insulate the U.S. economy from global problems — and to ensure that foreign nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants were safe.

Americans also got a healthy dose of forewarning, thanks to commercial campaigns that highlighted problems and sold repairs. Computer manufacturers set up help lines and gave away small fixes, known as patches, to repair programs or chips that had the glitch in which some computers might misread the year "00" as 1900 instead of 2000.



Patti Roberts, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, talks with a regional command center at California's Y2K headquarters in Sacramento on New Year's Eve.

Associated Press

"There were very few pockets of people in this country who were not aware and prepared for the Y2K," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

Koskinen said the great Y2K battle will pay dividends for years to come.

The government discovered that one in every five of its computer systems was outdated or redundant and could be scrapped. Other computers were exchanged ahead of schedule with faster, more productive ones.

"History will show that the glitches that continue to come out will continue to remind people that those are glitches today that would have made major system failures," Koskinen said.

Clinics hit with another rash of anthrax threats

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A Planned Parenthood clinic received an anthrax threat Tuesday and police blocked off streets in a 10-block area on the edge of downtown.

Police said there was little reason to believe that the threat was credible, noting that about 20 similar letters had been sent to clinics nationwide in the past few days.

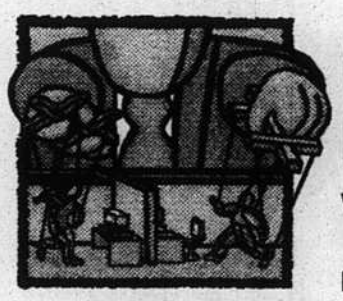
"None of them have had any credible threat behind them," said fire Capt. Greg Locher.

The FBI said an apparent anthrax threat Monday at an abortion clinic in Fort Wayne, Ind., was a hoax. Federal investigators in Birmingham, Ala., said tests on a threatening letter sent to an abortion clinic there on Monday will most likely show it was not contaminated with anthrax bacteria.

Anthrax is an acute, potentially lethal infectious disease that can affect animals and people. Sporadic threats of contamination date back several years and have affected almost every region of the nation.

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U.S.D.A. Choice
Beef Chuck Roast 1.89 lb.

U.S.D.A. Choice
Beef Chuck Steak 1.99 lb.

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Beef Underblade Chuck Steak 2.09 lb.

U.S.D.A. Choice
Bone-in Stew Beef 1.99 lb.

U.S. Inspected Fresh
Pork Shoulder Picnic 99¢ lb.

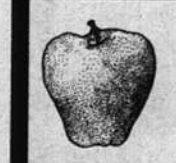
U.S. Inspected Fresh Cut-up
Pork for Stew 1.29 lb.

U.S. Inspected Frozen
Chicken Leg Qts.
10 lb. bag 4.59 ea.

U.S. Inspected Frozen Cut-up
Turkey Wings or Drumsticks 99¢ lb.

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Turkey Wings, Drumsticks, or Necks 1.59 lb.

Polly Bag **Salt Fish 2.89** lb.



Extra Fancy **Red or Gold Apples 1.09** lb.



Fresh Select **Cucumbers 79¢** lb.



Eresh Colorado **Carrots**
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Fresh **Large Tomatoes** 1.19 lb.

Fresh Juicy
Tangerine "Clementine", Gift Box 5 lb. box 5.99 ea.

Yellow Onions
3 lb. bag 1.69 ea.





Fresh **Extra Large Green Bell Pepper 99¢** lb.

Officers killed trying to evict man from mobile home

BROXTON, Ga. (AP) — A man described as a hermit killed a police officer who had come to tow away his mobile home, and then fatally shot a deputy who had rushed to assist the fallen officer, authorities said.

The man surrendered after police helicopters began circling overhead, and was charged Tuesday with two counts of felony murder.

Willie Mitchell, 55, apparently knew police would be serving a warrant to evict his mobile home and hid a gun at the edge of the woods just behind his trailer, said Roy Harris of the George Bureau of Investigation.

When Broxton officer James Bryant and some workers arrived Monday afternoon with a truck to haul away the rusty, white mobile home, Mitchell ran to the woods and allegedly shot and killed Bryant.

"This should have been one of the simplest things in law enforcement work, moving a sorry joker who won't pay his rent," Coffee County Sheriff Carlton Evans said Tuesday. Bryant was shot in both arms and the mouth with a deer rifle, he said.

State Trooper Lisa Stock arrived to help and attempted to crawl to Bryant. Deputy Almond "Tub" Merritt was trying to give her covering fire when he was shot in the chest, Evans said.

Merritt, 53, died at a hospital.

Stock and a trainee who arrived at about the same time were unharmed.

Billy Ray Fields, former police chief in this southeast Georgia city of about 1,200, said Mitchell had been quiet and easy-going but had never recovered from the loss of a job at a printing company. "He's been pretty withdrawn ever since," Fields said.

Broxton Police Chief Doyle Paulk described Mitchell as a hermit.

Former neighbor James Butler said Mitchell "seemed like he had good sense but he was the kind of guy you didn't mess with. I believe he snapped."



Associated Press

Officers of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation confer in a Broxton, Ga., trailer park Monday evening after a deputy sheriff and a police officer were killed.

Hours after the killings, relatives and friends of the dead officers gathered outside the Broxton Public Safety Building and comforted each other. Many had tears in their eyes. Bryant, 35, also served as an officer in Lumber City, about 40 miles north of Broxton.

Briefs

Man who killed infant free after 1½ years

WYCKOFF, N.J. (AP) — A young man who pleaded guilty along with his high school sweetheart to killing their newborn son at a Delaware motel was released from prison Tuesday after serving 1½ years for manslaughter.

Brian Peterson, 21, had been sentenced to two years but was let out early because of time served before his guilty plea and good behavior.

He walked out of a Price's Corner, Del., prison with his arm around his mother and was taken home by his parents.

In a typewritten statement, Peterson said he was sorry "for my part in the tragic events that occurred three years ago" and was happy to be going home.

Prosecutors said Peterson and Amy Grossberg tried to conceal her pregnancy and the birth and then killed their son at a Newark, Del., motel in 1996.

The baby's body was found wrapped in a plastic bag in a trash bin in the parking lot. The couple, both 18 at the time, had said they believed the child was stillborn when Peterson placed it there. But the medical examiner's office said the boy died of skull fractures.

Grossberg is expected to be released in May after serving nearly two years.

Man kills wife while his arrest pending

FAULKNER, Md. (AP) — A man shot and killed his estranged wife, then killed himself, even as a judge's order for his arrest on harassment charges sat unprocessed in a court clerk's office.

Police said that James Lancaster Sr., 36, went to the home of his estranged wife, Janice Lancaster, 34, about 6 a.m. Monday, killed her, then went to the front porch and fatally shot himself. The couple's 17-year-old daughter saw the shooting and called police.

A Dec. 28 court order barred Lancaster from contacting his wife. The next day, District Judge Gary S. Gasparovic signed a bench warrant for Lancaster's arrest after prosecutors filed charges that he was harassing his wife.

Court officials say that the warrant was not handled sooner because of a staffing shortage.

The case is the second incident in Maryland since September in which a paperwork problem has been cited in a murder case. Richard Wayne Spicknall II was charged with murder in the shooting deaths of his two children Sept. 9. Spicknall was barred from owning a gun because his wife had a restraining order against him, but he was mistakenly allowed to buy one because of a clerical error.

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Religious violence latest threat to Indonesian unity

AMBON, Indonesia (AP) — Violence between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia's Maluku province could spread unless the fighting is immediately stopped, a leading politician warned on Tuesday.

Soldiers opened fire on Christian and Muslim mobs Tuesday in the town of Masohi, on Seram island, 1,600 miles east of Jakarta, killing at least 17 people, said Sgt. Aduhab, a military spokesman.

In Jakarta, Amien Rais, the speaker of parliament, said that unless the military immediately separated the warring groups, Muslims on Indonesia's main island of Java may start attacking Christians.

"If the violence spreads to Java and other islands, then this republic will disband very quickly," he told reporters.

Many political analysts believe the government and military are powerless to halt the clashes in the province — known as the Spice Islands from Dutch colonial times — that have claimed at least 1,300 lives in the past year. Some have said international peacekeepers are needed to stop the fighting.


Wiranto


Rais


Wahid

"The government is not perceived as being neutral," said Dede Oetomo, a lecturer at Airlangga University. "International peacekeepers wouldn't take sides in the conflict."

About 90 percent of Indonesia's people are Muslims, but Christians are a majority in Maluku.

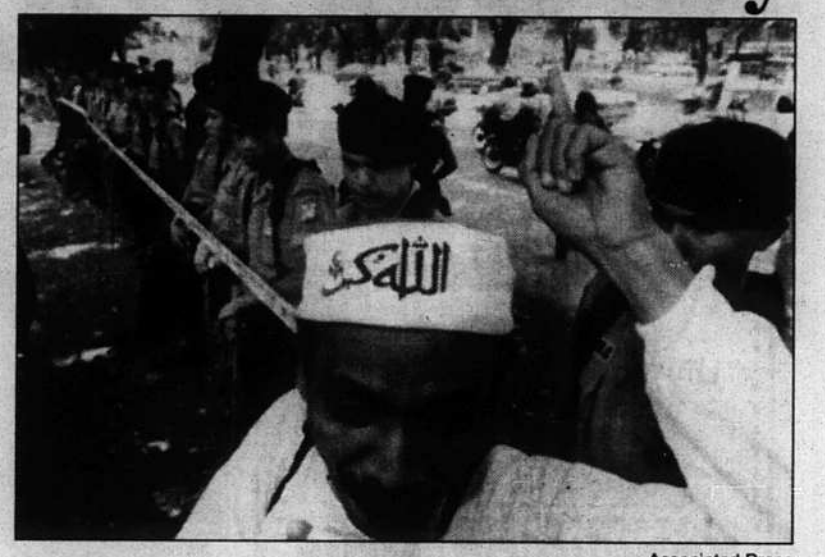
President Abdurrahman Wahid has ruled out international assistance, saying Indonesia must solve its own problems.

While the region used to be touted as a model of interfaith relations, tensions date back to 1950 when the Christians, many with ties to the Dutch colonial administration, proclaimed an independent republic and battled Indonesian troops in a bid to secede.

The violence has also generated friction within Indonesia's political establishment and could lead to the dismissal of the country's powerful senior minister for security, Gen. Wiranto, media reports and officials said Tuesday.

Wiranto, the former military chief, has repeatedly called for martial law in both Maluku and the troubled northwestern province of Aceh, much to the ire of Wahid, who favors civilian control.

Meanwhile, new fighting was reported Tuesday in Aceh, where separatists are fighting for independence. Dozens of rebels ambushed a convoy of police vehicles Monday in West Aceh, 1,100 miles northwest of Jakarta, killing a policeman and two civilians.


Associated Press
A line of Indonesian police officers watch an Ambonese Muslim demonstrator during a protest in Jakarta Tuesday to demand government intervention to stop religious violence. The man's headband, written in Arabic, says "God is Great."

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Israel opens combat units to women soldiers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Parliament has passed legislation guaranteeing a woman's right to serve in any army post, including combat units, a move seen as a breakthrough for female soldiers in the Jewish state.

The law, which was approved Monday, opens the army to equal participation by women, and by extension, opens Israeli society, the sponsor of the law, Naomi Hazan of the dovish Meretz party, said Tuesday.

"Women have been barred from advancement within the army, hampering their later advancement in politics and business," Hazan told The Associated Press. The law takes effect immediately.

Women and men fought side by side during the 1948 Mideast war, spawning legends of women smuggling hand grenades and firing machine guns.

However, in subsequent years, women soldiers were shunted aside to clerical positions. Following a 1995 Supreme Court decision overturning an army policy banning women from combat, more positions were opened to women.

In 1998, a woman qualified as a combat fighter pilot for the first time. Others train men in combat missions and serve in the artillery corps and paratroops.

Men and women are required to serve in the army from the age of 18. Men are in uniform for three years and women for 21 months. Officers sign up for an extra year, and many men do yearly reserve duty into their 40s.

■ NORWAY

At least 7 dead after train crash

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Two passenger trains collided Tuesday, killing at least seven people, leaving 26 missing and sparking a fire that hampered rescue efforts.

The fire burned for almost four hours, sending smoke billowing above the snow and pine trees that surrounded the wreck, 110 miles north of Oslo, before it was put out by firefighters.

Elverum Police Chief Per Erik Skjefstad said rescue efforts were suspended after a seven-hour search and would resume at daylight. He said seven people were confirmed dead and 26 were missing.

"What we don't know is whether some just left" the crash scene for a nearby train station, Skjefstad said in telephone interview. "That is what we are trying to check."

The national news agency NTB reported that dozens of people were injured.

The two trains carrying a total of 100 people collided around 1:30 p.m. at the Aasta Station in Aamot township, near the town of Rena. One train was headed south from the city of Trondheim carrying 81 passengers and two crew, while the other was headed north from the city of Hamar with 15 passengers and two crew members.



Associated Press

Smoke and flames pour from one of the two passenger trains that collided Tuesday in Aamot, Norway.

Authorities refused to speculate on the total number of fatalities. With the injured being sent to different hospitals and some uninjured passengers simply leaving the crash scene, it could take some time for police to account for all the passengers.

The two trains were on the same track at the time of the collision and news reports said they had traveled that way for several miles. However, officials said it was too early to speculate on the cause of the crash.

National Railways Director Steinar Killi said the section of track where the collision occurred had been due for a safety upgrade.

"Next year we will have an automatic train stop system there that we unfortunately didn't have today," he told a news conference in Oslo.

Witnesses and rescuers described calm after the crash, followed by chaos as flames spread through at least one of the trains. "I thought we stopped for a moose," said passenger Jeanette Haug. "People said there was fire and we had to get out. But it was calm and I think people did well."

It was the second serious public transport accident in Norway in just over a month. On Nov. 26, 16 people drowned when a high-speed ferry ran aground and sank.

Pakistan 'in no hurry' to sign nuclear test-ban treaty

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's army-led government is not in a rush to sign the global nuclear test ban treaty, the foreign minister said Tuesday.

"The government is in no hurry to make a decision, let alone sign the treaty," Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said. "The final decision will not be made unless an informed consensus emerges as to what will best serve the interest of our country."

Sattar made his comments at a seminar sponsored by the Institute of Policy Studies, a government-funded think tank. The seminar was to examine the implications of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Pakistan, one of the world's newest nuclear power, conducted a series of underground nuclear explosions in May 1998 to match similar tests conducted earlier by its neighbor and rival, India. Since then, both countries have been under tremendous international pressure to sign the treaty.

But there is strong opposition to the treaty in Pakistan, particularly from the right-wing religious parties. They say the treaty will compromise Pakistan's national interests and weaken its defense against neighboring India. Pakistan and India have fought three wars since the South Asian subcontinent gained its independence from Britain in 1947.

Since the military government took over in October, it has said it wants to build a consensus in Pakistan before signing the treaty. The government has said previously that it is not in any hurry to sign, and that its decision will not be linked to whether India is ready to sign.

Meanwhile, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the scientific adviser to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Tuesday said India now has the know-how to start its intercontinental ballistic missile program if funds became available.

Kalam also said India would test its indigenously manufactured Light Combat Aircraft by the end of the month.

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Reggae musicians see Ivory Coast coup as liberation

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Eyes hidden behind sunglasses, the soldiers cruise the streets of Ivory Coast's capital in a commandeered luxury car while a radio bumps and grooves with the catchy rhythms and angry lyrics of reggae.

Local reggae musicians, banned under ousted President Henri Konan Bedie, are back on the air — with a melodic revolution supporting the soldiers who seized power 10 days ago in a frenzy of looting and burning.

Local reggae musicians, banned under ousted President Henri Konan Bedie, are back on the air — this time in support of the soldiers who seized power 10 days ago in a frenzy of looting and burning.

To hear these dreadlocked artists put it, Gen. Robert Guei's junta is "liberating" this West African nation of 19 million from a botched attempt at democracy.

Ras Marlenze, a Ghanaian-born guitar player from "Rasta Village," a beach community of Rastafarian adherents in the commercial capital, Abidjan, puts it more lyrically:

"Soldja fight da bad man. Reggae help da soldja bring freedom land."

In Ivory Coast, a generation of musicians led by international recording artist Alpha Blondy has in recent years aimed their songs at Bedie and his ruling party, frequently accused of corruption and inciting ethnic tensions during its four decades in power.

Although Bedie and his government are almost never named in the songs, the singers openly admit the ousted president is their target. Singer Tiken Jah Fakoly's lyrics call on listeners to fight "the powers that divide," while Alpha Blondy's 1999 song "Dictature" accuses Bedie of "ruling by dividing, dividing by trickery."



Associated Press

Reggae musician Ras Marlenze, 33, plays with his nephew Samson, 7, at "Rasta Village," a settlement on the beach in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

"I know Gen. Robert Guei well and I supported the transformation of power from the beginning," says Serge Kassy, who has produced three hit reggae albums. "This was a people's revolution and we were fully behind it."

The artists' support for the coup has been key in a part of the world where music is a crucial form of communication and radio the most accessible medium. Many Ivorians don't read, and those who do still respect the region's oral tradition.

One irony is that the coup leaders have — so far — allowed a much wider range of views on radio talk shows and news programs than Bedie's government, which was democratically elected in 1995.

"This is the first coup that I've ever heard of that makes people laugh and smile," said Pol Dokoui, a radio programmer.

Man bursts out of package, robs Italian post office

ROME (AP) — Robbers targeting an Italian post office did not have anyone on the inside — so they mailed someone there.

The robbers brought a member of their group to the post office wrapped in a carton.

When the package would not fit through the normal package slot, employees invited them to use a service door behind the counter window, said Carlo Cerrutti, a spokesman for the Rome police.

When an employee brought the package inside, a robber burst out of the carton, waved a gun and shouted, "It's a holdup," according to police.

The robbery was the fourth in eight years at the post office in the outlying Casilina district.

The robbers escaped with $75,000.

Italian post offices are virtual banks where tens of millions of customers keep savings accounts, collect pensions and pay taxes and utility bills.

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"ANNA & THE KING"
Mon-Fri: 9:00; Sat.-Sun: 7:30 ONLY. "PG"

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THEATRE 3
"CLOSED"

THEATRE 4
"POKEMAN"
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"MAN ON THE MOON"
Mon-Fri: 9:15; Sat.-Sun: 7:10, 9:15. "R"

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

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7:30 AM	NIA	Ultra TBC 8:00- 9:30am	NIA	Ultra TBC 8:00- 9:30am	TBC		
8:30 AM	MC	WA 9:00- 10am	TBC	WA 9:00- 10am	Basic Step	Ultra TBC 8:30-10am	GUEST 9:00am
9:30 AM	Yoga		Yoga		Yoga	NIA 10 - 11:30am	WA 9:00am
3:15 PM	Gym Nastics		Gym Nastics			Tae Kwon Do 12-1:30pm	
4:00 PM	Gym Nastics	Ultra TBC 4-5:30 pm	Gym Nastics	Ultra TBC 4-5:30 pm		Family Swim 1-3:00pm	
4:30 PM	Gym Nastics		Gym Nastics		Yoga		
5:30 PM	TBC	Step III	AEROBIC FUNK	Step II	Step I		
6:30 PM	Tae-Bo	Yoga	Tae-Bo	Pending	Gym Nastics		
7:30 PM		Tae Kwan Do	BALLROOM DANCING** 8-9:00pm	Tae Kwon Do			

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Froz. Whole.Kingfish Steaks	2.98 lb
Froz. 5-lb Box Conch!	19.99 ea
Froz. 5-lb Box Chicken LegQtr	2/6.00



3 lb Bag **Yellow Onions 99¢**

24/Cans -CASE **Dr. Pepper $8.99**

46 oz Blue Bird **Orange Juice 2/3.00**

96 oz Sun Light **Pure Veg Oil $2.99**

14.75 oz Roland **Pink Salmon 2/5.00**

14.4 oz GRACE **Evaporated Milk 3/1.99**

Sweet Whole Melons **Cantaloupes 2/3.00**

Fresh Sweet & Juicy **Florida Oranges 5/1.00**

12 Pack **Pepsi Cola $2.99**

14.75 oz Spaghetti and Meatballs **Chef Boyarde 99¢**

3 lb Bag RED **Delicious Apples 2/3.00**

Green **Bell Peppers 88¢ lb**





3 lb Bag Medium Grain **Sello Rojo Rice 98¢**

12 oz Can Hereford **Corned Beef 99¢**

THE BEST STEAKS IN TOWN. ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

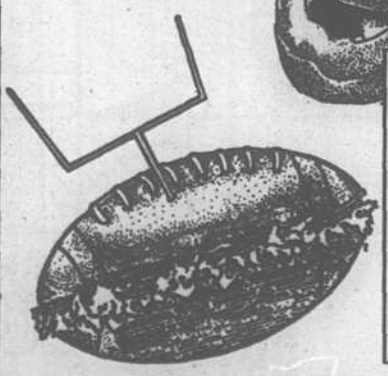
4 lb Bag EverCane **Sugar 99¢**

46 oz SENECA **Apple Juice 2/3.00**

12 Pack Regular or Diet **Coca Cola $3.99**

LIQUOR SALES

Chivas Regal Scotch 750ml	$11.99
Alize Passion Drink 750ml ...	9.99
Bacardi Limon	6.99
Cutty Sark Scotch 750ml....	8.99
Cruzan Rum Cream 750ml.....	9.99
Gordon's Gin or Vokda 1.75 lt	7.99
Ponche Kuba 700ml	6.99
Smirnoff Vodka .....1 litre	5.99
Remy Martin Cognac 700ml	19.99
E&J Gallo Wh.Zinfandel 1.5lt	7.99



750ml Bottlesof Bubbly!

CHAMPAGNES

Korbel Champagne	$8.99
Martin & Rossi	8.99
Tott's Brut	4.99
Ballatore	4.99
Andre Champagne	....2/5.00

We accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Banco Popular ATH Cards, Discover Cards, Food Stamps & WIC. Not responsible for typographical errors.

Plaza Extra reserves the right to limit quantities. Open 365 Days a year 7am to 11pm. Fresh-Baked Donuts every morning...

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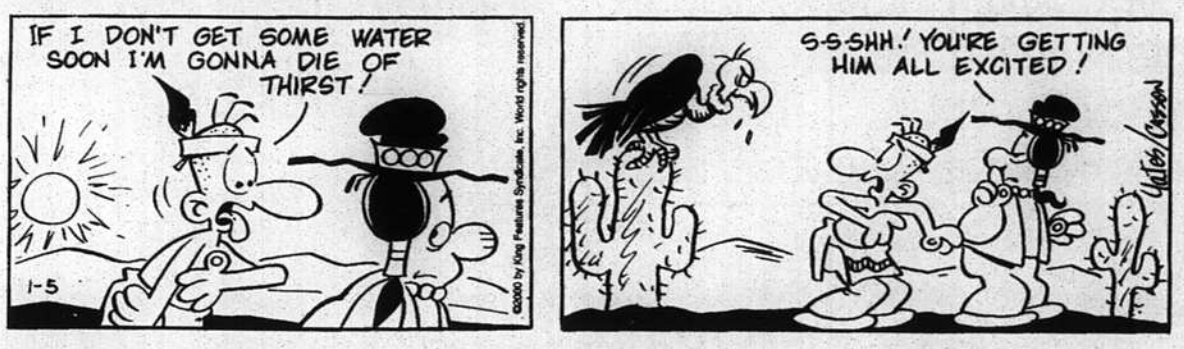
BLONDIE By Dean Young and Stan Drake



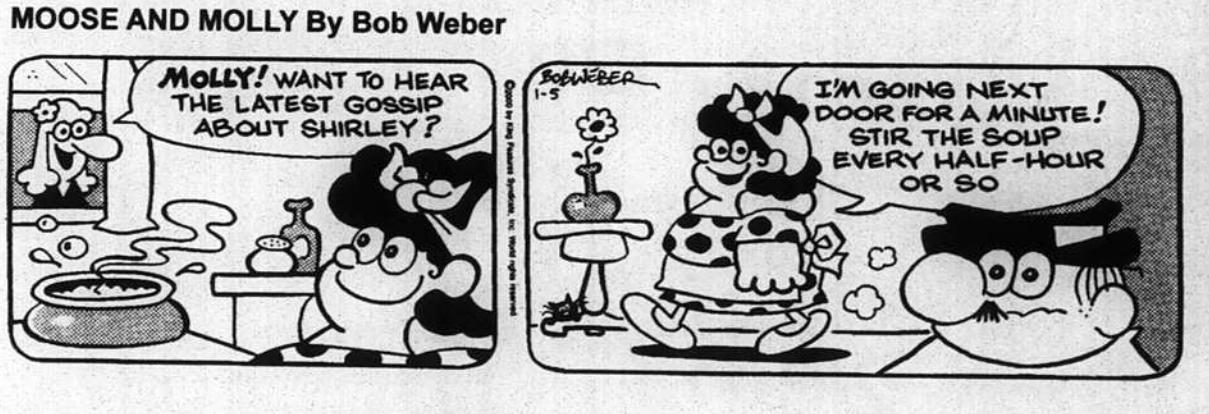
BEETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



REDEYE By Bill Yates and Mel Casson



MOOSE AND MOLLY By Bob Weber



HERB & JAMAAL By Stephen Bentley



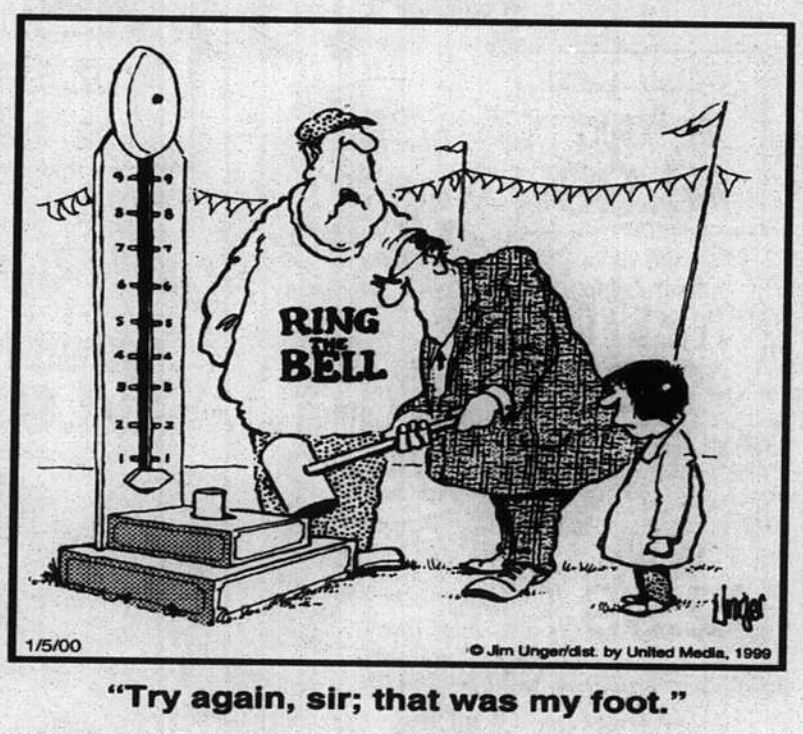
FRED BASSET By Graham



KIT & CARLYLE

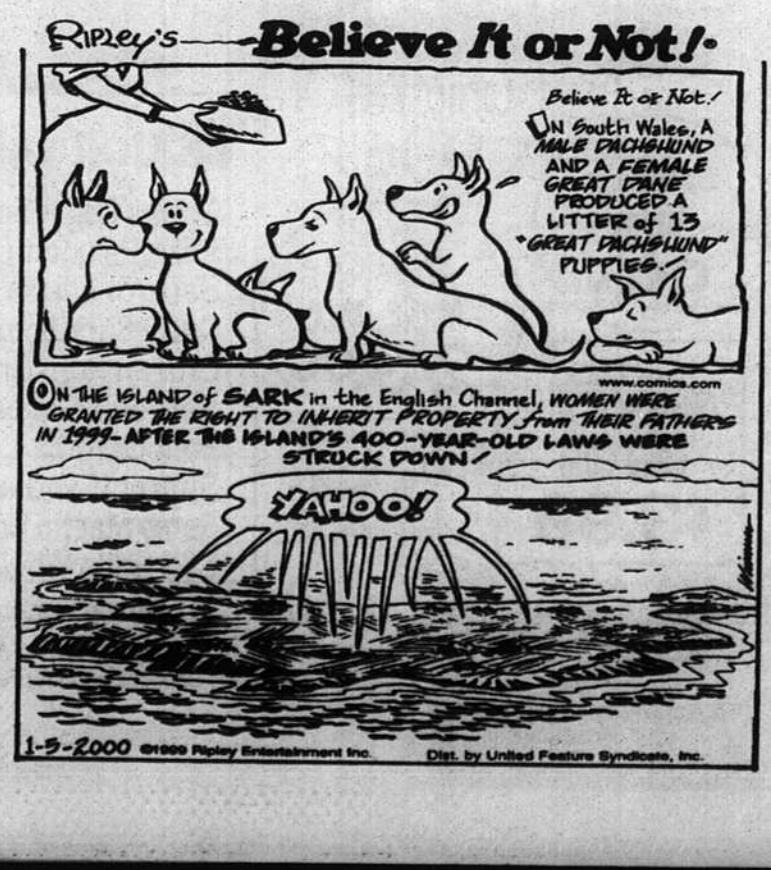


HERMAN



"Try again, sir; that was my foot."

RIPLEY'S



Horoscope

By Francis Drake

ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Pay close attention to your professional reputation today, Aries. Someone might be saying something behind your back that could hurt your career.

TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
Make plans to have a good time today, and then stick to them. As the Moon enters Capricorn, traveling and adventure should be on your social agenda.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
If you are counting on someone else to make it happen, you had better think again. You'll be better off accomplishing it on your own, especially if it's business-related.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
In order to deal with a current problem, you might have to spend some time on your own. Don't feel like you have to be social if you don't want to today.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
You're feeling healthy and glad to be alive, and that's great. Just be careful when talking about your new health routine with people who don't want to hear about it.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Your hard work finally pays off today, so take some time to bask in the glory of your accomplishments. Get together with friends or co-workers and celebrate.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
An issue from the past comes back to haunt you today, Libra, and you're stuck thinking about what might have been. Do your best not to dwell on the negative.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
This is a great day to sign business contracts or enter into agreements with new clients. The Capricorn Moon helps everything run according to plan.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
As the Moon moves into Capricorn, take the opportunity to examine your current personal budget. Money issues should be your main concern right now.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
As the Moon enters your house today, take some time to really enjoy life. Get together with friends or family members who share the same interests that you do.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
It might be time to tighten the reins a little if you feel that your life is getting out of control. Putting restrictions on certain aspects of your life may not be as bad as you think.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
If you get into trouble today, it might be time to call in a favor from a friend who owes you one. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you can't work it out on your own.

Husband feels happy marriage should include occasional sex



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 48 years, have raised three children and are in our early 70s. Eleven years ago, my wife stopped having sex with me, saying she didn't think it was necessary. She said all her lady friends our age have stopped doing it, and also they sleep in separate bedrooms.

Am I wrong for feeling that sex is necessary for a happy marriage? — HURT HUSBAND, REDFORD, MICH.

DEAR HURT HUSBAND: No, you are not wrong. Obviously sex is necessary for YOU to have a happy marriage — and if your wife values your marriage, she'll consider working out a compromise. Otherwise, I fear I'll be hearing from HER asking what happened to YOU.

DEAR ABBY: The response from "Angie" addressing the teen-age curfew enforcement problem was ingenious, but not foolproof. She suggested that a parent who didn't want to lose sleep waiting for her teen-aged child to come home set an alarm for the time the child should be home. If the child arrives before the alarm goes off, he or she turns the alarm off and goes to bed — allowing the parent continuous sleep.

My mother used (and I thought invented) that technique when I was a teen-ager in the '70s, thinking that was the solution to my broken curfews and late hours. What Mother didn't know until 25 years later was that while she was sleeping, I would come home, turn the alarm off and sneak back out. — FORMER TEEN, CURRENT MOM

DEAR CURRENT PARENT: Bad girl! Your confession reminds me of the saying that if man invents a better mousetrap, nature invents a smarter mouse. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The alarm clock method doesn't work! We used it on our oldest son back in 1970. (He's now the chief of staff of the Sixth Fleet in Italy.) After just one night, he began paying his sister (15 months younger) to go in and shut it off. I never learned until a decade later that he had been roaming free until all hours. — ANONYMOUS IN MARYLAND

DEAR ANONYMOUS: It's heartening that your son has applied his talents to protecting our country instead of becoming a career criminal. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My solution to knowing when our teen-age daughter came home: I, too, work and can hardly stay up to enforce curfews — so I simply went to bed. In HER bed! When she came home, she woke me up and we chatted, and I went off to my own bed. She loved it, because not only did we have late-night mother-daughter chats, but I warmed her bed for her!

She's away at college this year, and I miss our talks. — COOKI IN CINCINNATI

DEAR COOKI: You are a diligent and caring parent, and your solution provided a wonderful opportunity for you and your daughter to share some private and memorable moments together. Too often, communication between parents and children takes place when both are rushed or under pressure. Your daughter is a lucky young woman.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

LUPPI

RYDYL

PONCAY

LUFNIX

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

A: THE "○○○" OF ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUSKY GUARD EXPEND FEEBLE
Answer: A good way to get smarter — BY DEGREES

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Window is smaller. 2. Hair is added. 3. Tie is shorter. 4. Hand is lower. 5. Glasses are removed. 6. Light is moved.

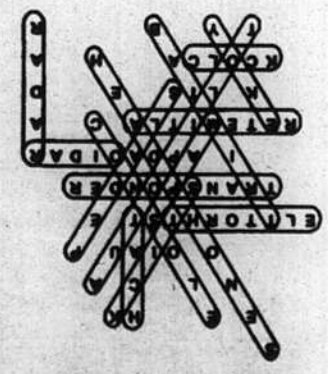
WORD SLEUTH • THINGS IN A COCKPIT

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: SYRUP

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: INDICATES YOUR HEADING

Altimeter
Autopilot
Clock
Console
Headphones
Maps
Pedals
Radar
Radio
Stick
Tach
Throttle
Transponder
Trim tab
Yoke



TVGUIDE

WEDNESDAY EVENING — JANUARY 5, 2000

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
(WAPA)	4	Super Show		Película Se Anunciará				Chorrito Casino	Vuelto a Vivil	Noticias	Primer Impacto: Edición Nocturna		Programa Pagado	Super Show (R)	
(TBS)	6	(:05) Full House (CC)	(:35) Full House "Aftershocks"	(:05) Roseanne "Vegas" (CC)	(:35) Roseanne (CC)	(:05) Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	(:35) Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	NBA Basketball Charlotte Hornets at Utah Jazz. From the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. (Live)					Inside the NBA	Movie ((* "Nightbreed" (1990, Horror) Craig Sheffer.	
(ENC)	7	Old Testament	In the Beginning	Letters of St. Therese	Way Home	Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Daily Mass		Mother Angelica Live		Religious Catalogue	Joyful Holy	Household of Faith	Millenium: End	Msgr. Clark	Fr. Apostoli
(WSVI)	8	All My Children (CC)		News	ABC World News Tonight (CC)	Outer Limits "The Inheritors" Trio back from dead on mission. (CC)		Two Guys and a Girl (CC)	It's Like, You Know...	Drew Carey (CC)	Norm Laurie's twin sister visits.	20/20 (CC)		News	(:35) Nightline (CC)
(FOX)	9	Boy Meets World (CC)	Judge Joe Brown (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Simpsons (CC)	Home Improvement	Simpsons (CC)	Truth Behind the Sitcom Scandals 2 (CC)		Greed: The Series (CC)		Fox Report		Unhappily Ever After	Blind Date
(WSEE)	10	Inside Edition (CC)	News	News	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (CC)	King of Queens (R)	Movie ((* "Sabrina" (1995) Harrison Ford. A chauffeur's daughter awakens love in a rich workaholic. (CC)					News	(:35) Late Show (CC)
(WNBC)	11	News (CC)		News (CC)	NBC Nightly News (CC)	Extra (CC)	Access Hollywood (CC)	Dateline Exposing criminals who profit from charitable donations.		West Wing "Lord John Marbury" (CC)		Law & Order "Loco Parentis" (CC)		News (CC)	(:35) Tonight Show (CC)
(WTJX)	12	Teacher Is In	Arthur (R) (EI) (CC)	Newshour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Face to Face		Live From Lincoln Center "Perlman at the Penthouse"			Paul Taylor: Dancemaker "An American Masters Special" (CC)			(Off Air)	
(WKAQ)	13	Rosalinda		Infierno en el Paraíso		Dame un Break				Telenoticias	(:45) Sólo Estrenos, Sólo Estrellas			Película Se Anunciará	
(VH1)	14	Needle Drop	Rock of Ages (R)	Where Are They Now? "80s" (R)		List	Hollywood & Vinyl (R)	Top 90 Videos of the '90s (R)		Behind the Music "TLC" (R)		Video Timeline	Video Timeline	List (R)	Behind the Music (R)
(WGN)	15	Declassified (CC)	Parent 'Hood (CC)	Wayans Bros. (CC)	Fresh Prince	Full House (CC)	Caroline in the City	Movie ((("First Blood" (1982, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna.				News (CC)		MacGyver "To Be a Man"	
(MTV)	16	webRIOT	Blame Game	MTV Jams	Beat Suite	Tom Green	Celebrity Death	Say What? Karaoke	TRL Wanna	TRL (R)		True Life	True Life	Say What? Karaoke	webRIOT
(GEMS)	17	Causa Común		New Attitudes	Mujeres	Película "Las Damas" (1987, Comedia) Patricia Elliott, Talia Balsam.				Cuerpo Dorado		Lluvia de Estrellas		Gems Jamz	
(BET)	18	Rap City: Tha Bassment				Hits From the Street		Sparks (CC)	Amen	Comicview		Live From LA		BET Tonight News and interviews.	
(CNN)	19	Inside Politics (CC)		Worldview	Moneyline Newshour		Crossfire	World Today		Larry King Live (CC)		Newsstand		Sports	Moneyline
(FAM)	20	New Addams Family (CC)	Two of a Kind (CC)	Partridge Family	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Random Acts of Comedy	Movie "Desperate Journey: The Allison Wilcox Story" (1993) Mel Harris. A pregnant woman's sailboat capsizes during Hurricane Bob. (CC)				Wow! The Most Awesome Acts on Earth (R)		700 Club (CC)	
(USA)	21	Pacific Blue "Pacific Blue" (R) (CC)		Baywatch "Showdown at Malibu Beach High"		JAG "High Ground" (CC)		Walker, Texas Ranger "Rampage" (CC)		Movie ((("Dirty Dancing" (1987, Drama) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze. (CC)				Walker, Texas Ranger "The Reunion" (CC)	
(LIFE)	22	Designing Women (CC)	Designing Women (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls "Love for Sale"	Intimate Portrait "Margot Kidder" (R) (CC)		Chicago Hope "Mother, May I" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Movie "In Quiet Night" (1998, Suspense) Julian McMahon, Tom Irwin, Joe Spano. A DA must protect a child from her ruthless father. (CC)				Golden Girls (CC)	Golden Girls (CC)
(TLC)	23	Hometime: House	Hometime: House	Home Again (R)	Home Again (R)	48 Hours The aircraft carrier USS Kennedy.		Extreme Machines "Carriers" (R)		Junkyard Wars: Flying Machines		Junkyard Wars: Cannons		Extreme Machines "Carriers" (R)	
(ESPN)	24	NHL Cool Shots (CC)	Up Close	Sportscenter (CC)		College Basketball Delta Airlines Classic -- Georgia Tech vs. Kentucky. From Louisville, Ky. (Live)				College Basketball Duke at Virginia. (Live)				Sportscenter (CC)	
(ESPN2)	25	ESPNews	50 Greatest	Super Bowl V	Super Bowl XXIX	NFL 2Night (CC)	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at New York Rangers. From Madison Square Garden in New York. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)						NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. (Live)		
(TBN)	28	Praise the Lord (CC)						Behind the Scenes	Creflo A. Dollar Jr.	Precious Memories	Dr. Jack Van Impe	Praise the Lord (Live) (CC)			
(NICK)	30	Figure It Out	Kenan & Kel	All That	Catdog	Hey Arnold! (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	Thornberrys	Rocket Power	Brady Bunch	Brady Bunch	All in the Family	Jeffersons (CC)	I Love Lucy	Mary Tyler Moore
(DISC)	31	Gimme Shelter Family room addition. (R)		Your New House (R)		Wild Discovery "Wild Jewels"		On the Inside "Real Ghostbusters"		Narrow Escapes		Rip Cord (R)		On the Inside "Real Ghostbusters" (R)	
(HBO)	33	(:15) Movie ((("Crocodile Dundee" (1986, Comedy) Paul Hogan. An Australian hunting legend braves the wilds of Manhattan. (CC)				Artists' Specials (CC)		Movie ("Sphere" (1998, Science Fiction) Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone. Experts investigate a spaceship on the ocean floor. (CC)				(:15) Movie (* "Gloria" (1999, Drama) Sharon Stone. An ex-gun moll shelters an orphan from murderous mobsters. (CC)			
(SHOW)	34	(5:30) Movie "Requiem for Murder" (1998) Chris Mulkey.		(:15) Movie (("My Giant" (1998) Billy Crystal, Kathleen Quinlan. A Hollywood agent discovers a giant-sized prospect. (CC)				Movie (("The Principal" (1987, Drama) James Belushi, Louis Gossett Jr.. An urban high-school principal fights campus crime.				Movie "Macon County Jail" (1997) Ally Sheedy. A wrongfully imprisoned woman is caught up in a jailbreak.		Lateline "Mona Moves Up"	
(DISN)	35	Torkelsons "For Love or Money"	Growing Pains (CC)	Growing Pains (CC)	Smart Guy (CC)	Movie "Zenon: Girl of the 21st Century" (1999, Science Fiction) Kirsten Storms, Raven-Symone. (CC)		(:45) Music Videos		(9:50) Movie ((("The Parent Trap" (1961) Hayley Mills, Maureen O'Hara. Twins separated as infants plot to reunite their parents. (CC)			Inside Disney's Fantasia/2000	(:45) Music Videos	
(MAX)	36	(5:00) "The Naked Gun" (CC)	Movie ((("The Negotiator" (1998, Action) Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Spacey, David Morse. A top police negotiator is accused of committing murder. (CC)					Movie (("Less Than Zero" (1987, Drama) Andrew McCarthy, Jami Gertz, Robert Downey Jr..		(:45) Big Canyon		Movie (* "Devil in the Flesh" (1997) Rose McGowan. A disgruntled teen-age girl goes on a killing spree.		Intimate Sessions "Tamara"	
(A&E)	37	Magnum, P.I. "No Need to Know" (CC)		L.A. Law "Pilot" (Part 2 of 2)		Law & Order "Nurture" (CC)		Biography: Andy Griffith-Homespun Hero		Investigative Reports (R) (CC)		American Justice "Blueprint for a Murder"		Law & Order "Torrents of Greed" (CC)	
(TNT)	38	Dark Justice "In Mysterious Ways" (CC)		In the Heat of the Night Bubba falls for a deceitful siren. (CC)		ER "No Brain, No Gain" (CC)		Movie ((* "Purgatory" (1999, Horror) Eric Roberts, Randy Quaid. A frontier town is the gateway between heaven and hell. (CC)				Movie ((("A River Runs Through It" (1992, Drama) Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt. A portrait of the relationship between a preacher's sons.			
(SCIFI)	39	Hercules-Jrnys.		Sliders (R) (CC)		Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt	Crypt	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Crypt Tales	Poltergeist: The Legacy	
(BRAVO)	40	Movie ((("Swimming With Sharks" (1995) Kevin Spacey, Frank Whaley. A Hollywood hotshot endlessly torments his eager assistant.				Moonlighting "The Next Murder You Hear"		Movie (("Start the Revolution Without Me" (1970, Comedy) Gene Wilder. Two sets of twins meet on the eve of the French Revolution.				Smack the Pony	Awful Truth (R)	Movie (("Start the Revolution Without Me" (1970, Comedy)	
(TOON)	41	Dragon	Warriors	Batman	Scooby	Chicken	Dexter	Powerpuff	Tom-Jerry	(:10) Bugs & Daffy		Flintstones	Scooby	Powerpuff	Chicken
(COURT)	42	Evening Session			Pros Cons	Crime Stories (R)		Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	Homicide: Life		Crime Stories (R)		Cops (CC)	Pros Cons
(FLIX)	43	(4:35) Movie ((("Philadelphia" (1993) Tom Hanks. (CC)		Movie ((* "My Favorite Spy" (1951, Comedy) Bob Hope, Hedy Lamarr, Francis L. Sullivan. A comic poses as a spy to obtain secret plans.				Movie (((* "The Pleasure of His Company" (1961, Comedy) Fred Astaire. A father attempts to stop his daughter's wedding plans.				Movie ((("The Lords of Discipline" (1983, Drama) David Keith, Robert Prosky, G.D. Spradlin.		"Friday the 13th, Part VI"	
(FOXSP)	44	This Is the PGA Tour		Football	Last Word	Goin' Deep (R)		Helmet	Sports	This Is the PGA Tour		FOX Sports News		FOX Sports News	
(TMC)	45	(5:00) Movie ((("The Strawberry Blonde" (1941) (CC)		Movie ((* "Of Human Hearts" (1938, Drama) Walter Huston, James Stewart. A dedicated preacher has difficulty relating to his son.				Movie ((("The Thrill of It All" (1963, Comedy) Doris Day, James Garner. A doctor sees red when his wife becomes a commercial star.				Movie ((* "The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!" (1966, Comedy) Carl Reiner, Alan Arkin, Eva Marie Saint.			
(HBO+)	46	(5:00) Movie ((("Geronimo: An American Legend" (1993)		Movie (("Doctor Dolittle" (1998) Eddie Murphy. A surgeon regains his ability to talk to animals.		Movie (("Nuns on the Run" (1990) Eric Idle. Two petty criminals hide out in a convent school.				Movie ((* "Stuart Saves His Family" (1995) Al Franken, Laura San Giacomo. (CC)		(:45) Movie ((("Bat 21" (1988, Drama) Gene Hackman, Danny Glover, Jerry Reed. (CC)			
(SHOW2)	47	(("Dead Man on Campus"	(:45) Movie (* "Campfire Tales" (1996) Jacinda Barrett, David Cooper. Stranded teen-agers pass the time with spooky stories. (CC)				(:20) Movie ((* "Everybody Wins" (1990, Mystery) Nick Nolte, Debra Winger, Will Patton. (CC)			Linc's "Dog Day Afternoon"	Movie ((("Prizzi's Honor" (1985, Comedy) Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner. A hit man for a crime family falls for a hired killer.			"Halloween H20"
(CNBC)	53	Market Wrap (CC)		Edge (CC)	Business Center (CC)		Upfront Tonight	Hardball		Rivera Live		News With Brian Williams (CC)		Hardball (R)	
(E!)	54	(5:00) True Hollywood Story "Natalie Wood"		Talk Soup (R)	News Daily	Fashion Emergency	Search Party	Talk Soup	Mysteries & Scandals	True Hollywood Story "James Stacy" (R)		Celebrity Profile (R)		Howard Stern	Howard Stern (R)
(KNOW)	55	Pulse	Living Right	On the Money	World Business	RxTV (CC)	Living Right	New Media News (CC)	Media Waves	On the Money	Follow-Dream	RxTV (CC)	Living Right	New Media News (CC)	Media Waves
(GOOD)	56	More Money		Cafe DuArt (R)	Leslie Uggams	Garrison's Gorillas "War Games" (CC)		Ozzie & Harriet	Room-Daddy	Love Boat		Bonanza: The Lost Episodes		Garrison's Gorillas "War Games" (CC)	
(FOOD)	57	Essence of Emeril (R)	East Meets West (R)	Ready-Cook!	Martha-Kitchen	Cooking Live		Emeril Live		Good Eats Rice pilaf.	Hot Off the Grill	Cooking Live Primetime		Emeril Live (R)	
(TRAVEL)	58	Curiosities-Wld	Simply Unbelievable	Adventure Bound "Africa-Lake Kariba" (R)		Adventure Bound "Outback to Winnininnie" (R)		Lonely Planet Costa Rica and Nicaragua. (R)		Adventure Central	Adventure Central	Amazing Destinations (R)		Lonely Planet Costa Rica and Nicaragua. (R)	

Names *in the* News



McGuire Sisters

McGuire Sisters want to return to their roots

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nearly half a century after they began their show business careers as teen-agers, the McGuire Sisters are contemplating a return to their roots in New York City.

"We'd like to put together something like a special concert in New York City, where it all began," Phyllis McGuire said Monday as she and sisters Dorothy and Christine prepared for a four-night engagement here.

"We'd like to do a concert, maybe in Carnegie Hall, to mark our 50 years in the business," she told The Associated Press.

The three got their show business break in 1952 with an appearance on the "Kate Smith Show." They quit performing as a trio at the height of their popularity in 1968 but returned to the stage as a threesome in 1985. Ms. McGuire said she and her sisters plan to cut back on their performances and concentrate more on recording.

French movie legend honored next month

BERLIN (AP) — French movie legend Jeanne Moreau will be honored with a Golden Bear for her life's work at next month's Berlin film festival.

Moreau, 71, began her film career in 1949 and worked with some leading directors, including Francois Truffaut in "Jules et Jim" and Orson Welles in "Chimes at Midnight." She continued to act in films through the 1990s while branching out to direct movies and even music videos.

The 50th annual Berlin festival, which runs Feb. 9-20, will show a retrospective of her work, including the 1966 Tony Richardson adaptation of Jean Genet's "Mademoiselle."

Director has fear of failure in work

NEW YORK (AP) — "The Green Mile" director Frank Darabont has one huge fear.

"I have a deep, abiding fear of turning out something crappy," he said in this month's Premiere magazine.

"Well, if you listen to some critics, I already have."

Darabont's "Shawshank Redemption" received seven Oscar nominations but was a box office failure.

CommunityCalendar

JAN. 5

COMRADES OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR, CYRIL E. KING POST NO. 10674 and veterans on St. Croix are invited to join in welcoming Commander Al Lance at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the Legion Hall.

1ST HARBOUR NIGHT FOR THE YEAR 2000 will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight on Wednesday, Jan. 5, in downtown Frederiksted. Entertainment, food, arts and crafts will be showcased for the cruise ship Carnival Destiny. All interested vendors please call 772-1624. There will be no parking allowed on Strand Street from Lagoon Street to King Cross Street. All vehicles in violation will be towed.

CHS CLASS OF 1994 will be having a special meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 5, from 8 to 9 p.m. sharp, at the Frederiksted Pier. Don't miss the first meeting of the Century.

ST. CROIX HIKING ASSOCIATION — Our monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 5, at UVI Research and Extension Center, room 133, at 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER offers women in the VI long-term business training, counseling, mentoring and networking possibilities. This four session training course will teach the basic accounting on "How to Keep Your Records." It explains the importance of keeping records, the tax issue, gross receipts, Social Security, special benefits, use of computer programs and the importance of documentation. Session dates are Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Gertrude's Restaurant, #114 Castle Coakley. Call 773-4995.

JAN. 6

VIRGIN ISLANDS-PUERTO RICO FRIENDSHIP CIVIC COMMITTEE AND THE CRUZAN CHRISTMAS FIESTA COMMITTEE invite the public to meet the Three Kings at 4 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Frederiksted Village. There will be candies, gifts and a chance to win a variety of prizes for the kids and for the adults direct from Puerto Rico the "Brassa Ardiente" and our own "Mo Tempo," Liquid Sound and DJ Brache.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S MEETING — Come and share your work and ideas, at 6 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 6, at Breezes Club St. Croix. For information, call 773-5412.

JAN. 7

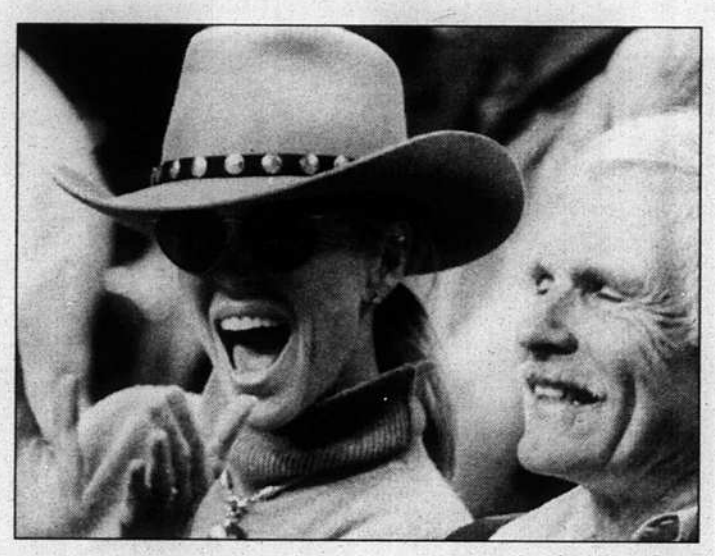
ANNUAL CHILDREN RACE will be held at 11 a.m., on Friday, Jan. 7, (at start of parade.) The race will start at the corner of Fisher and King Streets in Frederiksted and finish at Fort Fredrik. The race is open to all boys and girls 13-years-old and under. Awards will be given to the top finishers and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

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

JAN. 8

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

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



Associated Press

Ted Turner, Jane Fonda split

ATLANTA (AP) — Actress Jane Fonda and media magnate Ted Turner said on Tuesday that they are separating.

"While we continue to be committed to the long-term success of our marriage, we find ourselves at a juncture where we must each take some personal time for ourselves," they said in a statement. "Therefore, we have mutually decided to spend some time apart. We ask that you respect this decision."

Spokesmen for Miss Fonda, 62, and Turner, who live in an apartment atop CNN Center but have other residences as well, had no other comment.

The couple celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary Dec. 21.

Obituaries

CYPRIAN AUGUSTIN SIMMONDS, aka "Cype," age 50, of Sunny Isle Housing Community, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 23, 1999, at Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital.

He is survived by his mother: Alvira V. Sackey Huggins; sisters: Evangelist Harriet Jarvis, Thomas and Catherine R. Jarvis; nieces: Alvera Thomas (NY) and Juliet Roach (NY); great-nephew: Kirt Gordon Jr.; aunts: Maria Sackey Bailey, Emelda Sackey Allick and Ina Sackey Williams; uncles: Alphonso Sackey, Louis Sackey, Alfredo Jackson, Ernest Meyers Sr. and Leslie Meyers Sr.; brother-in-law: Dr. Floyd Thomas; other relatives to include: Emile Edwards, the Edwards family, the Meyers family, the Allen family, the Sackey family and the Milligin family; care taker: Sandra Springer; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at St. Ann's Catholic Church, at 11 a.m., with the viewing beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will take place at Kingshill Cemetery.

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

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EVELYN VIOLA HANSEN, age 71, of Jolly Hill Little LaGrange, passed away Sunday, Dec. 26, 1999, in St. Croix.

Mrs. Hansen is survived by her son: Keith I. Revan (Thakeba) of North Carolina; daughters: Diane L. Hansen and Claudette J. Andrews; in-laws: Annette Revan, NC, Tony Navarro and Pastor Maurice Andrews; grandchildren: Kizzy Revan of NY, Deja Hamilton, DeNiqua Carr, DeNesha Navarro, Omari, Asha and Saada Revan (NC), Johann, Michael and Curt Andrews; relatives: Angeline Revan (St. Kitts), Susan, Floyd, Shawn and Dean Revan (St. Kitts), Jeanette Woodley (St. Kitts), Angela Burke-Frederiks and Rosie McCreary; special friends: Blanche Mills (St. Thomas), Shirley Morris, Cynthia Otto, Francis Bird, Sylvia McKenzie, Iris Douglas, Anthony and Jacintha Grant and family, Annette Sonson and family, Derval and Sylvanie Prince and family, Mary Maccow, Luis and Aurelia Richards, Jennifer Mathurin, Julia Carter and family, Bianca Brannigan, Velma Whitaker, Ermine Buchannan and family (St. Kitts) and Sylvia Mills and family (St. Kitts); and many other relatives and close friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 5, at faith Seventh Day Adventist Church, in Frederiksted, with Pastor Oriel Fleming officiating. Viewing will be at noon, with the service following at 1 p.m. The interment will be in Frederiksted Cemetery.

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

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CECIL O. MOTTA, "Cil," "Lito," "Valdez," "Indio," age 48, of 14 G Little Hospital Street, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1999, at Deaton Hospital in Maryland.

He is survived by his mother: Claire G. Canegata Motta; father: Lawrence E. Motta Sr.; daughter: Samanthe Motta; sons: Cecil Jr., Davis L., Allan and Wesley Motta; granddaughter: Tianna Motta; sisters: Marion and Monique Motta and Myrta M. Boyd; brothers: Lawrence E., David, Andre, Robert, Kenneth and Richard Motta; aunts: Eirene C. McDonald, Melba C. Biggs, Dorothy A. Armstrong and Isabel L. Barbel; uncles: James C. Canegata, H. Lloyd Canegata, David C. Canegata Jr., Raymond La Motta and Reuben La Motta; sister-in-law: Renee Dowling Motta; brother-in-law: Steven Boyd; other relatives and friends too numerous to mention to include Public Works Utilities Division.

Funeral services will take place at noon, on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at St. John's Anglican Church, in Christiansted, with the viewing beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will take place in Christiansted Cemetery.

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

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ULRIC F. BENJAMIN, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1999.

He is survived by his wife: Ianthe Blyden Benjamin; sons: Ulric F. Benjamin Jr., and Ronald Benjamin; daughters: Joyce Encarnacion (CN) and Alda Benjamin; brothers: Headsill Benjamin Sr. (STX), Marvin Benjamin Sr. (STX); sisters: Merle Webster (NY), Nadine Ryan (NY), Doris Miller (STX), Leatrice Benjamin (STX), Marilyn Peterson (STX) and Sharon Dennis (STX); 11grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The viewing will start at 8 a.m., at Creque's Funeral Home. Interment will be in Western Cemetry.

Funeral arrangements are by Creque Funeral Home.

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

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

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

Funeral arrangements are by Creque Funeral Home.

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ALEIJO PARRILLA ACOSTA, age 67, of Williams Delight, passed away in his home on Thursday, Dec. 30, 1999.

Alejito is survived by his wife: Tiodosa Parrilla; sons: Angel Luis and Osvaldo Parrilla; daughters: Luz E. Rodriguez, Luz O. Parrilla and Maria V. Parrilla; sisters: Bernalda Marero, Marina Hernandez, Euginia Parrilla and Gladys Barbosa; sons-in-law: Juan Rodriguez and Ricardo Ayala; daughter-in-law: Dalila Parrilla; brothers-in-law: German Hernandez, Carlos Marero and mariano Barbosa; grandchildren: Yahaira, Osdaly and Ashley Ayala, Denise, Lily, Daisy, Glendaly, Brendaly, Carmencita and Ashley Diaz, Johnny and Ismael; mother-in-law: Sixta Cepeda; and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services will be held at noon, on Thursday, Jan. 6, at Iglesia Alpha y Omega in Strawberry Hill, with Pastor Pedro Figueroa officiating. Viewing will be at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Kinghill Cemetery. Professional funeral arrangements are by Thomas/Hyll Memorial Funeral Chapel of St. Croix.

WeatherOutlook



U.S. Temps

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Atlantic City	67	53	cdy
Boston	64	41	rn
Chicago	38	26	sno
Denver	29	8	clr
El Paso	47	28	clr
Fort Wayne	40	35	sno
Green Bay	30	23	sno
Houston	76	44	clr
Indianapolis	53	34	cdy
Jackson,Miss.	74	48	cdy
Jacksonville	79	56	cdy
Juneau	26	23	sno
Kansas City	34	17	cdy
Los Angeles	67	44	clr
Miami Beach	80	71	cdy
New YorkCity	63	45	rn
Orlando	81	58	cdy
Philadelphia	63	55	rn
Pittsburgh	60	53	rn
Richmond	74	60	rn
Seattle	44	43	rn
Tallahassee	76	57	rn
Washington,D.C.	68	55	rn

World Temps

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Amsterdam	51	39	rn
Barbados	84	72	cdy
Bermuda	73	63	clr
Caracas	75	62	cdy
Dhahran	76	48	clr
Frankfurt	42	37	cdy
Geneva	43	28	clr
Havana	85	64	cdy
Istanbul	41	34	cdy
Jerusalem	60	46	rn
Kiev	31	22	cdy
London	53	40	rn
Montreal	37	21	sn
Nassau	81	67	cdy
New Delhi	67	42	cdy
Osaka	56	39	clr
Paris	46	41	cdy
Rio	81	73	rn
Rome	57	28	clr
San Juan	82	72	rn
Sydney	88	66	cdy
Toronto	43	28	cdy

VI Forecast

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

WEDNESDAY — VARIABLE CLOUDINESS AND BREEZY. A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SHOWERS. CHANCE FOR THUNDERSTORMS. HIGH FROM NEAR 80 TO 85. WIND EAST 20 TO 25 MPH. HIGHER GUSTS IN SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT — VARIABLE CLOUDINESS AND WINDY. A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SHOWERS. LOW NEAR 70 TO 75.

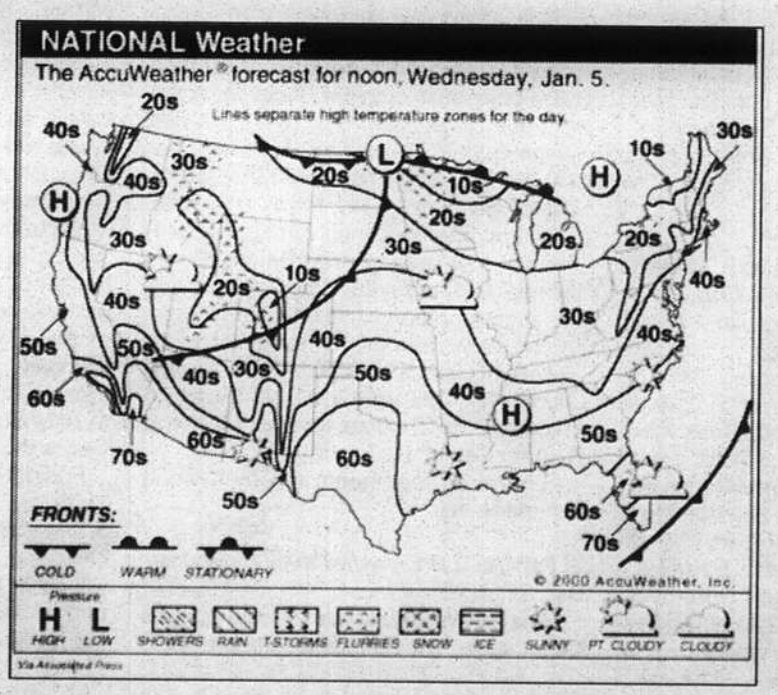
THURSDAY — VARIABLE CLOUDINESS AND WINDY. A 60 PERCENT CHANCE OF SHOWERS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS. HIGH FROM NEAR 80 TO 85.

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

SYNOPSIS — SURFACE HIGH PRESSURE OVER THE ATLANTIC WILL MAINTAIN FRESH TO STRONG EAST TO NORTH EAST TRADE WIND FLOW OVER REGION THROUGH WEDNESDAY NIGHT. A SURFACE AND MID LEVEL TROUGH ACROSS THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE WEST TONIGHT THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

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

THU THROUGH SAT — WIND EAST TO NORTH EAST 20 TO 25 KTS. WITH HIGHER GUSTS. SEAS 8 TO 10 FT. IN EAST SWELLS. LOW LEVEL TROUGH WILL MOVE ACROSS LOCAL AREA PRODUCING AN INCREASE IN WINDS AND SHOWERS THROUGH SATURDAY.



Crossword by Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 St. boss
4 "You've Got —"
8 Osculation instruments
12 Old card game
13 "Do — others ..."
14 "An apple — ..."
15 Terrorism weapon
16 Overwhelming
18 Gold, silver, or bronze
20 Youngster
21 Oxidation outcome
24 Gold, silver, or bronze
28 Ring stat
32 Got up
33 Exaggerative thespian
34 Aegean gulf
36 Actress Carrere
37 Lemony drinks
39 Cheap copy
41 Drescher portrayal
43 — gin fizz
44 Lummox
46 Hypnotized
50 Topple
55 Chop
56 Sioux City's state
57 Irritate
58 Wire measure
59 Waste allowance
60 Pinochle ploy
61 Pigs' digs

DOWN
1 Despondent
2 Leak slowly
3 Empty
4 Arctic footwear
5 Abby's sis
6 "Who am — judge?"
7 Tress
8 Means of ascent
9 Altar affirmative
10 Manhandle
11 Wd. from Roget
17 Kipling lad
19 Lob's path
22 Drench
23 Goes around
25 Emerald City visitor
26 "— I didn't know!"
27 Fall faller
28 Montalban's "Star Trek" role
29 Zilch, in Xochimilco
30 Portent
31 Implement
35 Used Brillo
38 Winter vehicle
40 Barbie's beau
42 Run up the phone bill
45 Shape
47 TVA creations
48 Labyrinth goal
49 Hinge (on)
50 Set of parts
51 Negative conjunction
52 Use plastic
53 Compete
54 Right angle

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-5

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57					58		
59				■	60				■	61		

Cryptoquip

XVN AONCXJNO LC NBNO CW NBSCLBN SMWTX VLC DJSQC, SQI L'G TQSMJN XW DLQ VLG IWAQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BET THAT DISHONEST SOCCER COACH GETS FIRED FOR TAKING KICKBACKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals N

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

Real Estate for Sale

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

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

Carambola Crest. Absolutely the most spectacular building site on St. Croix. 360 degree views. Underground utilities. Road access two sides. All the advantages of Carambola living. Two acres. $550,000. Call Patrice Kelly, Hamilton Real Estate, **773-3300** or home **773-1817.**

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

Mill Point: Seven acre historic plantation Estate on Northwest Coast. Great room. Six bedrooms. Designed around Sugar Mill. Large pool, Ruins. Tennis court. Spectacular view $1,800,000. Call Patrice Kelly, Hamilton Real Estate, 773-3300 or home 773-1817.

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

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

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.

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

Real Deals. Salt River Hillside 1/2 acre gentle slope with spectacular views of Christiansted and Buck Island only $28,900. Vista Concordia high views site in prestigious area .63 only $49,000. Mid -Island 3br 2ba home in shaded walled property-convenient location, Owner financing. $165,000.00. Below appraised value. Call for details. Cotton Valley 4br 3 bath pool, 3,000 sq ft with rental apt. Walk to beach. A great buy at $249,000.00. Mountain Top 2.1 acres flat great views $65,000.00 Call now Select Properties, Sion Hill. **773-1814//778-1944.**

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

House for Sale

Just reduced from $60,000 to $54,000. 2 bdrms, 1 bath house, located on 1/ 4 acre at Calquohoun. Has large patio and porch, hurricane shelter and storage rm. For more info. call Schuster's R/E at **778-4648**.

Price Reduced: Steel of a deal. 3 bdrm 2 bath solid masonry home w/income units to pay the mortgage on large expansive lovely landscaped property fruit trees (extra room) in Queens Quarter. $185,000. Make an offer. Call **778-5084** or **773-0295 ext 162.**

Comm. Real Estate

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

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

For Rent

2 bedroom apt. in Mon Bijou. Refrigerator and stove. $475. + security. Call **778-2858.**

Spacious 2 Bedroom, Unfurnished **Apt.**, freshly painted one block from F'sted Post Office $300.00 per month plus security cable and telephone ready. Also 1 bedroom $250.00 per month.Unfurnished. Call anytime **773-6290 or 713-9347.**

2br. 2 ba. Schooner Bay Condo exquisitely furnished. Great view, a/c bedrooms, washer an dryer available for short - term rental. Call Emma Sun, Sun Realty, **773-8790**, #2 Hospital St. C'sted.

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

New 2 bedroom apt. in Mary's Fancy. Partially furnished. Refrigerator and stove. Nice area. Call **778-2858**.

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

Bay Garden Condo: Located on second floor $450.00 per month plus utilities - security deposit required. Call **773-5574** leave message.

Beautiful two bedroom apt. Located in little Princess. Quiet neighborhood, with security, light and well protected from hurricanes. Spacious but unfurnished. No Pets! For further info. call **773-6845.**

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

Clean, spacious and nice, **one bedroom apt**. Three minutes from Sunny Isles. Fridge, stove and ceiling fans. Quiet neighborhood at $400.00 per month. One month deposit required. Call at **778-6243** or **690-8460.**

1 br. furnished apt. close to town, secure, perfect for 1 person . Very nice + breezy. $395. mo. + security, dep. Call **773-6889**.

Cormorant Cove Condominiums: Fully Furnished 2 and 3 Bedroom units available in quiet area, landscaped grounds, swimming pool and sandy beach. Long or Short term rental available. **340-778-0082.**

For Rent: High above Grapetree Bay at Noah's Ark, cozy, furnished, 1 bedroom apartment available now, full kitchen, bath, king bed, free new bible, plus loving outside dogs, magnificent sunrise/ view/ breezes. Call Brother Howard **773-8190**. Rent will be easy for righteous people. Phone works when it wants to, please keep calling.

Hillside Properties - 11 Montpellier : 2-br, 2- baths, large screened porch, mini Estate 3 1/2 acres, fully furnished, centrally located, smashing view, pool - $2000. Best references required. Broker interest. Pool & yard work included in rent. Call 778-6496, 778-9444.

Judith Fancy: One bedroom, furnished, large guest house with attached well in secure area. $950.00 per month plus security deposit. Phone **340-773-7485** after 1:00 p.m.

Large studio apartment - clean + airy - water + electric included. Ideal for single working person- Carlton. Call **772-3359** - deposit + references.

Little Princesse Hill: Large 1-br. apartment with smashing view of Christiansted, - $550.00 Included electric. Peter's Farm Condo: Efficiency unit, unfurnished, small balcony, walk to town - $315. William's Delight: Brand new unit in quiet area - 2br, 1 bath, breezy, secure, sea view, upstairs unit $525. available 1/ 1. Also a 2-br. 1 bath house with 2 extra rooms, laundry room $500. Both fenced, off street parking. Hillside Properties - 11 Montpellier. Call **778-9444**.



WEST END APTS

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

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

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

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

One bedroom: Furnished apt. for rent in Estate St. George $450.00. Water and light included. Deposit required. No pets. Call **772-5260** after 6: 00 p.m. or leave message.

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

House for Rent

4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, study/den, spacious living, dinning , kitchen, two-car garage, abundant storage spaces, patios, equipped with storm panels, unfurnished (with refrig. stove, dishwasher, 1 bedroom set), in secure neighborhood with dramatic view at 203 Mary's Fancy. $1500. monthly. Tel. **775-5556**.

House for rent at Estate Calquohoun on Sem-Hill. $350.00 per month. Call **778-9180 or 778-0180**

For Sale

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

A 1991 4 door **Suzuki Sidekick** good condition. A 4 seater round dining table, real wood. Call **778-1711** after 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Brand new big **Garden Umbrella** for sale, 1/2 price. Call **713–9391.**

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

PC for sale, 2 hard drives, modem, fax, windows 95, extras. HP 520 printer. $500 O.B.O. Call **713-9880**.

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

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

Pets & Livestock

Italian Mastif female puppy. Family protection available now. Call **773-1814**.

Boats for Sale

27' Baha Cruiser 270 express XLE twin Volvo gasoline 205 hp. IB engines. Outdrives just rebuilt new starters. Large cabin. Great for trips to B.V.I.'s . One engine needs work. Asking $11,000 O.B.O **713-8509**-leave message.

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* WAVE SKIS *
* WATER WEAR *
* PADDLES *
* ACCESSORIES *

DEMO SALE NOW
Virgin Kayak Co.
(340)778-0071
Click: www.stcroixlink.com/virginkayak/

Autos for Sale

1985 Buick Skyhawk Wagon 5 door. Auto AM/FM radio light blue. Very clean 2 new tires, new battery, runs well $2600. Call **773-9145**.

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

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

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

1995 Ford Ranger XLT excellent condition, AC,AM/FM, cassette standard, asking $8000. O.B.O. Call **713-8223**.

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

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

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

Antilles automotive
778-0600

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

Classified Ads / Call 773-2300

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

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

1972 Ford 250 360 engine. Great running, new bed, clutch, pressure plate. Throw out bearing, new 16.5 tires, mud need cab. $1,000.00 O.B.O. Call **513-0859**

Bus. Opportunity

Interested in becoming a travel agent? The Virgin Islands Travel Institute will begin classes on January 18, 2000. Interviews and registration begin on January 3 through January 18, 2000. Call **773-1530** for an appointment and tuition information now.

Business Services

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

KOKOMO'S
Glass & Shutters
Hurricane Shutters
Windows & Doors
Custom Mirrors
Glass and Screens for all purposes.
773-6100
We accept AMX, VISA

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

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

St.Croix Web Design. Putting, your Ideas on the web. Reasonable. Starting at $150. Call 773-2006 or Vist **www.stxwebdesign.com.**

Balloons Make Everything Better!

Great For Office Birthdays!



Balloon Bouquets
- Birthday
- Get Well
- Baby & Bridal Showers
- Good Luck
- I Love You and more!

2 Mylar 5 latex & decorative weight from **$10.99**

Longer Lasting! 3 Mylar 5 big 16" latex balloons, and decorative weight from **$16.50**

HUGE & DELIVERED! Custom made jumbo bouquet delivered to business! from **$29.99**

Party Piñatas
Tiger, Lion, Dinosaur, Donkey, & more, plus pull piñatas

CREATE A Party

at Reliable Rentals Hess Road
778-5738 A SPECIALTY DIVISION OF RELIABLE RENTALS

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

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

Gotta love em' pet sitters. Read what some satisfied customers are saying: "Sylvia & I find gleps is reliable & trustworthy." (M. Simpson, Southerland Tours) "It was very obvious our cat had been well cared for." (Terri Thomas, U.S. Airways).

Help Wanted

Bartender: A friendly, outgoing person, with good bartending skills is needed. Must be available for day an d evening shifts including weekends. Hotel experience preferred. A current food handler's card is required. Please apply at **The Buccaneer Hotel Personnel Office** between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. weekdays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$800 Weekly Potential Processing Government Refunds at Home! No experience necessary. **1-800-696-4779 Ext. 1951**

Accountant needed for busy, high volume law firm. Highly knowledgeable and qualified in the field of accounting, with 5 or more years of experience. Knowledge of Quick Books accounting software necessary. Must be able to do client settlements, disbursements of client funds and financial statements. Knowledge of legal procedures a plus. Send cover letter and Resume to: Accountant 1101 King Street, Suite 2 , Christiansted, St. Croix, V.I. 00820-4933. Only the experienced need apply.

Wanted: Driver, Auto related contract writer, Auto-related work. References needed. Apply at Olympic Rent-A-Car next to Richmond Post Office.

Bookkeeper / Accountant Wanted Immediately
Must be Very experienced. Not for the faint-hearted! Must be able to work in high-key, fast paced environment; must communicate well with people; must be literate in Peachtree, Quick Books, Lotus 123 and Microsoft Excel. Must be able to complete all phases of accounting, from data entry to month end closing entries for multiple companies. *Knowledge of inventory systems in the food service industry is a definite plus.*
Fax resume & references to 778-8809

Alarm Company seeking experienced technicians to install alarm, tire and telephones systems. Excellent pay for the right person. Must have own transportation. Call **773-7171** for appointment.

Chemist/ Lab Technician: Independent inspection company looking for an experienced Chemist or Lab Technician, who is responsible and can work independently. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule. Experience in a petroleum laboratory desired. Bachelors degree in Chemistry or related science preferred, but not required. Position includes benefits and salary commensurate with experience . Please send your resume and cover letter to "Chemist" P.O. Box 1528 Kingshill, St. Croix 00851 or Fax 778-5589.

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

Cocktail Server: Positions are available for friendly, outgoing persons, with experience serving cocktails. Hotel experience preferred. A current food handler's card is required. Please apply at **The Buccaneer Hotel Personnel Office** between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. weekdays.

Established Tutoring Service in La Grande Princesse is looking for a part-time tutor. Candidate must have a college degree and some teaching experience. Good pay and flexible hours. Please call **(340)-773–7909** and leave a message.

Experienced Sales Person for Metaphysical International Group Tour Co. with office in Frederiksted. Full time. Must be a good closer. Fax resume to **772-1392.**

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

Night Auditor: Part time and on call position available for 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. shift. Computer work experience and some basic bookkeeping knowledge an advantage training provided. Please apply at **The Buccaneer Hotel Personnel Office** between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. weekdays.

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

Reservation Agent: Pleasant telephone manner and excellent communication skills are required for this position. Accuracy and attention to detail is essential. Good computer training and work experience, as well as competent secretarial skills are needed. This position requires a 40 hour work week including some weekends. Please apply at The Buccaneer Hotel Personnel Office between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. weekdays.

Retail Jewelry Sales Part-time: Would you like to work 2 or 3 days a week selling fine jewelry? Competitive wage plus commission . Retail experience necessary. Send letter to Jewelry Sales, P.O. Box 2753, C'sted, VI 00822.

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

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

Lost & Found

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

Miscellaneous

Calling all Cancerians!!! Come join Christine of Crawford's Travel Inc. Aboard Carnival Cruise Lines "Fascination". Sailing July 15, 2000 celebrate your birthday in style cruising the Southern Caribbean. For rates and bookings call Crawford's Travel Inc. **773-1530**. Deposit of only $35.00 to hold your cabin.

Food & Entertainment

Sunterra Carambola Beach Resort. Benefit Women's Coalition- 773-9272 - 6 pm - Preview 8 pm -Auction. $60 per person * Evening attire. Live music * Cash Bar * Raffle Prizes. Chairs & Tables painted by Local Artists. Sponsored by: The Prosser /ICC Foundation.

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

VILLA
MADELEINE
Open 7 nights 6-9:30
778-7377
Fine Dining, Sensational Setting
- Bill Bass & Mocko Jumbies Thursdays
- On the Terrace: Ben Miele Fridays, Tony Richards Saturdays
- Late Night Martini Bar with John Melnick Wednesday & Friday; Roy Davis Saturday

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

The Deep End Bar

What a GREAT idea!
Fun, Food, & Friends

Happy hour daily 5-7pm
1/2 price domestic beer and wine.
Well drinks $1.50
Daily lunch and dinner

Tamarind Reef Hotel, East End Road
Next to Green Cay Marina

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

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY THEATRE
presents
PROPOSALS
A Dramatic Comedy by
NEIL SIMON
Jan 7,8,9,14,15&16, 2000
Showtime: 8:00PM
SIDNEY LEE THEATER
AT ISLAND CENTER
Tickets available at the door
$13. ea. • Book/6 $65. • Student $6.
Reservations requested; 773-7171

Messages

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
The object of a New Year is not that
we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and
a new nose, new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed
before, it is quite certain that he will
never exist afterward.
(G.K. Chesterton)

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

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

Hebrews 2:17
Wherefore in all things it beloved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Psychics\Astrology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES HOYT SMITH, PROBATE NO. 11/1999

Deceased

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a hearing on the First and Final Accounting of the Executrix and Proposed Distribution of the Estate of CHARLES HOYT SMITH, is set for the 28th day of February, 2000 at 2:00/p.m.

DONE AND SO ORDERED this 2 day of December, 1999

PATRICIA D. STEEL
Judge of the Territorial Court

ATTEST:
YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
Clerk for the Court

BY: Deputy Clerk

Dated: 12/3/99 **12/15,22,29/1999 1/,5/2000**

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARITA E. NAUGHTON PETERSEN, Deceased PROBATE NO. 87/1999

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that MELWOOD CIVIL has been issued LETTERS TESTAMENTARY in the above entitled Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, within six (6) months after the last date of the publication of this Notice. All persons indebted to the Estate are required to make payments promptly to the undersigned attorney. Persons claiming to be next of kin shall file their proof of heirship with the undersigned, or the Clerk of the Territorial Court, within the aforesaid time.

DATED this 17th day of December, 1999.

GREGORY E. MILLER
Attorney for the Estate
46-47 Company Street
P.O. Box 790
Christiansted, V.I. 00821

Tel: 773-3115
Fax: 773-3550

12/29, 1/5,12,19/2000



IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. CROIX: KINGSHILL CASUAL CONCEPTS AKA CARGO FURNITURE VS PATRICIA KIMBALL, GEORGE KIMBALL AND PATRICIA KIMBALL D/B/A REAL WOOD FURNITURE CIV. NO. 529/1999, ACTION FOR DEBT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: SUMMONS TO: PATRICIA KIMBALL, GEORGE KIMBALL AND PATRICIA KIMBALL D/B/A REAL WOOD FURNITURE .YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the above cause of action has been filed in the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, Justice Hall, Kingshill, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, and that you are required to appear within 30 days of receipt of this notice, or 30 days after publication, before this Court and file answer to the complaint in Action for Debt on contract or default will be duly entered. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hands and the seal of this Court this 17th day of December, 1999. Yvonne Wesselhoft, Clerk of the Court, by Judith M. Ward, Jud. Asst. II. (Law Offices of Eddy Rivera, Esquire, 38 King ST. (1168), ste. 2, Christiansted, ST. Croix, VI 00820, Telephone 773-5756.

12 / 29/1999 1 / 5,12, 19 / 2000

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

MILL HARBOUR CONDOMINIUM OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
vs.
ROGER B. MINKOFF
Defendant.

CIVIL NO. 483/99
ACTION FOR DEBT AND FORECLOSURE OF CONDOMINIUM LIEN

NOTICE OF TERRITORIAL COURT MARSHAL'S SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the provisions of 5 VIC § 471, et. seq., to satisfy the judgment entered on September 17, 1999, in the above-entitled action and the execution issued thereon, together with all accruing costs and expenses of sale, the Territorial Marshal shall sell at public auction to the highest bidder on February 18, 2000 at 10:00 AM at the Office of the Territorial Marshal, Territorial Court, Kingshill, St. Croix, the real property de-scribed as fallows:

Condominium Unit 222 of Mill Harbour Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium dated November 25, 1969 and filed for recording in the Office of the recorder on November 25, 1969 under receiving number 4609/69, as amended, together with a 1.096% undivided interest in the common areas and facilities declared to be appurtenant to the above described Condominium unit,together with all tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto pertaining. For informational purposes only and without any warranties or representations of any kind, the property includes a second floor condominium unit of approximately 1,144 square feet, containing six (6) rooms including a kitchen, living room, two (2) bedrooms, two (2) bathrooms and a gallery. This sale is made subject to real estate taxes and any liens and encumbrances which may be senior to the lien foreclosed by this judgment. Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price is to be paid in cash, certified or bank check at the time of sale and the balance to be paid within thirty days. The sale is further subject to the terms of sale to be read and posted at the time of sale and all of the applicable provisions of law, including Title 5, Chapter 43 of the Virgin Islands Code.

Dated:

Leayle Pickering
Territorial Marshal

Ellen G. Donovan
Attorney for Plaintiff
2116 (53-B) Company Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
(340) 773-0464

By: Sobers Joseph
Acting Assistant Marshal

12/22,29, 1999 1/5,12, 2000

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

NOTICE OF MARSHAL SALE

Public notice is hereby given that by virtue of a Writ of Execution issued out of the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, District of St. Croix, on a judgment rendered on the 10th day of November 1999, in favor of Merrill Ford and against AURA RODRIGUEZ CRUZ, Case No. Family DV 280/97

I will offer the following described personal property for sale to wit:

ONE (1) 1987 Chevy Cavalier Station Wagon Color: White, SN#JC8119H7207726

and that I will accordingly offer said items for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash on JANUARY 19, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. at the Territorial Court of the V.I., Plot No. 1 Kingshill, St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands.

Terms of sale to be announced at time and place of sale.

Date: December 29, 1999

LEAYLE PICKERING
MARSHAL OF THE TERRITORIAL COURT

BY: SOBERS JOSEPH
ACTING ASSISTANT MARSHAL

01 / 05 / 2000

ClassifiedAds / Call 773•2300

Free Love Analysis. Call (Magdelina) gifted spiritualist. World renown. Find love, money, happiness. Reveals future. Answers questions. Solves all problems. Guaranteed fast results. Never fails. **1-316-618-4177/1-877-619-4177.**

Notices

VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER AND POWER AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS OF INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is soliciting qualified Virgin Islands licensed insurance agents and brokers to submit proposals and quotations on the placement of its 2000 - 2001 insurance program.

Virgin Islands agents and brokers that are interested are invited to present their qualifications to the second floor of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Administration Building, St. Thomas, VI, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday January 20, 2000.

The following information is required from the responding agencies and brokerages:

- Organization name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers
- Type of organization
- Year organization established and licensed in the Virgin Islands
- Types of License(s) currently held
- Principals of the organization
- Names, experience and years with the organization of those directly responsible for the placement of this coverage
- Premium volume of direct business written the previous year
- Identify the major insurance carriers used by your organization and the carriers most likely to be approached in placing this insurance program
- Identify any brokerage or wholesale firms you may be associated with in placing this protection
- Identify three large (over $150,000 premium) Virgin Islands governmental or commercial risks placed by your organization
- List any support services your organization will be able to provide
- Other information pertinent to placing the insurance program of the Authority

SELECTION PROCESS

The respondents will be evaluated on the basis of their reply to all the required information. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority reserves the prerogative to select those firms that they consider to best fulfill the requirements of the Authority.

For further information contact:

Mr. Terry W. Drake,
Chief Financial Officer
Virgin Islands Water
and Power Authority
P.O. Box 1450, St. Thomas,
Virgin Islands 00804-1450
Phone (340) 774-3552

NOTICE OF DEFAULT

To: Stephen S. Gibbs
Christine E. Dekant

Please take Notice that you are in default under the terms of the Mortgage and Note given by you to The Business School Foundation on April 19, 1996, which Mortgage encumbers the following described real property located in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands:

Unit No. 115 of Sugar Beach Condominium
Estate Golden Rock, Company Quarter

which Mortgage and Note have been assigned to the Bank of America, N.A.

The nature of your default and the requirements to cure your default can be obtained from the undersigned. If you fail to cure your default by February 20, 2000, an action for debt and foreclosure will be commenced on the Mortgage and Note.

Dated: December 18, 1999

Gerald T. Groner, Esq.
52A Company Street
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820
Tel: (340) 773–3660

12/22,29/1999 1/5,12/2000

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND PROCUREMENT
SUB BASE, BUILDING NO. 1
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS 00801

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: January 3, 2000

Invitation to Bid No: IFB-26-DE-T-2000(SC)

Pursuant to Chapter 23, Title 31, of the Virgin Islands Code, sealed bids in quadruplicate for: Supply and Installation of one (1) 80KW DGDA Generator will be received by the Department of Property and Procurement, Division of Procurement (address)

Building #1
Third Floor Room 316,
Subbase
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

until 10:00 O'clock A.M. Atlantic Standard Time January 25, 2000 and then at said office publicly opened.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from this office.

Marc Biggs
Commissioner

01/05,10,18/2000

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

ALVILDA JAMES,
Plaintiff **FAM. NO. D-251 / 1999**

V.

ACTION FOR DIVORCE

WINSTON K. A. JAMES,
Defendant

SUMMONS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO: WINSTON K. A. JAMES
Address Unknown

WITHIN THE TIME limited by law, [thirty (30) days from the last date of publication], you are hereby required to appear before the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands at Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you, as de-manded in the complaint for DIVORCE.

You are required to file your answer, or other defense, with the Clerk of this Court, and serve a copy thereof upon Plaintiff within the time herein set forth above.

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of the Court this 14th day of December, 1999.

YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
Clerk of the Court

GREGORY E. MILLER
P.O. BOX 790
Christiansted, V.I.
00821-0790

By: Rolando Morales
Deputy

TEL: 773-3115
FAX: 773-3550

12 / 29 / 1999 1 / 5, 12, 19 / 2000

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
PROBATE NO. 60/1999
OF

OHENIO MEYERS,

Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, BEVERLY MEYERS has been named Executrix of the above-captioned Estate. All creditors are directed to present their claims with verified Affidavit within six (6) months from date hereof to the Executrix or the undersigned attorney. Persons indebted to the Estate are required to make payment within the said time. Persons claiming to be next of kin shall file their proof of heirship with the undersigned or the Clerk of the Territorial Court within the aforesaid time.

DATED this 12th day of May, 1999.

G. LUZ A. JAMES, ESQUIRE
Attorney for the Estate
P.O. Box 3279
Christiansted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00822

12/22,29/19991/5,12/2000

CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

CD-18-00

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 BAMFORD LUMBER EXPORT COMPANY, 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, BAMFORD LUMBER EXPORT COMPANY, 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 May 25, 1999.

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

GERARD LUZ JAMES II
Lieutenant Governor

12 / 22, 29 / 1999 1 / 5, 12 / 2000

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

Estate of DENIS WATLEY, **Probate #41/1988**
Deceased.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a hearing on the First and Final Accounting of the Administratrix and Proposed Distribution of the Estate of DENIS WATLEY, is set for March 27, 2000 at 2:00 p.m.

DONE AND SO ORDERED this 8th day of December, 1999.

HONORABLE PATRICIA D. STEEL
Territorial Court Judge

ATTEST:
YVONNE V. WESSELHOFT
CLERK OF THE COURT

12/15,22,29/1999, 1/5/2000

Raise Up a Child



United Way

The power of U

P.O. Box 6168, St. Thomas, VI 00804
340-774-3185

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

VIP YACHT CHARTERS, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent possible and regularly purchases the following type of goods and or services:

Appliances, boat parts and services, fuel, office equipment and supplies, printing and professional services.

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

SUNSHINE SHOPPING CENTER, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Janitorial supplies	**Building supplies**
Office supplies	**Landscaping services**

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF ST. JOHN, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and services:

Travel Services
Waste Oil Disposal Services
Purchase of Office Supplies
Purchase of Office Equipment

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

Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
St. Thomas, V.I. 00803-5038
or
Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 3499
Christiansted, St. Croix V.I. 00822

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

ST. CROIX DAIRY PRODUCTS, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases types of goods and or services:

Packaging Materials for Dairy Products	**Boiler Parts**
Nonfat Milk Solids	**Construction Materials & Supplies**
Butter	**Automobiles**
Sugar	**Automobile Parts & Supplies**
Flavors for Dairy Products	**Electrical Supplies**
FDA approved Sanitizing Chemicals	**Printing Services & Supplies**
Janitorial Supplies	**Trucking Services & Supplies**
Office Equipment and Supplies	**Automotive Repair Services**
General Hardware Supplies	**Refrigeration Repair Services**
Paints	**Exterminator Services & Supplies**
Gasoline & Oil	**Plumbing Services & Supplies**
Accounting Services	**Travel Services**
Testing Services	**Legal Services**

If you are an eligible Virgin Islands Supplier, and are not presently on St. Croix Dairy Products, Inc.'s list of Virgin Islands Suppliers, you are encouraged and invited to request being added to such list by writing:

St. Croix Dairy Products, Inc.
No. 4G Sion Farm
Christiansted, St. Croix, V.I. 00820

Applications for certification under Section 708-711 of the Rules and Regulations of the Industrial Development Program may be obtained by writing to:

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP, LP, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Computer Supplies
Office Supplies
Travel Related Services

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

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

1/5,10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

CHARLIE'S/DIAMOND READY MIX, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Portland Cement
Stone/Gravel
Coarse Sand
Cleaning Supplies
Office Supplies
Diesel/Gasoline
Truck Parts and Tires

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

MARRIOTT'S FRENCHMAN'S REEF BEACH RESORT, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Automotive Vehicles	**Restaurant Equipment & Supplies**
Motor & Machinery Supplies	**Guest Room Supplies**
A/C Refrigeration Supplies	**Stationery Supplies**
Cleaning Supplies	**Liquors and Beverages**
Carpet and Supplies	**Food Items**
Construction Materials	**Furniture**

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

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

1/5,9-10, 19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

EMERALD BEACH RESORT, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Maintenance Supplies	**Food and Beverage Items including Liquors**
Guest Room Supplies	**Cleaning and Pool Supplies**
Office Supplies	**Restaurant Supplies**
AC/Refrigeration Supplies	**Landscaping**
Paper Supplies	**Construction Materials**
Automobile Supplies	

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

Nation's banks have few Y2K problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — The banking system continued to operate largely free of Y2K glitches Tuesday, the new year's second business day, after a problem at a regional Federal Reserve bank was fixed.

No problems were reported with ATM machines and other banking operations, said Charlotte Birch, a spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association.

"Everything is very quiet," she said.

Armored trucks around the country, meanwhile, continued to carry back to the regional Fed banks some of the billions of extra dollars distributed to banks, thrifts and credit unions in case of Y2K panic.

Some banks have elected to keep the surplus currency for future use rather than return it, Fed spokesman David Skidmore said. He said the number of banks planning to do so was not immediately available.

The central bank's check-clearing and payments systems "have functioned very smoothly," Skidmore said. He noted one exception, which he described as a Y2K-related "minor glitch" in the electronic system by which banks transfer federal tax payments from businesses and individuals to the U.S. Treasury.

Skidmore said the glitch occurred Monday at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and involved about $700,000 in tax payments from customers of 60 financial institutions in the region, out of a total of some $15 billion processed nationwide that day. It was repaired by Tuesday, he said, adding that the only result is that the affected payments were being posted Tuesday, a day late.

The U.S. Federal Reserve distributed some $80 billion to banks, thrifts and credit unions during the fourth quarter of 1999, compared with $23 billion over the same period a year earlier. But some of the extra currency could have been requested for reasons unrelated to Y2K, such as bank customers' holiday shopping needs, Fed officials say.

Now that 2000 has arrived without a run on banks, the banks and other financial institutions on Monday started packing up the surplus currency and sending it back to regional Federal Reserve banks, as previously planned. The process is expected to take several weeks.

Banking industry officials say they're optimistic people won't experience problems withdrawing cash from automated teller machines.

Clinton takes credit, and cites Fed, for good times

WASHINGTON (AP) — In nearly every speech he gives, President Clinton notes, with some pride, that America is enjoying the "longest peacetime economic expansion in our history."

As he noted Tuesday, that rhetoric will likely change for the better very soon. If the national economic surge continues apace, Clinton can drop the "peacetime" qualifier next month.

"In February it will become the longest economic expansion ever," Clinton said as he announced the renomination of Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

The president credited "wise leadership from the Fed" for much of that success, and Greenspan agreed that the expansion should set a record next month.

The current economic expansion began in March 1991. This month, it should tie the previous record of 106 months of uninterrupted expansion set between February 1961 and December 1969, a period that included part of the Vietnam War. Next month, the current expansion would hold the new record of 107 months.

The official arbiter of expansions is the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private Cambridge, Mass., think tank that has been labeling America's economic cycles since the 1920s.

The bureau uses a number of statistics — industrial production, employment, business sales, the gross domestic product — to pinpoint the actual month that expansions begin and end. The research is conducted by more than 500 university professors around the country.

The month-by-month economic tally is a useful tool, but the mere fact of a record-setting expansion does not tell the whole story, said Washington economic forecaster and inflation-watcher Joel Popkin.

"The real question is where does the economy go from there, and part of that depends on how much the Federal Reserve decides to tighten the money supply and raise interest rates," Popkin said.

The Fed's next opportunity to change interest rates comes at a two-day session that opens Feb. 1.

Clinton is expected to make the current expansion a centerpiece of his State of the Union speech later this month. He will also continue to press the theme in less weighty addresses, including fund-raising talks to fellow Democrats. In those venues, Clinton usually pokes gentle fun at Republicans who doubted his economic policies would work.

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

GOLD COAST YACHTS, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Accounting Services	Safety Equipment
Travel Services	Abrasive
Fasteners	Tools & Machinery
Core Materials	Paints
Fiberglass Products	Lumber & Plywood

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

TROPEX INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Office Supplies
Air Conditioning Service
Industrial Supplies
Building Supplies
Freight Service
Automobile Repair and Service
Exterminating Service
Janitorial Supplies

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

TUTU PARK LIMITED, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Plumbing and Electrical Equipment
Landscaping and Gardening Supplies
Janitorial Supplies
Insurance Services
Advertising

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

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

1/5,9-10, 19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

UNITIME INDUSTRIES, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Cleaning Supplies	Air-conditioning Services
Bathroom Supplies	Exterminating Services
Office Supplies	Printing Services
Packing Supplies	Computer Services
Maintenance Supplies	Accounting Services
Travel Services	

and any other Professional Services needed

If you are a licensed Virgin Islands Supplier, and are not presently on UNITIME INDUSTRIES, INC.'s, list of Virgin Islands Suppliers, you are encouraged and invited to request being added to such list by writing:

UNITIME INDUSTRIES, INC.
P.O. Box 250, Christiansted, St. Croix,
U.S. Virgin Islands 00820

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

1/5,9-10, 19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

TRANSDUCER TECHNOLOGY, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Stainless Steel rods; tooling & fixtures; cleaning supplies; office & computer supplies; printing services; cutting oils & lubricants; non-flammable gases; pharmaceutical supplies; electrical supplies.

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

GLOBALVEST MANAGEMENT COMPANY, L.P., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable.

Globalvest Management Company, L.P. regularly purchases the following general types of goods and/or services:

Office Supplies and Furnishings	Janitorial Services
Computer Services and Equipment	Bottle Water
Airline Tickets	Printing Services

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

L.S. WHOLESALE, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods or services:

• Cleaning Supplies	• Printed Materials
• Office Supplies/Furniture	• Air Conditioning Services
• Electrical Services	• Sanitation Services
• Pest Control Services	• Travel Services
• Plastic Bags	• Packing Materials
• Foodstuffs/Beverages	• Copy/Fax Machines
• Accounting/Legal Services	• Computer Equipment Supplies

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

VIRGIN ISLANDS RUM INDUSTRIES, LTD., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Automobile Supplies
Boiler Supplies and Equipment
Bottling & Barreling Supplies and Equipment
Building Supplies
Chemical Supplies
Distilling Supplies and Equipment
Electrical Supplies and Services
Fuel & Lubricants
General Maintenance
Janitorial Services & Supplies
Office Supplies
Promotional Items
Trucking Services
Accounting Services
Travel Services

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

B & B MANUFACTURING, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Trucking	Stevedoring
Trash Removal	Gas Purchases
Equipment Rental	Advertising

B & B Manufacturing is physically located at #9 Estate Diamond, Kingshill, St. Croix. Please contact Patrick Bayard at 776-2988. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 304520, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803-4520.
If you are an eligible Virgin Islands Supplier as defined in the IDC's Rules and Regulations but are not on the Industrial Development Commission's list of Eligible Suppliers, you are encouraged to request being added to the list by having your business certified by the Director of the IDC. Applications for certification may be obtained by writing to:

Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
St. Thomas, V.I. 00803
or
Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 3499, Christiansted
St. Croix, V.I. 008^^2

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

GRAPETREE SHORES, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Hotel and Restaurant Supplies and Related Servies, including:
Construction Supplies and Services
Office Supplies
Food Products
Building Maintenance Supplies and Services
Guest Entertainment Supplies and Services
Casino Gaming Supplies and Services
Professional Services

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

DOWSON HOLDING COMPANY,d/b/a CARIB BEACH HOTEL, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Maintenance Supplies	Food and Beverage items including Liquors
Guest Room Supplies	Cleaning and Pool Supplies
Office Supplies	Restaurant Supplies
AC/Refrigeration Supplies	Landscaping
Paper Supplies	Construction Materials
Automobile Supplies	

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

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

1/5,9-10.19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

SUPERIOR BLOCK, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Crushed Stone
Sand
Bulk Cement
Industrial Supplies
Tires
Fuel, Lubricants
Office Supplies

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

ATLANTIS INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Office Supplies	Computer Supplies
Marine Supplies	Electrical Supplies
Fuel-Diesel & Gasoline	Accounting Services
Travel Services	Other Professional Services

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

THE RITZ-CARLTON ST. THOMAS, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Hotel & Restaurant and Supplies
Cleaning Equipment and Supplies
Stationery
Printing Services
Office Supplies
Paper Products
Accounting Servivces

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

ST. CROIX ALUMINA, LLC, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable.

St. Croix Alumina, LLC regularly purchases the following general types of goods and/or services:

Pipe Valves and Fittings Instrumentation	Mobile Equipment and Parts
Conveyor and Power Transmissions	Electrical
Janitorial Supplies	Hardware
Bearings	Office Supplies & Furniture
Welding	Printed Forms
Paints	Gaskets & Packing
Pumps and Parts	Chemicals
Oils & Lubricants	Computer Supplies

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

Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission (IDC)
P.O. Box 3499, Christiansted
St. Croix, V.I. 00820

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

PARADISE BOTTLING COMPANY, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable. PARADISE BOTTLING COMPANY, INC., regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Cane Sugar	Janitorial Supplies
Bottle Closures	Labels, Bottles
Bottles, Plastic	Office Supplies and Equipment
Bottling Equipment	Oil, Lubricating
Electrical Supplies	Paper Products
Flavoring	Plumbing Supplies
Fuel, Diesel	Stainless Steel Tanks
Fuel, Gasoline	Trash Collection
Gases, Bottles	Truck Tires and Parts
Hardware Supplies	

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

Lung-cancer incidence in women may be genetic

WASHINGTON (AP) — A gene that is more active in women than in men may explain why women smokers are more than twice as likely to develop lung cancer as men smokers, researchers say.

Researchers studying the genetic structure of lung tissue cells removed from both men and women found that a gene linked to abnormal growth of lung cells is much more active in women.

"Women are more likely to develop lung cancer after less smoking exposure than are men," said Sharon P. Shriver, a Pennsylvania State University biologist. "Also a nonsmoker who develops lung cancer is three times more likely to be female than male. Our study may provide an explanation for this."

The study showed that the action of a specific gene increased lung cancer risk in both women and men smokers, but the risk was 12 times higher for women smokers with the active gene and only 2.4 times higher for men smokers who had the active gene, said Shriver.

Shriver is first author of the study appearing Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Many studies have shown that both smoking and nonsmoking women are at much higher risk of developing lung counterparts, and some studies have found the risks up to 2.3 times higher for women, she said.

The genetic study suggests a biological reason for this difference, Shriver said.

Dr. Curtis C. Harris of the National Cancer Institute said the study "adds evidence that women are more sensitive to tobacco-induced lung cancer." It supports the conclusion of an earlier NCI study by Harris and others that a genetic difference in the lungs of women may contribute to the greater lung cancer risk among women, he said.

In the new study, researchers did a genetic study of lung specimens taken from 38 women and 40 men, both smokers and nonsmokers. Fifty-eight were lung cancer patients. The rest were undergoing lung surgery for other reasons.

The researchers tested the lung tissue for activity by a gene called gastrin-releasing peptide receptor, or GRPR. The gene prompts cells to link up with the GRP hormone. This linkage, in turn, causes abnormal cell growth that can lead to lung cancer.

The GRPR gene was found to be active in 55 percent of the nonsmoking women and about 75 percent of smoking women.

Most costly tornado in history hit US last year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of tornadoes was down from 1998 to 1999, but the most expensive twister in U.S. history struck last year.

In a year-end report, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said there were six major tornado outbreaks during 1999, with some of them hitting at unusual times of the year — during the normally cold months of January and December.

Overall, there were 1,225 twisters reported in 1999, down from 1,424 a year earlier, which was the record year for tornadoes in this country. The 1999 total ranked fourth.

A 78-tornado outbreak over 21 hours on May 3-4 in Oklahoma and Kansas included the most costly single tornado in U.S. history, NOAA reported.

The agency said an F-5 tornado, the strongest on the Fujita Tornado Scale, moved along a 38-mile path, from Chickasha through south Oklahoma City and the suburbs of Bridge Creek, Newcastle, Moore, Midwest City and Del City. With 8,000 buildings damaged, the Oklahoma City tornado caused about a billion dollars in damage. In all, that tornado outbreak killed 46 people, injured 800 and caused $1.5 billion in damage.

The National Weather Service noted that there was an average warning lead time of 18 minutes for the tornadoes — better than the national 11-minute average — with some areas receiving more than 30 minutes notice before being hit.

The Oklahoma and Kansas outbreak contributed to May's monthly total of 325, the highest for the year. June followed with a total of 275 tornadoes and January had the third highest total with 216. That topped the previous January record of 50 set in 1977.

"The number of tornadoes the U.S. experienced in January is extraordinary when compared with the 50-year monthly average of 20 tornadoes," said Dan McCarthy, warning coordination meteorologist of the Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

"The tornadoes occurred because of an unusually warm January weather pattern that brought moist air from the Gulf of Mexico at low levels in the atmosphere northward, which combined with strong upper level westerly flow. This tornado-producing combination is common in March or April, but not in January," he said.

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Maintenance and Janitorial Supplies	Pool Services
Office Supplies	Paper Products
Computer Supplies	Food & Beverage Products
Hotel Supplies	Kitchen and Bar Equipment

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

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

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

POWER PLACES TOURS AND CONFERENCES, INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods or services:

White 20# Paper	Color Copy Paper
Linen Paper	Stationery Supplies
Office Supplies	Cleaning Supplies
Computer Equipment	Office Machines
Accounting Services	Travel Services
Computer Repair	Office Machine Repair
Phone System Maintenance	Printing & Reproduction

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or
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P.O. Box 3499
St. Croix, V.I. 00822

POWER PLACES TOURS AND CONFERENCES, INC
116 King Street
Frederiksted, VI 00840

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

AMERICAN TOOL & SUPPLY CORP., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and services:

Janitorial Supplies
Machine Lubricants
Hydraulic Oils
Coolants

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1/5,9-10,19, 2000

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PRALEX CORPORATION, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Laundry Services	Engineering Services
Electrical Services	Stationery Supplies
Maintenance Services	Sanitary Supplies
Plumbing Services	Building Materials
Plant Security Services	Industrial Apparel
Air Conditioning Services	Industrial Cleaning Supplies
Sanitation Services	General Contractors
Trucking Services	Maintenance Contractors
Computer Services	Active/in-active Materials

***Approved Suppliers only.**

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St. Thomas, V.I. 00803
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Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 3499
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1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

Trans-Caribbean Dairy Corp., P.O. Box 304800, St. Thomas, V.I. 00803, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and services:

Plastic bottles and Caps	Butter in 25 kg blocks
PurePak cartons	Sugar in 50# bags
Corrugated shipping boxes	Skim milk solids in 25 kg bags
Office equipment and supplies	Cocoa
Trash removal services	Orange Juice concentrate
Pest control services	Preserved fruits and flavors
Accounting services	Plastic cups and lids
Computer services	Cleaning supplies

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

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Industrial Development Commission
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St. Thomas, V.I. 00803
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Industrial Development Commission
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Christiansted,
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1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

SEABORNE AVIATION, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable. Seaborne Aviation regularly purchases the following general types of goods and/or services.

Cleaning products	Janitorial supplies
Paper products	Advertisement
Office supplies	Building supplies
Office printing	Avionic fuel

If you are an eligible Virgin Islands Supplier as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Industrial Development Commission and are not presently on the Commission's list of Eligible Virgin Islands Suppliers, you are encouraged and invited to request being added to such a list by having your business certified by the Director of the Industrial Development Program.

Applications for certification may be obtained by writing to:

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

1/5,9-10, 19, 2000

Will Russia's new broom sweep clean?

Scandals may be at their worst inside the presidency that Putin now controls

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin is promising to clean up the corruption that infests every level of Russian society, but most Russians will want to see if he starts where they believe the problem begins: the presidency.



Putin

For the past year, allegations of corruption and scandal swirled around Boris Yeltsin's administration. Prosecutors and press accounts spoke of kickbacks involving millions of dollars to top presidential aides, foreign credit cards for the Yeltsin family and ties to shadowy tycoons.

Russian prosecutors, who are under government control, have shied away from the issue and won't comment on their investigation. No charges have ever been filed and the issue has almost dropped from sight in recent months.

Putin, who faces elections within three months, now sits in Yeltsin's old office, surrounded by some of the key aides who figure in the allegations. How Putin tackles his own office could be the first test of his commitment to cleaning up corruption, analysts say.

So far, the signals are mixed. One of Putin's first actions after he became acting president when Yeltsin resigned Dec. 31, was to give his predecessor immunity from criminal prosecution. On Monday, he fired Yeltsin's daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, a key Kremlin aide and the focus of several corruption cases.

Corruption and ties to organized crime reach the highest levels of the Russian government, with some analysts saying it's no longer possible to distinguish between the two. If Putin does crack down on corrupt officials, Russians will watch to see if his own appointees stay clean, analysts say.

"It has been known for a long time that the entire government system is corrupt," said liberal politician Konstantin Borovoi.

Kuwait may introduce its first income tax

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's finance minister has asked the nation, long used to a generous welfare system, to get used to the idea of an income tax and other hard economic reforms.

Finance Minister Sheik Ahmed Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in remarks published Tuesday that the Cabinet has approved a taxation law in principle, and will forward it to the legislature when it is finalized.

He did not provide any percentages for the taxes. Only foreign companies working in Kuwait are currently taxed, and economists say the government fails to collect most of its dues from these firms.

"There have been countless studies," and it is now time for action, the minister was quoted as saying by the Al-Watan daily. He did not elaborate.

Kuwait depends on oil for most of its income, and the small Persian Gulf state realized the need for economic reforms when the recent drop in oil prices threatened the continuation of the cradle-to-grave welfare system.

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

CONTRAN RESORTS, INC., d/b/a Mahogany Run Golf and Tennis Resort, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Food/Beverages	Golf Clothing
Office Supplies/Equipment	Golf Equipment
Agricultural Supplies	Cleaning Supplies
Gasoline/Diesel	Paper Products
A/C Services	Pest Control Services

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

Executive Director
Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 3499
Christiansted, St. Croix, V.I. 00822

Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
St. Thomas, V.I. 00803

1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

THE BUCCANEER INC., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and services:

Foodstuffs , Liquor & Soft Drinks	Diesel, Gasoline & Propane Gas
Cleaning, Laundry, & Pest Control Supplies	Pool Chemicals, & Plumbing Supplies
Hardware Supplies & Construction Materials	Office Supplies & Telephone Services
Fertilizers & Insecticides	Restaurant & Guestroom Supplies
Vehicles & Watersports Equipment	Refrigeration Equipment

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Christiansted, St. Croix, V.I. 00822
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Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
St. Thomas, V.I. 00803

1/5,10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

Sunny Isle Shopping Center, Inc., a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and/or services:

Building Materials	Exterminating Services
Office Supplies	Air conditioning Services
Janitorial Services	Accounting Services
Architectural Services	Engineering Services

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

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Industrial Development Commission
P.O. Box 305038
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1/5,9-10,19, 2000

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WESTIN ST. JOHN HOTEL COMPANY d.b.a. the WESTIN RESORT ST. JOHN, a participant in the Industrial Development Program of the Virgin Islands, has a procurement program to purchase goods and services locally in the Virgin Islands to the maximum extent practicable and regularly purchases the following types of goods and or services:

Food products	Paper products
Beverage Products	Plumbing parts
Cleaning supplies	Mechanical supplies
Accounting services	Travel services
Office supplies	Electrical supplies
Printing services	Building materials

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1/5,9-10,19, 2000

NOTICE TO ESTABLISHED VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES

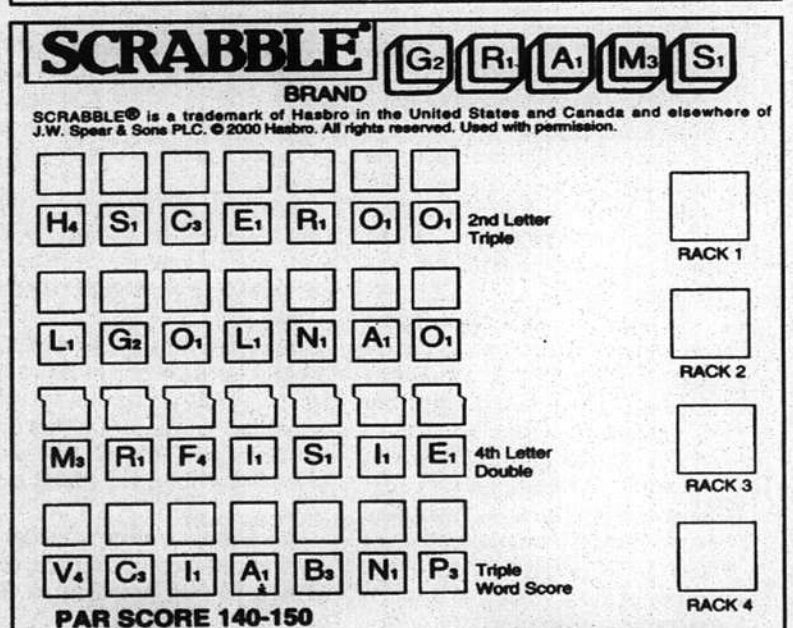
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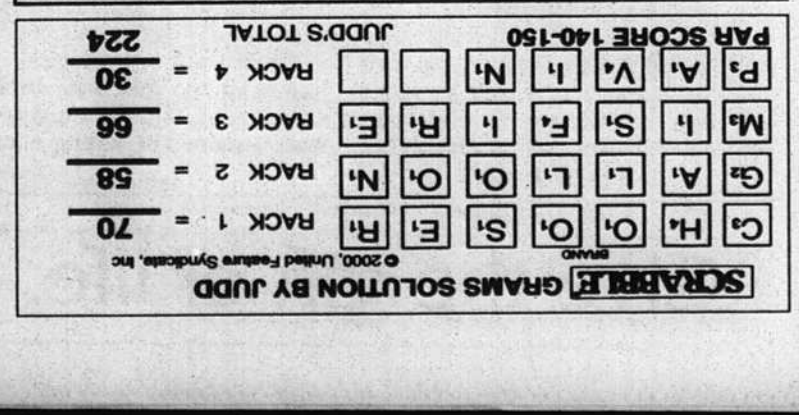
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Greases and Lubricants	Parts and Accessories
Office Supplies	

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P.O. Box 3499,
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1/5,9-10,19, 2000





Who can measure up to the Tiger test?

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Another PGA Tour season begins this week. Or perhaps it should be called the Tiger Tour.

An offseason that lasted only seven weeks, ending on the southern coast of Spain and starting again Thursday on the coast of Maui, only built up the legend that has become Tiger Woods. That can happen when a guy wins four straight tournaments, especially since it was 46 years ago the last time it happened.

Woods will try to make it five in a row in the winners-only Mercedes Championship. Ben Hogan was the last player to win five straight, in either 1953 or 1948. The discrepancy is because the tour didn't count the British Open as an official event in 1953.

Whatever.

It seems as though Tiger wins when Tiger plays. He is a big reason the field for the Mercedes Championship is only 30.

At this rate, Woods will topple the most untouchable record in golf, Byron Nelson's 11 consecutive victories, when he puts on the green jacket after winning the Masters in April. Just think. He'll already have matched his eight victories from 1999 and will become the career money leader at age 24.

Anyone else who wants to win will have to go to Europe. Or the Buy.com Tour.

Are you listening, David Duval?

Are you ready, Sergio Garcia?

Can Ernie Els or Phil Mickelson, first-time fathers last year, hear the message over the cries of their infants? Will Davis Love III and Tom Lehman figure out how to finish tournaments as strong as they start them?

The plot for the first three months of the season is not built around whether Woods will continue to dominate, but rather which players are capable of meeting his challenge.

"It doesn't appear as though he got a lot of pressure from the other golfers late in the year," Jack Nicklaus said. "Nobody got hot at the end of the year — Sergio a little, David early on. But it didn't look like anybody tried to take things over.

"He was playing so well, nobody could surface."

Now is the time to find out who will, or who wants to.

It all starts with Duval, who returned from what seemed like one month in hiding looking as chiseled as a boxer with a glare that would make Evander Holyfield proud.

"I think it's obvious that he means business," said Lehman, who beat Duval by three strokes to win the Williams World Challenge last week in Arizona.

Duval is the defending champion at the Mercedes. Last year he swept past a strong field to win by nine strokes, the largest margin of the year. Even Woods cracked that he needed strokes to hang with Duval.

Now, Duval has a new focus and the same old target.

"I have always thought I can improve and be a better player," Duval said. "When he's playing well, you've got to improve. That's a nice challenge, one I look forward to. I think I've met the challenge in the past, and I think I can meet it again."

He showed he was serious last week in Arizona. If his play alone wasn't a good indicator, the appearance was enough to send a message that Duval wants to get back to the top, and stay a little longer this time.

"He's got himself focused," Justin Leonard said. "And we could be in trouble."

Els also is at Kapalua. He qualified by blowing past Woods and Duval to win the Nissan Open last year, but then reverted to a troubling trend. Els hasn't contended in a major since winning his second U.S. Open in 1997 at Congressional.



Associated Press

Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after winning the Mercedes Championships in a one-hole playoff at La Costa Country Club in Carlsbad, Calif., in this Jan. 12, 1997, photo.

Leonard, Mickelson, Love and Lehman are among those who failed to win last year and will have to wait to show they are ready to get back in the game. And there may be others, such as Fred Couples and Greg Norman, who still have plenty left.

But there will always be Tiger.

"Guys will elevate their games because of how he's played. They'll have to," Nicklaus said. "And I think he'll probably receive more competition."

But Nicklaus recalls the long list of players who challenged him over the better part of 20 years, from Arnold Palmer to Gary Player to Lee Trevino to Tom Weiskopf to Johnny Miller to Tom Watson.

"I kept elevating my game as they elevated their games," he said. "I would certainly expect Tiger to do the same. It will be up to him as to what he does."

And it will be up to Duval and everybody else to stop him.

Dolphins' back admits to break-in

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — When questioned by police after his arrest, Miami Dolphins running back Cecil Collins admitted entering a neighbor's apartment after having too much to drink.

In a transcript released Tuesday, Collins told police he broke into the apartment of Tina and Ronald Nolte just to look at the woman he had met at the complex's gym.

Collins, 23, said he entered the Noltes' bedroom in the early hours of Dec. 16 and awakened the man, who chased him from the apartment.

"The liquor had my mind at the time," Collins said. "I just went back to the apartment and I seen the window cracked. I just wanted to go look. I open the bedroom door and that's when the dude came out saying something ... so that's when I ran out."

Collins said he had never been invited into the apartment and had not dated Mrs. Nolte. She has denied any relationship with the player — as well as other Dolphins players — and complained after Collins' arrest that she had repeatedly refused him when he asked her out.

"She kind of came on to me a couple of times," Collins told police shortly after his arrest. "She had wanted me to be her personal trainer. We were just ... friends."

The Noltes' attorney, Jim Lewis, hopes the transcript will end any negative speculation surrounding Mrs. Nolte's character.

"They're a little bit relieved that the public is getting to know the truth — that there was no relationship," Lewis said. "This confession is probably the best piece of evidence out there that it's not true.

"It's a strong piece of evidence that would negate that she consented to this break-in or that she wanted him there."

Collins was charged Monday with felony residential burglary, which carries a possible 15-year sentence.

"I just want to apologize. ... I had a lot too much to drink," Collins said. "I just wanted to go look. I made the wrong choice to do that, but I didn't have any bad intentions to go in and do anything."

Collins was suspended indefinitely by the Dolphins after his arrest. The rookie had been sidelined since breaking a leg Nov. 14 against the Buffalo Bills.

Davie police said they are looking into allegations that Collins harassed and stalked two other women. Collins' attorney did not return phone calls Tuesday.

Collins remains in a Broward County Jail awaiting extradition to Louisiana for a probation violation.

In Louisiana, he was charged twice in 1998 with unauthorized entry into women's apartments at his complex in Baton Rouge. In one case, a 17-year-old accused Collins of exposing himself and rubbing against her.

The probation violation could land Collins in prison for up to five years. He signed an agreement waiving extradition when he was placed on probation.

A determination on where Collins will end up must be made by Friday.

Broom might sweep clean in Pittsburgh after sick season

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Coach Bill Cowher, stung by the Pittsburgh Steelers' worst season in 11 years, is promising massive changes that might begin at quarterback and extend up and down the roster.

But he drew the line Tuesday at firing any assistant coaches, possibly setting up a confrontation with president Dan Rooney when the two meet shortly to evaluate a second successive losing season.

Rooney apparently wants changes, just as he did when he ordered coach Chuck Noll to fire nearly half his staff after a 5-11 season in 1988. Noll almost quit before reluctantly going along with Rooney, and Cowher seems just as resistant to change.

"I don't think there's a change that needs to be made on this coaching staff," Cowher said. "I think that's the worst thing we could do right now. We've put a lot of time and effort into it and I see a lot of progress being made."

That progress was not reflected as the Steelers (6-10) lost seven of their last eight games. They have won only 13 of 32 games since advancing to the AFC championship game two years ago this month.

Asked what he would do if Rooney orders firings, Cowher held his ground and said, "I feel strongly about keeping the staff together."

Rooney did not respond to Cowher's statement but, according to sources close to the Steelers, was not happy with it.

Cowher's support of benched quarterback Kordell Stewart was far less strong. He suggested Stewart's teammates have lost so much confidence in him the last two seasons that he might never win it — or his job — back.

"Certainly, in talking to Kordell, he's got a long road ahead of him," Cowher said. "He's going to have to win back the respect and the confidence of the coaches, of the players — of himself. He's not going to be handed anything. And I think he had a very clear understanding of that when he left here."

Backup Mike Tomczak had more yards passing in his five starts than Stewart did in his 11 starts, but Cowher did not mention Tomczak when talking about next season.

"It would be very nice to get a veteran guy (quarterback) in here," Cowher said.

Stewart signed a $27 million contract extension last spring, but has only six touchdown passes in his last 15 starts. He finished the season as a backup wide receiver, a role Stewart said he would refuse to play next season.

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Orlando	15	16	.484	6
Boston	13	16	.448	7
New Jersey	12	18	.400	8 1/2
Washington	11	20	.355	10

Central Division

Indiana	20	9	.690	—
Charlotte	18	11	.621	2
Toronto	17	12	.586	3
Milwaukee	17	14	.548	4
Detroit	16	14	.533	4 1/2
Cleveland	12	18	.400	8 1/2
Atlanta	11	18	.379	9
Chicago	2	26	.071	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	10	.677	—
Utah	19	10	.655	1
Denver	15	14	.517	5
Minnesota	13	14	.482	6
Houston	10	20	.333	101/2
Dallas	9	21	.300	11 1/2
Vancouver	6	23	.207	14

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	25	5	.833	—
Portland	23	7	.767	2
Sacramento	17	10	.630	6 1/2
Phoenix	18	11	.621	6 1/2
Seattle	18	12	.600	7
LA Clippers	9	20	.310	15 1/2
Golden State	6	24	.200	19

Monday's Games
Boston 105, Cleveland 98
Washington 99, Golden State 87
Philadelphia 124, Milwaukee 120, OT
Detroit 118, Orlando 106
Portland 88, Chicago 63
Utah 109, Denver 89

Tuesday's Games
Portland at Toronto, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A Lakers at LA Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Golden State at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 8 p.m.
Seattle at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
LA Clippers at LA Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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

NBA Leaders

Through Jan. 3
Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Iverson, Phil.	23	244	173	703	30.6
O'Neal, LAL	29	325	143	793	27.3
Hill, Det.	30	288	217	806	26.9
Malone, Utah	29	274	209	758	26.1
Carter, Tor.	29	269	151	705	24.3
Duncan, S.A.	31	273	196	742	23.9
Payton, Sea.	30	252	118	704	23.5
Webber, Sac.	25	237	101	582	23.3
Mrning, Mia.	29	266	140	672	23.2
Rider, Atl.	26	228	113	598	23.0
Finley, Dall.	30	269	106	672	22.4
Stckhse, Det.	30	206	231	668	22.3
Robinsn, Mil.	30	260	102	657	21.9
Allen, Mil.	31	236	142	678	21.9
Grntt, Minn.	27	244	192	589	21.8
Mrbury, N.J.	30	228	166	650	21.7
Ad-Rhm, Van.	29	221	175	627	21.6
Houston, N.Y.	30	228	125	619	20.6
Walker, Bos.	29	217	120	586	20.2
Kemp, Clev.	30	193	194	582	19.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Williams, Det.	111	178	.624
Mutombo, Atl.	126	207	.609
O'Neal, LAL	325	572	.568
Mourning, Mia.	266	493	.540
Davis, Ind.	148	275	.538
Patterson, Sea.	131	249	.526
Gugliotta, Phoe.	134	263	.510
Harrington, Van.	158	311	.508
Malone, Utah	274	540	.507
Griffin, Bos.	112	223	.502

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
O'Neal, LAL	29	130	289	419	14.4
Mutombo, Atl.	29	122	295	417	14.4
Duncan, S.A.	31	121	286	407	13.1
Garnett, Minn.	27	86	259	345	12.8
Feick, N.J.	30	133	234	367	12.2
A-Rhm, Van.	29	82	222	304	10.5
Webber, Sac.	25	66	193	259	10.4
Davis, Ind.	29	106	192	298	10.3
Williams, Det.	30	108	200	308	10.3
Mrnng, Mia.	29	75	215	290	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Kidd, Phoe.	29	275	9.5
Cassell, Mil.	31	281	9.1
Payton, Sea.	30	266	8.9
Van Exel,Den.	29	252	8.7
Brandon, Minn.	27	226	8.4
Stockton, Utah	29	242	8.3
Marbury, N.J.	30	239	8.0
Jackson, Ind.	29	225	7.8
Knight, Clev.	29	225	7.8
Williams, Sac.	26	201	7.7

Football
NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

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

Central

x-Jacksonville	14	2	0	.875	396	217
y-Tennessee	13	3	0	.813	392	324
Baltimore	8	8	0	.500	324	277
Pittsburgh	6	10	0	.375	317	320
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250	283	460
Cleveland	2	14	0	.125	217	437

West

x-Seattle	9	7	0	.563	338	298
Kansas City	9	7	0	.563	390	322
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	269	316
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	390	329
Denver	6	10	0	.375	314	318

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Washington	10	6	0	.625	443	377
y-Dallas	8	8	0	.500	352	276
N.Y. Giants	7	9	0	.438	299	358
Arizona	6	10	0	.375	245	382
Philadelphia	5	11	0	.313	272	357

Central

x-Tampa Bay	11	5	0	.688	270	235
y-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	399	335
y-Detroit	8	8	0	.500	322	323
Green Bay	8	8	0	.500	357	341
Chicago	6	10	0	.375	272	341

West

x-St. Louis	13	3	0	.813	526	242
Carolina	8	8	0	.500	421	381
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	251	351
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	266	419
New Orleans	3	13	0	.188	260	434

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Games
Green Bay 49, Arizona 24
New England 20, Baltimore 3
Jacksonville 24, Cincinnati 7
Minnesota 24, Detroit 17
Buffalo 31, Indianapolis 6
Carolina 45, New Orleans 13
Oakland 41, Kansas City 38, OT
Philadelphia 38, St. Louis 31
New York Jets 19, Seattle 9
Tampa Bay 20, Chicago 6
Dallas 26, New York Giants 18
Washington 21, Miami 10
San Diego 12, Denver 6
Tennessee 47, Pittsburgh 36
OPEN: Cleveland

Monday's Game
San Francisco at Atlanta, 9 p.m.

End Regular Season

NFL Playoff Glance
All Times EST

Wild Card Games
Saturday, Jan. 8
Buffalo at Tennessee, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Detroit at Washington, 4:05 p.m. (ABC)

Sunday, Jan. 9
Dallas at Minnesota, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Miami at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Games
Saturday, Jan. 15
Buffalo, Miami or Tennessee at Jacksonville, 12:35 p.m. (CBS)
Dallas, Minnesota or Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)

Sunday, Jan. 16
Dallas, Detroit or Minnesota at St. Louis, 12:35 p.m. (FOX)
Buffalo, Seattle or Tennessee at Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 23
AFC championship, TBA (CBS)
NFC championship, TBA (FOX)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 30
At Atlanta, 6:18 p.m. (ABC)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 6
at Honolulu (ABC)

Harrah's Odds

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Odds for this week's NFL playoff games as provided by Harrah's Reno Casino & Sportsbook:

NFL
Wild Card Playoffs

Saturday

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Tennessee	5	Buffalo
at Washington	6	Detroit

Sunday

at Minnesota	7	Dallas
at Seattle	3 1/2	Miami

Hockey
NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	22	11	6	1	51	121	89
New Jersey	21	12	5	2	49	112	93
Pittsburgh	17	17	3	5	42	123	107
NY Rangers	12	18	7	3	34	93	106
NY Islanders	9	22	5	0	23	74	115

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	23	12	4	2	52	116	90
Ottawa	19	12	6	1	45	100	89
Buffalo	16	17	5	1	38	97	99
Boston	13	16	10	2	38	97	106
Montreal	12	21	5	1	30	84	97

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	21	13	3	3	48	115	91
Carolina	15	16	7	0	37	94	102
Washington	13	16	7	1	34	88	101
Tampa Bay	10	21	5	3	28	100	128
Atlanta	8	25	4	3	23	82	138

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	25	10	4	1	55	140	94
St. Louis	22	11	5	0	49	113	80
Nashville	14	20	5	2	35	101	114
Chicago	11	22	6	2	30	108	121

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	18	16	4	1	41	106	102
Calgary	17	17	5	1	40	91	109
Edmonton	13	17	9	5	40	100	108
Vancouver	12	18	7	3	34	95	112

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	RT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	20	19	4	3	47	121	108
Phoenix	21	13	4	0	46	119	102
Dallas	19	15	5	1	44	93	91
Los Angeles	17	14	6	2	42	116	107
Anaheim	18	17	4	1	41	96	94

Overtime losses count as a loss and a regulation tie.

Sunday's Games
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Islanders 1
Calgary 4, Vancouver 2
Pittsburgh 4, Detroit 3
N.Y. Rangers 2, Montreal 2, tie
San Jose 4, Chicago 1

Monday's Games
New Jersey at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

NCAA Football

National Champions
Annual winners of The Associated Press college football poll's top ranking:

1936—Minnesota
1937—Pittsburgh
1938—Texas Christian
1939—Texas A&M
1940—Minnesota
1941—Minnesota
1942—Ohio State
1943—Notre Dame
1944—Army
1945—Army
1946—Notre Dame
1947—Notre Dame
1948—Michigan
1949—Notre Dame
1950—Oklahoma
1951—Tennessee
1952—Michigan State
1953—Maryland
1954—Ohio State
1955—Oklahoma
1956—Oklahoma
1957—Auburn
1958—Louisiana State
1959—Syracuse
1960—Minnesota
1961—Alabama
1962—Southern Cal
1963—Texas
1964—Alabama
1965—Alabama
1966—Notre Dame
1967—Southern Cal
1968—Ohio State
1969—Texas
1970—Nebraska
1971—Nebraska
1972—Southern Cal
1973—Notre Dame
1974—Oklahoma
1975—Oklahoma
1976—Pittsburgh
1977—Notre Dame
1978—Alabama
1979—Alabama
1980—Georgia
1981—Clemson
1982—Penn State
1983—Miami
1984—Brigham Young
1985—Oklahoma
1986—Penn State
1987—Miami
1988—Notre Dame
1989—Miami
1990—Colorado
1991—Miami
1992—Alabama
1993—Florida State
1994—Nebraska
1995—Nebraska
1996—Florida
1997—Michigan
1998—Tennessee

Boxing
Fight Schedule

Jan. 7
At Sacramento, Calif. (ESPN2), Juan Lazcano, Sacramento, Calif., vs. Julian Wheeler, Virginia Beach, Va., 10, lightweights.

Jan. 8
At The Pit, Albuquerque, N.M. (SHO), Jorge Eliecer Julio, Colombia, vs. Johnny Tapia, Albuquerque, N.M., 12, for Julio's WBO bantamweight title.

Jan. 9
At Casino Magic Bay, St. Louis (FOXSN), Greg Wright, Detroit, vs. Darrell Spinks, St. Louis, 12, for Wright's NABF light-heavyweight title; Mauricio Pastrana, Columbia, vs. Ablorh Sowah, Ghana, 10, bantamweights;

Jan. 13
At Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis, Miss., Alexander Zolkin, Westerville, Ohio, vs. Eliecer Castillo, Miami, 10, heavyweights; David Bostice, Los Angeles, vs. Mike Sedillo, San Jose, Calif., 10, heavyweights.

Jan. 14
At Don Haskins Center, El Paso, Texas (ESPN2), Irene Pacheco, Colombia, vs. Pedro Pena, Los Angeles, 12, for Pacheco's IBF flyweight title; Ross Purrity, Noble, Okla., vs. Frankie Swindell, Nashville, Tenn., 10, heavyweights.

Jan. 15
At Radio City Music Hall, New York (HBO), Roy Jones Jr., Pensacola, Fla., vs. David Telasco, Port Chester, N.Y., 12, for Jones' world light heavyweight title; David Izon, Nigeria, vs. Derrick Jefferson, Detroit, 10, heavyweights; Lemeul Nelson, Pensacola, Fla., vs. Ariel Nistal, Argentina, 12, lightweights; Brian Barbosa, Passaic, N.J., vs. Maurice Brantley, Kansas City, Mo., for Barbosa's NABO title; Billy Lewis, Pensacola, Fla., vs. Leslie Stewart, Trinidad, 10, light heavyweights.

Jan. 21
At Chicago (ESPN2), James Toney, Los Angeles, vs. Terry McGroom, Chicago, 10, cruiserweights.

Jan. 22
At Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas (HBO), Shane Mosley, Pomona, Calif., vs. Willy Wise, Westbury, N.Y., 10, welterweights; Vernon Forrest, Atlanta, vs. Vince Phillips, Pensacola, Fla., 10, welterweights.

Jan. 28
At New Orleans (ESPN2), Thomas Tate, Houston, vs. Syd Vanderpool, Canada, 10, super middleweights.

Jan. 29
At MEN Arena, Manchester, England (SHO), Mike Tyson, Phoenix, vs. Julius Francis, England, 10, heavyweights.
At Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City, N.J., Arthur Williams, Las Vegas, vs. Valery Vikhor, Ukraine, 10, cruiserweights; Daniel Attah, Washington, vs. Edwin Vazquez, Puerto Rico, 12, for the WBO intercontinental lightweight title; Eddie Hopson, St. Louis, vs. Ricardo Barrera, Mexico, 8, junior lightweights.
At Bangkok, Thailand, Wandee Chareon, Thailand, vs. Jose Antonio Aguirre, Mexico, 12, for Chareon's WBC minimumweight title.

Feb. 10
At Centennial Garden Arena, Bakersfield, Calif., Felipe Campa, Salinas, Calif., vs. Bobby Velardez, San Bernardino, Calif., 10, for Campa's WBC super bantamweight junior title.

Feb. 12
At Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, Conn. (SHO), Kostya Tszyu, Australia, vs. Ahmed Santos, Mexico, 12, for Tszyu's WBC super lightweight title; Zab Judah, Brooklyn, N.Y., vs. Jan Bergman, South Africa, 12, for Judah's interim IBF junior welterweight title.
At Bangkok, Thailand, Veerapol Sahaprom, Thailand, vs. Adan Vargas, Mexico, 12, for Sahaprom's WBC bantamweight title.

Feb. 19
At TBA (UNI), Yory Boy Campas, Mexico, vs. Kirino Garcia, Mexico, 12, middleweights.
At Mandalay Bay Casino and Resort, Las Vegas (HBO), Nev., Erik Morales, Mexico, vs. Marco Antonio Barrera, Mexico, 12, for Morales' WBC super bantamweight title and Barrera's WBO super bantamweight title.

Feb. 26
At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO), Oscar De La Hoya, Whittier, Calif., vs. Derrell Coley, Capitol Hills, Md., 12, welterweights; Arturo Gatti, Jersey City, N.J., vs. Joey Gamache, Lewiston, Maine, 10, junior welterweights; Lamon Brewster, Los Angeles, vs. Shazzon Bradley, Athens, Tenn., 12, for the vacant WBC continental heavyweight title.

March 11
At TBA (UNI), Yory Boy Campas, Mexico, vs. Kirino Garcia, Mexico, 12, junior middleweights.

Sports on the air
Wednesday, Jan. 5

All Times EST

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
7 p.m.
ESPN — Delta Airlines Classic, Georgia Tech at Kentucky.
9 p.m.
ESPN — Duke at Virginia.

NBA
8 p.m.
TBS — Charlotte at Utah.

NHL
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Toronto at N.Y. Rangers.
10:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Florida at Anaheim.
SAILING
1:30 a.m.
ESPN2 — America's Cup, challenge rounds, challenger semi-finals, race 5, at Auckland, New Zealand (delayed tape).

Check these pages for full NBA, NFL and local sports coverage.

Boogie Board businessman surfs again

CAPISTRANO BEACH, Calif. (AP) — When Tom Morey made the first Boogie Board in his garage, he started the body board wave that came crashing down on Southern California's beaches. No longer was the thrill of riding waves just for surfers. Thousands — from schoolchildren to grandmothers — bought the shorter boards and headed to the beach to catch a wave. It was a ride that took Morey from surfer to full-time businessman, from the beach to the boardroom.

Now 30 years later, Morey has returned to his roots — the garage and the ocean — with a new board and a new name.

"At 65, a guy wonders how much time he has left," he said. "I wanted to separate what I personally do from what has been done in my name for years. ... I guess you say I've returned to what I know best — making and riding surfboards."

A year ago, Morey left his consultant job with the San Francisco-based Wham-O Corp., which owns the Morey name and its body board products, to return to his garage-production of surfboards.

To separate himself from the past, Morey now goes by the name "Y." When asked about his unusual choice, his response is simply: "Why not?"

He calls his new company Surfboards by Y, and his new stick, (beach lingo for surfboard) is called the Swizzle. The Swizzle incorporates the basic surfboard look and the Boogie Board feel. The result: a 9-foot longboard made out of polypropylene, coated with Fiberglas and capped with rubber ends.

"Bite down on this," he said, pushing down on the sleek white board. "You can bite down hard on it and it bounces back into its original shape."

At first glance, the board looks like a typical surfboard, long and sleek. But on closer inspection, the board has a slight indentation or cutout on either side.

"It swizzles," he said. Then, trying to explain in lay terms, he said: "It hugs the water ... giving a better ride."

Despite surfing's young, hip image, little about the sport has changed since the 1960s. Popular boards have rigid polyurethane cores, making them heavy with little give.

But Morey's new boards, which sell for $650 and can be purchased only online at www.starwaves.com, are light, durable and, he hopes, a little safer.

"With these rubber ends, if you wipeout and the board shoots up in the air and comes down point first on your head, hopefully it won't crack your skull," he said.

Belichick tenure lasts one day

Named coach when Parcells quit, he does the same

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Belichick quit Tuesday as coach of the New York Jets, one day after being elevated to the job when Bill Parcells resigned.

Belichick insisted he is not burned out after 25 years in pro coaching, but he said the uncertainty surrounding his place in the organization dictated his decision.

"I just don't feel I can lead the Jets in the year 2000," he said in a stunning announcement at the Jets' training complex in Hempstead, N.Y. "I just know what I need to do. I just don't feel I can do it right now."

"It is not about the future, it is about the situation I am in now," he added.

Belichick was Parcells' handpicked successor when both came from the Patriots to the Jets in 1997.

When Parcells said on Monday he would turn over the football end of the franchise to Belichick, he certainly had no idea his defensive coordinator would not want the job.

"Bill Belichick will make all football decisions," Parcells said then.

Obviously, Belichick felt otherwise.

"I just can't do it with the conviction, confidence and certainty that is needed to get the job done," he said.

Belichick said questions about the Jets' future, including its impending sale, convinced him to leave. He signed a six-year contract with the Jets in 1997 that he said is being reviewed by the NFL.

"I just can't do what I need to do here," Belichick said. "There are a lot of unanswered questions here. I have been concerned about it since Leon Hess died (in May). ... I had no clear direction of where I am going in the organization.



Associated Press

Giants defensive coordinator Bill Belichick is carried off the field on the shoulders of Thomas Johnson (left) and Greg Lasker after the Giants shutout the Washington Redskins to win the NFC Championship, 17-0, at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., in this Jan. 12, 1987, photo.

"I took Bill's words to heart, thought about it last night," added Belichick, who was Cleveland's head coach from 1991-95, going 37-45. "All I can deal with is the situation I have at hand and that is what I am doing. It is not about trying to get out of a contract or leveraging a contract."

Belichick, 47, also could have been a candidate for the New England coaching job that opened Monday when Pete Carroll was fired. The Patriots contacted the Jets by fax to seek permission to talk to Belichick. But permission was denied because he already had been elevated to head coach.

He said he would like to determine his career course. Asked if he wanted to coach next year, Belichick said, "I haven't really thought about it."

Denver coach takes umbrage at all that Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Beating Denver is not unusual for the Utah Jazz. The way it ended was something Nuggets coach Dan Issel won't soon forget.

"I'm going to remember this," Issel shouted to Utah coach Jerry Sloan following Karl Malone's dunk and free throw with 50 seconds left and the Jazz ahead by 20 points.

Malone finished with 33 points and John Stockton had 18 assists in Utah's 109-89 win over Denver on Monday night, the Jazz's 11th in 12 games against the Nuggets.

At the end, the Jazz still had four starters on the floor, while the Nuggets had none. Sloan tried to explain that he was waiting for a dead ball to substitute, but then angrily walked away.

After the game, Sloan was still irritated.

"The clock hadn't stopped for us to substitute, but I can't worry about that," he said.

Bryon Russell scored 17 points and rookie Quincy Lewis added a season-high 14 as Utah won for the 11th time in 14 games.

Antonio McDyess led the Nuggets with 24 points, and Nick Van Exel and George McCloud each added 16 as Denver dropped to 3-10 on the road, while Utah improved to 12-3 at home.

The Nuggets tied it 75-75 with 2:15 left in the third quarter after trailing by as many as 13 points early in the period.

It was another reason Sloan might have stuck with his starters. Denver made several comebacks in the game, and it wasn't out of reach until the final two minutes.

Sloan's players defended his choice at the end of the game.

Is it the last hurrah for San Francisco top stars?

ATLANTA (AP) — Despite all the talk of age, health and salary cap issues, Jerry Rice and Steve Young want to help the San Francisco 49ers return to championship form.

Neither wants to walk away with the once-proud franchise coming off a 4-12 season — its worst record in 20 years.

"That's what I'm hoping on, but I've always looked on this as a business," said Rice, who caught a team-high six passes for 143 yards in San Francisco's 34-29 loss to the Atlanta Falcons Monday night.

"I think when you look at it this way, you know anything can happen. (Coach) Steve Mariucci — we have talked about the situation, and he told me face to face he wanted me back."

Young, a two-time NFL Most Valuable Player who suffered a season-ending concussion Sept. 27, talked like a 14-year veteran who believes the 49ers can win big next season. With a franchise-best 90-33 career record as the 49ers' starting quarterback, Young is accustomed to winning.



Young

The 49ers are missing the playoffs for only the second time since he joined the team in 1987.

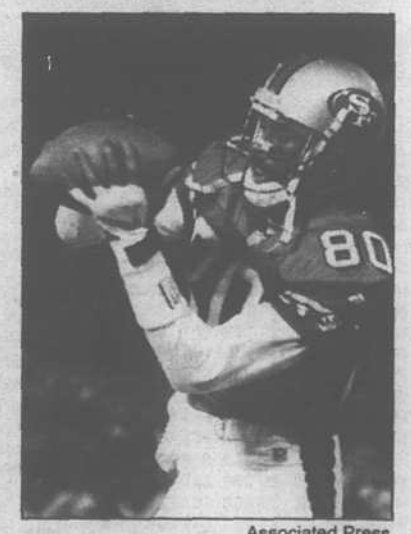
"I think we've got to begin a process of trying to figure out how to get that passion back," said Young, who played four seasons behind Joe Montana before taking over as starter in 1991.

"The self-talk we need so much — through all the years, the down years and the up years, we talked about going for a championship.

"I think from top to bottom we have to speak that way. We have to have that kind of passion. We lost that this year, and we need it back."

The futures of Rice, 37, and Young, 38, will be foremost on the 49ers' front office agenda. Rice, the most prolific receiver in NFL history and owner of 10 Super Bowl records, counts $5.49 million against San Francisco's 2000 salary cap limit.

Young, whose career quarterback ratings are an NFL best, will count $8.1 million against the cap. Though Young is signed through 2004 and Rice through 2003, the front office is projecting the 49ers to be $20 million over its allotted $62.2 cap for next season.

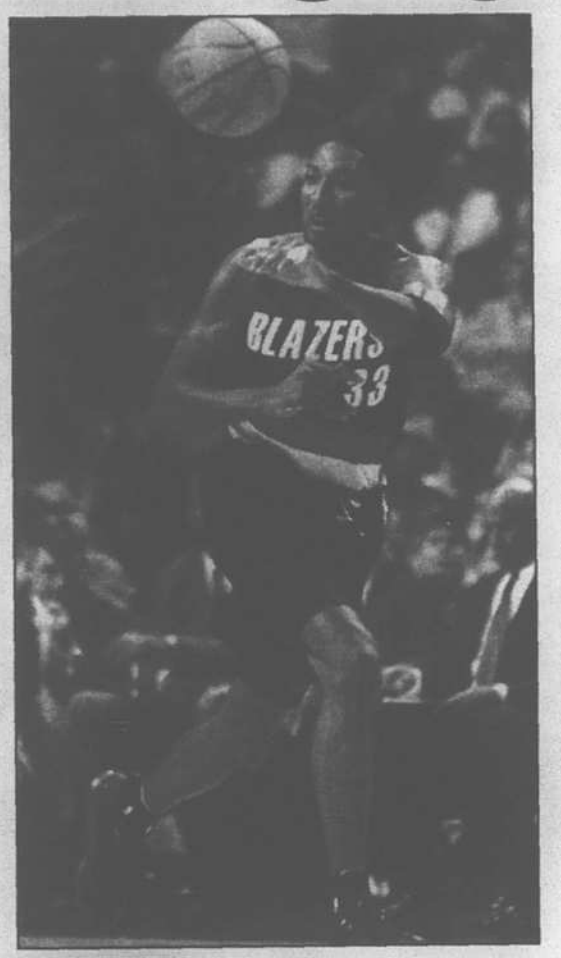


Associated Press

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice catches the ball during practice before the game against the Denver Broncos on Monday, Dec. 15, 1997, at 3Com Park in San Francisco

Pippen's still got game

Same great player (different uniform) charms Chicago



Portland Trail Blazers' Scottie Pippen (33) passes the ball against the Chicago Bulls Monday, Jan. 3, in Chicago. Pippen returned to the United Center in a different uniform for the first time Monday night and with him came memories of his career with the Chicago Bulls and his impact on six championship teams.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen changed directions with his dribble and then sailed effortlessly along the baseline, gracefully using his long arms to beat two defenders for an easy basket.

Minutes earlier, he timed his leap just right and went high to knock away a layup by old buddy Randy Brown.

It was the same marvelous skills, different uniform for Pippen as he returned to the United Center for the first time since the Chicago Bulls traded him last January at the end of the NBA lockout.

"It was different," Pippen said. "You look forward to it and then you look forward to getting it over with."

When he first walked down the hallway at the arena, he mistakenly turned into the media room instead of the door for the visitor's locker room.

It was one of the few times he'd ever been lost in the building.

Pippen's part in six championship teams during his 11-year Chicago career won't be forgotten, and the Bulls made sure everyone had a reminder Monday night with a 2 1/2-minute pregame video of his highlights that led to a loud ovation.

"It was very emotional for me, but I tried to handle it as well as possible, realizing I had a game to play," Pippen said after the Trail Blazers routed the hapless Bulls 88-63.

"I'm just glad I didn't have to make a speech. I was able to sort of work my way out of that. It was something that brought back a lot of memories for me, a lot of things I miss about this city, playing in this arena."

Pippen had 11 points and six assists as the Trail Blazers did what nearly every team has done since he and Michael Jordan left — they routed the overmatched Bulls and also held Chicago to the fewest points in the NBA this season.



Pippen

"It's a tough situation for the Bulls," Pippen said. "They're playing hard, but nothing seems to be going in their favor, and mistakes just compound. They have a lot of inexperienced players, players who haven't been in pressure situations or big games, and they don't know each other.

"You want to feel sorry for them, but you can't."

Pippen was cheered loudly as the lights were turned down and the video highlights played.

After it was over, he went to center court and, biting his lip to hold his emotions, waved to the crowd.

"I'm moving on with my life in another city, although I still consider Chicago my home," Pippen said later. "It was a wonderful ride, but now my life's different. I'm on a different team and I'm trying to be successful there."

As he walked off the floor after the game, Pippen smiled and waved and slapped fives with fans leaning on the railing.

"Scottie was excited," Portland teammate Steve Smith said.

"He just wanted to come in and see his family and friends and get a win."

Pippen, who often feuded with general manager Jerry Krause, said the Bulls have a real challenge to rebuild.

He questioned why any free agents could want to joint the current mix.

Crucian Carl Thomas strives for chance in NBA

Rashidi Clenance



Between the lines

ST. CROIX — Carl Thomas is one of the best basketball players in the Continental Basketball Association. The St. Croix native is averaging 16 points and 4.5 rebounds for the Rockford Lightning.

Thomas is among the long list of CBA players who are trying to make it to the National Basketball Association. And he was well on his way after dropping in 20 points in his College of Charleston team's upset victory over the the North Carolina Tar Heels early in the 98-99 college season.

The 6-foot-6 small forward followed up that performance with 16 points against George Mason before suffering a back injury that took him out of the rotation. When Thomas returned he was unable to duplicate his early dominance.



Thomas

Thomas would have to go to a pre-draft camp to raise his stock in hopes of being drafted into the most prestigious basketball league in the world. As it turned out, Thomas was named the MVP of one such camp in Houston, despite aggravating his back injury, which sidelined him for the last day of competition.

Many close to Thomas felt that with the MVP award under his belt he would be drafted for sure. Unfortunately, when all the selections were made his name was not among them.

Thomas' hopes of getting into the NBA were rekindled when he was invited to the San Antonio Spurs training camp. The thought of having two Crucians on the same NBA franchise excited the Virgin Islands, but it wasn't to be. Another untimely injury hurt Thomas' chances; this time it was an ankle injury sustained during practice.

Despite being hurt, Thomas made it to veteran camp before being released by the defending champions. He was able to hold his own against the Spurs regulars, but adjusting to a new position and the NBA system was hard for the 21-year-old.

"I had the skills and talent, but they wanted more experience," Thomas said. "My decision making at the two (shooting guard) wasn't where it needed to be."

Thomas is now wowing crowds throughout the CBA and has to fulfill the demand of any other superstar. Signing autographs and smiling for pictures with anxious fans after the game are all a part of the daily routine. But Thomas' dream is not to be a CBA superstar. It is to be a player in the top echelons.

"The opportunity here (in the CBA) is good," Thomas said. "My coach gives me the minutes. It's up to me to be consistent."

So far, Thomas has been a pillar of consistency for the Lightning with his 16-points-per-game average with a season high of 23 points against the LaCrosse Bob Cats. With one foot already in the door (having made it to the Spurs veteran camp). Thomas hopes his next shot at the NBA is not too far away.

"I'm a tall guard," Thomas said. "There's a strong emphasis on that in the NBA."

Barring any more injuries, Thomas has as good a shot at making it to the NBA as he does with a perimeter jumper.

Carvin wins at World Cup swimming

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — American Chad Carvin won the men's 400-meter freestyle in 3 minutes, 45.47 seconds Tuesday at a FINA World Cup swim meet.

Kelly Stefanyshyn of Canada, gold medalist in the women's 100-meter backstroke at the Pan Am Games in August, won the 200 backstroke in 2:10.12.

China dominated the event, winning 13 of the 18 events.

In an upset, China's Zhan Shu won the women's 200 individual medley in 2:11.11, beating compatriot Chen Yan, the 1998 world champion in the 400-meter medley.

Cubans OK games between US schools, U of Havana

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Cuban officials have approved baseball games this month between teams from the University of St. Thomas (of St. Paul) and the University of Havana despite tension over a custody battle involving a 6-year-old Cuban boy.

St. Thomas has had U.S. authorization for the trip since October. The president of the University of Havana, Juan Vela Valdez, called St. Thomas' president, the Rev. Dennis Dease, with the news Monday.

"I'm particularly pleased that during this time of political tension between our countries, the students of the University of Havana and the University of St. Thomas can engage in this expression of friendship and solidarity," Dease said.

Dease had feared the trip would be doomed by a delay from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to decide whether to return Elian Gonzalez to Cuba. The boy was found clinging to an inner tube near Fort Lauderdale, Fla., after fleeing Havana with his mother.

The boy's mother died on the boat crossing. Elian's father wants him back in Havana, and the situation has sparked a rift between the countries.

"I'm surprised a little that the boy's situation didn't hurt us," Dease said.

"Cubans, ... they love the American people when we come there. We're treated very warmly there."

The St. Thomas team is expected to play the Cubans Jan. 26 or 27.

The trip is being funded by a $100,000 grant from the Carl and Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation.

Cuba and the United States haven't had diplomatic exchanges since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Although the U.S. trade embargo remains in place, athletic, cultural and academic exchanges have been allowed. A Johns Hopkins University team played on the island in 1986, and the Baltimore Orioles played there last spring.

SportsWednesday

Belichick says thanks but no thanks. **Page 38**
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How sweet it is

Warrick, Florida State take home the sugar all for themselves



Associated Press
Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick (7) scrambles away from Florida State defenders Reggie Durden (1) and Derrick Gibson (6) during the first half of the Sugar Bowl, Tuesday in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — No. 1 at the start, No. 1 at the finish.

Florida State is the perfect national champion.

Led by the sizzling Peter Warrick and the steady Chris Weinke, the Seminoles held off Virginia Tech for a 46-29 victory in the national championship game Tuesday night.

The Hokies' thrilling freshman quarterback, Michael Vick, did all he could to run his team to victory in the Sugar Bowl, but it wasn't enough.

Warrick electrified a Superdome crowd with a record 20-point game — he caught touchdown passes of 64 and 43 yards, returned a punt 59 yards for a score and snagged a 2-point conversion pass from Weinke.

The 27-year-old Weinke, playing perhaps the final game of his college career, completed 20 of 34 passes for 329 yards and four TDs — two to Warrick and two to Ron Dugans. Warrick finished with six catches for 163 yards in the highest-scoring Sugar Bowl in history.

Vick threw for 225 yards and one TD and ran for 97 yards and a score.

Florida State (12-0) was certain to become the first team to go wire to wire in The Associated Press' poll since the preseason ratings began in 1950. The final AP poll will be released early Wednesday to confirm the obvious.

The Seminoles were automatically crowned national champs in the USA Today-ESPN coaches' poll under the Bowl Championship Series format.

Showing a crowd of 79,280 why he might be the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft, Warrick added a 33-yard catch and later accepted congratulations on the sideline from Minnesota Vikings star receiver Randy Moss, who briefly attended Florida State.

Warrick was determined to leave college football fans across the nation with a lasting image — from on the field, that is. Earlier this season, his Heisman Trophy were derailed when he was caught in a shopping mall scam.

Warrick also wanted to atone for past bowl performances. He was held to one catch last season when the Seminoles lost 23-16 to Tennessee in the Fiesta with the title on the line, and also made only one catch three seasons ago in a 52-20 championship loss to Florida in the Sugar.

The Seminoles ran off only three players in the first 11 minutes before showing off an amazing ability to strike quickly.

Warrick beat single coverage and ran past a safety to catch Weinke's pass in full stride to make it 7-0 with 3:22 left in the quarter.

On Virginia Tech's next possession, Jimmy Kibble had a punt blocked for the first time in his career. Tommy Polley batted it down and Chaney scooped up the loose ball for a 6-yard score, the first off a blocked punt in the Sugar Bowl since Syracuse's Brad Clarke did it against LSU in 1965.

Vick temporarily stopped the Seminoles' momentum, hitting a wide-open Davis. Vick tapped himself twice on the heart and pointed up after the score.

But Warrick and the Seminoles had an answer for that.

First, Dugans sailed clear to pull in a pass from Weinke, the 27-year-old quarterback who missed last season's Fiesta disappointment because of a neck injury.

Warrick followed by fielding a rushed punt on one bounce, juking left and zipping down the right sideline. Virginia Tech prides itself on its special teams, but gave a TD on a punt return for the first time since 1988 Jo while Warrick celebrated, Kibble punched an end zone wall.

At that moment, there was this incredible statistic: Florida State led 28-7 despite having the ball for only 3:14, compared to the Hokies' 15:06.

Virginia Tech	7	7	15	0	— 29
Florida State	14	14	0	18	— 46

First Quarter
FSU—Warrick 64 pass from Weinke (Janikowski kick), 3:22.
FSU—Chaney 6 blocked punt return (Janikowski kick), 2:14.
VT—Davis 49 pass from Vick (Graham kick), :30.
Second Quarter
FSU—Duggins 63 pass from Weinke (Janikowski kick), 13:45.
FSU—Warrick 59 punt return (Janikowski kick), 11:40.
VT—Vick 3 run (Graham kick), :37.
Third Quarter
VT—FG Graham 23, 7:54.
VT—Kendrick 29 run (pass failed), 5:57.
VT—Kenrick 6 run (pass failed), 2:13.
Fourth Quarter
FSU—Dugans 14 pass from Weinke (Warrick pass from Weinke), 12:59.
FSU—FG Janikowki 32, 10:26.
FSU—Warrick 43 pass from Weinke (Janikowski kick), 7:42.



Associated Press
Florida State's Peter Warrick (9) is congratulated by teammate Jeff Chaney after scoring in the first half agianst Virginia Tech.